

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,

denuded forests, famished people and cattle and long queues in front of dried up taps is a very common spectacle in this region.

The normal rainfall in this area ranges between 550 to 650 millimetres but this region never received the normal rainfall for the past seven or eight years and the average rainfall during these years has been only between 300mm and 400mm. As a result of this scanty rainfall, no tanks received any supply. All the irrigation wells got dried up. Problems for drinking water became acute. Fodder for cattle became non-existent. Farmers and labour were thrown out of work. The villages now wear a dilapidated and deserted appearance with the farmers looking at the sky on askance for a few rain drops.

It is requested that the Central Government may take special care, allot special funds and take immediate steps to help these people.

- (vii) Need to provide parcel van facilities at Gudur Railway station in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh for transporting lemons to places like Delhi and Calcutta

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gudur town is situated at the starting point of South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh. The surrounding villages are full of citrus orchards. The lemons of the best quality are being produced in this area and are being exported regularly to far off places like Delhi and Calcutta. Nearly two thousand bags of lemons are being exported to these cities on an average every day.

But the storage facilities for this perishable agricultural commodity are almost nil. Hence, the producers are compelled to send their commodities by lorries in order to avoid loss. As such, the agriculturists have to spend heavy amount on transporting the commodity.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister for Railways to provide at least one parcel van in every train for the above mentioned destinations from Gudur in Nellore district so as to save the farmers.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the development of Adivasi area in Maharashtra

SHRI S.S. BHOYE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 44 tehsils in Maharashtra have Adivasi population. The area inhabited by Adivasis is hilly and forest area. Majority of the inhabitants of these areas are Adivasis.

The Central as well as the State Government have sanctioned several schemes, namely, minor irrigation tanks, percolation tanks, construction of roads and supply of electricity to facilitate economic development of these areas and have also announced special schemes for this purpose. Necessary funds have also been made available.

But in spite of the fact that the Government is making efforts for the development of Adivasis living in these hilly and forest areas and funds amounting to crores of rupees have also been made available, they are unable to do anything due to the enforcement of 'Forest Conservation Act, 1980.' Even the construction work on percolation tanks, minor irrigation tanks cannot be started. Before this Act was enforced, the Government of Maharashtra had started afore-mentioned schemes on which funds worth crores of rupees were spent. But the Schemes were held up due to the enforcement of this Act. As of now, even new projects cannot be taken up.

As a result of this, the developmental works, such as percolation tanks, minor irrigation tanks, construction of roads and electrification, etc. which are helpful in the development of Adivasi areas have been held up. Consequently, their development has been blocked.

Therefore, I would request the Government to make necessary amendment in the Act and to find a way out for the development of Adivasis because they have remained neglected for centuries.