

been declared unsafe. Only light vehicles are permitted and all heavy and medium vehicles are to be ferried across by barges. It is now more than five years that people of the Coastal States are living with this situation with no sign of solution to the problem.

I urge upon the Central Government to strengthen the bridge across Kali river in Uttar Kannada district.

(II) Need to evolve a policy to distribute Ravi-Beas Waters in Punjab according to the Riparian principle accepted the World-over

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): Punjab is facing severe water shortage these days. According to the experts of Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana and as per official estimate, about 5 to 6 feet of water is required annually to mature an acre point for the normal paddy-wheat rotation. As such, the minimum requirement of the total cultivable areas comes to 52.5 M.A.F. (million acre feet). The Punjab rivers have a total annual water flow of 32.5 M.A.F.

Punjab has been deprived of most of its available waters due to diversion of water to the non-riparian States. The Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal riparian will be a further blow to the Punjab farmers.

I request that position may be reviewed so as to distribute Ravi and Beas waters according to the riparian principle accepted world-over.

(III) Need for setting up an autonomous 'Tribal Development Council' in West Bengal

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Midnapur, Purulia and

Bankura districts comprise of maximum SC/ST population. In Midnapur District, Jhangram sub-division more than 70% people belong to SC/ST communities. But due to lack of development programmes. The tribal people of these three districts feel alienated. I personally visited these areas and have seen the grievances of the people. I request the Government that in areas where 70% of people belong to tribal communities. Government should set up autonomous Tribal Development Council in order to protect the interest of SC/ST communities. Government can take up the matter with the State Government for necessary formation of such council. At the same time other backward classes lists in every State may be declared, otherwise other backward classes communities would be deprived of advantages accruing to them by Government policies.

I request the Central Government to see the matter and do the needful in this regard.

(iv) Need to include Gangaghat Town area near Kanpur under 'Ganga Action Plan'

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH (Unnao): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to submit that the population of Gangaghat Town Area in my constituency is about 5,00,000. However, there are no proper sewerage facilities in the area and the sewer water is being drained into the river Ganges which is quite hazardous. Similarly sewer water of many other towns is also being drained into the river Ganges thereby polluting the entire river. Lakhs of persons drawing drinking water from the Ganges are getting only polluted water.

[Shri Devi Bux Singh]

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make adequate arrangements for the drainage of contaminated sewer water of many towns of Uttar Pradesh. Secondly, 'Gangaghat Town Area' should be included in the 'Ganga Action Plan' so that proper drainage system is provided in this town area.

(v) Need for a survey of Tameshwar Nath, Kopia and Sidharth Nagar in Basti District of Uttar Pradesh by Archaeologists and also to develop these sites as tourist centres of Budhists

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tameshwar Nath is a historical and highly esteemed religious shrine in Khalilabad Development Block in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh. There is a 'Shivling' in this shrine which is like other prominent 'Shivlings' worshipped by the Hindus and many evidences are available which suggest that Lord Buddha renounced his princely life at this place by getting his head shaved off and leaving behind his royal attires and chariot. Over the years on 'Shivratri' a fair is being organised at this place. On this occasion thousands of Hindu sightseers and Buddhist monks flock the area.

In addition many evidences are available which suggest that ancient kingdom of Kapilvastu existed in Kopia in Khalilabad Development Block in Basti district of Uttar Pradesh. Stupa to the right of Pokhra at this place further substantiates the above mentioned things. Similarly, there is one more ancient Stupa in Dharam Singhva's Development Block of Sidharth Nagar district which suggests that the place was a Budhist Centre and was known as 'Dharam Sangh'.

The bricks, relics and precious things found during excavation and tilling of fields at all these places on the right side of Pokhra have been found similar to those found in Piprahava, Sarnath and Kasya.

All these three places are a subject of research for historians and Department of Archaeology. I urge the Centre to appoint a committee consisting of historians and department of Archaeology for research. Further plans would be drawn and funds should also be sanctioned for developing these places as Budhists tourist centres.

(vi) Need for immediate measures by Government under the National Aids Control Organisation (NACO) to check the incidence of Aids Menace in India

[English]

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK (Mathurapur): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the serious threat of AIDS in our country. Frequently the alarming news in reported in various newspapers about AIDS and HIV positive cases from almost every corner of the country, mainly from metropolitan cities. The AIDS and HIV positive cases are increasing in geometric progression. According to various agencies and sources, the HIV positive cases were 12 million in the world and two million in 1993. If not checked, in 2000 AD it will rise to 100 million in 2000 AD. So, immediate plans, programmes and projects should be taken under NACO (National AIDS Control Organisation) to control this one hundred percent fatal disease.

The Government increase may take the following steps immediately:—