

[Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi]

15% of the leprosy sufferers are children below 14 years of age. Leprosy patients are living in every town and city of Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Even a large number of leprosy patients are seen begging at different streets of Delhi. According to an estimate the number of leprosy patients has decreased in the State of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Bihar, Nagaland, Sikkim and in the Union Territory of Lakshdweep, Pondicherry and Andaman Nicobar Islands after 1983, that is after the launching of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme. But the overall result is far from satisfactory. In the case Orissa and Madhya Pradesh the disease is highly prevalent and effective steps to be taken to eradicate leprosy from these States.

I, therefore, urge the Central Government to implement leprosy eradication programme in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh effectively in order to achieve for all by 2000 A.D.

(ii) Need to appoint Commission to review the progress of Metric system in the country

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): India adopted Metric system in 1957 in order to conform to the practice followed in all industrial and developed countries. After nearly thirty-five years still many segments of business and industry are not fully integrated with the spirit of metrication and are lagging behind in the adoption of international standards. Now that the country is attempting to integrate itself with the world economy, it is necessary that we strictly follow international standards and metric practice in both letter and spirit.

I urge the Central Government to appoint a commission to review the progress of

metrication and to review the general culture of using international and national standards in Indian business industry. It could enquire into each sector of economy to ascertain progress made in metrication and to identify bottlenecks, difficulties, if any, and recommend remedial measures. The commission should also review the role of Bureau of Indian Standards in promoting the standards culture.

(iii) Need to address the grievances of casual workers employed in Electricity Department of Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Island): There are about 1200 casual mazdoors working on daily wage basis in the Electricity Department of A & N Islands for a period ranging from five years to fifteen years without regulation. Time and again this matter has been raised in various forums connected with the Union Territory of A & N Islands without any result. Even this matter figured in the Island Development Authority meeting which was presided over by the Hon. Prime Minister and subsequently in the Standing Committee meeting of Island Development Authority presided over by the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission.

I would urge upon the Central Government to settle this issue by creating more posts. Immediate action by the Ministry of Power and Finance is called for to redress the grievances of 1200 workers in the Electricity Department of A & N Islands.

(iv) Need to set up a sugar mill in Sidharth Nagar in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are no industries in my Parliamentary Constituency of