

[Shri Ram Chandra Khuntia]

Whether it is heart disease or kidney disease, diabetes, hypertension, cancer, black fever, malaria, dengue, chikungunya, the treatment has become very costly. Government hospitals are not capable of providing free treatment. Instead of spending more money in Governmental hospitals, Central Government and State Governments jointly should pay the total premium of medi-claim insurance for all BPL families and 50 per cent for all APL families in this country. There should be compulsory medi-claim insurance for all. Then only we will be able to save the life of tribal people, Scheduled Caste people, *dalit* people and economically backward families, who are dying in rural villages and forest areas with malaria, dengue, and chikungunya without proper medical care.

Sir, I appeal to the Government of India to formulate a policy for universal medical care. Otherwise, thousands of people will continue to die daily in various forest areas and in rural areas because they do not have enough money for their own treatment.

**Moratorium on interest and payment of outstanding debt
of the State of West Bengal**

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY (West Bengal): Sir, in reply to my Unstarred Question No. 2060, the hon. Minister of Finance stated on 24th April last year, “A letter has been received from the State Government of West Bengal requesting an interest and repayment moratorium on the outstanding debt of the State in the form of an annual grant for a period of three consecutive years, which is under examination.” On an earlier occasion, the Finance Commission also categorised West Bengal as a debt-stressed State. In spite of that and even after several meetings between the State Government representatives and the Central Government representatives and even after a delegation of Trinamool Congress MPs was assured by the then Finance Minister that the Government of India was exploring ways and means to bail out West Bengal from the debt constraints and something would be done, till date, nothing has been done by the Central Government. We are actually reeling under severe financial crisis.

Sir, it appears that the Centre's step-motherly attitude, which has culminated into an economic blockade against West Bengal, is a part of the political vendetta since we had withdrawn the support from the UPA-II Government and, therefore,

this is happening. While we do not have any objection if other States get special benefits or special status, as is being reported in several newspapers, the demand of the West Bengal Government to put a moratorium on the Rs. 2,00,000 crore debt should also be met. It is unique in India because no other State is suffering for the default or the lapse committed by the 34-year old regime which was ruling West Bengal earlier. We have inherited that debt burden from the previous Government. Therefore, I would urge upon the Central Government to have a relook in the matter. While exploring the ways and means for other States, the demand of West Bengal about the debt burden should also be considered in right earnest and in the right perspective.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SHAFI (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

SHRI AHMAD SAEED MALIHABADI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Anil Desai; not there. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

**Fire accident in a cooling tower of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation
Limited's refinery at Visakhapatnam**

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Sir, this is a very serious issue. I don't know; I have to be enlightened about the system. I took pains and prepared this note and gave it around 8.30. Now, I am being called at 9th or 10th serial number.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whether it is 9th or 10th or 1st, all are of equal importance, then why do you worry?