

Presently water supply to Datia town is made from Ram Sagar. But this system is highly inadequate and after years of drought, as 1985 and 1986 have been, the water scarcity in Datia is too acute to withstand. The need to augment the water supply to Datia town has been only recognised at all levels including the State and Central Government levels.

Reliance had, however, been placed for the purpose at Raj Ghat Project; but progress in regard to this project is so tardy and sluggish that one can hardly conceive of augmentation of water supply for Datia from this project in foreseeable future. The project has been bogged down in inter-State wranglings while the cost of the project is escalating and multiplying.

A proposal has, therefore, been made to augment supply of water to Datia town and adjoining areas from the river Sindh by way of lift irrigation. Though it would be very much economical and feasible to supply water to Datia through lift system from Sindh, it would be too much to expect the State Government by itself to finance the scheme. Adequate Central Assistance will, therefore, be very necessary to implement the scheme. I understand a survey for the scheme ordered last year, has yet to start. I would very much appreciate if Central Government comes forward to extend liberal aid to ensure that the lift project for water supply to these areas is implemented forthwith.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Need to adopt measures to destroy the Lantana bushes to protect the forests in the country

SHRI M. L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter in the House, under Rule 377 :

The percentage of the forests in the country is declining day by day due to illegal felling of trees. Besides the illegal felling of the trees the rapid expansion of Lantana bushes is also equally responsible for it. The rapid expansion of these bushes in all the forests of the country is destroying other trees also. Therefore, for the development of the forests, it is quite essential to destroy the Lantana bushes. Not only in the forests,

these bushes have also expanded in the rocky hillocks and in the plains. One may find these bushes everywhere. It has totally stopped the growth of the trees. So, in order to protect our environment, we will have to destroy the Lantana bushes on a war footing.

I request that the Central Government should immediately adopt measures to destroy these dangerous Lantana bushes so that the forests could be saved in time.

[*English*]

- (vi) Need to increase the monthly remuneration being paid to the Village Health Guides and also the amount of medicines supplied to them per month

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : The Village Health Guides (V.H.G.s) are the grassroot workers of our country who render their services for the benefit of the people in interior-most parts of our country with a scanty monthly remuneration. They are the first persons to attend on the patients of various types and render preventive, curative as well as first aid treatments to the patients living in rural areas and in the countryside. But unfortunately these persons are not paid their monthly remuneration regularly; sometimes it takes even 7-8 months, resulting in utmost difficulties, miseries and inconveniences.

Besides, medicines worth Rs. 50/- (Rupees fifty only) per month are supplied to these V.H.G.s which amount was fixed in the year 1977. In spite of increase in the prices of medicines, the amount of medicines to be supplied to them has not been enhanced, resulting in acute shortage of medicines. Even these medicines are not supplied to them regularly.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare to kindly take immediate measures so that regular supply of medicines is ensured and monthly remuneration is paid to them regularly. Also the amount of medicines may be enhanced to Rs. 100/-. The monthly remuneration of the Guides may also be increased.

- (vii) Need to take steps to modernise Sindri Fertilizer Plant

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the fertiliser plant at Sindri which is