

[Shri Umakant Mishra]

I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and direct the Punjab Government to protect and implement the development programmes of Sanskrit and to encourage teaching of Sanskrit language in Punjab.

- (iv) Need to take expert advice of botanists while planting trees to avoid harmful effect of trees

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as a result of denuding the forests at large scale during the last few years, problems of severe drought, floods and ecological imbalances have arisen. The programme for conservation of forests and planting trees and maintaining ecological balance have been launched at national level in a planned manner in the country. It has been realised that all our activities, some how or the other, are affected by trees. It is, therefore, that the slogan of "Forest is the life" was raised. There are also complaints that tree plantation schemes in vogue can also cause harm besides providing benefit. For example, planting Eucalyptus trees reduces fertility of land and the water level goes down and creates water problem etc. It is, therefore, necessary that before planting of trees a thorough study of the site should be conducted and keep in view the utility of the trees to be planted and their other merits. Only then the trees should be planted. In order to execute this work in more effective manner, the co-operation of Ayurvedic experts should be sought for this purpose so that people may get important information and encouragement in planting trees of medicinal value.

I, therefore, demand from the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests that he may recruit Ayurvedic Experts in the Forest Department so that botany as propounded in Ayurveda is properly utilised and people can save themselves from unsuitable trees planted due to ignorance and which may prove harmful.

- (v) Steps to control floods in North Bihar to save it from yearly devastation

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) : Central Government should take concrete and permanent remedial measures to save Northern Bihar from devastating floods that occur every year. Central

Government and State Governments have spent crores on flood control measures since independence but these have not shown any positive results so far. The various schemes prepared till today for controlling floods have also proved to be ineffective. The various embankments along the side of the rivers have also not helped in checking the flood problem at all. All the schemes have been prepared without giving any proper thought. As a result of which thousands of acres of land has been submerged in the unprecedented floods and crops destroyed this year. Thousands of people and cattle have been washed away and three crops one after the other have been destroyed. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that for a permanent solution of the problem, height of embankments should be raised by 5 feet and pucca-embankments should be constructed. Canals should be dug at a distance of every 5 or 6 miles or the embankment should be removed. This is the demand of the people of Northern Bihar.

- (vi) Need to direct the Bihar State Government to take steps to rehabilitate the Harijan and backward class people of Jahanabad Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : India is a vast country and droughts and floods affect some or the other part of this country every year. During the current year, the entire country has come under droughts or floods. It has put farmers and labourers to great difficulty. Progress of the development of the country has come to a grinding halt. It is imperative that a permanent solution to the problem of drought and floods should be found for rapid development of the country. Special schemes should be formulated for this purpose. In Bihar 17,000 villages of the 315 blocks of 28 districts have been affected by floods this year. Thousands of people have died. Several small villages have become non-existent. South Bihar has also been victim of floods like Northern Bihar this year. Jahanabad Parliamentary constituency is the worst affected area. Dozens of villages have been submerged in flood water. These include the villages of Mandai, Chunukpur, Arhir, Daulatpur-Hardaspur-Sujatpur of Ghosi Block, Lanjo-