

provide employment to all of them, as was done by our Prime Minister, when he was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Sympathy followed by support alone solves the sufferings of the handloom weavers.

Dangerous threat of AIDS

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity. Sir the threat of AIDS is more diabolic and dangerous enough than a nuclear explosion. This deadly scourge of AIDS is spreading its menacing tentacles to all sections of the society. Unless preventive measures are launched on a war-footing, India cannot escape the doom of AIDS. The Centre for AIDS Research and Control at Bombay estimated that there will be at least 50,000 full blown cases by 1995. By then, HIV infection would have affected a stupendous number of one million people, nation-wide. AIDS currently kill, according to an estimate, 100,000 people a year world-wide. In India the virus is snowballing. Mr. Michael Merson, Director, Global Programme for AIDS, WHO has warned : "India is at the early stages of the pandemic. The infection is spreading at an alarming pace".

Sir, medical help is denied to the victims because medical professionals shy away from dealing with the affected people. Now, the Government cannot close its eyes to the scourge. Of course, a hundred crore dollars project has been launched. Much has to be done. Thousands of lives hang on the whims of the deadly virus. The victims are shunned by their neighbours, relatives, kith and kin. It has become a stigmatised illness. Even housewives and unborn children have not been spared by this deadly virus. They have also become its victims. Today, AIDS is not a menace or disease of drug addicts. Even innocent housewives and children are affected. One of the reasons other than promiscuity in sex for the disease is the country's blood distribution system. It continues to be highly unsafe. Infection through contaminated blood and injection needles is one of the main reasons. Disposable syringes and needles should be used. But in most of the hospitals, Government

hospitals and in some of the private hospitals, in 90 per cent of cases, they are not given. At the most, in only five to ten per cent of cases, disposable syringes and needles are used. When patients of other complaints go to a hospital and get a prick of the needle there, they get this disease. There is yet another shocking aspect. Recently I came to know of it. Even these disposable syringes and needles are not safe and are not up to the standard because the disposed syringes and needles are collected by some criminal elements packed up again and are again circulated in the market. Some legislation should be brought in this respect. Disposable syringes and needles should be supplied, they should be used on patients to inject medicines and should be immediately thereafter disposed of really. A way should be found for that. There should not be any possibility of the same needles and syringes being used by the acts of unscrupulous elements. Sir, you might have read some recent reports in the press about some renal patients who approached a reputed hospital in Madras becoming AIDS patients. It was reported that 16 such patients were affected by the AIDS virus because there is a frightening piece of evidence in Madras about infected dialysis machines transmitting the AIDS virus to innocent patients. The Renal Unit of the Vijaya Hospital has recorded 15 HIV seropositive cases in the last two months, including that of two children of ages four and five years. They and all patients needing dialysis. The infection is because of the contamination in the dialysis machine itself. Sir, testing of every bottle of blood for HIV has been made mandatory, but it is not practised. An estimated 85 per cent of the blood supplied is not being tested at all for HIV. The affected patients are ostracised. And, the cost of caring for AIDS patients is enormous and unbearable.

In today's newspapers, I find a report that it is going to be a terrific problem for the developing countries. There is going to be an economic crisis because of this disease. Awareness is the only first aid to prevention. A multi-pronged, intensive, awareness programme needs to be launched at once to educate people and to warn them about the dangers of unsafe sex and

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]
contaminated blood products. Sir, AIDS is the greatest menace to man-kind. The Government must cancel the licences of private blood banks. A centralised blood-banking system should be introduced in each State to minimise the present imbalance between the demand and the supply. In surgical procedures, autologous blood transfusion method or the method of retransfusion of the patient's own blood could be followed.

Sir, in Agra, under the shadows of the magnificent, gleaming, white monument of Love, that is, the Taj Mahal, AIDS is thriving surreptitiously. Sir, shocking reports have appeared in the press. The Government cannot close its eyes to the rising scourge of this disease any more. It is very much present here, there and everywhere, nor can people pretend that it happens only to others. AIDS is very much here and no one can wish it away. There is no rehabilitation programme for the affected individuals. Their whole life is doomed. There is no provision for compensation, no financial support for their families and no insurance cover for AIDS victims. Most Indian hospitals do not have a stock of medicines, disposable basic equipment to prevent the spread of HIV. It is estimated that by the year 2000 A.D., India will have 25 per cent of the HIV positive cases around the world as opposed to the 5 per cent that exist today. There will be 15 million AIDS victims by the end of this century. AIDS has entered in our schools and colleges even. It is a very shocking thing. It disturbs us because nobody can be sure when he goes to hospital, when he gets blood transfusion, when he gets an injection because there is every possibility of the risk of AIDS. Sir, this is a serious problem today.

Yesterday also, in Bombay, I think some procession took place and awareness is being created. The Government should take all steps on a war-footing to fight this dreaded menace. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : The House stands adjourned till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-four minutes past two of the clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) in the Chair.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra) : Sir I take this opportunity to congratulate you on your occupying the Chair for the first time.

AN HON. MEMBER : We all join you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI) : I request Mr. Shanti Tyagi to make his Special Mention.

Demand to set up a Martyrs' Memorial in Village Bhamori, District Meerut, in memory of peasants killed by British Administration on the 18th August, 1942.

श्रमति शांत्याजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय वाइस चैयरमैन साहब, मेरा यह विशेष उल्लेख मेरठ जनपद के ग्राम भामोरी के उन शहीदों की, उन वीरों की याद ताज़ा करने के लिए है जो 1942 की 18 अगस्त को अंग्रेजों भारत छोड़ो और भारत माता की जय का नारा लगाते हुए शहीद हुए। श्रीमन्, 1942 में सारे पश्चिमी उत्तर प्रदेश में अंग्रेजों की हुकूमत के खिलाफ विद्रोह और बगावत की आंधी चल रही थी। किसानों ने बगावत का तिरंगा झण्डा मजबूती से पकड़ लिया था। इसी समय 18 अगस्त मेरठ जनपद के ग्राम भामोरी में एक पब्लिक मीटिंग हो रही थी। उस सभा पर, उस मंच पर अंग्रेजी पुलिस ने गोली चलाई। 9 व्यक्ति मारे गये और कई बुरी तरह घायल हुए। एक ही गांव में पांच व्यक्तियों के शहीद होने की कम घटनाएं हमारे देश में हुई हैं।

आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री जी की प्रेरणा से आज देश उस महान क्रांति की स्वर्ण जयंती मना रहा है। यह बड़ी प्रसन्नता की बात है। लेकिन 50 वर्ष बीत गये हमने भामोरी के शहीदों को याद नहीं किया। उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने याद नहीं किया। केन्द्रीय सरकार ने याद नहीं किया। उस गांव के