

genetic engineering in food and farming, and also for a bio-safety mechanism. The International Environmental Group -- Green Peace -- argues that genetically modified foods can damage human health as well as the environment. It now frowns at our Government's undue hurry to sanction Monsanto trials in India.

Even the genetically engineered seeds, other than terminator, which are entering the country in a big way, can result in development of herbicide resistant weeds, named superweeds, which may, in course of time, be most harmful to all the crops. It is time that the Government of India should tread cautiously in allowing open or clandestine entry of genetically modified foods and seeds.

Let us learn from the caution being shown by the developed countries.

Our Government may well constitute an expert committee of bio-scientists, medical luminaries and environmentalists to study the problem in depth and advise the Government and the people as to future course of action.

SHRI MANOU BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal) : Sir, I associate myself with it.

Diarrhoea Vaccine

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my Special Mention relates to taking immediate steps for launching rotavirus Diarrhoea vaccine.

Sir, it is very happy to note that a team of Indo-US scientists has developed a new vaccine to check Rotaviral Diarrhoea, which has been taking a toll of about 1.5 lakh children, in the age group of 0-5 years, annually. In our country, children in this age group suffer as many as 25 episodes of Rotaviral Diarrhoea as compared to only 5 episodes in the U.S. It is also shattering to note that one out of five infant deaths in India occur due to Rotaviral Diarrhoea. I congratulate the Indo-American scientists for this magnificent achievement which will save millions of our children. It is not that there is no vaccine for this, but the vaccines, that have been developed by some MNCs in the US, Belgium, China, etc., are all useless to

combat viral strains native to India. The problem with this virus is, strains native to one country are different from that of the other country and, so, universal vaccine is impossible. This joint programme, which started in the mid-80s, took more than 15 years to find a viral strain, from which vaccine can be prepared. This virus affects the children of all nations, irrespective of economic development of the country. For example, in US alone more than 40,000 children die annually because of this.

I request the hon. Minister of Health to take all possible steps on a war-footing so that the vaccine enters into the market immediately, at a cheaper rate, so that children gets relief from this deadly disease.

**Demand for not shifting the Department of Supervision of NABARD from
Hyderabad to Mumbai**

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, as a part of decentralization of Central Office Departments, on the lines of Central Government Policy, the NABARD management, after thorough discussions, had established the Department of Supervision (DOS) (erstwhile Inspection Department) at Hyderabad in 1983. The NABARD has been delegated with the powers of inspection, which is not found in other financial institutions like the IDBI, the IFCI etc. Since its inception, with its location at Hyderabad, the Department of Supervision, has been functioning efficiently and effectively.

The NABARD has made huge investments and constructed buildings for office accommodations and staff quarters in 1988 itself in Hyderabad.

Now, it is reliably learnt that the NABARD management proposes shifting of the Department of Supervision from Hyderabad to Mumbai for the simple reason that the Department of Supervision is away from the Head Office.

In the present era of internet, the entire world has been turned into a global village and distance does not matter, as the information can be passed on within no time from one end to another and the decisions and information can be communicated without any loss of time. Therefore, concentrating various departments of the Bank at one place may not hold any reason.