

[English]

- (ii) **Demand for research by Spices Board in order to check 'Quick Wilt' disease affecting pepper crop in Kerala and to pay compensation to the affected farmers.**

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): The pepper cultivation is threatened by a fatal disease known as quick wilt. The pepper vines lose their leaves quickly and become useless. The disease is quite widespread in Kattappana, Nedumkandam and Kumali in the Idukki district of Kerala. No remedies prescribed by the authorities have so far proved successful. The growers have tried many pesticides but these have proved utterly useless.

It is feared that the production would fall by 50 per cent this year due to this disease. This is going adversely affect the growers who are mostly small farmers and the economy of the State.

It is, therefore, requested that the Spices Board should establish research centres to study about the disease and find a remedy and also steps may be taken to compensate the farmers who suffered losses due to this disease.

- (iii) **Demand for a separate postal circle for Goa and improvement in postal services**

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): The State of Goa is presently having a Postal Division and the same is under Pune Region. Goa, when it was a part of the Union Territory of Goa, Daman and Diu, one could understand treating of Goa as merely a Division.

Now that Goa is a full-fledged State, the Ministry of Communications should take immediate steps to upgrade Goa Postal Division into a circle. Besides, considering

that Goa is a tourist place visited by lakhs of foreign tourists every year, the Government should improve the foreign mail service also. After the Postal Circle is created, it is essential that three Postal Divisions at Panaji, Margao and Mapsa are created. Speed Post service which has yet not seen the light of the day must be introduced in the important towns of Goa. Mail, which is brought to Goa by air, still takes four days to reach the hands of the addressees.

In the circumstances, I would like to request the Union Government that along with the creation of a Postal Circle for Goa, a review of working of postal machinery by undertaken so as to bring the necessary changes in the postal set-up in Goa.

[Translation]

- (iv) **Demand for sending a central team to Himachal Pradesh to assess the damage caused by heavy rains and provide necessary assistance.**

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla): Sir, due to heavy rains in Himachal Pradesh, all the village link roads have been rendered unmotorable. There is a loss of crores of rupees to every district and the crops to potato, paddy and corn have been destroyed. Besides, apples, pears, peaches, apricots and plums have all been destroyed. A number of houses have collapsed and people have fallen a prey to death. We are grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for his visit to Una and Simla and for holding a meeting with the officials. He has arranged relief funds for the people of state. The State Government is not in a position to make good and present losses.

Therefore, my submission is that central team should be sent to Himachal Pradesh and assistance should be provided as per the report submitted by the State Government.