

[Prof. K. K. Tewary.]

try. It is heartening to note that under the leadership of Mrs. Indira Gandhi a fresh look is being given to this sensitive issue and the whole planning process is being geared up to stem the perilous consequences which were threatening the integrity of the country and breeding dangerous socio-economic tensions. In this context the proverbial backwardness of Bihar despite all its infinite reservoir of possibilities, deserves immediate attention. Even in Bihar there are pockets of backwardness which remind one of the medieval times when people lived entirely on the vagaries of nature completely cut off from all the trappings of civilised life.

The District of Bhojpur in Bihar is such a hapless area where about 80 per cent of the people still live in abject poverty whose pitiable existence is a cruel stigma on our otherwise forward looking and progressive programme of socio-economic change. It is really unfortunate that scant attention has been paid to this area where the concept of poverty line should be substituted by degradation line which alone can describe the utter wretchedness and debilitating poverty of the god-forsaken people of this district. While one half of the district is the permanent abode of drought the other half is constantly ravaged by floods. Consequently, it has acquired the dubious distinction of being the most powerful and active citadel of the left extremists and adventurists who have declared many blocks of the district as liberated zones and are indulging in senseless violence and killings without any let or hindrance. Some recent books published on the Naxal movement have identified Bhojpur as the sheet-anchor of Naxalism in the country.

In order to check the growing social tension and violence in this area it is imperative to provide necessary infrastructure of development and bring it under integrated rural development programme launched by Government. I make a fervent appeal to the Ministers of Home Affairs and Industry to evolve a coordinated programme of development for Bhojpur which is fast turning into an area of darkness providing a hospitable hunting ground for those who seek to subvert our political system by spreading violence and disaffection among our people.

(iv) NEED TO ESTABLISH THE PROPOSED NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AYURVEDA AT TRIVANDRUM.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: It has been proposed to establish a national institute for Ayurveda at Trivandrum, amalgamating the following:

1. Postgraduate Training Centre in Ayurveda now attached to the Government Ayurveda College, Trivandrum, presently a centrally sponsored scheme.
2. Central Research Institute for Ayurveda of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha located at Cheruthuruthy.
3. Regional Research Institute of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha located at Poojappura, Trivandrum.
4. Pharmacognosy Unit along with Botanical Garden and Herbarium

of the State Government, located in the Regional Research Institute campus at Poojapura, Trivandrum;

5. Pharmacology Unit of Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, located in the Medical College, Trivandrum.

6. Publication Unit, now part of the Government Ayurveda College, Trivandrum.

The main objects of the Institute are: (a) to promote the growth and development of Ayurveda, (b) to augment highly trained manpower at Post-graduate and Doctorate Degree level; (c) to formulate aims and patterns of research on scientific lines in Ayurveda; (d) to undertake any research or other programmes in Ayurveda; (e) to initiate and develop and coordinate scientific research in different aspects, fundamental and applied of Ayurveda and to promote and assist institutions of research for the study of diseases, their prevention, causation and remedy; (f) to provide medical care through Ayurveda to the suffering humanity on no profit no loss basis and (g) to conduct experiments and develop patterns of teaching in Post-graduate education in all branches of Ayurveda.

But it is a matter of regret that the proposal is still awaiting clearance by Central Government. The Government of Kerala on 21-10-80 requested for expediting the clearance of the Government of India on the proposal. The Central Government has replied that the matter was being examined. I request the Union Government and the Union Minister for Health to avoid delay and do the needful for establishing the proposed national Institute for Ayurveda at Trivandrum at the earliest.

(v) STEPS TO IMPROVE WORKING OF INDIAN DRUGS AND PHARMACEUTICALS LTD.

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): The Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Limited (IDPL), one of the biggest public sector enterprises is in shambles. The capacity utilisation of its various plants, with heavy inven-

tory of finished products, the monthly losses on account of under utilisation of capacity is estimated at about Rs. 1.5 crores. Of the total losses, the Rishikesh Antibiotic Plant of IDPL alone is responsible for a loss of over Rs. one crore every month.

What is worse the losses are being compounded by the burden of interest charges on the massive inventory of finished products worth about 32 crores. Besides, IDPL has to recover its dues totalling about Rs. 12 crores from the State Governments. These losses assume significance keeping in view the rise in the prices of drugs allowed by the Government early this year.

It is interesting to note that the rate of capacity utilisation of the Rishikesh Plant is 30 per cent. At present the Gurgaon formulation plant is operating at 15-20 per cent capacity, the surgical instrument plant at Madras at 30 per cent and the Hyderabad semi-synthetic drug plant at 65 per cent.

It was expected that the country would become self-sufficient in the production of these bulk drugs, but the expectations have been belied. The demand for drugs continues to be met through imports. Over Rs. 150 crores worth of drugs have to be imported to fill the gap between availability and demand. IDPL has also bungled in the implementation of its expansion plan. On account of delays, the project cost had gone up from the original estimate of Rs. 153 crores to Rs. 27 crores.

The above situation is indeed serious and dismal. I call upon the Government to immediately gear up IDPL and take immediate steps on war footing to put this public sector undertaking in proper shape. The present shortage of basic bulk drugs and life saving medicines is the cause of great concern for public health.

The House knows well that throughout the country there is a dearth of life saving medicines and important drugs. If a public-sector prestigious undertaking like IDPL fails in its production programme the Government will be left with no other choice but to import the essential drugs at heavy foreign exchange cost. I, therefore, request