

- (ix) **Need for construction of a foot bridge along the railway bridge over the river Dhansiri, Assam.**

SHRI PROBIN DEKA (Mangaldoi): The NF Railway users living on the eastern side of Dhansiri river on Rangiya-Rangapara branch line are experiencing great difficulties, because there is no foot-bridge alongside the Railway bridge there. In the absence of a foot-bridge there, many people are run over by trains or some other people fall down in the river as there is no railing alongside the existing Railway bridge. If this foot-bridge is built, it will cater to the needs of the population of that area; because they will have to travel only one kilometre to reach the Routs Station. Since there is no foot-bridge alongside the rail bridge people have to travel 10 Kms. to reach Routs Railway Station. I request the Central Government to take up necessary scheme for constructing the foot-bridge alongside the railway bridge over the river Dhansiri.

- (x) **Need to clear the proposals of Rajasthan Government for development of tourism.**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are many possibilities of development of tourism in Rajasthan. During the last 16 years there has been 4 fold increase in the influx the foreign tourists to the State. This phenomenon is continuing and it is expected that by the end of 1992 atleast 40 per cent of the total foreign tourists visiting India will be visiting Rajasthan. Therefore, to gear up the State of Rajasthan to meet this challenge, there is a need to augment the capacity by 10,000 beds during the next two years and to also develop other places from the tourism point of view in the State.

In the absence of liberal financial assistance from the Central Government it will be difficult to develop the tourism in the state as per the plans. The State Government has submitted to the Centre Plans for strength-

ening of the existing five circuits and development of 3 new tourism circuits. In the plans submitted, assistance is sought for construction of midway cafeteria, resting and transportation facilities and tourism places etc. Proposals to the tune of Rs. 760.68 lakhs for the development of all the eight circuits (3 new and five existing) are under consideration.

The Central Government is requested to immediately clear the above mentioned proposals which are under consideration.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for lunch break is reassemble at 2.10 p.m.

13.10 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after Lunhc at Seventeen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA in the Chair)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992-93—*CONTD.*

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT ;
MINISTRY OF FOOD; MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE

AND

MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION—*CONTD.*

[English]

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Madam Chairman, I resume my discussion today for the problems of lac cultivators. There are three million lac cultivators in this

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country. They have been exploited for a long time by some industrialists, middlemen, moneylenders and exporters. It is only cash crop of the lac cultivators. Most of them are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Their upliftment is proclaimed to be the sacred responsibility of the Government.

Lac cultivation generally takes place in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and some parts of Himachal Pradesh. India was the first country in the world in the 1950 in the production of lac. It produced about 85 per cent of the total production of the world. In 1978-79, the production of lac has declined and it came down to 53 per cent. Now it is just 50 per cent. In the Eighth Plan, the Government of India assumed that about 21,485 metric tonnes will be produced. It is just 50 per cent of the total production of the world. There are at present 194 manufacturers. But in 1950, there were 489 manufacturers.

India is exporting lac to USA, UK and Germany. India's position is very bad now. Thailand is competing with us and previously, India's total contribution in lac production was 74 per cent in export of lac. For the benefit of the lac cultivators who are mostly Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor people, I suggest the hon. Minister for fixation of minimum support price and Lac Development Board should be constituted like Tea and Jute Development Boards. Plantation of host trees should be encouraged and it should be brought under the social forestry scheme. The entire processing of lac from cultivation to export, should be brought under the cooperative sector.

My next point is regarding the public distribution system. Prime Minister had admitted that the present system of public distribution is urban oriented and most of the people from the rural do not get benefit from it. So, the Government has advised the State Governments and UT administrations for opening fair price shops. At present, 50 per cent of the foodgrains are under the

public distribution system and are consumed only by five States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Kerala and Delhi. 20 per cent of the foodgrains are consumed by major States like UP, Bihar, Rajasthan and Orissa whereas 50 per cent of the people live below the poverty line and one-third of them are in the rural areas. Now, a decision has been taken by the Government in the 13th Advisory Council meeting in August, 1991 and the Chief Ministers Conference in September 1991 that 1700 blocks would be identified in 27 States and UTs for opening 11,000 fair price shops by which 16.7 crores of people will be benefited. But till now, due to lack of effective innovative steps, nothing has been done. In West Bengal, there are 17,256 modified ration shops by which 536 lakhs of people are benefited. In urban areas, 2767 statutory total shops are there by which 105.74 lakh people are benefited. But the question now is that foodgrains availability has assumed a critical stage. Central Government is not sending foodgrains on time. The West Bengal Government gave several representations to the Central Government to bring 14 items of necessary consumption under the public distribution system. I request the Minister to do something about this.

A few days ago, a newspaper reported that 49 per cent impurities have been accepted by the Government. Minister should come forward about the actual state of affairs. Now I request the hon. Minister for the revival of the Food for Work Programme. This is a very popular programme. I also press upon the hon. Minister for enhancing the procurement system. At present the procurement rate is 10 to 12 per cent. It must be enhanced to 25 per cent. With the availability of about 170 and odd million tonnes of foodgrains, the public distribution system can be run smoothly.

Lastly, I would like to know the views of the hon. Minister of Agriculture on the Denkal Draft. I want to know his views because he says that he belongs to a farming community and is concerned about their welfare. Being a farmer, the hon. Minister of Agriculture

(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and must reject the Dunkel Draft. Most of the farmers have already rejected it. He should not allow Dunkel to penetrate into our agricultural sector. I say this because if the Dunkel proposal is accepted, there will be no possibility of the Government offering any price support to the farmers. While replying to the debate, I request him to come forward with a concrete proposal regarding his views about the Dunkel Draft. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon Minister, Shri Lenka will now intervene.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Madam Chairman, as many as 31 hon. Members have participated in the debate on the Demands for Grants of Agriculture. While discussing on these demands, almost all of them have given greater emphasis on education and research activities and their extension to the fields of agriculture.

At the outset, I must thank them for their valuable suggestions and innovative ideas for sustainable growth of agriculture in our country. The excellent contributions of our agricultural scientists have been recognised nationally and internationally also.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Still, you are not providing adequate funds for their work.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: For providing more funds for the research sector, I need your help also. I will come to it later.

Madam, the scientists have been working in contemporary areas and they have made impressive plans and projects. They have made outstanding research in the laboratories as also in the fields. Our Scientists have produced some of the finest modern technologies in the world which really need exposure and application in the fields for the rapid transformation of the lives of our rural masses.

Madam Chairman, I want to place be-

fore this august House some of the major achievements of the ICAR in the field of research and education.

A large number of improved crop varieties have been developed and appropriate technology has been developed for controlling biotic and abiotic stresses. We have achieved the foodgrains production of 176.23 million tonnes 74.6 million tonnes of rice and 54.5 million tonnes of wheat which is an all time record in production of foodgrains. The overall productivity of foodgrains increased by 38 Kg hectare. Oilseeds production has reached about 18.5 million tonnes which is 1.5 million tonnes higher than the previous year.

SHRI ANIL BASU: We all appreciate what the ICAR Scientists have done but you may also tell us out of the total fund allocated for the research work how much has been spent. Out of the Budgetary support of Rs. 190 crores only Rs. 15 crores have been spent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Minister complete his speech.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: As per Plant Genetic Research is concerned, India is considered as one of the eight important gene centres in the world. Germplasm collection, evaluation and conservation are the high priority areas of research.

Madam, I would like to mention some of the major achievements of ICAR. Twenty seven new crop varieties and hybrids - 18 in cereals, 2 in forage crops, 4 in pulses and 3 in cotton have been released. In addition 33 horticultural crop varieties have been developed to meet the objectives of the high crop productivity and sustainability in crop yields under different agroclimatic zones. New and more efficient cropping systems have also been developed so as to enable water economy up to 30 per cent without any loss of production on a sustained basis. Integrated Watershed Development approach has helped to substantially increase yields of food, fodder and fuel from drylands.

Success has been achieved in developing crossbreed animals, cattle strains for milk and sheep for wool and meat production. An elite herd of buffaloes established at the Central Institute for Research on Buffalo yielded 2,790 Kg. of milk per lactation of 305 days.

New technologies have helped to increase productivity of fish ponds from 50 kg hectares/year to a spectacular 1850 Kg./hectares/Year and reservoirs from 20 to a record 220 Kg/Hectares/Year on national basis. New technologies for long term storage of milk have helped to hasten establishment of fish gene banks. Stock assessment of multi-species resources have led to the location of new fishery potential in Exclusive Economic Zone.

