

[Shri Ramavatar Shastri]

of the States indicate that, in many areas, wells have either started drying up or their water level is going down sharply.

There is little or no water in ponds lakes and rivers. The condition, the impact of last years drought was well-known in advance, but little was done to combat the natural calamity.

Supply of drinking water comes in any relief operation in a famine-hit State. In Bihar, the situation is more alarming. According to official estimates, there are about 25,000 villages and hamlets which have no source of drinking water. They depend on the neighbouring villages.

Judging from the official attitude towards the problem, it would not be surprising if the situation in the State slips out of control.

In view of the serious water crisis in Bihar, I would earnestly request the Government to make serious efforts to tide over the impending water crisis in the State.

(ii) REPORTED SHORTAGE OF LIFE-SAVING DRUGS CAUSING HARDSHIP TO PATIENTS

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): Sir, under Rule 377, I raise the following matter of urgent public importance:—

Recently there has been acute shortage of important and life-saving drugs like ampicillin trihydrate, chloroquin phosphate, streptomycin, iodine and tetracycline, causing great hardships to patients in public, government and private hospitals due to handicap in medical treatment.

The State Chemical and Pharmaceutical Corporation is facing a serious problem as imported bulk drugs worth several crores of rupees have not been lifted by the industry.

Due to this, several life-saving formulations and vital drugs have

been withheld affecting treatment of blood pressure. T. B., Malaria and post-operative treatment. It is also understood that recent credit squeeze by the banks, the late announcement of entitlement policy by the Government, tightening restrictions on licensing and quality control all over the world, and various other causes have led to this serious situation. This has also led to steep increase in the prices of vital drugs.

The above situation is alarming. The Government must immediately and seriously apply itself to all the problems confronting the chemical and pharmaceutical industry and take immediate steps to make vital and lifesaving drugs readily available and at reasonable prices for public utility. I call upon the Government to inform the House of the steps taken to relieve the above serious problem.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Uttambhai Patel. Not here. Mr. Shailani.

(iii) REPORTED POLICE LATHI CHARGE ON A PROCESSION OF STUDENTS IN ALLGARH ON 17-3-1980.

श्री चन्द्रपाल शैलानी (हायरस) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मैं नियम 377 के अधीन एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न की ओर सम्मानित मदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

परासों दिनांक 17 मार्च, 1980 को अलीगढ़ में छात्रों के एक शांतिपूर्ण एवं अनुशासित जुलूस पर वहाँ की पुलिस ने वरबंरतापूर्वक लाठी-चार्ज किया जिस में दर्जनों छात्र बुरी तरह घायल हुए हैं, जिन में अनेक छात्रों की गम्भीर चोटों के कारण हालत नाजुक है। विगत एक सप्ताह से बिना किसी ठोस कारण के जिला अधिकारियों ने नगर के समस्त स्कूल व कालिजों को बन्द करा दिया था और परसों जब छात्रों ने जिला अधिकारियों के इस रवैये के विरोध स्वरूप एक शांतिपूर्ण एवं अनुशासित जुलूस का आयोजन किया और जैसे ही जुलूस मदार गेट क्षेत्र में पहुँचा तो पुलिस ने बिना किसी पूर्व सूचना एवं चेतावनी के निहत्थे एवं शान्तिप्रिय छात्रों पर निर्दममतापूर्वक लाठी चार्ज किया।

गत 8 मार्च को अलीगढ़ में ही जब कुछ नवयुवक डीजल एवं मिट्टी के तेल के वितरण में हो रही घाघलेबाजी एवं अनियमितता की ओर जिला अधिकारियों को एक आपन देने के लिए