

provision of mini-kits and increasing the honorarium from Rs. 50/- to Rs. 500/- they also demanded to get the status of class-IV employees.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to give a serious thought to strengthening this health service and raise the honorarium of health guides to Rs. 500/- and they should be treated as class-IV employees.

(iii) **Need to Include Orissa in the Hilly Areas Development Programme**

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur): Sir, the Government of India have sponsored a number of schemes for the development of backward forest and hilly areas in the county. Two-thirds of the total area in the State of Orissa is hilly area. The hilly areas in Orissa have some perennial problems. The districts located in the hilly regions have not been developed at par with the plain and coastal areas. The road communication network, health care facilities, provision of drinking water and education, etc. in these areas are lagging far behind as compared to the remaining areas of the State. Unless the Central Government pays attention to the development of these areas, the people will continue to suffer and the regional imbalance is bound to take place. If the State of Orissa is brought under the Hilly Areas Development Programmes, each area of the State will get due share in respect of development.

I, therefore, request the Central Government for the inclusion of Orissa in the Hilly Areas Development Programme.

(iv) **Need to Waive off the condition of Fifty Percent Working Capital Required to be met by Kerala Government for Implementation of Market Intervention Scheme for Cash Crops**

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (Mukundapuram): Sir, the Kerala Government had prepared a Market Intervention Scheme for cash crops like pepper, ginger, turmeric, nutmeg, cinnamon, clove and cocoa etc. which has been forwarded to the Union Government for approval way back in March, 1993. However, the Union Government had approved the said scheme, subject to the condition that State Government should meet 50 per cent of the working capital and 50 per cent of the losses but simultaneously requested the Union Government for exemption from other condition regarding working capital requirement.

The spice crops are high value crops and require huge working capital which is beyond the capacity of State in the present situation.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and formulate a system so as to waive off the condition regarding working capital.

(v) **Need to set up a Bench of High Court at Meerut in Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been a long standing demand for setting up a Bench of High Court in Meerut. For this purpose Jaswant Singh Commission was

constituted in 1981 and the report was also submitted to the Government in 1985. But no action has been taken in this regard so far.

People of western region of Uttar Pradesh have to go to Allahabad in connection with their case which involves lot of expenditure and time and is also inconvenient to them. Keeping all these factors in view the demand for setting up a Bench of High Court at Meerut in Western Uttar Pradesh was made. Meerut has a special historical significance from the point of view of the independence movement of 1857 and Mahabharat period. The Central Government had also assured in Lok Sabha on 21.7.1986 to set up a divisional Bench there.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to take an immediate action with regard to the setting up of a Bench of High Court in Meerut.

(vi) Need to give Autonomous Hill Council Status to Laddakh Region of J & K and Provide Other Facilities for its Around Development

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roesra): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, I had been to Leh. Even though Leh is a part of Jammu & Kashmir, it is a completely peaceful area. The Central Government had announced on 9th October, 1993 that Leh-Laddakh would be given the status of autonomous hill Council. But the assurance has not been fulfilled so far, due to which there is a wide spread resentment among the people of that region. Earlier, the people of that region, were exempted from income tax. But from 1989, the Income Tax has again been imposed on them.

Tourism is the main source of livelihood for the people of Laddakh. Earlier in 1992-93 there were 16 Air flights per week for Laddakh, which have since been reduced to only four in a week. The Leh-Laddakh region was assured to be declared as a Scheduled Tribal area in 1989, but that assurance has not been implemented so far.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to give a status of Autonomous Hill Council to Laddakh immediately, exempt the people from income-tax, increase the air-trips, withdrew the increase made in the air-fare, give Leh-Laddakh a status of Scheduled tribe area and include the Argon Community in Scheduled Castes.

(vii) Need to provide more Funds to State Government of Andhra Pradesh to mitigate the grievances of Weavers in the State

[English]

SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO (Bapatla): Sir, the Centre's aid and assistance meant for the weavers have not been fully implemented with the result that there is great resentment among weavers of Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Weavers United Front and Backward Classes Action Council has decided to call on a convention of the Backward Classes and organise a *bandh* to express their protest.

I therefore, request the Union Government to consider sympathetically the Andhra weavers' case and provide sufficient funds to mitigate their grievances in time.