The ICAR is an apex body responsible for promoting, conducting and coordinating agricultural research, education and primary extension education. Agricultural Research is undertaken by ICAR through 46 Central institutes, 9 Project Directorates, 20 National Research Centres established so far on fundamental and applied aspects of individual crops commodities or disciplines which have direct relevance to agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries and allied sectors.

The Council also operates 71 multi-location, multi-disciplinary, all-India coordinated research projects all over the country.

On important commodities and research areas, 27 State Agricultural Universities, ICAR institutes, selected public and private institutions are there. We have been able to create a very sound and best infrastructure of the ICAR throughout the country. It has become the biggest institution not only in the country but in the whole of Asia with more than 26 lakh scientific workers. It is the third largest in the country where scientific and technical manpower are there.

It has been estimated that Rs. 4,000 crore have been spent on development of science in this country since independence, uptill now. At present, there are more than

900 research and development institutions in the country, including, the bio-gas and science and technology institutions. So, this is about the research, infrastructures and achievements in the country.

Now I will come to education. As regards education, we have to go a long way. Most of the hon. Members, while discussing this subject, have suggested that each State should have one University.

This means that all the hon. Members realise the importance of agriculture in the country. They also realise the need to enhance the education system and also education regarding agriculture throughout the country for maximising production. Madam, I feel, if the agriculture education is not included in the curriculum or in the textbooks of schools and colleges in a smaller form, then it is very difficult to achieve the goal. I think, every individual should be trained and should be equipped with the knowledge of agriculture and they should also be equipped with modern technology. It should be done in order to see that in their day-to-day life in the practical field, they can engage themselves. For better agricultural production, it is necessary.

As far as Universities in the States are concerned, in the Eighth Five Year Plan, we are going to do it. A proposal is under consideration for establishment of a Central University in the North-Eastern State. Almost, all the Members are aware that North-Eastern States have no Agricultural University. Most of the North-Eastern States are backward so far as agricultural education is concerned. They are also backward in regard to research and also in regard to the extension.

So, it has been decided to have a Central Agricultural University at Imphal. It will have seven colleges. These seven colleges will be located at Manipur, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh and so on. It will go a long way in educating the youths and also developing the agricultural sector in the North-Eastern States.

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SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): There was a proposal to set up an Agricultural University in Karimganj.

SHRI K.C.LENKA: I will examine that point.

112 acres of land has already been allotted for this University. This is about educational target that we have to keep in mind to work in this direction. I have to inform the House about the infrastructure of the educational system in the country. The educational programmes are by and large being conducted through 27 Agricultural Universities located in various parts of the States.

The four ICAR's institutes are as follows:-

(1) Indian Veterinary Research Institute;

(2) Indian Agricultural Research Institute;

(3) National Dairy Research Institute; and

(4) Central Institute of Fisheries

They perform educational functions by offering courses for Post-Graduate Degree Programmes in the capacity of well recognised "Deemed University" and award degrees. The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management Hyderabad, trains new Agricultural Research Service recruits in various aspects of Project Planning, Implementation Monitoring and Research Management.

The third aspect of the ICAR is agricultural extension. I had heard most of the Members while they were speaking on this subject; they laid emphasis mostly on extension matters. Our scientists have achieved a lot in the agriculture sector, but, uptill now, we have not been able to transfer this technology to the grass-root level. I can say that we have a very weak system, weak infra-

structure at present to take this technology to the farmers; unless this modern technology reaches at every doorstep of the farmers, we cannot maximise production. So, we have to give emphasis on that subject, this is research extension.

Most of the Members opine that why ICAR is not doing the extension work research rapidly at the grass-root level. I can say if ICAR is given this extension responsibility, the whole purpose of the ICAR will be diluted; ICAR is engaged in education and research; and ICAR also conducts first line demonstration of the modern technology not only to the farmers but it also gives training to the farmers but it also gives training to the Government officials, officials of the State Government and the farmers.

Regarding first line demonstration of modern technology which they have achieved, how it can be spread to the grass-root level? It is the responsibility of the State Government to extend their infrastructure of extension so that this modern technology can reach every doorstep of the farmer.

Of course, ICAR is having an agency for this extension in the country. 109 KVKS have already been established. These KVKS are functioning as light-houses of the modern technology and there is an interaction between the farmers and the scientists in the KVKS.

The land to lab programmes are being executed through the KVKS in 107 districts in the country. But we need more. Many hon. Members have demanded that the KVKS must be established in their constituencies. Hundreds and hundreds of memoranda have come from the hon. Members demanding this. That means the KVKS are discharging their functions well.

So far as the transfer of technology is concerned, the KVKS only can take this technology to the farmers at the grass-roots level. We have not been able to start even one KVK in each district. We have a proposal to start a minimum of one KVK in each district

[Sh. K.C. Lenka]

of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan. But that depends upon the availability of funds.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): What is the cost of establishing one KVK?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: In the first phase it will be Rs. 2 to 3 crores. Ultimately it will end up in about Rs. 15 crores of expenditure.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): In constructing a KVK, the main expenditure is on erecting the building. If you can do that, in the way the farmers themselves live and work, it will be good. You can build your KVKs in the fashion.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: You are a very learned person, I know. but the building of a KVK means first to erect a laboratory. because the KVKs do the research in agroclimatic zones where much of the crops suitable to the area grown. So, the first we require the laboratory, then equipment. Then this research will go to the farmers. Of course, most of the technologies are being transferred direct to the farmers. The KVKs are required largely for the construction of building and equipment. For the KVK is the answer.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is so only if it is complete.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I want to inform the House about the achievements so far made by the ICAR so far as extension is concerned.

About 400 demonstrations covering most of the agroclimatic zones showed the increased yield of rice, wheat, pulses and oilseeds two or three times the yield of neighbouring farmers. Under the lab to Land Programme, 20,000 adopted farm families, especially in areas of rainfed farming, obtained the increased productivity of 40 per cent. Krishi Vigyan Kendras organised 9516

training courses, benefiting 2,07,446 trainees. As many as 1445 trainers were also trained. Over 26,500 Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe farm families have been benefited and thereby their annual income has been raised from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 3000 through projects designed for their socio-economic upliftment.

Besides this, there are other programmes also that have been taken up. It will take time if I give the details of these programmes in the House.

So far as agricultural engineering is concerned, most of the hon. Members also opined that most of the land holdings in the country are not suitable for the use of modern agricultural implements.

A number of hon. Members have discussed about land reforms. After the implementation of the land reforms in the country most of the land holdings are still subjected to further fragmentation day by day.

AN HON MEMBER: How much land have you got?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I have got only four acres of land. I am a small agricultural labourer. I am a small farmer having four acres of land.

SHRI E. AHMED (Maujen) : Compared to your Cabinet Minister you are a small farmer.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I am telling my experience in the field because, I worked in the field...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request the hon. Minister to address the Chair.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, I was telling about land reforms...(Interruptions)

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: The Minister has not anything about employment generation...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I request the Hon.

Member to have some patience. I will come to that point later.

Madam, I was talking about lagricultural implements. After the land reforms, lands are being fragmented day by day. The small and marginal farmers constitute about 80 per cent of the farmers in the country. And 15 per cent of the farmers are the big farmers. These big farmers occupy 75 per cent of the land. Shrimati Indira Gandhi stressed this in 1974. She had not kept in her mind the maximising of our production and she said that we should give land to the tillers.

so far as Orissa is concerned, we have done it. And we have given ten acres of land to every farmer in Orissa. In Orissa you can recognise not even a single farmer as a big farmer. In India, Orissa distributed maximum percentage of the surplus land to the landless labourers (*Interruptions*)

SHRI E. AHMED: I do not think that Orissa has done better when compared to kerala..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That might be. At that time, as the Planning Minister and afterwards as the Revenue Minister, in the State of Orissa I myself had executed these plans...(*Interruptions*) I have done it in my state. I am satisfied. So far as equipment is concerned, we have to change our attitude. The big tractors would not be suitable to our small farmers. Still the farmers are using the traditional equipment for farming. Our scientists are now engaged in discovering the best indigenous technology and equipment based on traditional methods which would be suitable to small lands. This is the thrust area which we have identified in the Eighth Five Year Plan. We are encouraging the entrepreneurs to manufacture equipment which can be placed in the suitable and specific areas under the agroclimatic zones of the country. There are six agroclimatic zones in the country. So, we want different kinds of equipment for small and marginal farmers. The number of tractors which has been utilised by the farmers will not give the

idea about agriculture in the country. A very few big farmers are having tractors. Now, we have to think about the conditions of the small and marginal farmers.

