

apprehended. The country is incurring a huge loss as a result of these illegal activities continuing unchecked for a long time.

I, therefore, request the Government to look into the matter and give stringent punishment to those guards and engine drivers who indulge in these activities along with the culprits. I also urge the Government to investigate on the basis of railway records as to why the goods trains are stopped by the engine drivers for two to three hours between the above mentioned two stations, though the distance between them is only 12 kilometres. Besides, it should also be ascertained as to how many times the goods trains have stopped there during the last two years.

The illegal felling of trees in Nandurbar Navpur forests in Maharashtra should be stopped so that national loss is checked.

[English]

(ii) Demand for checking increasing trend to consumption of drugs and liquor.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : It is a matter of grave concern that the consumption of drugs and liquor in the country has gone up manifold over the years. Consequently, the health and character of many of the addicts have been adversely affected. This is also one of the reasons for increase of crimes in the society. Further, the sufferings of the family of the poor people addicted to drugs and liquor know no bounds. It is unfortunate that although the disastrous effects of this menace are a common knowledge, no serious and sincere efforts are being made to effectively check it. Liquor is available easily almost everywhere. It is, in fact, an irony that there is no dearth of liquor at places facing drinking water scarcity. Quite a sizeable portion of the amount paid to the labour force in the drought areas and to beneficiaries under different anti-poverty schemes finds its way to the liquor vendors defeating thereby the laudable purpose underlying the schemes. What is, therefore, required is to arrest by all

means, the increasing trend of consumption of drugs and liquor in the interest of the nation as a whole and of the poor people in particular.

(iii) Demand for providing statutory basis to the "Loan Melas" Scheme.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Loan Melas, which are credit camps organised by various nationalised banks in the rural areas for the purpose of distribution of the loans to the poor and weaker sections of the society are becoming popular day by day. Those who oppose the credit camps do so not because the credit camps are bad but for other reasons viz. (i) there are complaints that forms are sold by ruling party Members to their favourites ; (ii) that the forms in certain areas where credit camps were held, were sold in black ; and (iii) that the bank employees are opposed to such camps being held.

In the interest of the beneficiaries of such loans the Government should regulate loan melas by and through the instrument of a scheme. Whenever loans are disbursed, it is done through a statutory scheme prepared under relevant banking laws. Similarly, I feel that a scheme known as "Loan Melas Scheme" should be prepared under the law governing the banking system. The scheme, should prescribe the form for securing loan during loan melas, the mode of presenting it etc., so that the loan melas scheme will have a statutory status. Besides, a special provision should be incorporated in the relevant banking law providing for stringent punishment for those obstructing the loan melas as also to those cheating or misguiding the intended beneficiaries and other persons.

[Translation]

(iv) Demand for adequate financial assistance for proper maintenance of residential schools for tribal students in Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar.

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the