

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

[Sh. Mullappally Ramachandran]

belongs to. A costly drug, therefore, may deprive a poor man of his meal for the day or even more. The high rates of taxes are responsible for this.

It is my earnest request to the hon. Finance Minister that the matter of exempting all drugs/medicines from taxes may be considered without delay.

(vi) Need to consider the demands of Jana Swasthya Rakshaks

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Thousands of volunteers working in rural areas all over India under the Rural Community Health Workers Scheme introduced in 1977 have assembled in Delhi to press for the following legitimate demands:—

1. Increase in the monthly meagre allowance of Rs. 50 taking into account the rising price index;
2. provision of medical kits to 'Jana Swasthya Rakshaks'; and
3. Appointment of 'Jana Swasthya Rakshaks' in those rural areas where such appointments have not been made so far.

I request that the Minister concerned should meet the representatives of the Rural community health workers and amicably settle their demands.

(vii) Need to resolve the crisis developing in I.I.T., Kharagpur

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): Nearly five hundred teachers of the IIT Kharagpur are on a hunger strike for more than a week demanding reinstatement of some professors. The teachers' association had tried for a peaceful settlement. The hunger strike of the teachers will affect the JEE and other examinations and may lead to closure of the IIT. If the Government makes

a little effort, the problem can be solved and the crisis averted. I request the Minister of Human Resource Development to intervene in the matter to bring an amicable settlement in the interest of all concerned.

(viii) Need to chalk out time bound programme for implementation of population control measures

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Sir, the growth of population in India has assumed alarming proportions. It is officially stated that nearly 23.8 million live births would have taken place in 1988. At this rate of growth, providing elementary education, minimum health care, housing and accommodation, drinking water, not to speak of higher education and employment to the citizens in the next decade assured in the Directive Principles of the Constitution, will be well nigh impossible with the present financial resources. The propaganda for family planning, both on radio and T.V., is not adequate. The family planning implementation programme has not been uniform and result-oriented. There is a great need to mobilise public opinion for population control. It may be even necessary to take up legislative measures to enforce family planning. The Union Government is, therefore, requested to convene a conference of the Chief Ministers of all the States to chalk out a clear-cut time-bound programme for the implementation of population control programme.

(ix) Need to recognise Lalit Narain Mithila University as a Central University

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Sir, Mithila in North Bihar has been a seat of learning since time immemorial. During the last three thousand years, the region has produced eminent scholars of international fame.

Unfortunately, of late, this region is lagging behind in education, one of the reasons being acute poverty. Because of poverty and backwardness, the students of