

Unfortunately, Indian Law equate epilepsy either with temporary insanity or incapacity to look after oneself. This is evident from judicial pronouncements of the Supreme Court based on various provisions of India Penal Code 1860, Indian Evidence Act 1872 and Indian Contract Act 1872.

The Andhra Pradesh High Court has invoked this provision and granted annulment of marriage on this ground in 1984. Though the word 'epilepsy' as such is not found in the marriage laws applicable to Muslims, Christians and Parsis, words such as insanity, soundness of mind and mental disorder have been used in these enactments to give room for divorce. Divorce on the ground of epilepsy, has serious consequences on the life and treatment of epileptic patients.

In order to protect the interest of the unity of the family, there is a great need to bring about a statutory

disassociation of 'epilepsy' from insanity, unsoundness of mind, lunacy or any other mental disorder, since epilepsy is curable and controllable to lead to normal family life. Further, epilepsy is not hereditary and it cannot be transmitted to the offspring.

I, therefore, urge the Government to amend the Hindu and Special Marriages Act so as to eliminate the epilepsy as one of the grounds for divorce.

- (ii) **Need to solve water logging problem in the villages adjoining Ghaggar Control Canal in Rajasthan**

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH (Bikaner): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, flood is an annual feature of the Ghaggar river in Rajasthan. The Ghaggar control canal was built with the objectives of checking the flood waters and

diverting them to the dry areas. With these waters, 18 depressions were created in large sand dunes and these depressions were filled with water from the Ghaggar Control Canal. Owing to the presence of Gypsum, beneath these depressions, about 20-25 villages in the nearby low-lying areas got water logged and about one lakh acres of agricultural land became uncultivable.

To save the water logged land, the Water Resources Ministry of the Union Government despatched a team of Engineers. Apart from this, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission also undertook an aerial survey of the region, few days back. So far no concrete work has been taken up, although the Engineers opine that if a canal linking the depressions, containing water from the water logged areas, is built, it could be linked to the Suratgarh branch of the Indira Gandhi Canal. This in turn, would make the highly fertile village land, cultivable once again. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to immediately sanction the aforesaid canal.

- (iii) **Need for allocation of more funds to Uttar Pradesh Government for the development of hilly region of the state**

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri Garhwal): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, more financial allocation is required for the development programmes of the mountain regions of Uttaranchal in Uttar Pradesh, keeping in view the incongruous geography and special problems of the region. However, the pace of the development programmes has not improved, as a result of the non-increase in the Special central assistance provided by the Union Government, in the past three years. While there has been a continuous increase in the Central assistance for other States, mountain regions etc., the annual allocation for the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93, has remained stagnant at Rupees 182.01 crores. The capacity and the problems of the region is akin to the adjacent mountain State of Hima-