

(vi) Need to ban use of flouride in tooth pastes

SHRI G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet): In recent years, there have been several reports and studies which demonstrate the harmful effects of flouride in tooth paste which if ingested in excess can cause gastro-intestinal problems like diarrhoea and ulceration, general muscle weakness, calcification of blood vessels and some other complications.

In 1986, the Ministry of Health appointed a Committee including ICMR representatives and health scientists to examine all aspects of flouride in tooth pastes. However, this report has not been acted upon so far. Flouride in tooth pastes is being promoted on facetious and untenable grounds that enamel of teeth becomes strong and cavity formation is prevented. Scientific knowledge shows that when adequate calcium is available, cavity formation is prevented.

It is, therefore, necessary that majority views and recommendations of the above Committee are made known and implemented at the earliest in keeping with the programme to control flourosis.

(vii) Need for reforms in Judicial System

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): One may not agree with Sheela Barse, a prominent social worker of Maharashtra who has observed in a detailed interview in a leading journal that the Supreme Court has become dysfunctional and it is not in a position to respond to the aspirations of the people, but we must take notice of certain situations that don't augur well for our judicial system.

The judicial system, as a whole, seems to be crumbling down under its backlog which continues to grow. The Supreme Court alone has as many as 1,80,000 cases pending before it at the moment. Sheela Barse could make public her plight in a

leading journal recently, but how can thousands of victims living in four corners of this country know one-another's plight and make us know what they suffer from. Barse brought to the notice of the Supreme Court the catastrophe that had befallen about 1,00,000 children who are languishing in jails of various States. She fought for a decade for justice, but, alas, no succour has been given to these luckless sons and daughters of free India;

I raise a broader question before the Nation—'Do we not deserve a judicial system which is in line with our social needs and initiate necessary reforms without delay?

[Translation]

(viii) Need to construct wall on the sea coast in Gujarat to save the houses of fishermen from tidal waves

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMBEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Gujarat has a long coast line and the sea waters often wash away the jhuggis of fisherman and other poor people living along the coast. The poor have to suffer a lot on this account.

In order to provide help to these poor fishermen and farmers and protect their lives, I request the Government to formulate an around planned programme to safeguard the sea shore. A wall should be constructed along the sea shore so that tidal waves could be checked, otherwise these poor fishermen will lose their means of livelihood and their jhuggis and they will be gradually ruined.

[English]

(ix) Need to resume credit flow from NABARD to the farmers

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: An extraordinary difficulty has arisen for farmers from sudden stoppage of flow of credit from NABARD to many States in the country

such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra on the ground that the credit discipline has been vitiated by the cooperative institutions in those States. Stoppage of credit in the thick of agricultural season, namely, current Rabi season will cripple agricultural operations, in addition to causing untold hardship to farmers.

Both the short-term and long-term loan institutions in the cooperative sector in the State depend upon refinance from NABARD to carry out lending activity to farmers. Various State Governments tried to lessen the loan burden on farmers by extending certain concession. The RBI and the NABARD took a negative view of these concessions. What happened in Andhra Pradesh was that the State Government had only announced rebate of 5 1/2 per cent to farmers who repaid their loans in time. This was only an incentive to farmers for prompt repayment and cannot be treated as a negative influence on the credit environment. Even without going into merits of the issue, nobody can dispute the proposition that adequate notice must be given to the institutions regarding the consequences of alleged contravention of lending policies.

I therefore, plead that the credit flow from NABARD to farmers of Andhra Pradesh and other States be resumed immediately pending formulation of proper norms for maintaining healthy credit climate. Your remarks, Sir.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I had already made the remarks.

[English]

I was much faster than you even.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Sir, for the first time he is making a reasonable submission. For the first time he said a sensible thing.

MR. SPEAKER: It appears that everybody has become sensible to-day.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Jaipalji, your 377 is peculiar.

[Translation]

(x) Need to increase the honorarium of Nambarda in Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today the work of collecting revenue from the farmers in 12,000 villages in Punjab and depositing the same in Government exchequer is being done in the traditional way by the Nambardars, appointed for the purpose. They are getting the same amount of remuneration, what they used to get decades ago. Keeping in view the rising prices the Nambardas had requested the administration to increase their emoluments. The authorities in Punjab assured that an eight member committee, will be constituted for the purpose, and it will be asked to make suitable recommendations. The committee was to submit its report by 30th September 1988. But it is regretted that no concrete steps have been taken in this direction even after the expiry of that date. The Nambardars have demanded that they should be paid at least Rs. 300 per month as honorarium in view of the rising prices. I request the Government to accept their demand immediately and implement the order accordingly.

Sir, you had also been a Nambardar.

MR. SPEAKER: I had never been a Nambardar but of course I was a Sarpanch. I am a democrat.

[English]

(xi) Need to set up a Development Board for economically and socially backward areas

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTHNAIK (Kalahandi): Special Development Board, as per the provisions of the Article 371 of our Constitution should be set up for the eco-