

[Sh. Probin Deka]

struggle" should be cause for serious concern. Recently, the Army launched two operations, code-named "Honeycomb" and "Appletart". The Bodo Security Force is trying to take away the initiative from ABBU-BPAC combine capitalising on the exasperation among moderate groups with the slow progress of the tripartite talks. After all, the ABSU had stolen the initiative from the PTCA in similar fashion. The carnage may have been timed to sabotage the ongoing negotiations. Hence, I request the Union Government to deal with the Bodo Security Force firmly, the tripartite talks need to be reactivated to find an early solution of the Bodo tangle.

- (iv) **Need to review the decision regarding sale of iodised salt in the country**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khar-gone): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the reported survey conducted by the UNICEF, the Ministry of Health of the Govt of India had issued an order on 10.11.87 imposing a restriction on the salt-producers to mix a definite quantity of iodine with salt. The sale of the common salt was banned and now only iodised salt is available and consumed everywhere.

The quantity of iodine varies from person to person in view of his circumstances, country, periods profession, his State of health and climate. The Chairman of the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad and Academy of Nutrition Improvement, Nagpur have opposed the use of such iodised salt indiscriminately. Many scientists have also opposed it. The Government has launched the iodised salt programme without any prior examination of facts and scientific research. But its advertisement is continued round the clock through Door-

darshan, newspapers and pamphlets, posters in cities.

Iodised salt is detrimental to the health of the people of Assam. In many regions of the country, despite the use of iodised salts, the disease, goitre is rapidly spreading. Its reason is the consumption of iodine more than the required quantity. The U.N. sub-committee of Nutrition of 1988 had expressed its opinion that even the slightest surplus quantity of iodine can have a serious adverse effect on the people who are over 40.

The quantity of iodine and its date of expiry are not mentioned on these iodised salt packets. According to the scientists, the iodine in iodised salt packets ceases to be effective after 6 months.

I urge upon the Central Government to hold an enquiry into this matter and instead of making the use of iodised salt compulsory all over the country, it should be limited to goitre-affected regions only.

[English]

- (v) **Need to fill up posts of judges in Mumbai (Bombay) High Court**

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): The volume of pending cases in the Mumbai (Bombay) High Court has reached an alarming proportion. The number is more than 1.5 lakh as on 30th June, 1992. Due to pending cases, there is frustration among the litigants and they are losing confidence in judicial system. The dictum "Justice delayed is justice denied" has become operative. Out of the total number of 48 judges in the Mumbai High Court, sixteen posts are vacant and five judges would soon retire, taking the total number of vacancies to twenty-one. Moreover, eighteen additional posts have been created but no process has been initiated for their appointment. Thus, thirty-nine judges have to be appointed. I request the Prime Minister to look into this problem

and move the administrative machinery promptly so that thirty-nine judges are appointed and justice is given in respect of pending 1.5 lakh cases in Mumbai High Court.

(vi) Need to set up industries in Bikramganj area, Bihar

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bikramganj area of Bihar is generally an agricultural area. Most of the inhabitants of this area are farmers and landless labourers. The only means of their livelihood is the agriculture. Most of the time these farmers and landless labourers remain without work. They have to face a lot of difficulties due to lack of sources of livelihood and employment, as a result they become victim of unemployment and poverty. This is the area which has neither a public sector industry nor a private sector industry. This area is totally no-industry area. The lives of 25 lakhs people living in this area have become very distressing. As these people are generally without employment so the number of criminals and anti-social elements is increasing rapidly. People are inclining towards nexalites and terrorism. Therefore, through you I would like to demand from the Central Government that by conducting a survey of this area employment oriented big, medium and small industries should be set up in this area as soon as possible, and this area should be freed from the influence of Nexalites and terrorism by providing employment to the labourers and educated youths of this area.

(vii) Need to supply Natural gas to the Firms which have been given license for production of methyl alcohol in Gujarat

SHRI N.J. RATHVA (Chhota Udaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a certain number of

firms of Gujarat have been given licences for the production of methyl alcohol by the Ministry of Industry. A good quantity of gas is in excess in Gujarat which is combusted uselessly and it is not being utilized. But the Ministry of Petroleum has not been able to supply this natural gas to these firms of Gujarat so far due to which they are not able to produce methyl alcohol. Had the Ministry of Petroleum supplied natural gas for the production of methyl alcohol to these firms, they would have produced it and it could be used for mixing it in diesel and considerable foreign currency could have been saved.

Therefore, I think when the Ministry of Industry of the Union Government has given licences to certain firms of Gujarat for the production of methyl alcohol, the Ministry of Petroleum should allot natural gas to these firms immediately so that these firms can produce methyl alcohol and can save foreign exchange for the country. On the other hand foreign currency would be saved, on the other hand the excess gas in Gujarat, which is being wasted at present would be utilized and these firms can produce methyl alcohol (metha-Nole). Unemployed youths will also get job if these firms will start production.

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Petroleum to supply gas as soon as possible to those firms of Gujarat, which has been given licences by the Ministry of Industry for the production of methyl alcohol.

(viii) Need for early completion of work for providing STD facility in the Akala district, Maharashtra

[*English*]

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim): Sir, it has been a long standing demand of the people of Risod, Washim and