

[Sh. Chintamani Jena]

nataka States which have been allotted unallocated quota at the disposal of the Centre.

(iii) Demand for financial assistance from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for relief to the families of the victims of the Vadodara hooch tragedy

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda): I beg to draw the attention of the House to the incident in which 129 persons lost their lives. This is the highest hooch tragedy in Gujarat which took place at midnight on 4th March, 1989 at Vadodara, Gujarat.

As on 6th March, 284 persons had been admitted to hospitals out of which 127 had died, 95 had been discharged and the rest were undergoing treatment. Most of those affected persons are Scheduled Caste employees of Vadodara Municipal Corporation or resetable vendors.

The tragedy took where unrest and riots have been taking place due to boot-legging gangs. In spite of strict prohibition policy in the State, such incidents have taken place, repeatedly, taking lives of hundreds of men and women over the years. The Finance Commission has suggested that the drug law in the State should be reviewed.

Financial assistance given to the families of victims is a drop in the ocean. I, therefore, humbly request for sanction of sufficient funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for the families of victims.

I also request that one prohibition policy be framed for the entire country.

(iv) Demand for improvement of all categories of roads in the country in order to obviate the rising number of road accidents

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): I want to draw Government's

attention to road accidents that take place in view of the growing density of the traffic on National Highways, State Highways, as well as on rural roads. Owing to the increase in the number of heavy vehicles the present dimensions of National Highways and other Roads are not adequate leading to many road accidents.

To safeguard the life of travelling public, it is requested that all the categories of roads in our country should be improved indimensions.

(v) Demand for putting Jammu and Kashmir State at par with North- Eastern State and Himachal Pradesh in the matter of financial allocation from the centre

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): The financial allocations to J&K Government from the Centre have not only been meagre, but the very ratio of loans and grants is unfavourable to the State.

The Central Government has not so far considered this matter seriously. While the North Eastern State and Himachal Pradesh receive the funds in the proportion of 90% as grant and 10% as loan, the J&K State receives it in the ratio of 70% as loan and 30% as grant.

This matter has become a point public debate and the people of J&K State ask as to why Himachal Pradesh, which is in many ways advanced as compared to J&K State, should receive 90% of funds as grant, while J&K State has continued to groan under a great burden of loans.

This formula of Central funding has adversely affected the economy of J&K State, as a sizeable portion of funds is adjusted by the Centre by way of principal amount and interest from the Annual Plan allocations. The result has been that the State Government is left with nothing more than the wage bill and there is no money to finance development.

No wonder, therefore, that the State