

procurement of iron ore by M.M.T.C. from these areas. The export of iron ore through Paradeep Port has also declined. These things are having adverse impact on the mining industry of the State as a whole and the iron ore mines are on the verge of closure. The loading and transporting activities have come to a standstill. If this situation continues any further, thousands of workers engaged in this industry, most of whom are tribals, will be thrown out of employment.

As such, I urge upon the Government of India to take necessary steps to increase the export of iron-ore and also to direct M.M.T.C. to increase the procurement of iron ore from Banspani-Barbil-Barjamda Sector and Mayurbhanj District so that the crisis being faced by the iron ore industry is averted.

[English]

(iii) **Demand for reviewing India's Nuclear Policy In Order to meet the Threat Posed by Pakistan**

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur). With China's help, Pakistan has joined the rank of countries which have tested surface-to surface missiles as reported in the American magazines. Sir, earlier this year, Islamabad had tested King Hawk missile with China's assistance. According to the U.S. news and world report, Israel, Egypt, Syria, Iran, Iraq and Libya are among the countries who have already developed missiles. It is also reported that Pakistan has denied earlier reports that it conducted such a test but the magazine listed it among a score the Middle-East countries muscling their way into the once exclusive missile club. This shows that Pakistan in addition to these four has completed bombs which can be carried out for delivering by its U.S. supplied F. 16's. There is no doubt that Pakistan's nuclear policy has created a great unrest in India. It is therefore, neces-

sary that India changes its policy to meet this threat.

(iv) **Demand for Constituting an Equal Opportunities Commission to ensure implementation of recommendations of National Commission on Self-Employed Women.**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): The report of the National Commission on Self-employed Women and women in the informal sector is a document of great value. The Government must seriously consider its recommendations as well as findings. It is significant that the Commission has pointed out that unless the vulnerability of women who form half the labour force, to exploitation was removed through appropriate legislations and monitoring of their implementation, the poverty alleviation programmes of the Government would come to naught. It is not uncommon to find that even where Government distributes nutritional supplements to pregnant women, tradition and social inhibitions prevent them from coming to the hospital to obtain such supplements. The practice of paying lower wages to women for work as compared to men doing the same work is also widespread. A major recommendation of the Commission is for creating credit facilities exclusively for working women. Legislative measures are also needed to ensure that there was no exploitation of women labour. The Government should examine the constitution of an Equal Opportunities Commission to oversee implementation of such measures.

[Translation]

(v) **Demand for increasing the procurement price of agricultural produce**

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of

[Sh. Shanti Dhariwal]

public importance under Rule 377. The country is very much concerned about the increase in price. The prices of agricultural commodities as well as the cost of production have gone up. The issue must be given a serious thought immediately. The cost of major implements like tractor etc to minor ones and the rates of inputs like water, electricity, fertilisers seeds, labour, transportation have gone up considerably. As compared to this increase, the farmer is not getting remunerative prices for his produce. He is compelled to sell his produce in the village itself at cheaper rates due to the absence of roads and other mean of transportation.

In this connection, I would like to urge the Government to increase the prices of agricultural products by 10%. The State Governments should be directed to reduce the administrative expenditure by reconstituting Agricultural Produce Marketing Committees. The Government should also implement the development projects efficiently to provide relief to the farmers. It would enable the farmers to get the reasonable cost of their produce.

[English]

- (vi) **Demand for remedial ation to Reduce the Price of Sera, Vaccines and paracetamol to prevent exploitation of the Poor Consumers**

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh): The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare recommended inclusion of Sera and Vaccines in the National Health Programme. Although Kelkar Committee's jurisdiction did not extend to category-I drugs, it recommended price decontrol on Sera and Vaccines and on Paracetamol. The Ministry accepted the recommendation of the Kelkar

Committee and decontrolled Sera and Vaccines but did not decontrol Paracetamol. The prices of Sera and Vaccines have risen by 225 per cent and as a result, immunisation programmes are suffering. It is not known as to why the Ministry accepted the recommendation of Kelkar Committee on category-I drugs in total disregard of the earlier recommendations of the Health Ministry? Proper investigation and remedial action in the matter may be undertaken immediately in order to save the poor consumer from the exploitation of drug companies.

- (vii) **Demand for Nationalising the Drugs Manufacturing Industry and withdrawal of the new Drugs (Price Control) Order**

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, a few days back, about two lakhs Chemists and Druggists throughout the country closed their shutters in protest against the new Drug Price Control Order of the Government. As a consequence of this order, the prices of many life saving drugs have gone up manifold. This order instead of controlling the prices has led to increase in the prices from 15 to 400 per cent. This order has also led to increase in the profit several fold for the drug manufacturing companies and multinationals to the detriment of suffering people, wholesalers and retailers. One of the main reasons for sudden spurt on drug price is imposition of nearly 48 per cent taxes by the Government. On the other hand, due to want of effective control over the manufacturing companies, many spurious drugs are being produced and sold in the country causing danger to the health of drug consuming people. In view of the seriousness of the situation, I urge upon the Government to nationalise the manufacturing of drugs, withdraw the New Drug Price Control Order and scrap the Psychotropic Drugs Act.