Really the landless agricultural labourers are the real farmers. They work in the field. They know what to do and what is required for the development of agriculture. The landless agricultural labourers are the real farmers of the country because 80 per cent of the rural force is engaged in agriculture...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANIL BASU: They do not have the land...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That is the point. The States should give priority in distributing the surplus land to the landless labourers so that they can show the result. As the State of Orissa had implemented land reforms properly, the production has gone up twice there. It is the opinion of the agricultural experts...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): We do not want to ask questions connected with it. The subject has been included in the ninth schedule but the land tribunals have not been constituted till date. Though the hon. Minister is dealing with ICAR but even then he is not prepared to come out with a reply. Why? Land tribunal could not be Constituted even though the subject has been put in the ninth schedule. The Government is prepared to distribute surplus land as has been states in the House.

[*English*]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: You know everything because you were incharge of this and you know the details as to how to run an agricultural department. Sardar Vallab Bhai Patel told that there is no culture than Agriculture. We have nothing to tell about irrigations, we have nothing to tell about pesticides, we have nothing to tell about fertilisers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him again and again.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Sir, we also appreciate the difficulties the hon. Minister is facing in developing agriculture in the country. That's why we are in favour of a son of a farmer becoming the Hon. Prime Minister of the country so that all the problems confronting the farming community could be solved. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: The present Prime Minister is the son of a Kisan. During his leadership, he wanted to develop agriculture. He was the first Chief Minister in the country who implemented Land Reforms Act in Andhra Pradesh. So, our country is now fortunate to have a Prime Minister who is the son of a farmer. So, what do you want? You should be satisfied now and help this programme. Fortunately, the minister of Agriculture is a learned and experience farmer in this country.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): There is a difference between a farmer and a landlord. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Field): The definition of a farmer is the one who ploughs the field himself and owns less than 30 acres of land. Such a farmer cannot be called a landlord. That is why the definition needs to be changed. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: To me in the country, there is no landlord. When the Land Reforms Act has been implemented, there should be no landlords. So, everybody should

be farmer. There may be some land owners. (Interruptions). There is no landlord. We have taken land from them. (Interruptions). I am a small and marginal farmer. My senior colleague Shri Balram Jakhar is an experienced farmer and the Prime Minister of the country is the son of a farmer. So, what do you want now?

I am coming to the Animal Husbandry sector.

Hon. Members are aware that the Diary Development.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are too many interruptions. Please allow the Minister to reply.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: In the field of agriculture, we achieved a lot. If I mention and read, it will take half an hour. What are the results have we shown so far as the modern agricultural equipments are concerned? I only mentioned about our objectives. These modern technologies so far invented are not suitable to the small and marginal farmers of the country. So, we have identified these areas where we have to give priority in the Eighth Five Year Plan to invent such equipments which will be indigenous, based on traditional methods and will be suitable to the small and marginal farmers of the States.

15.00 hrs.

That is what I have said. But of number of things have been invented, number of equipment have come out. So, it will take time.

Now I am coming to animal husbandry and diary sector. Hon. Members are aware that this animal husbandry and live stock sector in an excellent tool for generation of employment in rural areas. Most of those who are engaged in the agricultural field, are agricultural labourers and they will be benefited if diary development projects can be taken up well in the rural areas.

After the Operation Flood, we have seen that in hilly and backward areas, we have not developed well, so far as the dairy development and animal husbandry sectors are concerned. In most of the North-Eastern States also, we have not achieved a lot. So, this has been visualised by the Government. NDDB is functioning only in ten per cent areas of the country, where there is infrastructure, where milk is available, NDDB, according to its principle, are implementing their schemes in those areas. The backward areas, the hilly areas and most of the North-Eastern States are deprived of getting any facilities from NDDB. That is why regional imbalance is now found so far as the dairy development and livestock sector in the country is concerned. This has been visualised by the Government. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government has decided to launch an Integrated Dairy Development Programme throughout the country in non Operation Flood areas, in hilly areas, in North-Eastern States and in backward areas. This will function as a Central scheme and will be implemented through State Governments, and all help will be given to the State Governments in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur): They have not yet implemented Dairy Development project there. Shrikurien is sitting here, he knows that NDDB undertakes activities only in those areas where infrastructure is existing. Why hilly areas and backward areas are being neglected? They provide funds to the areas where milk is already available, this is not dairy development. Funds are given to Gujarat, and other States, why not to hilly areas? What has Government thought in this regard? Funds to the tune of crores of rupees are allocated for the purpose but the entire amount is spent on oil projects. Does the Government propose to take any action in this regard?

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, I have said that the projects will be implemented by the

State Governments. If the State Governments do not send their proposals, what will the Central Government do?

This aspect of the NDDB has been discussed number of times by the Government. NDDB follows its principles. Their principle is to start their activities in places where there is infrastructure existing because they are running their business on commercial basis. That is why they have selected areas in the country where already there is infrastructure, where already milk is available. That is why I have said that in order to avoid this, the Government, during the Eighth Five Year Plan, are proposing this Integrated Dairy Development Scheme which will cater to the areas which are not included in the operation Flood. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: This is a Central Scheme. There are other schemes also. But this scheme will be a Centrally sponsored scheme and the State Governments have to implement it. Our Schemes will be provided to the State Governments and it depends upon them how to implement them in their areas.

As regards poultry development in the country, this is a sector where we can employ Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and poor sections of people in the society. But for the information of the House, I may tell that we have the lowest per capita annual consumption of eggs in the world. Our per capita consumption is only twenty two eggs per year. It has been estimated that if we can give priority to this sector... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GOVIND CHANDRAMUNDA (Keonjhar): Kindly give the information in regard to podu cultivation.

[English]

SHRI K.C. LENKA: That the Cabinet

Minister will be replying. He will take up this podu cultivation by Adivasis.

It has been estimated that if you increase the per capita consumption by just one egg, 25,000 jobs will be generated in the country. So, kindly imagine that this dairy sector, this fishery sector, this animal husbandry sector can provide ample opportunity to the rural masses and can solve the unemployment problem of the rural masses.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why are you speaking like this? You are speaking like an ordinary Member. You are a Minister. You should not say that this should be done, that should be done, you must tell us what is being done.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Please listen to me. We are now proposing to establish a National Poultry Development Board in the country which will look after the development of the poultry industry in the country. I can tell the hon. Member that I am asking the West Bengal Government to please give the Poultry industry the status of agriculture, but your Minister has not replied to me up-till now. In order to develop poultry industry.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandal): Sir, I will like to have one clarification. On various Boards- Silk Board, Coffee Board, etc. Members of parliament are there as members, but on the National Dairy Development Board, there are no Members of parliament. I would like to know whether the Government is going to consider this aspect because it has to be controlled properly. So, are you going to nominate Members of parliament on that Board?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Sir, the hon. Member have given a very valuable suggestion. I have gone through the Act of NDDB. The Government will consider this proposal also.

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: The Act has to be amended because there are lot of complaints about that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, may I ask you how much longer are you going to speak?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I am just concluding.

At the end, while concluding, I want to inform the hon. Members here that the working Group on Agricultural Research and Education has clearly stated that there is no future for Indian agriculture unless it becomes knowledge intensive and is oriented towards the generation of more income and skilled jobs for the rural masses. Our rural population is predominantly young.

It would be difficult to attract or retain the young in agriculture unless agriculture becomes intellectually stimulating and economically rewarding. Based on the Working Group's Paper, the following priorities and thrust areas in respect of agricultural research, education and extension have been identified for the Eighth Plan:

1. To prepare Inventory of Natural Resource
2. Conservation of planned exploitation of germplasm
3. Enhancing productivity through evolution of new high yielding hybrids
4. Development and refinement of Dry Farming
5. Improving integrated Nutrient Management Systems
6. Diversification of Agriculture
7. Research on Export Oriented Commodities
8. Energy Management in Agriculture
9. Post-harvest Technology of Hort. Crops, oilseed and pulses, livestock products

10. Fostering excellence in Research and Education

11. Transfer of Technology and Informatics

12. Human Resource Development.

I may submit that we have given priority for all these things during the Eighth Plan.

