

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

considered to be the mother plant was inaugurated by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who described it as a giant leap forward and the first temple of modern India. Over the years, the technology adopted by the Sindri factory has become obsolete and the plant has become outdated. This has affected production. The Government had, some years ago, taken a decision to discontinue production of fertiliser based on pyrites as it had become uneconomical. The Government also appointed a high power Committee headed by Pant Pothan to study the health of Sindri plant and equipment and suggest appropriate measures for their effective and productive utilisation. The Committee also suggested several steps in this direction. The Government has given a go-by to all suggestions to modernisation of the plant and has decided to stop it and go in for retrenchment of thousands of staff.

I urge upon the Government not to resort to such extreme steps but to take steps to modernise the outdated plant as suggested by the various Committees. The plant can be made viable if proper investment is made.

(viii) **Need to fix realistic procurement price for the jute crops by the Jute Corporation of India**

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Despite reduction in jute acreage, the grower of raw jute in all jute growing states is facing a situation of distress sale. In the Purnea district of Bihar, as in other places, the JCI Centres were not operational until the end of September 1986, while raw jute begins to flow into the market by early July. Even when the JCI entered the field, it set up too few centres, not even one in each jute growing block. Even the few set up, were some times unwisely located and did not function throughout the week. In brief, the JCI has not been able to organise itself to be in a position to fulfil the Prime Minister's assurance that all raw jute offered by the jute growers shall be purchased at the statutory price.

The assurance can be fulfilled only if JCI opens at least one procurement centre in every block, either at the block headquarter

or in the traditional *hat* in the block; such centres should be operational by the first week of July; they should function throughout the week and work overtime, if necessary, in order to complete all transactions relating to the raw jute offered by the jute grower at the centre by midday on the same day. For this, the planning must begin now so that the staff required, the physical infrastructure, the transport and ware-housing arrangements and above all the money for purchase are in position at all centres in every block by the first of July.

The Government should set a target that the JCI must purchase at least 90 per cent of the jute crop after it has announced a realistic procurement price which should take into account not only the increasing value of land, the rising cost of agricultural inputs and the minimum wages for agricultural labour, but also a minimum level of profit for the sake of incentive as well as dignified living. This year, if the Government takes stock of the situation block by block it shall find that the JCI and its associates have not purchased even 50 per cent of the estimated jute crop. To that extent its assurance to the jute grower remained a dead letter. This must be avoided in future.

[Translation]

(ix) **Need to provide more railway facilities to the residents of Kanpur**

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kanpur is a big industrial city of north India. Thousands of passengers daily travel by rail from Kanpur to nearby small towns as well as big cities like Delhi, Bombay and Howrah. The various transport facilities available to the passengers at present are insufficient and all the offices at Central Railway Station do not have sufficient accommodation. The number of platforms is also inadequate. I would like to put forward the following suggestions in this regard :

1. If it is not possible in the near future to introduce a new train from Kanpur to New Delhi, then the present 11 UP and 12 Down trains should be terminated at Kanpur Central Station and trains