

in the crime rate in the district. On the other hand, the weavers and other artisans engaged in weaving and other trades are very poorly paid and the wages earned by them are not even enough to meet their day to day needs.

Etah and Farrakhabad districts are the largest producers of Kampla tobacco, the finest quality of tobacco and are the major suppliers throughout the country. But, unfortunately, the tobacco growers do not get remunerative prices for their produce and a good share of their dues is taken away by the middlemen. Besides tobacco, Etah is also a big sugarcane producing district in Uttar Pradesh and the sugarcane produced is sent to other places in the State and outside the State. As there is no Central scheme in the district of Etah, Government is requested to consider the question of taking up some projects in this district which would accelerate the development of the backward area, generate employment opportunities and improve the economic conditions of the people. I would urge the Government to examine the possibility of setting up a spinning and weaving factory and a sugar factory in the public sector and taking over the tobacco trade through Government agencies to eliminate the middlemen to give adequate remunerative prices to the tobacco growers.

(iii) Need to show live telecast of world famous Car festival held at Puri every year

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : The Car Festival of Lord Jagannath fell on the 20th of June this year. It is needless to point out that the cult of Lord Jagannath has spread over the whole world and the Car is drawn in Washington and London as it is at Puri. Everybody knows the significance of the festival of Puri.

It is a good thing that the TV network has made rapid strides in India during the past two years and international and national events in tennis, cricket and football are being shown to the people in remote villages over days together.

But it is unfortunate that the world famous Car festival where as many as lakh devotees from all over the world had gathered at Puri was not shown on the TV. People from Orissa residing in different parts of the country and people from other states also are very much unhappy about it.

In view of this, I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to look into the matter and direct the concerned officials to show the live telecast of world famous Car Festival held every year at Puri.

(iv) Extension of "Lead Bank scheme" to Community Development Block level for effective implementation of anti-poverty and self-employment programmes in the country

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : Sir, the District Lead Bank scheme has made a significant contribution in the implementation of the various anti-poverty and self-employment schemes during the Sixth Five Year Plan. However, the large size and population of the district have really been the main handicap in this regard and decentralisation of the scheme to the Block level is the prime need. The District Lead Banks should have their own branches at the Block Headquarters for proper coordination and successful implementation of the various schemes. As the Branch expansion policy of the Reserve Bank of India for the next three years is being evolved at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, it is essential that the Lead Bank Scheme is decentralised to the Block level and the Branch expansion policy of the Reserve Bank of India is suitably framed so as to include the opening of the branches of the nationalised Banks in the Districts concerned at Block Headquarters on a priority basis.

I request the Minister of Finance to ensure the opening of the Branches of the Lead Bank of the districts concerned at each of the Block headquarters of the districts on top most priority wherever there block Headquarters have no Branches of the District Lead Banks.