

Rs. 39.50 per ampul which is beyond the reach of the common man. It is an open loot by the private company. The Bengal Immunity has stopped the production of anti-snake venom and anti-diphtheria serum for the last one year and as a result of that, thousands of people have been pushed into the jaws of death due to the non-availability of these medicines. The most painful aspect is that non-availability of free anti-rabies vaccines in the hospitals in Uttar Pradesh has created a grave situation. The said private company is manufacturing these medicines and selling at the rate of Rs. 2400 per course all over the country but it is beyond the purchasing capacity of the people of our country.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to make available the ATS and anti-rabies vaccines in order to save the lives of thousands of people and also to check the arbitrary prices being charged by the private companies for these medicines.

[English]

(iii) *Integrated proposal of developing Paradeep Port*

SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK (Jagat-singhpur) : The integrated proposal of developing Paradeep Port to handle bulk carriers for an annual export of 6 million tonnes of iron ore, construction of a rail link between Daitari and Banspani and development of iron ore mines in the hinterland of Paradeep Port is pending approval of the Government of India for quite some time.

12.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The Working Group constituted by the Government of India has submitted its recommendations long since and it is observed that the project is technically and financially viable, desirable from the points of view of earning additional foreign exchange and for developing backward area of the country. The Working Group has also observed that unless the projected facilities are created at Paradeep Port, the port will gradually ease out of iron ore export trade.

The proposal was initiated keeping in view the interest shown by South Korea to import additional quantity of iron ore for its new iron & steel works. If a decision about implementation of the project is delayed, it is apprehended that South Korea will turn to other sources like Brazil and Australia who would be too willing to seize such opportunity and our country would lose the opportunity to step up its foreign exchange earnings.

As such, I request the Government to take early decision in the matter and approve the proposal for the development of Paradeep Port.

[Translation]

- (iv) *Need to waive customs duty on the import of wool to protect the carpet industry in the country, particularly in Mirzapur, Bhadoi in Uttar Pradesh*

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the carpet industry is the main industry in my parliamentary constituency Mirzapur, Bhadoi, other adjacent districts and in several other parts of the country. It is a cottage industry. About 15 lakh people earn their living from this industry. In addition to it, the foreign currency worth about Rs. 150 crores is earned by the export of carpets to the foreign countries. But today this industry is facing crisis due to the shortage and high prices of raw material. The main raw material of this industry is sheep wool which is partially produced in the country and partially imported from foreign countries like New Zealand etc. During the last Winter Session, I had demanded that the wool production should be increased on a large scale in the country and also it should be imported from countries like New Zealand on a large scale free of import duty to meet the requirement of carpet producers. In addition, it was also demanded that permission should be given to the carpet manufactures to import wool free of import duty. But it is regretted that the import duty on wool has been raised by 10 per cent causing more crisis in the Carpet Industry.

I, therefore, request the Government to abolish immediately import duty and other taxes on the import of wool.

(v) Demand for an ordnance factory  
in Panna or Damoh district of  
Sagar division in Madhya  
Pradesh

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to  
submit the following under Rule 377.

Recently a team of technical experts of the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, visited Sagar Division besides other parts of the country to select a suitable place for setting up an Ordnance factory. It is learnt that the Government of Madhya Pradesh has given assurance to extent all possible cooperation in setting up this factory. The team had found Sagar Division to be the most suitable site for setting up the factory. I would request the Government to set up this factory in Panna or Damoh district in Sagar Division so that a factory is set up in a backward area and no-industry district. It will help this area to develop and people there will get employment.

(vi) Need to send a central team to  
study the situation arising out  
of acquisition of land of  
Adivasis in Dudhi and  
Robertsganj areas of  
Mirzapur district in  
Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following issue in the House under Rule 377.

In Mirzapur district the Adivasis and original inhabitants of that area are being evicted from their land which is under their possession for years together by notifying under sections 20 and 5. Consequently, thousands of Adivasis are being deprived of their houses, land, trees and fields. The State Government had been requested for the past many years to solve this problem but the said land now having come under the forest land, the State Government is showing its inability in the matter. If immediate

action is not taken by the Government to solve this problem, the Forest Department will uproot the helpless original inhabitants and Adivasis. In fact, the Department has already started uprooting them. The Forest Department has started taking over the land which has been notified under sections 20 and 5.

Under these circumstances, I request the Minister of Forests, Government of India, to send a high level team of Government officers to have on the spot survey, particularly at Dudhi and Robertsganj, and the land which has come under the notification issued under sections 20 and 5 and which has been under the possession of original inhabitants should be given back to them. Otherwise, the Adivasis will launch a strong agitation which will not be good in the interest of the country in any way.

[English]

(vii) Demand for arranging payment  
of wages to workers of New  
Tobacco Co., Bikkavolu in  
Andhra Pradesh and take  
steps to reopen the  
factory

SHRI SRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry):  
Sir, the cigarette factory of the New Tobacco Company, Bikkavolu, in East Godavari district, Andhra Pradesh is lying closed. This has adversely affected not only the working of the tobacco industry but has also thrown out of jobs thousands of workers of the factory. The workers of the factory have not been paid their wages by the management for the last six months, due to which, they are suffering and starving. Urgent action should be taken by the Central Government to remove the grievances of the workers and arrange payment of their wages and also reopen the factory.

(viii) Need to allocate sufficient funds  
for early completion of Rapid  
Transit System between  
Madras Beach and Luz

SHRI A. C. SHANMUGAM (Vellore):  
Sir, the rapid transit system between Madras Beach and Luz was started in the year 1983 at an estimated cost of Rs. 54 crores. The