Madam, several hon. Members have given cut motions. Shri Zainal Abedin, Shri J.N. Das and others have given cut motions.

[Translation]

Why did you give cut motion in support of your demand to set up krishi vigyan Kendra? Now you withdraw your cut motion.

[English]

We have already established a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the Jalpaipuri district of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Setting up of one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in West Bengal will not solve the problem of West Bengal.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Not now. They can be raised later.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Just one question. Nearly Rs. 800 crores worth of betel leaves are produced in the country. There are mainly two demands from the producers of these levels. One is regarding the preservation of the leaves for longer period and the second is about the production of medicinal oil from these leaves. Research and development is needed in these two issues. The earlier Minister has also promised in this regard. I want to know

what are you going to do in these two aspects? (Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Madam, the hon. Member is aware of the situation that most of the small farmers living in Orissa and West Bengal earn their livelihood from the cultivation of these betel leaves. We are doing our best to help them. We have not failed in this regard. The Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidhalaya Kalyani has started its centres there. They are doing their research.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Madam, two specific issues—preservation of the leaves and production of medicinal-oil have been raised. The hon. Minister may kindly answer on those points.

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I wish to submit that research work is going on in these aspects. In addition, the Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidyalaya at Kalyani has started a branch there. They are doing research work on these lines. More than Rs. 6-7 lakhs of rupees have been given to them.

Shri Hardhan Roy, Basu Deb Acharia, Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya, Ajoy Mukhopadhyay, Sudhir Giri and others have given cut motions. I would like to inform them and the House that an All India Coordinator Research Project on Betelvine is in operation since Seventh Five Year Plan. This project has ten centres. Bidhan Chandra Krishivishwa Vidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal is one of the ten centres of the project. Research work on various aspects of Betelvine is already in progress in this centre.

Earlier, in the same State of West Bengal, roving survey was conducted twice in a year once during pre-monsoon and another during post-monsoon. Technique for raising healthy crop, dosage of fertilisers, cultural practices have been investigated. Therefore, there is no failure on the part of the Government to strengthen researches on Betelvine. And also things like new medi-

[Sh. K.C. Lenka]

cines are included. So, Rs. 6.8 lakhs have been allotted for this centre.

So, I request all the hon. Members to withdraw their cut motions.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): When was this money given?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Already given.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: When?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: We have already given. Whether it is the Seventh Plan allocation or Eighth Plan allocation, I do not know.

Like this most of the Members have given cut motions opining that more money should be given for the extension of KVKs. Of course, with this constraint of resources we are trying to do it is during the Eighth Five Year Plan, and most of the Members also wanted the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Most of the areas have been given Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Now, 74 new KVKs are on the verge of implementation. Over and above that, we will give more.

Madam, with these words I request the hon. Members, those who have given cut motions, to withdraw their cut motions. With these words, I conclude. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Chandresh Patel. May I request the Members to economise on time because two other Ministers are to intervene.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is just my request to everybody.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Madam, Chairman, every Government whether it is Congress Government, Janata Dal Government or any other Gov-

ernment promises to look after the interests of the farmers. Why the same thing has to be promised time and again? It means that none of the Governments have ever taken care of the interests of the farmers. That is why the same thing has to be repeated even after 43-44 years of independence. On one side the Government promises to safeguard the interests of the farmers while on the other with draws the subsidy on fertilizers. The prices of pesticides, tractors and other machineries have increased. But if the prices of wheat, rice or edible oils are increased, people come out on the streets to launch agitations and politicians also involve themselves with such agitations. Agriculture suffer heavy losses some times due to excessive rain and some time due to drought or scarcity. Kutchh, Saurashtra, Rajasthan etc. are drought prone areas. The farmers of these regions look towards you not for small subsidy but for irrigation facilities. Mere availability of fertilizers won't be of any use there. They rather demand irrigation facilities and work. The Government provided 2 or 3 kg. fertilizers, 500 Mg. seeds and also pesticides to farmers, agree that these facilities do count but these do not provide water to the farmer to irrigate his land or to give him employment. Farmers toils hard throughout the day and night whereas the Government employees work from 11 A.M. to 6 P. M., we also sit upto 6 P. M. but whenever we have to sit late, say upto 7 or 8 P. M. we feel quite uneasy and worried to call at our residence to inform that we will be coming late. But the farmers work from morning till night and if he dies due to snake bite he does not get any compensation. People die due to consumption of illicit liquor. In Ahmedabad and Surat in Gujarat some persons died due to consumption of poisonous liquor and each of them was given Rs. 10-20 thousand as compensation. But what do the farmers get? They do not get even a single penny? The Government should make a provision that if a farmer dies while working in his field, he would be given Rs. 10,000 as compensation. It is correct that at present we have to pay one and a half per cent as premium for crop insurance and we have been paying it for one and a half year. We met the hon.

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Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of Agriculture, but they are all helpless because they find it difficult to give the money for the farmers. The hon. Minister of Agriculture claims that the Government is taking initiative for the development of the country. But I regret to say that the population of the country is increasing and the farmer is still backward. If the farmer is backward rural area remains backward then this will ultimately affect the country.

Madam Chairman, I would like to submit that if we do not have foreign exchange, we should export our products. Saurashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh produce about 6-7 lakh tonnes of garlic. One year garlic is sold at Rs. 15/- per bag and other year it is sold at Rs. 1500/- per bag. I do not think that there is any such commodity in the world which is sold at Rs. 15/- per 50 Kg. at one time and at Rs. 1500/- per 50 Kg. at the other. This garlic should be exported because it is in demand in the whole world while here in our country it is thrown away. Same is true in the case of onions. Therefore, my submission is that we should undertake to garlic export and onion, it would fetch us foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 1500/- crores. But nobody has paid any attention towards this. We suggested that NAFED should purchase at least 12,000 tonnes of garlic every year but nothing has been done in this regard even after the lapse of a period of two years.

Madam Chairman, we live in the coastal region I think that more than half of the country lives in the coastal regions. The land in the Saurashtra in Gujarat is salty, if the farmers get water from wells, it would further expand the saltiness of the land. No doubt, the area receives rain but the land is salty and salt industry has been set up there. Certain norms and conditions have been laid down but nobody follows them.

Salt is being produced in about 500-1500 areas of land. Though lease period of the land has expired yet salt is being produced there which is increasing saltness of the land. If the area under the sea land

increased even by one M.M. in a Year, there would have been not a single drop of water to drink.

Madam Chairman, the total production of groundnut in Saurashtra is 25 lakh metric tonnes. As the area is drought prone the seeds of groundnut get destroyed. This year our groundnut production has been 5-5.5 lakh metric tonnes. That is why we talk of importing the groundnut to meet the requirement of the whole country. It is in great demand and the Government has been liberal enough to allow the mixing of mustard oil and cotton oil into it. But when the trader indulges in adulteration, he is taken to task. My submission is that instead of providing financial assistance to the farmers irrigation facilities and employment should be provided to them Saurashtra is a drought prone area so majority of the farmers there have become poor and idle. They have to go to others for work due to scarcity of work. Therefore, small dams should be constructed and production should be increased so that farmers as well as labourers may get work.

In the end, I would like to say something in regard to crop insurance. Wherever the money related to crop insurance is payable to farmers, it should be paid at the earliest and agriculture should be given the status of industry.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV(Saharsa): Madam Chairman, I strongly oppose the Demands for Grants placed by the hon. Minister of Agriculture.

Madam, in the first instance, it is bad luck of agriculture that demands of all these departments viz agriculture, rural development, cooperative, animal husbandry and fishery have been clubbed together in one Ministry. We all know that the Government is not concerned for the 80 per cent of our population who live in villages. I am not talking of this Government only. All the Governments, whichever have so far come to power, had no concern for the rural people. As a result, the condition of the villages continued to be worse. Just now,

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

our hon. Minister was saying that there are a lot of difficulties due to which we are unable to do several things. I agree. But what is the lasting solution? Taxes are recovered from the villages. If they or the farmers stop paying taxes today, the economic condition of our country will become very critical. The farmer is paying tax even after going through all these hardships, but even then, he bears all burdens of the society.

