

where large number of people are poor, a system of medicine which is cheaper and efficacious as also within the reach of the common man should be available in the rural areas. It is, therefore, necessary that in the interest of the people as well as the country. Ayurveda, which forms the basis for all other systems of medicine should be developed and propagated. There is shortage of Ayurvedic doctors in the Khalilabad area of the Basti district of the eastern Uttar Pradesh where the whole population consists of the poor people. In the absence of this facility, a large number of people are not able to provide proper treatment to the members of their families and thus meet untimely death. I would like to request the Hon. Minister for Health that the Central Government should establish an Ayurvedic College in Khalilabad at the earliest with a view to produce qualified doctors so as to make available their service to the poor.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : *in the Chair*]

- (v) Need to expedite work on construction of a new bridge on Mandovi river in Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : People of Goa are absolutely perturbed over the fact that despite the prompt visit to Goa by the Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Rajesh Pilot, upon the collapse of Nehru Bridge on the river Mandovi, in Goa, proposals for the erection of a new bridge are not attended to with seriousness by the concerned departments of the Central Government. It is indeed a matter of regret that the loss and damage that has been caused to Goa on account of the sudden collapse of the bridge and the future damage it is going to cause to its economy is being taken very lightly.

Goans are apprehensive that the tough stand taken by Minister for Surface Transport is melting down.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to expedite the work of construction of new bridge on the river Mandovi without any further delay.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) Demand for fixing the procurement price of Narma cotton at Rs. 700 a quintal

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter of urgent public importance in the House. Last year the price of cotton was Rs. 450 per quintal which has now fallen to between Rs. 370-380. The farmer has produced 'narma' quality of cotton by using quality seeds, costly insecticides and fertilisers and by putting in hard labour but he is not getting remunerative prices therefor. The crop of 'narma' cotton has reached the market. If the Government does not pay attention towards this, the economic condition of the farmers will deteriorate.

I would, therefore, firmly submit to the Hon. Minister that the rate fixed for 'narma' quality of cotton is less. The rate should be fixed at Rs. 700 per quintal so that the farmers may get remunerative price of their produce. The farmer is the backbone of the economy of the country. There should be a discussion on this subject in the House and the C.C.I. should be instructed to purchase cotton on the fixed price from the markets in cotton areas wherever they exist and the cotton which is to be exported should be lifted at the earliest so that the farmer gets the benefit in time.

[*English*]

- (vii) Demand for underground metro rail system in big cities to solve the traffic congestion problem

DR. S. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet) : The growing population and increasing number of vehicles in Metropolitan cities and other big cities like Hyderabad, has created alarming congestion for the road traffic movements. The number of road accidents has been increasing day-by-day. Due to the traffic congestion on roads in big cities, a lot of inconvenience is being caused to the public. It is, therefore, essential that underground metro railway system should be provided in such cities for quick movements of the travelling public and to remove congestion