

[Shri K. Kunhambu]

mercury content which remains dissolved in the effluent. Mercury impairs muscular activities, damages eye-sight and causes congenital defects in newborn children. This is indeed a frightening situation.

In the circumstances, it is very essential to protect the people from the harmful effects of pollution. The poisonous effluent can be carried through pipes and discharged into distant sea after the proposed treatment. This proposal was there in the original project report, but was later given up. Therefore, I request the Government to take immediate steps in this regard.

(vi) NEED FOR A MOBILE POST OFFICE AT TIRUNELVELI TAMIL NADU

SHRI D. S. A. SIVAPRAKASAM (Tirunelveli): Under Rule 377 I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

Tirunelveli town is about 20 square miles in size with nearly 5 lakhs of population. There is Township Committee, there is a town panchayat and there is a Municipality in Tirunelveli. There are many colleges and large industrial undertakings in this place. This is the Headquarters of Tirunelveli District. There are no adequate postal communication facilities. We cannot send registered post after 3 p.m. and no ordinary post after 5 p.m. If there is any emergency, then people will have to walk several miles to reach R.M.S. Office at Tirunelveli junction or to the Headquarters Post Office at Palayamkottai. One has to walk about an hour to reach this place. The public are made to suffer and for posting a 15 paise letter has to spend 80 paise, as bus fare. There is imminent necessity for a mobile post office here which should work in the evening. This mobile post office should touch Maharajanagar,

Perumalpuram, Sankarnagar, Melapalayam, Pettai, Hindu College, Tirunelveli Town, Gandhinagar, Thatchanallur, Samadhanapuram, Palayamkottai etc. which are the important constituents.

Immediate action is needed to be taken in this matter.

(vii) INCREASED CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO RAJASTHAN IN VIEW OF DROUGHT AND DRINKING WATER PROBLEMS

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT (Jodhpur): This year, the entire State of Rajasthan and particularly the Jodhpur region has been facing the problem of acute famine and drinking water. The Drought Prone Development Programme has not made the requisite impact in this area. Moreover, the Scheme of Rural Integrated Development has yet to show better results. Even the recent emphasis on the renewed 20 point programme of Rural development with a view to providing at least drinking water to desert areas has yet to start.

If Government does not arrange Central World Bank assistance to this drought affected area does not take suitable steps in this direction by way of identifying new sources of drinking water and making available to the deficiency villages by framing new scheme we shall have to face an unprecedented problem.

Besides, rural areas Jodhpur City is also facing this problem which has attained a population of about 6 lakhs. The drinking water for Jodhpur City is mainly being supplied by Jawai dam local in Polli District, towards which the flow of water has been so low that for the first time since its construction, such a situation has emerged that supply has been stepped as early. Keeping in view this situation, the State Government decided to instal handpumps at various