Madam, just now, one of our hon. friends was saying that whether it is scorching heat or rain, the farmer works in his field day and night. No notice is taken if he dies of cold or hailstorm fall. But if a person dies in an accident in a city or is killed by a terrorist, the Government provides a compensation of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 lakhs. What is this? Do you want that the farmers should organise themselves? Shri Balram Jakhar is an experienced person. God knows what will happen to this country when the farmers organise themselves.

Madam, the farmer of this country is eager to form his organisation today so that he can raise his voice through it. We the members, Officers and the people living in air-conditioned palatial houses like the fragrance of rose and perfumes, but for the farmer, the best fragrance is the fragrance of soil, which comes out of the hot earth after a little rain. Have you ever given it a serious thought. I don't want to blame the experts. But whom should I blame for the absence of any provision in the Budget for the farmers, which will be presented by Shri Manmohan Singh and implemented by Shri Balram Jakhar.

That is why, I said that until a farmer's son is elected to the post of Prime Minister or President, no provision will be there for the farmers in the budget of this country. I have the experience of the last 50 years. The Britishers had come to exploit this country and their biggest victim was the rural public. We are independent today, but even then

there is no end to his exploitation.

I am not saying that there is no development in the field of agriculture, but there is only 25 per cent development. Only a 25 per cent allocation has been made in the Budget for the farmers and the rest 75 per cent allocation has been kept for others. This allocation should be increased.

We should not follow the examples of America, Japan and Russia in our country. There is no need to compete with them, because their circumstances are different. There is no need to cite their examples. There should be at least a 50 per cent allocation in the Budget for the farmers so that different surveys regarding farmers can be conducted and something can be done for their welfare. When a 50 per cent allocation will be made for the farmers, it will certainly strengthen them.

Wheat is produced on a large scale in the entire country, but the Government has only got Rabi Crops developed till now. I agree that the Government has contributed a lot in it, but nothing was done for Kharif Crops. The Government has given 10 per cent priority to those farmers who cultivate Rabi Crops. We would have to look to America and Russia, if wheat was not produced by our farmers in our villages today. The credit of improving the situation goes to the farmers. They were given some knowledge about how to cultivate scientifically and they made us self-reliant in foodgrains. Not only this, they improved the situation to such an extent that our country can export foodgrains now. When the situation has improved to such an extent, why there was import of wheat. It was done, because the Government does not want that the cost of foodgrain or wheat should increase, but the prices of other items should increase. This is an injustice and the farmers will not tolerate this double standard.

15.34 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to put an end to this double standard. The farmers of this country should be given the price of wheat at the same rate at which wheat is being imported. A bag of fertilizer costs Rs. 200. After producing wheat in one acre of land, only the cost of husk remains with the farmer. The Government can work it out with the help of its auditors and scientists. If a farmer produces wheat or paddy in one acre of land, only the cost of husk remains with him, as he has to pay back his loan or debts after selling the wheat and the paddy.

Therefore, I would request you to consider the entire situation seriously. You go through the books and say that a 33 per cent or 20 per cent allocation has been made in the Budget or there has been a deficit of 30 per cent. But percentage is meaningless for the farmers of this country. The Government should prepare a developed infrastructure for agriculture in the villages and should provide high quality seeds to the farmers. The State Governments are also at fault in providing seeds to the farmers. When the centre supplies seeds late by 5 days, the State Governments take 10 days more in supplying them to the farmers. In this way, the seeds reach the farmers late by 15 days. Then it is said that it is late variety. The seeds which should have reached him in April, reaches late. Due to this the crops become late and there is less yield. This results in a loss for the farmer. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the fertilizers and seeds, which will be given to the farmers, should be sent to the godowns of the State Governments in time.

I would like to tell the hon. Minister that large scale adulteration is going on in fertilizers. Maximum adulteration is done in the black type of fertilizer called D.A.P. and that adulterated fertilizer is supplied to the farmers. It is necessary to pay attention to it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, When we go to our constituencies, we find that there are no roads in the villages, leave alone roads, there is not even a single culvert so that the

farmer can move from one place to the other easily. He says that at least a culvert should be constructed for him. This is the situation, large figures are shown here regarding the construction of roads.

Similarly, there is the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, under which Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 6 lakhs are given to a block. But when near about one and half lakh or two lakh people live a block, how to distribute this merge amount. Although this scheme is good that funds will be provided to the Gram Panchayats and they will decide the construction of roads, but according to the funds provided by the Centre, only an amount of Rs. 50,000 reaches a Gram Panchayat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Surya Narayan Ji, please conclude. I am giving you time as agreed to by your party whip. That time cannot be increased. Nothing can be done in this regard.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: If the Panchayat builds a school, the cost is estimated at Rs. 3 lakhs and for one kilometre of 'Kuchcha' road, the cost is estimated at Rs. 1.5 lakhs. In this way, Rs. 50,000 is chicken feed. You make all claims in the House that you have brought about all round development in the villages, but nothing of that sort has taken place in the villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to make a submission regarding the houses provided in the Harijan colonies by the Government. It is indeed ridiculous. It is known to one and all whether he be an Engineer, an expert or any hon. Member that it is not possible to build a house with fourteen or fifteen thousands rupees. Nobody can build a house with this meagre amount. However, the Government has built such houses to which not a single Harijan has shifted. Such houses have been built both in Delhi and in the villages. They are of inferior quality. In the villages, the people themselves tell the Government officials to pocket the entire amount and give them a receipt in return. They say it very frankly. If at all, the Government is serious about provid-

[Sh. Suryanarayan Yadav]

ing them with homes, then let it be a unit with a room along with a kitchen, a toilet and a bathroom, which would cost about Rs. 60,000. The houses that the Government provided earlier, were washed away during the rains. No Harijan or Adivasi had shifted to those houses.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are continuously ringing the bell. You are also a farmer, who wishes to alleviate the problems of the farmers. I would like to make some suggestions. First of all, agriculture should be granted the status of an industry.

The price of produce should be determined on the basis of the expenditure incurred on it. Granting of industry status will immensely benefit agriculture. Today, the number of unemployed people runs into crores and not in lakhs and this factor is responsible to a great extent for the increase in the incidents of theft, dacoity, kidnappings etc. It is said that an empty mind is a devil's workshop and these incidents of crime are reflective this. If agriculture is given the status of an industry, the children of the farmers won't migrate to the cities in search of jobs. They will cultivate their one or two bighas in better way and won't run from pillar to post in search of employment and thus the problem of unemployment will die a natural death. Therefore, the Government should give a serious thought to it and study its implications. I can understand your compulsion and that is why I demanded that a farmer should be made the Prime Minister so that he can take his own decision.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, to speak now. Kindly restrict your speech to ten minutes.

PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will try to brief as far as possible.

I will confine my speech to certain salient features and this is more in the way of suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you please speak in the mike, so that the Reporters can hear you properly.

PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: This is more in the shape of certain suggestions to be taken by the Government, particularly at this juncture where we have got an apprehension that the country is self-sufficient or very comfortable in food production. And the country cannot be complacent over the present state of affairs.

I have got certain figures to show as what treatment has been given to agriculture. It is getting deteriorated from time to time and from plan to plan. Except in the First Five Year Plan where 34.5 per cent of the total Budget allocations were given to agriculture and its allied subjects like the irrigation, flood control etc. In the Second Plan it was reduced to 25.5 per cent; in the Third Plan, it was 21.7 per cent; in the Annual Plans between 1966-69, it was 22 per cent; in the Fourth Plan, it was 23.9 per cent; in the Fifth Plan, it was 21.9 per cent; in the Sixth Plan, it was 25.5 per cent; in the Seventh Plan, it was 21.8 per cent; in the Annual Plan for 1990-91, it was 20.3 per cent and in the present Annual Plan, it is around 20 per cent.

This is the treatment that is being given to agriculture and its allied sectors. And we have been harping upon that the agriculture production should be stepped up and also the teeming millions are to be fed with. We have just now heard the comments that have been made by our hon. Minister Shri Lenka, who has been paying very good sentiments against the scientists available in our country and also about their competency.

Being one of the agricultural scientists I have myself worked for about 27 years in the agriculture universities. I really take pride that we have got the very best and competent scientists in our country when compared to several other countries. The only thing

that is lacking here is that the scientists do not have any autonomous powers. I have been seeing in several universities and institutes that even to get a few rupees sanctioned they will have to approach and wait for months together thereby most of the projects get delayed and the expected technology is not being generated.

