

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