

[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

district Sidharthnagar, which lies adjacent to Nepal border. There are no employment opportunities in this district and as a result thereof, the inhabitants of that area have to go to other areas in search of employment. Several times, I have written to the Central Government and the State Government to declare this district a No Industry area and set up some industries there. In 1990 a sugar mill was proposed to be set up there because there is no sugar mill in this district because of which the farmers of that area have to take their sugarcane to other districts and yet they do not get timely payments.

It is therefore, request to the Central Government that a sugar mill be set up in this district to ensure development of this district.

**(v) Need to re-introduce withdrawn trains passing through Sitapur junction in Uttar Pradesh.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI JANARDAN MISRA (Sitapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a matter under Rule 377 relating to North-Eastern railways. No, Where as Ministry of Railways is making arrangements to introduce new trains to provide more facilities to masses, many trains passing through Sitapur junction have been withdrawn causing dissatisfaction among the people of this area and the elected representatives have been made to bear this all. I have written several letters and requested the railway administration to restore the withdrawn trains passing through Sitapur-5325/5326 Gokul Express, 150/160 Kucknow Doodhwa passenger, 91/92 Down Ruhailkhand Express and 215 up 214 Down Sitapur Mailani passenger, which have been withdrawn on every Sunday. But these trains have not been restored. The students, public, businessmen, workers and even myself face great

inconvenience, since no direct trains to Lucknow are available at the main railway station of Sitapur district. It seems that the railway department wants to provide all the facilities to the railway stations in the urban areas at the cost of the facilities to railway stations in rural area. Railway should utilise their resources instead, for providing facilities at stations in the rural areas.

So, I want to urge upon the Railway Minister to restore the withdrawn trains passing through Sitapur junction so that the facility withdrawn from railway passengers in the rural areas may be restored.

**(vi) Need to construction of a high dam on river Koshi in Saharasa, Supaul district in Bihar**

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I would like to invite the attention of the House to the fact that my constituency Saharasa Supaul district gets devastated by Koshi river's flood every year. Every year, crops get damaged, human lives and the lime stone are lost, property loss in also suffered due to water which flows into the river from Nepal. If the Central Government construct a high dam on river Koshi in consultation with Nepal Government, then this area could be saved from the damage caused by the floods and we can also save the large amount of relief fund given by the centre and state Government as well. The dam would also result in checking of soil erosion caused by floods and the generation of electricity by water would also increase to the point that it could be provided to Bihar and other states also. If Nepal asks to provide them an approach in live of road constructing the dam on river Kosi, there request should be acceded to in view of Public interest.