

[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

Mithila cannot compete with students of comparatively developed regions of India.

In order to do away with the Regional imbalance in education, it is requested that the Union Government should convert the Lalit Narain Mithila University into a Central University, as there is no Central University in Bihar.

If Lalit Narain Mithila University is recognised as a Central University, a long-felt demand of the people of this area would be met and the poor and resourcess students would be able to compete with other students of the country.

12.24 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Situation arising out of agitation for a separate State launched by all Bodo Students' Union Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We shall now take up further discussion on the situation arising out of the agitation for a separate State launched by the All Bodo Students' Union and the action taken by the Government in that regard, raised by Shri Chintamani Jena, on 19th April, 1989. Dr. G.S. Rajhans. Please be brief.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will not take much time and conclude in five minutes. The Bodo agitation is being discussed in the House since yesterday and many new things have come up. I have thoroughly travelled Assam and also visited its rural areas. One thing that I can say definitely, is that the Bodo community or Bodo tribals are entirely different from other tribals of the country. Their features are similar to that of Mongoloid whereas the tribals in other parts of the country have

entirely different features. There is no doubt and it has been proved that Bodo community came to Assam about 5000 years ago. After that *Aham* came to India. It is said that *Aham* community came from Thailand. The composition of Assam is very heterogeneous and the Bodo tribal has a major contribution in it. They have their own language, culture and civilization which is found very rare among other tribals but even then they bound not get any kind of recognition. It is absolutely wrong to say that the Central Government or the congress Party has incited them. In the real sense, the Bodo agitation had been strengthening its roots since 1967. Gradually, it has taken a violent turn. One of my friends has rightly said that during the Assam agitation, the AASU got fully support from the Bodo community. Now, when Bodo has started agitation, the people of AASU or the A.G.P. are shedding tears. Let the Bodo do the same what was done by the AASU and A.G.P.

The people, who still remember the days of Assam agitation, are very well aware as to what happened during the agitation. However, I may make it very clear that I do not favour the agitation or violence and I fully oppose it. But I want merely to recall the days of Assam agitation. The non-Assamese had suffered a lot. The Assamese and non-Assamese people, who did not support them, had become the victims of bombs and bullets. All kinds of atrocities were inflicted on them. I know each and everything but do not want to repeat them here. Whatever, you have taught to the Bodoes, they are doing the same, so what for the tears are being shed?

It Bodo's representative want that the Central Government's representative should also be present in the negotiations then what is objectionable to it? During G.N.L.F. movement, the West Bengal Government, itself called the representative of the Central Government. This agitation is becoming more violent than the GNLFF movement and it will adversely affect all the North-east States. This is good that Bodo agitators have again stopped their movement otherwise it had disrupted the supplies