

Printing Press. The Karnataka State indicated the advantages of having it in Karnataka where the Central investment in the recent past was not much. Sir, the matter is pending with the Union Government for long and no decision has been taken. I urge the Minister to consider the proposal regarding locating the Security Printing Press with mint in Karnataka State immediately.

[Translation]

- (ii) Need to take necessary steps to control the filaria disease in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gadchiroli districts of Maharashtra

SHRI VILASH MUTTEMWAR (Chimur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to a report of the World Health Organisation, the number of persons suffering from filaria at present in India is one and an half crores and the number of such persons runs into crores who have come into contact with the germs of filaria. Chandrapur, Bhandara and Gadchiroli districts in Maharashtra have been badly affected by this disease and in these districts also the most affected areas lie in Pauni, Arjuni, Lakhaundur, Kurkhera, Korechi, Mool, Sindewahi, Brahmapuri, Garhchirauli, Sirocha, Aheri and Chamoresi blocks.

Some years back the incidence of this disease was negligible but in the absence of proper treatment, it is spreading like wild fire. The condition today is that there is not a single house in some villages of the said districts in Maharashtra where there is no filaria patient. The officers and the employees do not want to work in these areas affected by this disease. Not only this, the people hesitate even to establish matrimonial alliances in the filaria affected villages. Filaria is a contagious disease and the person afflicted by it cannot be cured the whole life. His body looks ugly and he suffers from inferiority complex.

The Filaria Control Programme was launched in 1955-56 but it could not make any headway due to its slow implementation. In 1980, a survey programme for 290 filaria affected districts was formulated but only 176 villages were surveyed and there

also only 151 centres were opened. This speaks of the situation.

It is said that this disease is caused when 'culex' mosquito bites a person 1500 times. One could just imagine the huge number of mosquitoes in these districts of Maharashtra. For proper diagnosis of the patient, it is necessary that the blood of the patient for a test should be taken during night.

I would, therefore, like to urge the Central Government that it should not leave the people of Garh Chiroli, Bhandara and Chandrapur at the mercy of the State Government, because this work is beyond the capacity of the Government. The work of mosquito eradication should be undertaken expeditiously in these districts and proper medical aid should be made available to the people by opening a Health Centre in each village and by sending a team to conduct a survey so that this disease could be checked from spreading.

- (iii) Need to take necessary measures to ensure payment of remunerative price to the sugarcane growers in North Bihar

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI (Balai) : The economy of North Bihar is based on agriculture and a large area in this region is under sugarcane cultivation. There are a number of sugar mills. The sugar mill owners are not paying reasonable prices to the poor and illiterate farmers for their produce. Due to non-payment of reasonable prices, there is great resentment among the farmer in North Bihar. Keeping in view the pitiable condition of these poor farmer, the Central Government should take some concrete steps urgently and help the poor farmers. I would, therefore, urge the Hon. Agriculture Minister to take some concrete steps in this regard to remove the sufferings of the farmers so that their financial position could be strengthened.

- (iv) Need to provide old age pension to agricultural labour in the country

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA (Chhota Udaipur) : I would like to draw the