east coast where the delicious *prawn* fiih are available.

(viii) Problems of opium growers.

श्री चतर्भ ज (झालावाड) : उपाध्यक्ष महो-दय, अफीम-उत्पादन कृषक की समस्याओं एवं कठिनाइयां पर केन्द्र सरकार को गंभीरता से विचार करना चाहिए। करोडों रुपयों की विदेशी मुद्रा अफीम से प्राप्त होती है। कृषक को आज भी 130 पर के जी है लगा कर कूल 240 रुपए पर के जी मिलता है। विश्व बाजार में 10 हजार रुपए पर के जी मात्र है। अफीम उत्पादन पर तकनीकी प्रणाली पर कूल खर्चा एक बीघे पर 1000 रुपए आता है। करीब 1200 रुपए गम्भीरता आमदनी प्राप्त करता है। प्रवरक, खाद, बीज, पानी, तकनीकी मज-दूरों एवं ज्ञान पर कई गुणा खर्चा बढा है. लेकिन पिछले तीन वर्षमें एक भी पैसा अफीम का भाव नहीं बढाया, बल्कि घटाया है । अफीम उत्पादन क्षेत्र घटाया ही नहीं गया है, बल्कि प्रकृति प्रकोप से पीडित फसलों को भी राहत देना उचित नहीं समझा गया है।

अतः मेरा आग्रह है कि अफीम का भाव बढ़ाया जाए । अफीम क्षेत्र कम न किया जाए । अफीम क्षेत्रों में और अफीम दी जाए । नारको-टिस बोर्ड में लोक सभा सदस्य लिये जाएं । लोक सभा में एक 'बिल इस संदर्भ में लाया जाये, जो किसानों के हितों को संरक्षण देने वाला हो ।

अतः अफीम उत्पादन लाखों कृषक एवं करोड़ों मजद्रूरों को संरक्षण प्रदान करने हेतु नारकोटिस नियमाएली पर लोक सभा में प्रति-वर्ष विचार हो ।

(ix) Increasing cases of blindness amongst children in the country

SHRI ARJUN STEHI (Bhadrak) : Sir, the high incidence of blindness caused by Vitamin A deficiency and malnutrition amongst the children estimated to be 2,50,000 in developing countries of the world and of them about 30,000 are Indians. This high incidence was pointed out in 1981 by the National Institute of Nutrition and has been recently corroborated by independent studies by Indian Council of Medical Research. According to these, blindness among children ranged from 8.9% in Orissa to 0.6% in Gujarat, in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Tamil Nadu the percentage ranged from 1.1% to 2.9%. In fact, in the International Yeard of Child, it was calculated that 2.5 million children were in varying daerees threatened by Vitamin A deficiency blindness.

An ambitious Central scheme for covering 125 million children at the cost of Rs. 18 crores was announced in 1981. The Institute of Nutrition has developed an oral dose of Vitamin A to be administered every six months.

However, this emphasis on administering concentrated doses of Vitamin A can have only limited effect in the country where the majority of the most vulnerable have little access to clinics. Workers at Primary Health Centres need also to be taught how to recognise the early symptoms of blindness due to deficiency. Educative compaigns will be more effective in the long run.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to launch immediate frontal attack on blindness taking educative, preventive and curative steps to help control the increasing blindness amongst the children in the country.

14.10 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1983-84-Contd.

MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now go to next item. Discussion and Voting on the Demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Irrigation.

The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 67 relating to the Ministry of Irrigation for which 4 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, sends slips to the table within 15 minutes indicating the