

able to substantiate 'hourly lotteries'. In fact, it has been observed that many of the lotteries, especially the daily and hourly lotteries are nothing more than 'MADKA BUSINESS' in the guise of lottery.

The State Government has not been able to place proper checks and controls. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has rightly banned all lottery businesses. In Andhra Pradesh with the ban on arrack there will be immediate tendency on the part of the delinquent rich to channel their moneys into the lottery business. More than half of the State Government have supported ban on lotteries and have appealed to the Central Government to bring about a legislation.

I request the Central Government to consider the immediate necessity of banning all lotteries in the country by means of a central legislation.

(vii) Need to provide financial assistance to Orissa Government to tackle drought and drinking water Problem in Keonjhar district

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Keonjhar district in Orissa is now reeling under severe drought. This year, drought has been prevailing in all the three sub-divisions of the district. Starvation deaths have been taking place in Ghatgaon, Hanchandan Pur and the Juang belt of Banspal block. Despite increasing incidents of starvation deaths, the matter has not come to lime-light. The Administration is not responsive and no steps have been taken to combat the drought situation.

The Kharif crops were affected last year due to scanty rainfall. The rabi crops yield in the plain areas were also not satisfactory for want of proper irrigation facilities. Drought situation has prevailed now as there has been no rains for last 7 to 8 months. This has also led to the severe scarcity of drinking water. The situation is very grim. Therefore, it is necessary to distribute

relief in the district on war footing. The small and marginal farmers should be supplied with certified seeds and good quality fertilisers free of cost. The short-term loans taken by the farmers should be converted into long-term loans. The loan taken upto rupees ten thousands by all the farmers may be waived. I also request that special grants should be sanctioned by the Union Government to tackle problems of drought and drinking water in Keonjhar district.

(viii) Need to provide better road communication system in Barpeta, West Bengal

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta): Sir, my constituency Barpeta comprises, costly of rural areas with Assembly segments falling in three districts. It is very backward in road communication system. In the absence of a suitable road system, the people have to make a long and tedious roundabout to reach Barpeta town, the district headquarter of Barpeta district. Naturally, the people in my constituency demand the improvement in the road system and building up of new roads.

The long-standing demand of the people of my constituency is to construct a lateral road from North Salamara to Guwahati, connecting Abhayapura, Lengtichinga, Kalgachia, Jamia Barpeta, Hajo etc. Covering major parts of four districts in lower Assam which are very backward, both economically and socially.

The importance of this proposed lateral road has been recognised by many personalities, social and political workers. A survey had also been conducted. There is a broad agreement of opinions in that. If built up, this road would go a long way to help socio-economic development of the potential of backward rural areas, in addition to saving energy consumption and minimising the hardship of the people.

I urge upon the Central Government to go into the matter and make steps for improving a social and economically backward area.