

[Shrimati Usha Rani Tomar]

37 per cent students of a certain university are becoming drug addicts. This increasing addiction of drugs by younger generation hinders the development of the country. It is absolutely necessary to free the youths from the clutches of this poison. The Government of India should impose a strict ban on drug abuse and bring the smugglers to book boldly.

[English]

- (iv) Need to adopt necessary measures to improve the deteriorating telephone services in Calcutta

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : The telephone system in the city of Calcutta is in a very deplorable condition. There is wide-spread resentment among the subscribers. There are number of complaints every day. But the concerned officers do not take any action in spite of the fact that the telephones are dead for weeks and months. But bills are never less. Sometimes the amount seems to be inflated also. Instead of removing the complaints of the people, the officers are indifferent. Many telephones remain out of order for long periods. The result is that it is causing inconvenience not only to local subscribers but also to people of other areas and States, as well as people from foreign countries. Therefore, the department concerned should take immediate steps to improve the deteriorating telephone services in Calcutta.

[Translation]

- (v) Demand for adequate funds for the construction of school buildings in the country

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Sir, I am raising a very important issue of utmost public importance in the House under rule 377. Sir, we almost every day read in newspapers about the collapse of one school building or the other or closure of a school due to lack of building etc. It is true that the lack of space and buildings for schools is becoming a country-wide problem. There is shortage of school buildings in every State. The buildings are not being constructed in proportion to the number of new schools being opened every year specially the

students of primary, secondary and higher secondary schools are facing much difficulty. The schools are held in two and three shifts. The classes at some places are even held in Varandahs, temples, Dharamshalas, Panchayat Ghars, under the trees and in tents. Thus, our tiny tots, who are the future and hope of India are exposed to the winter, rains and summer in the open. The students, teachers, guardian and public representatives are very much perturbed over this state of affairs.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to provide for separate funds in the Budget for the construction of school buildings so that this nation-wide problem could be solved. At the same time Government should also advise the States to spend at least 50 per cent, if not 75 per cent, of the amount of crores of rupees deposited in banks as savings by the Education Boards, Secondary Education Circles and Text book Corporations on the construction of school buildings and direct them that every year 50 per cent amount should be compulsorily spent on the construction of school buildings to solve this nation-wide problem. Sir, this huge amount is received only from the students and there should be no problem in spending this money for the benefit of the students. Moreover, it is not only proper but justified also.

[English]

- (vi) Need to make provision of special quota of seats for MLAs in the Railways

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) : Sir, in every State, a large number of people visit their respective capitals for personal work. These people go along with their representatives for their work. But the representatives are not getting seats or berths in the trains. Because of this, the people visit offices without their elected representatives. People are facing lot of inconvenience. In the past MLAs were treated under VIP quotas in Railways. Now MLAs are not treated so and are finding difficulty in getting seats in trains. The Assembly Sessions are taking place for four months