In previous year the present Government has taken certain measures on the economic front. It proved as indicated by the Kay Indicators of Growth Performance of 1991-92 that besides the GNP and GDP which have fallen down to 2.5 per cent in 1991-92 when compared to 6.1 per cent in 1989-90 and 5.8 per cent in 1990-91 for GNP and 6.0 per cent in 1989-90 and 5.6 per cent in 1990-91 for GNP the growth performance of agricultural products has also been reduced to zero. The foodgrain production shows a much more dismal figure. It has been reduced to -1.5 per cent. Even the industrial products stand at -0.8 per cent. This has resulted in heavy reduction of per capita foodgrains availability also in the country.

Right from the beginning I have been mentioning that we are not that comfortable in agricultural production. Even in the previous years of 1990-91 and 1991-92 the agricultural production has been much more dwindled. The latest production is hardly 170 million tonnes as against an estimated target of 182.5 million tonnes.

The per capita foodgrain availability is very much alarming. We have to look back right from 1951. In 1951 the per capita foodgrain availability in this country per day was 394.9 grams. In 1961 it had been increased to 468.7 grams per day. Right from 1961 to 1991 the per capita availability of foodgrain in this country has almost been stagnant. In 1970 it was 455 grams per day, in 1980 it was 410.4 grams per day, in 1990 it was 474 grams per day and in 1992 this has further been reduced to 465 grams per day per head. This is where we have been standing as far as the per capita availability of foodgrain is concerned. Whatever achieve-

ment is there, it is getting nullified in the teeming millions and in the population growth.

As and when there is an adverse climatic condition, we have been attributing the reduction in the foodgrain production to adverse climatic condition. I can accept that reduction will be due to adverse climatic conditions; but besides adverse climatic conditions the Government also has got certain impact in production of foodgrain. This country cannot afford to be complacent over the present position. The buffer stocks also are getting dwindled and are likely to reach alarming levels shortly. The food prices are sky-rocketing. This disappointing trend cannot always be attributed to adverse climatic conditions. The Government policies in successive years are also responsible.

This is mainly due to the decreased plan allocations to agricultural and allied subjects in successive Plan periods; non-formulation of National Agricultural Policy even after 45 years of independence; present defective fertiliser policy; increased power tariff in agriculture; non-availability of adequate quantities of foundation, hybrid and improved seed; defective implementation of fertiliser and pesticide control orders, lack of encouragement to agricultural scientists to generate more and more technology; inadequate and untimely supply of institutional credit, heavy transmission losses in transfer of technology from laboratory to land, non-availability of low cost agricultural tools, implements and machinery particularly which are suitable for small and marginal farms; non-remunerative agricultural prices and the dwindling cost benefit ratios in agriculture non-availability of suitable technology in dry land farming; defective comprehensive crop insurance scheme and its non-coverage of this to all the crops and non-sophistication of cyclone and weather forecast infrastructure.

These are some of the issues which can be engineered and mottored by the policies of the Government. The condition of the soil is not only that it is thirsty but it is also hungry.

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Even the fertiliser consumption is getting increased from time to time. With the recent fertiliser policy of this Government, the growth rate in fertiliser consumption has also tremendously decreased. I will just substantiate my statement. As far as the nutrient consumption in the country is concerned, the position is like this. In 1950-51, 0.69 lakh tonnes have been consumed. In 1960-61, 2.92 lakh tonnes have been consumed, thereby there was a growth rate of 32.3 per cent. In 1970-71, 21.77 lakh tonnes have been consumed and there was an increased growth rate of 64.5 per cent. In 1980-81, 55.16 lakh tonnes have been consumed and the growth rate was 15.4 per cent. In 1990-91, 125.76 lakh tonnes have been consumed and the growth rate was 12.8 per cent. As against this background, during the last year, with the fertiliser policy of hike in price by 30 per cent adopted, 135 lakh tonnes only has been consumed and the growth rate was hardly 7.3 per cent.

This is how the consumption of fertiliser has gone down very much particularly during the last year. Major set back its growth rate is there, only during 1991-92 owing to the Subsidy withdrawal policy that has been adopted with regard to fertiliser. I can understand that subsidies are bound to be cut down but should be in a gradual phase. As far as the subsidy is concerned, even the scientists advised differently. I will quote only one or two aspects of what a scientist says:

"Fertiliser subsidy is a common feature in most developing countries. It is justified on the ground that it makes fertiliser available to farmers at prices they can afford and thus seeks to ensure self-sufficiency in foodgrains production. The fertiliser subsidy is thus an unavoidable outcome of pursuing the basic goal of self-sufficiency in foodgrains production based on increase in fertiliser use supported in turn, by low price of fertilisers to

the farmer and increased availability from domestic production."

I will quote again what Mr. Gupta says:

"The adoption of this recommendation aims at preventing an increase in the quantum of subsidy without adversely affecting the healthy growth of the industry."

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): There is lack of quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is lack of quorum in the House. The bell is being rung.

Now quorum is there. Please wind up, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu.

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, the fertiliser is relatively cheaper in several other countries when compared to our country. This can be compared in terms of the foodgrains required to purchase one unit of nutrient, particularly nitrogen. In Philippines, the paddy that is required to purchase one kilogram of nitrogen is 2.25 kgs, in Pakistan, it is only 1.97 kgs; in Japan, 0.34 kg, but in India, it is 3.19 kgs. In Korea, it is 0.16 kgs and in France, it is only 1.82 kgs.

When compared to all these countries, the foodgrain requirement to purchase one unit of fertiliser nutrient 'N', in India is very costly. Even the fertiliser consumption per hectare in India is the lowest when compared to some of the Asian countries. The consumption of all the nutrients put together is Bangladesh 93.2 kg; India 64.1; Israel 181; Japan 367.1; Korea 397.4; Korean Republic 407.8; and Pakistan 71.7 kgs per hectare. So, India almost records lowest per hectare consumption as far as fertiliser consumption is concerned. It is proved

beyond doubt that the present fertiliser policy of the Government is proving futile. It is going to be counter-productive. Hence, I suggest that the total subsidy, which has been lifted earlier, should be restored. The farmers should be aided in the interest of the nation.

Though I have got several other issues to space I would like to say that the Fertiliser Control Order, 1957 and also the Insecticides Act of 1958 have almost become redundant and nowhere these are being implemented.

You have been receiving several figures saying that they collected so many samples and sent them for laboratory analysis. None of these figures are correct. So, this. Even in Andhra Pradesh itself, the circulation of spurious pesticides and fertilisers is no a very high scale that it is to be prevented.

Particularly about the agricultural prices, these prices are to be announced quite ahead of the season. You have to take into consideration the several aspects of cost components, the paid out cost and overhead cost. While considering the input cost, family labour should also be computed at the rate of actual wage or minimum wage, whichever is higher. The managerial cost should be taken at 15 per cent of the total cost. Risk and uncertainty element should also be taken at 5 per cent of the total cost.

With regard to the crop insurance, the Prime Minister had recently announced that a new comprehensive crop insurance scheme is going to be announced. So far, nothing has been done. While taking into consideration the crop insurance, even if the crop is harvested, as long as it is there in the field, the insurance should cover it. The village should be taken as a unit.

Finally, I would like to say that I oppose the demands for grants that have been presented and I thank the chair for the opportunity given.

