

the State Governments, they are not in a position to make any efforts in this direction due to shortage of funds.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to chalk out a special programme under Eighth Plan for providing necessary tourist facilities, so that the tourist potentialities of this hilly region adjacent to Himalaya can be fully exploited and for this purpose, a separate Himalayan Tourism Development Authority should be constituted.

(iii) Need to direct State Governments to create more posts at lower levels

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar): Sir, in the bureaucratic set up of the country, posts at higher level have been created in a large scale but they do not have any direct link with the rural people. Common people do not have much knowledge about their working. The lower level Government officials such as Patwari, Forest Guard, Police Constable, Gram Sewak and Samiti Sewak are directly connected with rural people in their day today works. The number of posts of these officials are the same as it was before independence. These lower level officials are doing their increased quantum of work with full sincerity and devotion. They have to execute the orders of their all senior officers and have to maintain cordial relations with the common people also. The image of the administration depends upon the working of these officials.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that in future more attention should be paid to increase the number of posts at lower level and the direction to this effect should also be given to all States.

[English]

(iv) Need for effective slips to control the diseases caused by iodine deficiency

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Iodine deficiency disorders in the human

beings (IDD) have many tragic effects including mental and physical abnormalities, deaf, mutism goitre and dwarfism. Recent studies by World Health Organisation (WHO)/UNICEF sponsored inter-country workshop disclosed that India is one of the worst affected areas with more than 200 million of its people suffering from IDD. Apart from Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, new areas are noticed in Delhi, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa and many North Eastern States despite launching of National Goitre Control Programme by the Government from the year 1962, to survey the endemic areas and supply of iodised salt to combat the problem.

Another effective method of IDD control in high risk areas is to administer iodised oil in form of injections and capsules, which provide immunity for five years at the minimum, through which countries like Bangladesh, China, Bhutan and Nepal have been able to control it very successfully.

I would, therefore, request the Health Ministry to take up measures on a war footing by which this dreaded disease could be prevented.

(v) Need to exempt essential drugs from taxes

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore): It is indeed pathetic to note that India is the only country that is taxing the sick. Medicines and essential drugs are exempted from taxation not only in the advanced countries but even by the countries of the Third World. Take, for instance, our neighbours Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Burma. Medicines are not taxed there.

It is, therefore, very necessary that we make an introspection. We alone are taxing these items.

Sickness does not discriminate the poor from the rich. The same drug would be necessary to cure a man of a particular illness no matter what strata of society he