

- (2) A separate planning commission should be constituted in the State for these areas.
- (3) An elected council should be constituted on the lines of Gorkha Development Council for the implementation of the plan.
- (4) All the administrative powers, at present being exercised by the State Government should be vested in the council and separate cadres should be made for the Government services.
- (5) Rs. 100 crores more should be provided to the State to implement the provisions of the existing plan.
- (6) A provision should be made to provide special funds for meeting the needs of these regions by setting up separate cells in the Central Ministries for this purpose.

[English]

(ii) Need to provide Central aid for the Village Health Guides in the State of Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): To render first-aid and to cure small diseases of the rural people, Village Health Guides were appointed for every two thousand rural population on paying Rs. 50 as remuneration per month and medicines costing Rs. 50. This programme covered the entire country. As the prices of medicines increased, medicines costing Rs. 150 were provided to these VHGs, per month for distribution among the patients. But the payment of remuneration and also availability of medicines has been irregular for about five years.

The situation has gone from bad to worse in the State of Orissa. More than 4000 VHGs of the State have not received their remunerations for the last 23 months and no medicines have been supplied for

the last eleven months. This has resulted in complete paralysation of primary and first aid treatment to the people of rural areas, where the Government-aided medical centres and dispensaries are very remote. This is helping in the spread of various diseases including contagious and viral diseases. The State Government is expressing its inability to come to the rescue of these people without getting the monetary allotment for this purpose from the Union Government.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare to come to the rescue of the people of Orissa and release the Central aid immediately.

[Translation]

(iii) Need to provide passenger or shuttle trains in Gujarat Saurashtra region

SHRI RANJIT SINGH GAEKWAD (Baroda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I raise an urgent matter of public importance under rule 377.

All the trains running in Gujarat, Saurashtra and adjacent areas have been made fast, mail or express trains. Besides, some new fast trains have also been introduced. Owing to the conversions of all the passenger trains as Bhopal passenger train etc. into fast trains the poor farmers, labourers, masses and particularly those people, who work in other villages or suburbs, are facing great difficulty. They are deprived of only means of available transport, because fast trains do not stop at small stations.

I request the hon. Minister of Railways that either the passenger trains converted into fast trains should halt at small stations or local trains and shuttle trains should be introduced there. Poor, farmers, labourers and working people should not be penalised just to provide the facility to some people. There has been resentment in many places due to this. Steps should be taken to remove their difficulties. Besides, fast trains, local trains should also be introduced to provide facility to the local people.