

all these leaders were imprisoned in one room only.

The people of Ahmednagar district have expressed great displeasure in this regard, I reiterate the suggestion made by me earlier that the Ahmednagar Fort may be declared as a 'National Monument'. It may also be developed as tourist centre.

[*Translation*]

- (ii) Need to provide more financial assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to meet the situation caused by drought in the State

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had given 5 lakh metric tonnes of wheat for wage payments last year free as a special assistance to combat drought situation in Rajasthan. But this year it has not given free wheat. That is why the State Government is not being able to provide employment to even one person in every family. 50 lakh families have been affected by the drought. The Rajasthan Government is in a position to provide employment only to 10 lakh people, whereas the Gujarat Government is providing employment to 2 persons in each family. The Centre has fixed the daily wages of a worker at Rs. 7 while the State Government is paying Rs. 10.50. The Central Government is not giving assistance for expenditure on other items. The State Government has to provide employment to the families alternatively due to limited employment potential available in the State. Therefore, one family gets employment only for 15 days in a month. According to the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission it is the duty of the Central Government to provide entire expenditure on commodities. The Centre has sizably cut down the assistance proposed by the Central study group for the first time. The supply of wheat to the fair price shops is inadequate. Drought affected people are getting 5 kgs wheat per person whereas it should be 10 kgs. per individual. The situation may aggravate in the coming months of April, May and June. Therefore, more financial assistance should be urgently provided for this period by the Central Government.

[*English*]

- (iii) Need to take steps to check prices of drugs

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura) : Pricing policy announced by the Government recently and exemption which has been granted from price control to SSI units of category II formulations recently has resulted in steep increases in prices varying from 40% to 200% causing misery to the poor. There are increased sales of spurious and substandard drugs induced by the Pricing Policy. There is a hue and cry all around. For instance one injection of Mitomycin (anti-cancer) which was earlier sold for Rs. 49 is now sold at Rs. 230. One bottle of Phosfomin which was earlier available for Rs. 14.40 is now sold for Rs. 26. One bottle of Dilosyn (cough syrup) is sold for Rs. 9.53 while earlier it was sold at Rs. 5.03 and so on. Government have also announced increases in prices merely by adjusting mark up and without verifying the purchase prices of raw materials, dispensing with submission of applications by the producers and following the provisions of paragraph 6 of DPCO, 1987. There appears to be no justification for such sharp increase.

The drug companies have been given free hand under the Pricing Policy to exploit poor consumers.

I, therefore, request the Government to take necessary steps to check prices of drugs to safeguard the interests of consumers.

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

- (iv) Need to provide adequate facilities and concessions to spastics

*SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise through you, a matter of urgent public importance under Rule 377 in the House.

*Translation of the matter originally raised in Gujarati.

The Government has formulated many schemes for Harijans, Adivasis, Backward classes, minorities, freedom fighters, weaker sections and handicapped persons like blind, deaf, dumb, lame and also provided relief to them. These steps undertaken by the Government are praiseworthy and commendable. But the Government has paid little attention to spastics. Children usually fall prey to this disease. Although spastics have good mental balance and they can do work but sometime they fail to maintain their balance because of convulsions of limbs.

Parents or relatives of spastics have to many difficulties while travelling by plane, train or bus when they accompany them for treatment.

I request the Government to treat spastic persons as handicapped, and I demand to provide them maximum possible facilities so that they may have a place in the society.

[English]

- (v) Need to ensure proper distribution of potassium chloride to the small match manufacturers of Sivakasi in Tamil Nadu

SHRI N. SOUNDARARAJAN (Sivakasi) : There are more than 5000 small match units in my Sivakasi parliamentary constituency in Tamil Nadu. For the past three months there is severe shortage of potassium chloride which is one of the main raw materials for the production of matches. Due to the shortage of potassium chloride these match units are under threat of closure. Thousands of workers would become jobless.

The authorised dealers of potassium chloride in my area are charging more money from these tiny match units. The Small Industries Development Corporation, which is also supplying potassium chloride through its depots to these tiny match units is not doing proper distribution.

So, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to ensure the proper supply of potassium chloride to the tiny match units in Sivakasi and probe into the mal-distribution of potassium chloride by the Small Industries Development Corporation, Sattur.

[English]

- (vi) Need to take steps to ensure proper working of the Hindustan Teleprinters, Madras

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : The Hindustan Teleprinters at Madras which was founded by late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, is on the road to closure. Nearly, 2000 employees of the concern fear losing their jobs due to problems in managements. While there are no buyers for the products of Hindustan Teleprinters, lakhs of rupees are being spent on TV advertisements.

The former Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi had taken great care to see that the Hindustan Electric Typewriter Project goes well on the road to progress. It is understood that nearly 1000 electric typewriters are lying in store without any orders and the amount involved is estimated to be Rs. 500 lakhs. Machines worth Rs. 300 lakhs bought under world Bank Loan Scheme during 1980-83 are still gathering dust. The total loss expected is about Rs. 1757 lakhs. It is high time that the Government should take adequate interest in the working of Hindustan Teleprinters, particularly in Hindustan Electric Typewriter Project and save this institution on which India had high hopes.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to check the use of tobacco Products

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Hon. Sir, any type of addiction is the root cause of vices. It not only weakens a man economically but also physically and mentally. According to available statistics 35 lakh people in the world and 8 lakhs in our our own country die due to addiction to cigarette smoking annually, The Central Government did not implement policy of prohibition because it was afraid of being deprived of revenue. Besides it thinks that merely by writing 'Smoking is injurious to health on cigarette packets the responsibility is over. Even this is not written on Pan Masala, Zarda, Bidipackets etc. The popularity of Pan Masala in the country is on the increase. Smoking and use of Pan Masala not only adversely affects digestive system but also creates coronary