

[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