

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

administrative zones, namely, New Delhi, Madras, Nagpur, Bombay and Calcutta. And each zone has been placed under the direct administration of Regional Director.

All the States of Eastern and North Eastern regions including Andaman and Nicobar Islands are placed under Calcutta region.

State capitals of Bihar, Orissa and Assam are declared as Meteorological Centres whose administrators are nearly equal to the Directors placed at different regions.

Meteorological Centre, Bhubaneswar, which is being under the control of one Director who is being entrusted to look only into the technical difficulties of the Meteorological Centre of the State, who has not been given even the minimum administrative powers to run the technical works of the Observatories in the different corners of Orissa.

T.A./D.A. and medical claims are being drawn at Calcutta. Such claims are lying in arrears for several months.

The staff of the entire Eastern Region excepting Calcutta are suffering a lot because of the transfer policy decided on the basis of popular/less popular and no popular regions.

Opening of Meteorological Observatories at Keonjhar and Chandabalis in Orissa have been delayed for seven years although in a particular State such Observatories are being opened in quick succession.

Keeping all these difficulties in view, I urge upon the Minister for Science and Technology to take necessary steps to make a separate region for the Meteorological Offices in Orissa and to bifurcate the administrative channel from Regional Centre, Calcutta.

(vii) Need to provide more funds for improvement of slums in Nagpur in Maharashtra

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the

problem of slums in the country is very alarming. Government is trying its level best to provide adequate assistance to the slum dwellers in the country. The funds allocated to Maharashtra State for the improvement of slums for the Seventh Five Year Plan are very meagre.

Central Government may not be aware that more than 5 lakh people live in slums alone at Nagpur in Maharashtra State. Government of Maharashtra used to provide more than Rs. 1 crore annually for the improvement of miserable condition of slum dwellers. But it is very unfortunate to say that this time it has been drastically reduced to almost 50% which is quite inadequate.

There is tremendous need for more assistance. Central Government should either direct the Maharashtra Government to provide Rs. 2 crores immediately for the slum dwellers or Central Government should provide the proposed assistance to Nagpur.

(viii) Need for imposing immediate ban on the advertisement of Cigarettes in newspapers etc.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the World Health Organisation has expressed serious concern at the growing addiction to cigarette smoking. The World Health Organisation has warned of the dangers of the Lung Cancer caused by the smoking habit.

Advertisement of cigarettes in newspapers and periodicals and in wall posters and hoardings have been very effective in spreading the habit of smoking cigarettes.

There is already a ban on advertisement of liquor and other intoxicants in newspapers and periodicals. It is very necessary that there should be a similar ban on advertisement of cigarettes in newspapers, periodicals, wall posters, advertisement hoarding, calendars etc.

It is necessary that immediate action should be taken to ban advertisement of cigarettes in any form.