

political patronage continue their depredations, the time is not far off when the entire State will be denuded of greenery. Already parts of Himachal, once covered with row upon row of swaying trees, present a desolate look. Even the trees stumps have been burnt or dug out to destroy the evidence that a lush green forest once exists on the mountain side. Forest Department officials not only help the contractors in illicit felling of trees but also provide them expert advice in smuggling timber out of the State through safe routes.

This calls for immediate corrective action.

(vii) Severe drought and famine conditions in some parts of Andhra Pradesh

PROF. N. G. RANGA (GUNTUR): Once again, most parts of Rayalaseema and large areas of Telangana in Andhra Pradesh are in the grip of the periodical but severe drought and consequent widespread famine. Our Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi has expressed her deep anguish over the sufferings of the people after two days of touring in those areas, talking to the people and discussing about the incidence of distress caused by failure of crops, large-scale unemployment among agricultural workers and heavy losses sustained by peasants.

She exclaimed in her statement to Pressmen that 'the Nation has to think in terms of a long term solution for fighting drought, which seemed to be occurring perennially in these areas'.

I wish to draw the attention of the concerned Ministries and Planning Commission that many a time over the decades, many Members of Parliament had drawn the attention of the nation and the Government thro-

ugh Parliament, to the terrible plight of these drought-prone areas and a definite proposal for the establishment of Rayalaseema Development Board or Commission was discussed in Parliament and the Government was seriously considering the establishment of such an Authority.

I request the concerned Ministers and Planning Commission to give the highest priority, at least now, to that proposal, in the light of the observations made by the Prime Minister herself and hasten to establish such a protection-cum-Development Authority for the drought-prone areas of Rayalaseema, Telangana and Kalinga, in Andhra Pradesh in the first instance and, subsequently for similar areas in Rajasthan, Orissa, Baster, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Let Government give institutional and practical shape, with adequate financial support, to the suggestions made by the Prime Minister at the earliest.

(viii) Reappraisal of Nutritious meal Scheme for Schools in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): The Indian delegation to the General Conference of UNESCO being convened next month is likely to commend to all developing countries for adoption the Tamil Nadu's nutritious meal scheme as a sure means for achieving the goal of universalisation of primary education and eradication of illiteracy.

But, all the school teachers working under 375 Panchayat Unions of Tamil Nadu have given notice of DHARNA on 6th November 1982 and their decision to go on indefinite strike from 1st January, 1983 if they are not relieved from the duties of buying vegetables and provisions and then cooking and serving food throughout the school hours instead of devoting themselves to teaching the children. Their