

The strike can be avoided if the required negotiations are held as early as possible. Thank you.

**Demand to make "Castle Hill" in Mussouri a museum
in memory of Maharaja Dulip Singh**

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Sir, I make a strong plea that the Government should honour the memory of our last Sovereign Maharaja Dulip Singh. We are aware that when the entire India was occupied by the British, Punjab, Kashmir and parts of Afghanistan remained independent where Maharaja Ranjit Singh ruled for 50 years. After his death in 1839, there were Anglo-Sikh wars and ultimately with conspiracies Punjab was annexed in 1849 and eleven years old Maharaja Dulip Singh was dethroned and taken away to Mussouri where Castle Hill Estate was acquired with Punjab funds to keep him away from Punjab. He was exiled to England in 1852.

After realising the crafty moves of the British, Dulip Singh revolted against them and left for India in 1886 but was arrested in Aden and his entry in India was banned. He went to France and Russia to get help for war against the British and also set up a parallel Govt. in Pondicherry. He couldn't achieve his objective and died in Paris in 22nd Oct, 1893.

The Indian community in U.K. has put up his statue and museum where he lived in England. I request that the Castle Hill, Mussouri which is now the property of the Survey of India but originally belonged to the Maharaja may be made a museum on his life by the Ministry of Culture in association with Maharaja Dulip Singh Memorial Society. This will provide an opportunity to the new generation to know our heroes and historical events during foreign rules.

SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with this issue.

**Demand to take effective steps for completion of various
road projects specially highways in Sikkim**

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, Sikkim is a landlocked State and, as of now, there is no air or rail link to the State. National Highway 31A is the only lifeline which connects the State with the rest of the country. The people of Sikkim are solely dependent on this Highway for transportation of goods and other essential commodities, and it is used by the people of Sikkim to travel from Sikkim to different parts of the country and neighbouring countries. The National Highway 31A gets interrupted frequently because of weather related problems as the terrain is hilly. Besides this, the Highway is also disrupted by frequent bandhs and strikes held in the Darjeeling District of West Bengal bringing general life of the people of Sikkim to a standstill. Since yesterday, bandh has again been started in the Darjeeling District, and the National Highway is totally closed. The Government of Sikkim has been repeatedly asking for help and support to maintain and build durable and all weather road infrastructure in Sikkim for quite some time. Recently, the hon. Chief Minister of Sikkim has also written to the Government reiterating their demand for better road infrastructure in Sikkim,

particularly, the following: (i) Widening and upgradation work of the National Highway 31 A, undertaken by the Border Roads Organisation, needs to be accelerated, and the Highway should be brought to double-lane standards at the earliest for the benefit of the people, (ii) An early sanction of an alternative Highway from Melli, along the other side of the River Teesta, to Singtam and onward to Ranipool. (iii) An early sanction of an alternative double lane highway to Gangtok from Ranipool via Ranka under the SARDP-NE Phase-A. (iv) Request to include all upgradation programme of State Highways under Phase-A of the SARDP-NE instead of Phase-B as is being considered now.

I, therefore, request the Government to take urgent and effective measures for the completion of above projects and proposals at the earliest.

SHRI SAMAN PATHAK (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with this Special Mention

Demand for strict monitoring of drug prices in the country

SHRI R.C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, lack of price control initiatives by Government helped drug companies to overprice their drugs and profit margins. Some medicines fetched profit of 1000%, thereby denying the common man access to affordable medicines. The Government promised that it would ensure availability of life-saving drugs at reasonable prices. Leave alone life-saving drugs, even ordinary drugs have gone out of reach of common man. Even the Prime Minister emphasized the need for regulation of drug prices. It is paradoxical that the Government of India classified 354 drugs as essential medicines, but only 32 of these 354 are under price regulation. For example, anaemia is a major problem in India, but anti-anaemia medicines are not under the Price Control Order. The same is the case with other drugs. Zoledronic acid, an anti-cancer agent, is priced at Rs. 2,800 but some companies are charging Rs. 13,900 by selectively changing some ingredients to evade price control; Orfloxacin, an antibiotic drug, is sold by one company for Rs. 110 and another company for Rs. 2,000; Clopidogrel, used for heart disease, is sold by a company for Rs. 78 and another company for Rs. 1,020.

Many countries have price control in some form or the other. The U.K. has drug price regulation scheme. Even though the U.S. has no price control, drug and insurance companies negotiate price and sell drugs within that price bracket. But, here we have absolutely no control on drug prices. Hence, I request the Government of India to immediately classify all the 354 drugs as essential drugs and include them under the Price Control Order so as to ensure that at least, the essential drugs are sold at a uniform price everywhere.

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with it.

MS. MABEL REBELLO (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI O.T. LEPCHA (Sikkim): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with it.