

assured that it would be run by the Centre. During the recent visit of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to Bastar, a representation was submitted once again that the Central Government should issue immediate orders in this regard. I hope that the Hon. Prime Minister would accept the demand of the tribals of Bastar area and direct the Rehabilitation Department to take appropriate action in this regard keeping in view the fact that the tribals are now shunning the superstitions of magic and ghosts and reposing their faith in the medical treatment.

[English]

(v) **Need to furnish accurate statistics about the Bhopal gas tragedy.**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Berhampore) : The world's greatest industrial tragedy occurred one year ago at Bhopal killing over 2000 and affecting for life some ten times that number of men, women and children. According to reports children born of affected parents have shown signs of severe malfunctioning of their body metabolism, some have died within a few weeks of birth and over 400 still births took place. Though 12 months have passed by, even now no accurate statistics of deaths, permanent damage to human system and other casualties have been made available, is itself a greater tragedy. There are far too many unfilled gaps in information on this tragedy and rehabilitation work that need to be explained and repaired at least now onwards.

(vi) **Demand for converting the Krishnapatnam minor port in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh into a major port.**

SHRI P. PANCHALLIAH (Nellore) : The Krishnapatnam harbour (port in Krishnapatnam village in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh) is at the joining point of the river Khandaleru into the sea. The river is wide enough, having enough depth and width at the point at which it enters into the sea, to accommodate ships direct from the sea into the river.

Government of India have in the past developed artificial ports like Madras and Mangalore. Now the Madras port is highly congested. Hence the Krishnapatnam port

can be developed into an alternative major port to ease the congestion at Madras, to boost our foreign trade. It will help in attracting more foreign tourists from South East Asian region.

This port can also serve as the fishing harbour. Many fishermen living in the long coastal line will immensely benefit by the development of this port. It will bring a transformation in the lives of these poor people. It will also provide navigational facilities in the river. Transportation in the region will become cheap.

Hence I request the Government of India to take steps to convert Krishnapatnam minor port into a major port in the best interests of the country.

(vii) **Need to abolish all taxes/duties levied on medicines in the country**

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : The taxes levied on medicines are unparal- ledly high to the tune of 48 per cent i.e. 100 per cent to 140 per cent duty, 13 per cent excise duty, 10 per cent sales tax, 12 per cent surcharge, 4 per cent Central Sales Tax and 1 per cent to 2 per cent octroi; and added to this, there are certain other direct and indirect taxes on bottles, aluminium foils, caps, packaging material etc. In the present Budget, there is 5 per cent increase in auxil- iary duty plus applicable C.V.D. The sales tax levied by the State Government differs from State to State, and the very purpose of the Government to keep one uniform price tag is defeated. The irregularity and high cost involved in procuring the canalized items drug intermediates and raw materials through S.T.C. on account of undue profit of 200 per cent to 300 per cent amassed by S. T. C. add to the price of medicines.

The inordinate delay on the part of BICP to fix the cost of bulk drugs and formula- tions may at times force the manufacturers to take shelter of the court, which creates short supply of life-saving drugs like Methyl Dopa, Tetracycline, Erythromycin, Chloromi- sopenical, Vitamins, Pilocarpine etc., making millions of ailing patients to run from pillar to post, feeling anxiety and uncertainty. Government has protected some of the manufacturers in the organized sector of bulk drug Erythromycin, by imposing a duty of