

SPECIAL MENTIONS**Need for effective implementation of the National
Urban Health Mission in Gujarat**

SHRI DILIPBHAI PANDYA (Gujarat): Sir, I beg to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister for Health and Family Welfare towards the need for effective implementation of the NUHM policy in the State of Gujarat, particularly, in the Nagarpalika areas.

In order to effectively address the health concerns of the urban poor, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had launched the National Urban Health Mission, NUHM, in the country, to be implemented State-wise. The NUHM would cover a total of 430 cities which have a population of above one lakh. The National Urban Health Mission aims to address the health concerns of the urban poor through providing equitable access to available health facilities, by rationalizing and strengthening the existing health infrastructure to improve the health of the urban poor. The duration of the Mission was supposed to be for the remaining part of the Eleventh Five Year Plan, that is, 2008-2012, and then extended for a further period.

Presently, Gujarat has 159 municipal towns and nine Municipal Corporations and the urban population of these areas projected for 2010 was 2,26,94,918, which is more than 40 per cent of the total population of Gujarat. Women and children of the rural areas have been safeguarded through a well-organized health infrastructure, but urban areas lack such a health infrastructure, especially in the Nagarpalika areas. Looking at the infrastructure need in the urban areas, such a mission is required on a priority basis to help the poor in the State of Gujarat.

I would, therefore, request the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to effectively implement the said scheme for the urban poor in Gujarat.

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री पुरुषोत्तम खोडाभाई रूपाळा (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विशेष उल्लेख के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Demand to take effective steps to remove hunger from the Country

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, according to the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) which gives us a Global Hunger Index (GHI), India is 67th among the worst 80 countries in terms of malnourishment. With 21 per cent of its population undernourished, nearly 44 per cent of under-5 children underweight and 7 per cent of them dying before they reach five years, India is firmly established among the world's most hunger-ridden countries. The

situation is better than only Congo, Chad, Ethiopia or Burundi, but it is worse than Sudan, North Korea, Pakistan or Nepal.

Data collected by GHI researchers shows that the proportion of hungry in the population has actually gone up. Today India has 213 million hungry and malnourished people by GHI estimates although the UN agency (FAO) puts the figure at around 230 million. The difference is because FAO uses only the standard calorie intake formula for measuring sufficiency of food while the Hunger Index is based on broader criteria. The shameful reality is inescapable—India is home to the largest number of hungry people, about a quarter of the estimated 820 million in the whole world. NFHS, last carried out in 2004-05, had also shown that 23 per cent of married men, 52 per cent of married women and a chilling 72 per cent of infants were anaemic – a sure sign that a shockingly large number of families were caught in a downward spiral of slow starvation.

In view of above horrendous scenario of hunger, starvation and malnutrition, I would urge hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to undertake corrective steps.

श्री अनिल माधव दवे (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, मैं इस विषय के साथ स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Demand to declare Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan as an International University

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Sir, with its 11 campuses all across the country and more than 1000 centres for non-formal Sanskrit education that have imparted training in spoken and functional Sanskrit to 6,00,000 beneficiaries, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has done enormous work for the promotion of Sanskrit education in the country. Besides, it has 21 Adarsh Mahavidyalayas and four Adarsh Shodh Sansthans supported under the scheme of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

Even though Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan was given the status of a deemed university in 2002, it is practically discharging the role of a National University.. It is only deemed university with multi-campus structure and is also allowed to continue affiliation of those traditional Sanskrit colleges which were affiliated to it prior to the conferment of 'deemed to be university' status. Considering the area of its jurisdictions and achievements, it certainly needs to be upgraded as a full-fledged university under legislation by Parliament. The Government of India has established an International University for Hindi at Wardha and Central Universities for English and Urdu and Tibetan studies. There is no Central University for Sanskrit. Presently,