

(v) Need to provide adequate funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for solving drinking water problem in Hardoi and Lakhimpur-Khiri districts

SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK (Shahabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even after 46 years of independence, millions of rupees are being spent to make potable water available to people in most of the parts of the country.

Potable water is not available in most of the rural areas in Hardoi and Lakhimpur-Khiri districts of Uttar Pradesh. Hand pumps on a large scale were installed there to provide potable water to people but a large number of them have been out of order and are not being repaired, due to which the residents are compelled to drink contaminated water. A large number of the people in this area have been affected by the infectious diseases like gastroenteritis and jaundice.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government that there is an urgent need to repair the hand pumps lying out of order in Hardoi and Lakhimpur Khiri districts. Adequate funds should be provided to the Government of Uttar Pradesh to instal pumps to cater to the needs to people. A survey should also be conducted regarding the availability of clean drinking water in rural areas and immediate steps should be taken to improve the quality of drinking water.

(vi) Need to stop import of silkyarn.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADYAY (Krishnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sericulture is one of the major cottage industries in the rural areas of West Bengal. With the launching of National Sericulture

Project, sericulture activities have registered significant progress and the cultivation of mulberry is spreading into new areas. But with the fall in prices of good quality indigenous silk yarn due to the policy of import of silk yarn, both the cultivators and the silk producing activities as a whole are facing tremendous difficulties.

According to the changed export-import policy, the exporters are at liberty to pass on 50 per cent of their imported duty free silk yarn to the domestic market. As a result of that, duty free silk yarn has become cheaper than that produced indigenously. If this policy is not changed forthwith, the very purpose of the National Sericulture Project will be defeated. Thus an important sector of the country, having rich tradition, will gradually be destroyed and a vast section of the rural population will suffer.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to stop import of silk yarn immediately.

(vii) Need to provide adequate funds to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for solving acute drinking water problem in Jaunpur district

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV (Jaunpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my constituency Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh has been facing an acute drinking water problem. People are forced to drink saline water. Even the tube wells installed by the Government are also drawing saline water. The water in the adjoining areas of Gomati river in the Southern part of Jaunpur is not even worth drinking, due to which the number of patients is increasing day by day. People are not getting drink-