

crores in 2003-04. The Government of India provides equity participation in the share capital of Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited in the ratio of 51:49. The Managing Director of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation has also recommended the proposal.

It is now learnt that the proposal is awaiting clearance from the Planning Commission. I, therefore, request the Government of India to ensure that the Planning Commission grants clearance to the proposal for equity participation by the Government of India in the Andhra Pradesh Backward Classes Cooperative Finance Corporation Limited in the ratio of 51:49 (Andhra Pradesh Government: Government of India) at an early date to ameliorate the conditions of backward classes in the State.

**Need for setting headquarters of independent  
export promotion council for drugs and  
pharmaceuticals at Hyderabad**

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Madam. The city of Hyderabad is emerging as a capital of bulk drugs industry. The State Government has initiated steps to establish a world-class research and development centre at Hyderabad and a meeting for this purpose has also been held with representatives of the pharmaceutical industry. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also expressed its willingness to extend all the necessary facilities as well as grant of Rs. 3 crores for the Corpus required for setting up on an Export Promotion Council. After this groundwork, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has mooted a proposal, with the Prime objective of setting up of Export Promotion Council at Hyderabad, to set up an independent Export Promotion Council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals. The Government of India has also responded positively to this proposal and agreed, in principle, that it would set up the Export Promotion Council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals at Hyderabad. But, it is understood that the Government of India has reversed its decision and has decided to establish the headquarters of the Export Promotion Council in some other city, with only a regional office at Hyderabad. It is in variance of the proposal already agreed upon by the Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Hence, I request, through you, Madam, the Government of India to reconsider its decision and stick to the earlier proposal from

the Government of Andhra Pradesh and set up the headquarters of independent Export Promotion council for Drugs and Pharmaceuticals at Hyderabad.

**Need to check increase of HIV/AIDS patients in India**

DR. NARAYAN SINGH MANAKLAO (Nominated): Respected, Madam Deputy Chairperson, my Special Mention is regarding HIV/AIDS patients. It is an undeniable fact that there are a large number of HIV/AIDS infected patients in India. According to some surveys, we are one of the high incidence category countries in the world. Prevention appears to be the only realistic option available now. But, for the purpose of prevention, awareness about AIDS is the key. Voluntary disclosure of HIV positive status from the patients and sufficient community support towards their treatment and rehabilitation are called for. For planning future action, we need to measure the magnitude of the problem. But, severe social stigma attached with AIDS patients is discouraging even educated patients from disclosing their HIV status. Even for the Church, one of the most progressive social institutions, the situation is no better. The national press has reported that on December 1, which was also World AIDS Day, in Kerala, a 38 year old AIDS victim's dead body was not allowed to be buried in local cemetery by authorities. This is not an isolated incident. A fear psychosis is pervasive today among HIV positive community. If not immediately and effectively checked, this will adversely impinge on our developmental efforts. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take sufficient steps to remove prejudices and misconceptions among the population at large regarding AIDS patients and to make sure that no patient is victimised, discriminated or segregated because of AIDS in this country.

**Need for conducting an enquiry into alleged discrimination against dalit students in Gujarat ..**

SHRI RAJU PARMAR (Gujarat): Thank you, Madam, I am raising an important issue of Dalit children and their woes in the State of Gujarat. The practice of forcing Dalit children to sit separately from upper caste students during mid-day meals in schools, which is violative of the constitution, is widely rampant in Surendranagar District of Gujarat. During the last 3-4 months, several Dalit teachers, who raised voices against