

at diluting the sense of dedication. Although a Diploma in Pharmacy is the minimum requirement for registration as Pharmacist and practice the profession of Pharmacy—the involvement of the profession in the lofty theme of "Health for all by 2000 A.D." is well recognised, Pharmacists have been given step motherly treatment by the Fourth Central Pay Commission both in terms of pay scales and avenues of promotion in comparison to other diploma holders. The Pay Commission in its report has stated that "The salary should be satisfactory enough to retain him in his job and encouraging to seek his promotional carrier in his service; the Pay scales have to be such that it may not give rise to a sense of deprivation or frustration in the employee on comparing his lot with his competitors; the effort should be to provide as far as possible comparable emoluments for comparable work". In this context, the disparity between the Pharmacists working in Central Government Deptt. and the Union Territories should not be there; the pay scales should be one and the same. I earnestly request the Central Government to study this anomaly and do the needful to wipe out this anomaly at an early date.

[Translation]

(vi) Financial assistance for afforestation in hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost everyone accepts the importance of intensive afforestation and soil conservation in the places of origin of the rivers flowing in the gangetic or Yamuna plain in order to protect these areas from flood havoc, to maintain the depth of these rivers and to protect the dams from siltation. But the efforts so far made to mobilise required resources for these works have been negligible. Nominal allocation has been made for this purpose for the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and that too is being made available by effecting cuts from the funds earmarked for other items of work whereas not only the State but also the country benefits more than the region itself from the afforestation of this area. Neither the State Government nor the Planning Commission makes specific allocation by preparing separate schemes for this purpose in view of its importance.

It is, therefore, necessary that the Planning Commission should prepare a national scheme for intensive afforestation and soil-conservation in these areas and make funds available from the national exchequer as per its requirement.

[English]

(vii) Demand for revival of Crop Insurance Scheme in Rajasthan

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Crop Insurance Scheme has been approved by the Union Government and the State Governments have been enjoined upon to implement it. Implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme is essential and indispensable for survival of farmers of our nation. The Scheme covers the risk of damage to the crops by natural calamities, that is, cold wave, hail storms, pest disease or drought. It is generally observed that on an average the crops of the farmers in our country once within the span of three years are damaged by natural calamities.

In the existing conditions in our country the implementation of Crop Insurance Scheme is a guarantee for timely economic help to the farmers whose crops are damaged by natural calamities. Government of Rajasthan introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme in the State but the Scheme has been withdrawn this year.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to enjoin upon the Government of Rajasthan State to revive the Crop Insurance Scheme in the State immediately.

[Translation]

(viii) Demand for increasing financial assistance to Bihar for development of irrigation facilities by taking into account district as a unit

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Bihar is the most backward State in the country in the matter of irrigation. Yield per hectare in this State is far less than the average yield in the country. The main reason for this is that a very negligible percentage of fertile land gets irrigation facilities and that too not for the whole year.