

tioned at (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT- 7758/89]

12.12 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

[English]

Seventy-sixth and Seventy-first Reports

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): I beg to present the following Reports:

- (1) 76th Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs Lakshadweep and Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (2) 71st Report (Hindi and English versions) of Estimates Committee on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 64th Report of the Committee (8th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs)—Customer Services and Security System in Nationalised Banks.

12.13 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULES 377

- (i) **Need to Set up Institutes of Information Technology in Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune immediately as recommended by the Task Force set up by Department of Electronics**

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): A proposal for setting up of an Institute of Information Technology was submitted by

Government of Orissa in January, 1986. Subsequently, the Department of Electronics, Government of India decided that four institutes would be set up at four cities in the country namely, Bhubaneswar, Delhi, Hyderabad and Pune, where Super Computer Facilities were being developed. Following this, a Task Force was set up by the Department of Electronics to prepare the project report of setting up of IIT. The Task Force has already submitted its report.

In view of the rapid expansion of the use of computers in Government Departments and Undertakings and consequential manpower requirement in this field, the early starting of the proposed IIT is highly essential.

I would like, therefore, request the Union Government to do the needful in the matter immediately.

12.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

- (ii) **Need to constitute a separate Himalayan Tourism Development Corporation for proper development of hilly areas adjacent to Himalayas and to attract more tourists there**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Himalayan region covered with snow and forest has always been the centre of attraction for domestic and foreign tourists. These areas have the rich potentiality to attract peace loving tourists and pilgrims and also those people who are interested in mountaineering, tracking, skiing and gliding. But due to the non-availability of modern facilities like transportation, communication, lodging etc. we are not able to exploit the existing potentialities fully. It has not only obstructed the economic development of the region but also deprived the domestic as well as the foreign tourists to make use of it. In spite of the willingness of

the State Governments, they are not in a position to make any efforts in this direction due to shortage of funds.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to chalk out a special programme under Eighth Plan for providing necessary tourist facilities, so that the tourist potentialities of this hilly region adjacent to Himalaya can be fully exploited and for this purpose, a separate Himalayan Tourism Development Authority should be constituted.

**(iii) Need to direct State Governments to create more posts at lower levels**

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Sir, in the bureaucratic set up of the country, posts at higher level have been created in a large scale but they do not have any direct link with the rural people. Common people do not have much knowledge about their working. The lower level Government officials such as Patwari, Forest Guard, Police Constable, Gram Sewak and Samiti Sewak are directly connected with rural people in their day today works. The number of posts of these officials are the same as it was before independence. These lower level officials are doing their increased quantum of work with full sincerity and devotion. They have to execute the orders of their all senior officers and have to maintain cordial relations with the common people also. The image of the administration depends upon the working of these officials.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that in future more attention should be paid to increase the number of posts at lower level and the direction to this effect should also be given to all States.

[English]

**(iv) Need for effective slips to control the diseases caused by iodine deficiency**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Iodine deficiency disorders in the human

beings (IDD) have many tragic effects including mental and physical abnormalities, deaf, mutism goitre and dwarfism. Recent studies by World Health Organisation (WHO)/UNICEF sponsored inter-country workshop disclosed that India is one of the worst affected areas with more than 200 million of its people suffering from IDD. Apart from Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, new areas are noticed in Delhi, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and many North Eastern States despite launching of National Goitre Control Programme by the Government from the year 1962, to survey the endemic areas and supply of iodised salt to combat the problem.

Another effective method of IDD control in high risk areas is to administer iodised oil in form of injections and capsules, which provide immunity for five years at the minimum, through which countries like Bangladesh, China, Bhutan and Nepal have been able to control it very successfully.

I would, therefore, request the Health Ministry to take up measures on a war footing by which this dreaded disease could be prevented.

**(v) Need to exempt essential drugs from taxes**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): It is indeed pathetic to note that India is the only country that is taxing the sick. Medicines and essential drugs are exempted from taxation not only in the advanced countries but even by the countries of the Third World. Take, for instance, our neighbours Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma. Medicines are not taxed there.

It is, therefore, very necessary that we make an introspection. We alone are taxing these items.

Sickness does not discriminate the poor from the rich. The same drug would be necessary to cure a man of a particular illness no matter what strata of society he