

Speaker, Sir, Electoral Reforms in our country are now overdue and inevitable. Muscle power and money power will have to be eliminated. It is also experienced that a large number of candidates are entering the electoral fray and complicating the process. The incidence of candidates having failed to obtain party tickets and coming forward to contest elections as independents is very much on the increase. Thus, the number of candidates needs also to be brought down. Therefore, electoral reforms are the need of the hour to make elections free and fair.

I would, therefore, request the Government to bring in necessary amendments to the relevant electoral laws after careful considerations and due consultations with all concerned.

(iii) Need to open Seamen's Employment Office at Madras

SHRI P. P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): The Madras Port has been portrayed as "the Eastern Gateway of India". It is the second largest port in India in terms of traffic. It has been extensively expanded and modernised. An outlay of Rs. 570 crore has been provided for the development and modernisation of the Madras Port in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

But there is no Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. In exercise of power under section 12(1) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and in pursuance of the Madras High Court order dated 30.4.92, the Government of India opened a Seamen's Employment Office at Madras on 23.4.93. But in pursuance of the decision of the Appellate Bench of Madras High Court reversing the earlier single judge decision of the Court, the Seamen's Employment Office was closed in August 1994. Then a Special Leave Petition was filed in the Supreme Court challenging the order of the Division Bench of the High Court of Madras. The Special Leave Petition was dismissed by the Supreme court with liberty to the petitioners—The National Union of Seafarers to make a representation to the Government of India for continuing the Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. The Supreme Court directed the Government of India to decide the demand within two months of the representation. The petitioners have submitted their representation to the Government of India on 25.10.94 for continuation of the Seamen's Employment Office.

There has been a continuous demand by shipping companies, Seamen National Union of Seafarers of India and also by others for the opening of Seamen's Employment Office at Madras. Their demand is genuine.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government of India to open Seamen's Employment Office at Madras immediately.

(iv) Need to take Immediate Measures to Check the Menace of HIV Disease by Adopting Ayurvedic Medicines

SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA (Shimoga) : The August House is well aware of the fact that several people lost their lives due to the spread of plague in the country during the year 1994. Jaundice, malaria, diarrhoea and other diseases were also detected in many parts of the country.

During this year the situation has become serious due to fast spreading of HIV disease in the country. All known methods of treatment for curing this disease have failed. Therefore, there is an urgent need to try out alternative systems of medicine such as Ayurveda, Yoga and Tibetan medicines.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to take immediate measures to check the menace of HIV disease by encouraging the "Ayurvedic" medicines throughout the country.

[Translation]

(v) Need to Implement Various Centrally Sponsored Development Projects in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad): Mr. Speaker Sir, the Indo-Canadian Agriculture Extension Scheme was introduced on a selective basis in three districts of Uttar Pradesh. The awareness programme of proper farm management techniques and scientific farming was organised for some selected farmers, as a result of which the agricultural production was doubled during the first year. The farmers also utilised the improved agricultural implements from the farmers assistance centres of the project and many rural women started their own business after getting training from the sewing training centres. Selected trained women and providing health education and first aid to the rural women in every village under the Mother and Child Care Programme. These programmes have created awareness towards education among the rural people.

In regard to scientific farming and other welfare projects, Hardoi, Lakhimpur Khiri, Sitapur, Unnao and Farukhabad districts of Uttar Pradesh are backward districts. On account of the lack of proper management and scientific techniques, this area is totally cut off from the mainstream of development ever after abundance of agricultural resources.

Therefore, I request the Government to implement various agricultural, social welfare and industrial development schemes under the Karim Nagar Project of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and Indo-Canadian Agriculture Extension Scheme in the above mentioned districts, of Hardoi, Lakhimpur Khiri, Sitapur, Unnao and Farukhabad in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to Constitute a Separate State of Uttaranchal/Uttarakhand.

MAJ. GEN. (Retd.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal of the Government of Uttar Pradesh of constituting a separate state comprising 8 districts of Uttar Pradesh has been pending with the Government of India for the last three and a half years. On 12 August, 1991, the then Government of Uttar Pradesh had sent a proposal to the Central Government with regard to constituting a separate State of 'Uttaranchal' by merging these 8 hilly districts. Thereafter,