

Speaker, Sir, the areas coming under the Indira Gandhi Canal, from Mathawali, the first head of the Ghaggar flood control to the Suratgarh head, remains water-logged throughout. This has been the position for the past 9-10 years. As a result of this, the villages in the region remain flooded and many houses have collapsed. Moreover, the agricultural land too has become unfit for cultivation. Even the pucca water courses have been damaged as a result of water-logging. The damage to agriculture has left the people of the area without any means of livelihood. The Government has provided nominal financial assistance to very few people.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to provide compensation and rehabilitation grants to the people of this region, whose houses have collapsed as a result of water-logging and the water-logged land should be made cultivable with the help of sophisticated equipments and the Government and the banks should defer the recovery of loans.

13.00 hrs

- (iv) **Need to formulate a special scheme for providing drinking water in several villages of Bhavnagar and Ahmedabad districts, Gujarat**

SHRIRATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka) Mr Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has declared that no village in the country would face the problem of drinking water and arrangements would be made to supply potable water to all the villages. However, in Gujarat, especially in Ahmedabad and Bhavnagar districts, many villages face an acute water shortage problem. As a result, the people are forced to drink filthy water and go very far to fetch water.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to formulate a special scheme to solve the drinking water problem in Gujarat.

- (v) **Need to Bring a new Legislation to Check the Spread of AIDS in the Country.**

[English]

SHRIMATI MAHENDRA KUMARI (Alwar) Sir, despite all efforts on a world-wide scale and huge amounts of money being spent on medical research to find a cure, the dreaded disease Acquired Immuno-deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is steadily spreading its tentacles all over the world. It was first detected in 1981 in the United States of America and has by now engulfed the whole world and threatens to emerge as one of the major and incurable diseases. According to WHO estimates, about 3,45,000 cases of AIDS have been reported from 162 countries. It is estimated that more than one million AIDS cases may have occurred worldwide.

In India, 72 persons are reported to have developed the disease and about 6,000 persons have been found to have HIV infection. According to the Regional Director, WHO, it is estimated that there are well over one million infections primarily in India and Thailand.

In order to check and control the spreading of this deadly disease in India, concerted efforts should be made by Government and social agencies should educate the people through publicity materials, set up surveillance centres in different parts of the country and ensure the safety of blood and blood products. A new AIDS Prevention Bill should be brought by Government.

- (vi) **Need to Issue Necessary Instructions to Joint Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay to Release Cheques of Export Firms.**

DR K D JESWANI (Kheda) Sir, the office of the Joint Controller of Imports and Exports, Bombay are holding about 35,000

[Dr K D Jeswani]

cheques of exports refunds amounting to over Rs 100 crores This has not only disturbed industrialists but may result in shut down of a few industries These financial hurdles are definitely discouraging export-oriented industries and earnings of foreign exchange in a big way

Nadiad-Baroda based industry, Hindustan Conductors Ltd of Gujarat alone has its dues worth Rs 530 crores

I earnestly request the Central Government to issue necessary instructions in this regard

**(vii) Need to take Steps for Early Completion of Kayamkulam Thermal Power Station in Kerala**

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey) Sir, I would like to invite the attention of Government to the hurdles in the way of the proposed Kayamkulam Thermal Power Station in Kerala The Thermal Project was proposed to be set up in Kerala considering the acute power shortage in the State The Project was proposed to be set up by the NTPC with the economic and technical aid from the erstwhile Soviet Union Initial work had started but due to the happenings in the Soviet Union it has come to a halt The NTPC has withdrawn its staff from the site Total uncertainty prevails over the Project and the Central Government has not taken any steps to remove that The Central Government so far has also not given environmental clearance I would request the Government to seek aid from any other foreign countries and get the project completed Several crores of rupees have already been spent on the project and any delay in the completion would create more problems especially for the State of Kerala which is facing a grave power crisis

I request the Central Government to look into the matter early

**(viii) Need to Grant Licences for Setting up New Sugar factories in Meerut region, U.P.**

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARPAL PANWAR (Kairana) Mr Speaker, Sir, the condition of the sugarcane cultivators of U P has become miserable, as the intake of the sugar mills in the State is less than 30% of the total sugarcane production The farmers are forced to sell the remaining 70% at throwaway prices, which doesn't fetch them even the production costs In Meerut division of Western U P, there are very few sugar mills, as a result of which the farmers in the region find themselves in dire straits It is my humble request to the Union Government that it should sanction licences for the immediate establishment of at least 25 sugar mills in the Meerut Division otherwise sugarcane cultivators of U P, especially of the Meerut division would be totally ruined

13.05 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till*

*five Minutes past fourteen of the clock*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eight minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

(MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

**MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—CONTD**

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The House will now take up further discussion on the President's Address moved by Shri P M Sayeed