

and Palghar Talukas, are very much worried about the lack of communication facility in their Taluka and district as Government of India is not considering to open more post offices in rural areas. According to local sources in Maharashtra, there is a ban on opening of new post offices. It is need of the day to open more and more new post offices in rural areas to take people into the 21st century. I request Honourable Minister for Communications to make necessary amendments as far as ban is concerned. I further request to make sufficient provision of funds to open more and more new post offices in rural areas, specially at Vasai and Palghar Talukas to Thane district in Maharashtra.

12.25 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(iv) Need to impart anti-drug education right from school level and consider introducing death penalty to persons dealing with narcotics

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali) : Sir, the conclusion of the national symposium on drug addiction held recently at Patiala is mind boggling. It says that some 15 million people will be drug addicts in this country by the year 2000 AD if adequate steps to check drug abuse are not taken now. According to the Director General of Narcotics Bureau, Mr. B. V. Kumar, there are already half a million drug addicts in the country. Besides, it is well known that the school and college children are the special targets of drug pushers. To save our younger generation, the Government should consider anti-drug education right from school level including showing of audio visuals on how innocent and unsuspecting children and students are made drug-addicts. The Government should consider introducing death penalty to any one who is dealing with narcotics, as has been done in some countries.

[*Translation*]

(v) Need to take necessary measures to ensure adequate supply of water for drinking and irrigation purposes in Balrampur area of Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI DEEP NARAIN VAN (Balrampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the condi-

tion of my constituency Balrampur in Gonda district becomes horrible during the rainy season. The water of the rivers which originate from the hills flows down to the plains with high velocity and the entire area is water-logged. The people are compelled to drink contaminated water. During summer season, the river and rivulets dry up which causes acute scarcity of drinking water. Though the land is fertile there, the ground water level is as deep as 1000 feet or more. It is not possible for a common man to dig such a deep well with the result that there is starvation in the area and the problem of poverty has become more complex.

I would request the Government to construct reservoirs to store the water flowing down from the catchment areas of Tapti river and to dig deep tubewells for drinking water. Modern techniques of cultivation should also be made available to the people so as to remove their difficulties. It would be better if the Government appoints a committee of experts to study the problems of this areas and to suggest remedial measures.

(vi) Need to provide central assistance to save the people of Rayalseema area in Andhra Pradesh from recurring drought

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Sir, the districts of Rayalaseema were prosperous under the rule of Vijayanagar kingdom and this area was known as Ratnalaseema, a land of diamonds, when diamonds in heaps used to be sold in the streets. Now it is euphemistically called Ralaseema meaning the land of rocks.

A drive down in Rayalaseema will present a landscape that is replete with dried up irrigation wells, barren lands and bare hillocks devoid of vegetation and not a green patch can be seen. Agricultural lands have been abandoned by the villagers who left for green pastures elsewhere. Only the spectre of drought stalks the districts in Rayalaseema.

Plagued by drought continuously for seven or eight years, the Rayalaseema area presents a dismal picture. Parched lands,