

[Sh. Sarju Prasad Saroj]

Lucknow—Sultanpur Road *via* Gosai-ganj and Lucknow—Varanasi *via* Rae Bareli. Other connecting roads to these National Highways are also in very bad shape and due to the scarcity of funds the work of these roads could not be completed.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to provide financial assistance of Rs. 10 crores immediately to the State Government so that the National Highways and other roads connecting with them which could not be repaired for want of funds could be repaired.

(v) Need to set up a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards setting up of a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra. Jaswant Singh Commission was constituted by the Government to find out the possibilities of setting up benches of Allahabad High Court which has strongly recommended for setting up of the bench at Agra. Therefore, the Government should set up a bench of Allahabad High Court at Agra without any delay so that the possible agitation in this region could be averted.

(vi) Need to take action against the persons involved in damaging statues of Dr. Ambedkar

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): The birth centenary of Babsaheb Ambedkar is being celebrated in the country and the Government have declared it the year of social justice. It has been reported that some misguided youth and anti-social elements have damaged the statues of Dr. Ambedkar with the intention to spread violence and to divide our society and country. We still need to take the message of patriotism and social reforms of Dr. Ambedkar to all people of the society.

The Government should apprehend such misguided youth and anti-social elements and take legal action against them.

(vii) Need to ensure direct purchase of raw jute through Jute Corporation of India and also revise its remunerative price

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar): Jute is one of the two main cash crops in West Bengal. So far as my Constituency in Nadia district is concerned, jute is the main cash crop. Jute products earn a considerable amount of foreign exchange also. But the cultivators/growers are being deprived of remunerative price for their hard-earned produce. As there is no adequate number of purchasing centres of the Jute Corporation of India, the poor cultivators do not get the opportunity to sell their produce to J.C.I. As a result they become victims of the middlemen and are compelled to sell it to them at much lower rates.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to make elaborate arrangements without any further delay for purchasing the total quantity of raw jute directly from the real producers through J.C.I. I would also request the Government to revise the remunerative price as decided earlier and fix it at Rs. 650/- per quintal and for mesta at Rs. 450/- per quintal.

(viii) Need to ensure purchase of paddy by official agencies in Punjab

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH (Sangrur): After very hard work, the farmers of Punjab have produced good paddy crop. But the paddy is now rotting in mandis of Punjab. This is due to failure of official agencies to purchase paddy arriving in mandis. Huge stocks of paddy have accumulated in mandis of various districts. Heavy rains during the last days have also

considerably damaged paddy. The farmers have been sitting in the mandis for the past 20 days with the produce but the official agencies are not making any purchase. The officials of these agencies go to the market and purchase a few hundred bags and leave the market. The purchase is made just to mark their presence in the mandis. The rice sellers are also not making much purchase as they are awaiting that the farmers would be compelled to make distress sale of their produce. This is a very serious matter. The Government should take immediate steps for the purchase of paddy by official agencies in Punjab.

- (ix) **Need to enact legislation for acceptance of human bodies after death for promoting medical research and popularising life-saving organ transplants**

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): In ancient India, during the days of Charaka and Susruta, anatomical science had made tremendous advancement. The year 1832 is also significant, when Jeremy Bentham, the utilitarian philosopher, donated his body for medical research. In India, the first body donor was Panduranga Apte, the Gandhian teacher, in 1952.

Today, pledging of one's body for donation upon death, popularly known as cadaver donations, for organ transplants and medical research, is not an uncommon practice in the West. However, in our country, superstitions and taboos override even the routine practice of postmortem, much less organ and body donations. "Ganadarpan," a Calcutta-based voluntary organisation since 1985, has meritoriously been campaigning for donations to popularise organ transplants and promote medical research.

Till now, over 400 individuals have pledged to donate their bodies after

death, through "Ganadarpan". Thus, the need of the hour is to make prompt arrangements, essential in making successful cadaver donations for corneal grafting, kidney and heart transplants, skeletons for medical research etc. The imperative safeguard to be exercised in this regard is the strict banning of illicit-cum-lucrative trade in kidneys. Unrelated donor transplants, leading to gross misuse of its very purpose, should be totally banned while a vigorous campaign for cadaver donations started forthwith.

I would urge the Government of India for passing suitable legislation expeditiously, to allow acceptance of bodies after death for the noble causes of not only popularising life-saving organ transplants, but also promoting vital medical research.

- (x) **Need to regularise the services of Extra Departmental Employees**

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA (Keonjhar): Sir, there are thousands of employees working in the Department of Posts & Telegraphs who are called Extra Departmental employees. They have been working at a low rate of wages since long. They do not have service conditions like those of permanent employees of the Department. - They are called "Runner" in Orissa. They carry mail bags to and from the Head or Sub-post offices from Branch post offices. They also deliver the letters, Money Orders and Parcels to the addressees. Most of them are either Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. It is unfortunate that the employees who are doing the real work in the rural areas do not have any regular service conditions.

I request that the services of Extra Departmental employees of the Postal Department of Orissa and other States should be regularised. They should also be given other benefits like provident Fund, gratuity and bonus etc.