

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

markets or by providing a support price as extended to other cash crops the plight of these farmers and labourers will worsen further. I request the Government to tackle this problem by an appropriate measure at the earliest. One such measure would be to release sufficient funds to the Directorate of Cocoa, Arecanut and Species Development and direct CAMPCO to tackle this problem on war footing basis.

- (ii) Need to reconsider the decision to allot the plot meant for a garden in a residential area of Bombay to the Helicopter Corporation of India

SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI (Ratnagiri) : Cuffe Parade reclaimed area of Bombay has been developed as exclusive residential zone and the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay had earmarked one plot for development of a garden. As a matter of fact, the work of developing a garden on that plot had begun. But abruptly the Bombay Metropolitan Regional Development Authority has suspended the work and has issued orders giving that plot to the Helicopter Corporation of India to develop a helipad on it for taking passengers to airport and *vice versa*. The decision will create nuisance and both noise and air pollution in this residential area. The Environment Ministry should take a serious note of this and prevent the authorities concerned from taking up the helipad project in place of a garden.

12.23 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (iii) Need to ensure social security in old age by introducing national pension plan

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : There is increasing evidence that the norm of smaller families gets acceptable if social security during old age is assured. The Government should therefore, think in terms of a national pension plan which would generate on a very conservative estimate annual savings of something like Rs. 2000 crores improving investible funds for various development purposes while providing the wherewithal to pay pensions to retired workers. This would drastically reduce the compulsions to have more children as has happened in many

developing countries. Government must get a preliminary report on this prepared by an expert group so that such a scheme could be introduced as soon as possible.

- (iv) Need to re-orient the functioning of the Ministry of Welfare

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : The Sati incident at Deorala village in Rajasthan and more than that the tremendous response this incident received at the hands of the local population on every occasion, go to prove that very little work has been done by the Social Welfare Department and by the Women's organisations to change the psychology and thinking of the people on such vital social issues in Rajasthan and elsewhere in the country so far.

Sati is a stray and exceptional incident but even matters of daily occurrence like child marriages, wasteful expenditure on marriages and on death feasts, the increasing social evils of drinking and drug smoking are very much on the increase and these social evils are seen to be committed against law in broad day light, in presence of the law enforcing authorities and the social organisations on all district headquarters and the capital towns of the country with impunity. Not even a protest is ever lodged by anyone, anywhere.

The Social Welfare Departments and the Women's Welfare organisations have been too much politicalised and the dedicated, genuine social workers do not find place on these bodies to do real, concrete effective social work of tuning the public mind to modern thoughts. This work is particularly absent in rural areas where its need is felt the most.

In view of these facts, I will request hon. Minister incharge of Ministry of Welfare to bring about a practical change in the working and in the recruitment of workers in this Ministry as well as to ensure that they continue their activities to welfare work and they do not indulge in politics.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Demand for rapid industrialisation of backward districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh, particularly Gorakhpur Division

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, a number of com-

mittees have in the past gone into the question of backwardness of eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh and have submitted their reports in this regard. Once our late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was so swayed on hearing the pathetic description of backwardness of this area and the plight of its inhabitants as told by some of the hon. Members in this House that tears rolled down his cheeks.

Gorakhpur division is the most backward area of this eastern region with Gorakhpur city as its headquarters. Density of population in this division is 608 per sq. Km. Majority of the people of this area are forced to live below the poverty line due to illiteracy and small land holdings. With a view to improving their lot and eradicating unemployment, it is imperative that rapid industrialisation of this area should take place. But I am pained to say that Gorakhpur district has not so far been included in the list of districts which have been declared backward. Neither subsidy scheme for attracting new entrepreneurs has been extended to this district nor a provision for capital subsidy has been made by the State Government.

An inter-ministerial committee was set up by the Planning Commission to identify the backward districts. Although its report has already been received, no action has been taken to implement it.

Due to non-completion of work relating to gauge conversion on Bhatui-Varanasi section under the N.E. Railways, products of headloom, which is an important industry of the area employing lakhs of people, are not reaching the market for sale. Rise in prices of cotton yarn and decline in production is attributed to be the second reason for this misery. Frequent floods and drought also hit this area.

It is, therefore, requested that the Government should provide all those facilities which are available to other backward districts to all the districts of this area including Gorakhpur and at least one heavy industry under the public sector should be set up in each of these districts.

[English]

- (vi) Need to provide broad gauge line from Tirupathi to Katpadi via Pakala

SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI (Chittoor) : Sir, a broad-gauge line from Tirupathi to Katpadi via Pakala is a long pending issue. The earlier MPs from Chittoor have also represented several times. Chittoor district is a backward area since British regime. Now all trains from North to South pass from Tirupathi to Katpadi through Arkonam. For goods transport, the only link between South-North is metre-gauge in Katpadi-Tirupathi line. My request to the hon. Minister is to sanction immediately a parallel broad-gauge Katpadi-Tirupathi line which will reduce the distance by seventy kilometres and will also save fuel. Rayalaseema is a backward area which requires to be developed. This broad-gauge line will also give employment to rural poor who are now suffering from acute drought.

- (vii) Need to fix the price of oil seeds in accordance with the percentage of Oil Content therein

SHRI KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, as a measure to increase production of oil seeds, the farmers must have a good market price in accordance with the oil content percentage which changes every year in relation to less or good rainfall. In this connection, it is very important that Government of India should declare a policy and announce that the oil content percentage will be the deciding factor for fixing the price of the oil-seeds. This should be done at the beginning of each sowing season. This will help the farmers to get remunerative price for their produce without any exploitation by the millers and traders.

- (viii) Need to give Hill Compensatory Allowance to all Government employees irrespective of altitude

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The Central Government employees working in hill States like Himachal Pradesh but stationed at places of an altitude less than one thousand metres are not being given the Hill compensatory allowance, though these places are in fact as costly as the Hill Stations with an altitude of