16.00 hrs

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): Mr. Chairman, I listened with great attention the speeches of the hon. Members. I want to be as brief as possible. As you know, Sir, the primary responsibility for the Food Ministry is the management of the food economy and undoubtedly, it is a challenging responsibility for a country like India with a population of 844 millions and to ensure food supply from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and to far-flung areas like Leh, Nagaland and Mizoram. It has also to be appreciated that we procure only 15 to 20 per cent of the total production of the country. So, our effort is only supplementary and the central pool stocks depend on the cooperation of the State Governments also. As you know, our procurement is mainly confined to a few States like Punjab and Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and western UP. These are the main concentrating States where from we get the maximum procurement. I will try my level best to involve all the States to procure more and more. Otherwise, it would be difficult for us to sustain or to increase the allocation. In spite of the constraints, you will be happy to know that last year, we have made allocations were more by four million tonnes of foodgrains, about two million tonnes of rice and about two million tonnes of wheat. This is all in spite of the fact that last year procurement was three million tonnes less. Our responsibility is also to see to the interests of the farmers so that they get the support price and farmers are not forced to sell at distress price. Keeping in view this policy, we continue to procure whatever quantity the farmers offer us at the support price. In the meantime, as you know, we have increased the support price of paddy and very recently, we have increased to support price of wheat also from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250. I made an announcement yesterday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 or from Rs. 250 to Rs. 275?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Rs. 25 is the bonus. Support price is increased from Rs. 225 to Rs. 250 and we have declared a

bonus also. Whoever supplies to the central pool will get this bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal. Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices go into the costs and other details and on the basis of their recommendations, we fix the support price so that farmers are not compelled to sell at a distress price. This is not the market price also.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):
Support price itself is the distress price.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: How can I say it as a distress price? Farmers are volunteering. It is not a compulsory one. We buy whatever they offer us. It is not that we can compel the farmers to sell at the support price. If the market price is higher, they are free to go and sell at the market price. The responsibility of the Government is also to see that the consumers are getting it at a reasonable price. Though the economic cost is more, we supply it at a lower rate to the consumers. And the Prime Minister made it clear and reiterated that food subsidy will continue in spite of what others may say. On the other hand, Prime Minister has given more stress for providing subsidized food to the tribal and other areas including vulnerable sections of the people. My friend Shri Kamaluddin will deal with that subject.

One hon. Member has mentioned about the poor quality of the foodgrains distributed through the P.D.S. We do receive complaints occasionally but the complaints are really very few. We allot the foodgrains to the State Governments. The State Governments have every right to inspect the godowns and satisfy themselves about the quality of the foodgrains. If they are not satisfied they have every right to reject the foodgrains.

Now, I come to the aspect of import and export of foodgrains. As you know, Government has decided in the month of January to import foodgrains because at that time a situation arose when the stock position had

gone down. As on 1st January, the stock was 52 lakh tonnes while the buffer stock norm was 77 lakh tonnes. This was one of the reasons why we took the decision to import wheat. As far as export of wheat is concerned, on 17 August 1990, it was decided to export about 10 lakh tonnes of wheat, out of which two lakh tonnes were exported. On 11 April 1991, it was decided to allocate 10 lakh tonnes of wheat for export. In the month of June when we found that the procurement had gone down, we reduced it from 10 lakh tonnes to eight lakh tonnes in the month of September. In the meantime we increased the allocation to the P.D.S. by more than two million tonnes. Had we not increased the allocation to the P.D.S. by another two million tonnes, prices would have gone up by there would not have been any need to go in for import of wheat. This is the reason why we decided to import. As regards exports, we exported 6.77 lakh tonnes of wheat and earned about Rs. 179 crore worth of foreign exchange.

As far as import is concerned, we called for tenders and 25 parties have submitted the tenders. In view of the fact that the international price is higher and also in view of the fact that the new crop is coming to the market, we deferred the decision to import, though we have kept the option open. As a measure of food-security, whenever we feel the need for it, we will go in for import of wheat.

Shri Nitish Kumar has raised the matter of impurities in foodgrains. I may clarify that this is a wrong appreciation of the technical specifications... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Why is the procurement price increased all of a sudden by way of bonus? It should have been increased much earlier. The FCI's finding is that if you do not offer at least Rs. 280, you will not get the foodgrains. That is why you announced the bonus. When the procurement season has started, you fixed the price at Rs. 250. And now, only yesterday, you have decided to give another Rs. 25 as

bonus. What is the reason for this change in policy in the course of just 15 days? You should not go on changing it like that.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Are you or your party not willing to give another Rs. 25 to the farmers? Are you opposed to this increase?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We are not opposing it. There should be consistently one policy and it should be realistic.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister is replying. Please do not interrupt.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: It is only to deprive the small farmers of this benefit of Rs. 25.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: That is not correct. Only small farmers sell between April and May and this incentive is meant for them only. The big farmers hoard the grain and sell much later.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Why was it not done earlier? He should give a clear answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has already said that he has examined the situation and he thought it fit to announce Rs. 25 more as a bonus.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Is that an answer Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Can you not change the policy according to the situation? There is no ground in your argument. Please sit down.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I am saying, that was known. The so called situation was known before, that is what I am saying. While speaking on the Budget I myself said...

SHRI R.L. BHATIA: Punjab has agreed to give one million tonnes of Wheat.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: That is why we are giving bonus.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Rs. 20 is no bonus.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: But they are opposing that also.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: They will not be able to procure that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I do not think it would be quite correct to say that they are opposing it. His point is that it should be announced earlier rather than announcing it here now. I think we should welcome it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: About the impurities, I would like to say that they are within the limits of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and they are comparable with other countries also. These are all not impurities, these are wrong appreciation of the technicalities. Otherwise, if anybody violates the provisions of Food Adulteration Act...

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Has the Government got examined the reports appearing in the newspapers about 49 per cent impurities? Then there are many other factors involved in it like foreign elements, colour, moisture content etc. Have you got these examined... (Interruptions)....

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes, I have examined it. These are all impurities and they are found in conformity with the standard of the provisions of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): What is the permissible....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt him. This is becoming too frequent. Shri Amal Datta is a senior Member, that is why I allowed him. Kindly do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request you to kindly not to interrupt and secondly, kindly address the House through the Chair. Do

not start to cross talk between two Members. Address the House through the Chair and kindly do not interrupt. Shri Amal Datta is a senior Member of the House that is why I allowed him. Otherwise, there are a number of other Members who want to speak. They will be denied of the opportunity of speaking if too much time is taken up in interruptions of this nature.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Through you I would like to know what is the permissible limit of foreign materials....

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no provision to ask like this unless there is a point of order. The Minister has to complete his intervention.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: About the storage capacity, the FCI has got 20.33 lakh tonne...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, interruptions will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is indeed a very bad news, as mentioned by the hon. Minister and as reported in the newspapers that 49% impurities have been made permissible. We raised this issue here because the hon. Minister's statement that 49% is the permissible limit, has perturbed us, it is our subsection that there should be proper clarification. Today the hon. Minister is going to reply, but you know that Ministerial replies are not given proper coverage by the newspapers. So the proper clarification that the Minister gives should be given wide publicity through advertisements. *(Interruptions)*...

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I will supply you a copy of the order also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you covering that impurity point also?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I have already covered the question of impurity. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: These are all permissible limits under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, I think the point that has been raised appears to be very valid that if 49 per cent is permissible limit, it does appear to be a bit on the higher side.

(Interruptions)

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: It is not 49 per cent, it is 18 per cent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If what they are pointing out is a fact, then what is your reaction?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNANDAM LAL BHATIA (Amritsar): Sir, it is a confusion. It is no impurity, it is a mixture. A mixture of barley, grain and moisture also.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Take for example moisture to the tune of 18 per cent, it is not impurity. Similarly, take the example of 10 per cent barley and other grains. These are not impurities. According to the paper, these are impurities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: My way of thinking is this. I think, in a way, if there is 50 per cent

of barley, then also, it does not appear to be an impurity.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes, Sir, it is not an impurity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If it is not an impurity, then will you call it as an adulteration?

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: Barley is also a food item. Wheat is also a food item. Then, how can you say that it is impurity? I am surprised to hear this. Sir, what kind of discussion is going on in this House?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: If such is the case, even then, it is not an impurity. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would request the Government that if this is the fact, the matter may be examined and suitable reply be given.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No more interruptions.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Now, I will come to storage. The Working Group has gone into it and according to them, it will be sufficient if storage capacity worth 23 million tonnes is there by the end of 1994-95.

In the meantime, we have got more than 23 million tonnes. F.C.I. has got 20.53 million tonnes. CWC has got 7.76 million tonnes. SWC, has got 9.59 million tonnes. But, it is a fact that in the rural areas there are shortage of storage capacities. Besides that FCI, CWC and SWC have also got their own storage capacities. Particularly in the rural areas - taluks and blocks - the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and the Ministry of Rural Development have their schemes.

Now, I will come to sugar. We are all interested to know about sugar. The country is still very fortunate enough to rank top in production of sugar in the world. Last year, we had produced about 120.40 lakh tonnes

of sugar. We have now got an installed capacity of about 1 lakh tonne though the licensed capacity is 170 lakh tonnes. We have got about 405 sugar factories although the licensed factories are 507 lakh tonnes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are the top producers in the world.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Yes. We are number one now. We have already allocated last year 5.61 lakh tonnes of sugar for export. Already, we have exported about 4.83 lakh tonnes. We have earned foreign exchange worth about Rs. 338 crore. This year also, I have already allocated 2.5 lakh tonnes of sugar for export. The international market price of sugar is still higher. We have to improve our quality and see that the cost of production is a competitive one. If it is done, we can go in a big way for exports. There is a great possibility for expansion of sugar industries in the country. Still, there are about 689 applications for licence are pending. We have already reviewed the whole licensing policy. Now, the guidelines have been announced. It was announced in the month of November. But, in the meantime, we had given importance to expansion of sugar mills which have below economic capacity, that is 2500 TCD.

