

Children are the priceless assets of the country because the future of the country depends on the health of the children. The future of our country depends on healthy children. At present, they are suffering from many diseases, like dysentery, Colera, Polio, T.B. etc. Thus, it is necessary to vaccinate the children against such diseases. Although, the responsibility for this was that of the Central Government, so far only 50 per cent children have been covered under this scheme. A sum of Rs. 60 crores only was allocated for this purpose during the Sixth Plan. The benefits of this scheme do not reach all the children in all the States. Adequate arrangements have not been made for the import and the production of vaccines in the country, because the question of their production is also linked with the inoculation programme. At the same time, the supply of vitamin A to weak children in the rural areas should also be arranged.

I request the Government that a comprehensive scheme for preventive vaccination for the children throughout the country should soon be implemented and necessary funds provided for the same.

[English]

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *In the Chair*]

(ii) Need to re-open the Phulwari Cotton Mills. Patna (Bihar) to save the workers from starvation

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna): Sir, Phulwari Cotton Mills, Patna, Bihar is lying sick since long. Some of the workers have died and the rest are starving. The matter is shuttling between the State and Central Government and no solution is in sight. I request the Government to intervene and get this Mills started so, that thousands of workers are saved from starvation.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to provide electricity in unauthorised colonies in Outer Delhi

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of poor families are living in old unauthorised houses built before 1981 in Outer Delhi. Lakhs of children study in schools there. During the day time they go to the school, but they cannot study at home in the absence of electricity. The eyesight of those children, who study in candle light, gets weak due to inadequate light.

In these colonies, which are scattered throughout Outer Delhi, there is complete darkness in the absence of street light and a number of thefts take place there, as a result of which these poor people are suffering. The streets of these rural colonies remain water-logged. 612 colonies are outside Lal Dora. Provision of electricity is a must there. The people living in houses built before 1981 in villages or colonies have been experiencing great difficulties without electricity. Early arrangements should be made to provide electricity and water to the poor people under the 20-p. int programme.

[English]

(iv) Need to take immediate steps for reviving sick and closed units of West Bengal, Particularly in Howrah

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah): Sir, Howrah was known as the Sheffield or Birmingham of India in the industry map of our country. Over the last several years, due to power crisis, bad management, speculation, untimely supply of raw materials and unhelpful attitude of public financial institutions and banks, the industries have become sick, and a large number of small and big industries in jute and engineering sectors are closed. More than 40,000 wage-earners are starving,