

[*Shri Janak Raj Gupta*]

the State Government be persuaded to give refugees in J & K their citizenship rights.

- (vi) **Need to withdraw the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorced) Bill, 1986.**

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, hundreds of Muslim women have come to voice their protest against the retrograde Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Bill, 1986 which the Government is adamantly trying to enact. They are indignant as also the progressive people in the country that the rights which they won after a long struggle, they are going to lose 38 years after Independence. The main question is exoneration of the husband from providing compensation for his divorcee. Also in question is the threat that Muslim women would be deprived from the secular law of the land, in this case Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code. Muslim women are against this Bill and have therefore come to tell us how strongly they feel about it. This Bill also seeks to increase the divorce rate in the country. It amounts to mortgaging the rights of Muslim women with some political aims. All this is in the facade of protecting their rights. The gates are now being opened wide for the obscurantist elements in other communities to make a grand entry as if we have not enough trouble with such elements.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to reconsider the issue and withdraw the Bill in question and restore confidence in the minds of Muslim women and do justice to them.

- (vii) **Need for measures to solve the difficulties faced by I.D.P.L.**

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central): Sir, Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited, one of the Asia's largest bulk drugs manufacturers, has accumulated a total loss of Rs. 143 crores for. 50 per cent of its capacity is lying idle. The Company is saddled with obsolete machinery, high inventories and efficient labour force. IDPL is facing a serious crisis and the powerful private sector including mighty transnationals are whipping up an offensive against it. They are utilising the crisis for converting this into a joint sector with management fully in private hands. The decision

of the Asian Development Bank to advance loans directly to the private parties even without Government guarantees add fuel to the fire. IDPL management must be made autonomous and at the same time accountable. Workers' involvement and full and unfettered participation at all levels must be introduced and made effective. State and Central Governments should purchase their requirements from IDPL and make prompt payments as arrears at present amount to Rs. 24 crores. IDPL was handling foreign drug trade sometime back which had certain benefits for its finance. Hyderabad plant is suffering from shortage of alcohol, water and power. Madras Plant is doing well in case of formula formulations, general engineering and scalpels, but it is lagging behind in surgical instruments. Muzaffarpur Plant is short of alcohol. The Gurgaon Plant is working under capacity. But there is no question of closing these units. If it is done, it will be a blow to the policies of the Central Government. Surgical Plants are unviable as the production is not based on the actual requirements and not purchased by the Central and State Governments. In essence, the problems faced by the IDPL are no different from that of the Public Sector as a whole. They are basically those of adequate planning and management. The Government is not allocating sufficient working capital funds in order to enable this company to cut down on cash losses. In the long run as well, Government will have to allocate much more than what it has earmarked for this company, in order to enable it to bring in new technology and help it move towards more lucrative product profiles to attain 'Health for All by 2000 AD'.

[*Translation*]

- (viii) **Demand for another thermal power station at Delhi to meet the power shortage in the Capital.**

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following point under Rule 377.

Delhi gets 150 MW electricity from I.P. Estate Thermal Power Station and 300 MW from Badarpur Thermal Power Station while we get 150 MW electricity from Singrauli. In spite of this, Delhi still re-

quires 250 MW of power which is supplied by Haryana. Delhi's power requirements are increasing in view of its population. Now-a-days thrashers are working in the farms. If electricity is not available, the grains will be destroyed by rains in the fields. So electricity should be uninterruptedly supplied to farms. Keeping in view the shortage of Power in Delhi, a thermal power station with the capacity of 500 MW should be set up so as to solve the power problem of Delhi. Further it can supply electricity to every home. Thus women will also be able to get some employment by running some small cottage industries.

[English]

- (ix) Demand for opening of Branches of Agricultural Development Bank in Aliganj, Patiali and Bhargain in Etah district of U.P.

SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at present Kanara Bank is the only Bank which is functioning as a Lead Bank in District Etah. Aliganj which is a Tehsil and Block Headquarter with a population of over 20,000 is having only one commercial bank branch of the State Bank of India and the advances and deposits at this Branch during 1985-86 were to the tune of Rs. one crore respectively.

A need for opening a Branch of the Agricultural Development Bank in Aliganj has been felt since long. Similarly in Patiali Tehsil Headquarter and Block Headquarter, there is no Bank Branch and even for the Government transactions one has to go to Aliganj, Bhargain Town having a population of more than 20,000 is having no Bank Branch whereas other areas with lesser population are having commercial Bank Branches. The Gramin Banks opened within a radius of 3 KM practically do not advance any agricultural loans and the purpose of opening Gramin Banks in the villages is therefore defeated.

With a view, therefore, to provide adequate commercial banking service to these areas I would request the Government through you and this August House to open branches of the Agricultural Development Bank each in Aliganj, Patiali and Bhargain

as a step towards their development and for the betterment of the people.

12.47 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1986-87—*CONTD.*

MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL-SUPPLIES—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up Item No. 12—Further Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Dr. Rajhans.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that although the wholesale price might have come down yet there has been no decrease in the retail price. In Civil Supplies Report, at page no. 6. following is mentioned.

[English]

“The Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers moved up by 7.5 per cent during April-November, 1985, compared to 6.6 per cent in the corresponding period in 1984. In November, 1985, the Consumer Price Index was 5.9 per cent higher than that of the same month in 1984.

[Translation]

We all know how Price Index is prepared. What I mean to say is that the way the price has increased in the market has scared the people. If the hon. Minister accompanies me to the market, then I can show him now the prices are rising. Whatever we say in our reports and speech, we cannot overlook the facts. Food management plays a vital role in bringing down the prices of commodities. Food management plays greater part than the production of food items. I would like to draw your attention to page No. 11 of the Report. It reads :