As regards sugarcane price, I would say that we have already increased it from Rs. 23/- to Rs. 26/-. We have already increased this statutory minimum price. As a result of the increase in the statutory minimum price, we had to increase the ex-factory price. Due to this, we have to raise the issue price of sugar also.

Shri A R Tople yesterday raised a point about incentive also about 27 new mills I think. In the meantime, the cost of installation of the sugar factories has gone up; it was earlier about Rs. 20 crores; now it has gone upto Rs. 34-35 crores. The hon. Members have met me as well as the Prime Minister. They have submitted their representations for incentive also. We have gone through them. It has to be approved by the Finance Ministry then it has to go to the Planning

[Sh. Tarun Gogoi]

Minister; then again it has to go to the Cabinet. So, it is in a final stage. I hope we will be able to come to a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: The State of Maharashtra produces 40% more than the average sugar production in the rest of the country. They are many co-operative mills in the state. Although, last year 27 licences were granted and orders to the effect issued, but a policy is yet to be formulated. Delegations have met the hon. Minister and the Prime Minister in this regard. Why does not the Government take a decision? Farmers possessing one or two acres of land are members of the co-operative sector. Why is it being delayed?

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have gone into it. We came to power after that. Then we reviewed the whole thing only in the month of November. There was a proposal. It has to go to the Finance Minister - it is a long process; then it has to go to the Planning Minister; then it will go to the Cabinet. That incentive is not only for cooperatives but also for others. In fact, we had already an incentive scheme in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Now, we are going to the Eighth Five Year Plan. In the meantime, we want to consider their case also; otherwise, normally, you are not entitled for it. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Thousands of small farmers are there in the co-operative section.

[English]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have now revised it. That was in Seventh Five Year Plan. That is why, we want to cover it. Normally, the incentive plan is for every five year. You know better than I.

About SDF, we have also reviewed the whole thing. In the meantime, we have sanctioned about Rs. 676 crores; out of that, Rs. 394 crores have already been disbursed as loans. So, this is the fund for modernisation, rehabilitation and for sugarcane development.

I think I have covered almost all the points. Some hon. Members have asked for sugarcane factories in UP; some hon. Members have asked for these factories in other areas; some hon. Members have asked for sugarcane technology. I will look into them.

I will reply to all the hon. Members in respect of the points raised by them during the debate. I earnestly request them to withdraw their cut motions and extend support to the Demands for Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would the hon. Minister Shri Uttambhai H Patel like to intervene?

SHRI E. AHAMED: As per the rule, the Speaker has to decide the time for all the parties in the House for a discussion on the Demands for Grants for all the Ministries.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Speaker does not decide. It is decided in the Business Advisory Committee meeting.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Now for these four Ministries, we have already spent more than 11 hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order involved in that.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to say that all the big parties have been given time. Only one member of a small party, Shri Bir Singh Mahato has been given 15 minutes out of these eleven hours of debate. No other Member from the smaller parties has been given time.

(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The discussion went on for eleven to twelve hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will be recorded. Kindly sit down.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly take up the matter with the Hon. Speaker in his Chamber. Nothing will be recorded.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Uttambhai H. Patel.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all the hon. Members of the House, who expressed their valuable thoughts regarding the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Rural Development. They have given very important suggestions. They also referred to the drawbacks in the implementation of various programmes of my ministry. In my reply I would like to respond to some of these issues. My friend and colleague Shri Venkat Swamy has also responded to some of the issues. I would like to assure the hon. members that necessary action would be taken immediately on all the suggestions given by the hon. Members.

Under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao, the Government has taken many important steps in the field of rural development in the past nine months. The Government is committed to removing poverty and accelerating rural development. Our policies include the planning and implementation of programmes at the local level, the

involvement of voluntary agencies in development work and stress on providing maximum benefits to the poorest of the poor. It is my firm belief that if the state Chief Ministers follow the path shown by the Prime Minister and answer the important task of rural development themselves, then the rural development programmes would certainly get a boost.

The Rural Development Policy of our Ministry has three major components - Poverty alleviation and provision of maximum employment opportunities, provision of minimum needs including potable water facilities and motorable roads and land reforms and programmes related to rectification of land records. Apart from this, we also have special area programmes for drought affected areas and desert areas which are facing extreme resource shortage.

The Integrated Rural Development Programme (I.R.D.P.) is such a scheme which has direct link with the people living below the poverty line. This programme envisages the policy of providing income generating assets by way of providing grants from the Government or providing loans from financial institutions to selected families below the poverty line. Under this programme the families having an annual income upto Rs. 4800 during the Seventh Five Year Plan and during 1990-91 and 1991-92 were considered as the targetted group. The objective of this programme was to ensure that the families provided with income generating assets would get opportunities of self employment which will boost the income of these families and help them cross the poverty line.

Now, a decision has been taken to redefine poverty line by adjusting it at the price level of 1991-92. In the eighth Five Year Plan the poverty line in the rural sector would be fixed at an annual income level of Rs. 11000 for a family. The targetted group would be the families having an annual income upto Rs. 8500. The experience gained

*Not recorded.

[Sh. Uttambhai H. Patel]

during the implementation of poverty alleviation programmes have brought to light the fact that in the case of these programmes the selection of the targetted group is required to be made very carefully and properly. The State Governments have been asked to select the families living below the new poverty line properly and to circulate the list approved by *Gram Sabha*.

In 1991 a provision was made according to which at least 40 per cent of beneficiaries should be 40 per cent women. Earlier, the percentage of beneficiaries was 30 in the case of women. The previous target earmarked for the coverage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was 40 per cent. The said percentage has now been increased to fifty from 1990-91. At present, both the Scheduled castes and Scheduled tribes get a subsidy equal to 50 per cent of the loans amount subject to the maximum ceiling of Rs. 5000.

Under this programme 182 lakh families have been provided subsidy to the tune of Rs. 2708.03 crores and Rs. 5372.53 crores as bank loan during the seventh five year plan. In 1990-91, as compared to the target set to benefit 24 lakh families, as a matter of 29 lakh families were actually benefited who were provided subsidy to the tune of Rs. 668.16 crores and bank loans worth Rs. 1190.02 crores. During the year 1991-92, till February 1992, twenty lakh people were extended assistance out of the targetted figures of 22.51 lakh families. Set for the year 1991-92. Under the programme subsidy to the tune of Rs. 508 crores and bank loans to the tune of Rs. 905 crores were made available. From the beginning of this programme till 31st March, 1991, out of the 38 million beneficiary families, 16.1 million families belonged to Scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

At present this programme is being evaluated through a large number of non Governmental organisations. It has been found that 28 per cent of the beneficiaries have

risen above the poverty line. Even now 33.4 per cent of rural population is still living below the poverty line. Keeping this in view we will continue to give importance to our objective of extending assistance to the poorest of the poor under this programme.

The second aspect of this question pertains to the quantum of loan and subsidy that is to be provided. The subsidy amount of Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000 and Rs. 5000 was fixed about ten years back. Keeping in view the limitation of budget, our Government will consider the question of raising this amount.

To eliminate the role of middlemen the Government have issued orders to abolish assests purchase system under Integrated Rural Development programme in 50 per cent blocks of the country through purchase committees. Favourable reports have been received regarding the new system. We will consider to implement it in all the blocks of the country after reviewing it in consultation with the Reserve Bank.

We have already introduced Group Insurance Scheme for all the beneficiaries selected after 1.4.1988 under the Integrated Rural Development programme. After the death of the beneficiary his successor will be entitled to get an insurance amount of Rs. 3000. Similarly, the cattle purchased under this programme will also be insured.

The State Governments have been asked to take stringent steps under this programme to curb corruption wherever it comes to light. District officers have been made especially responsible for it.

Under TRYSEM, which was started in 1979, the existing talents among the rural youths belonging to the age groups of 18 to 35 years have to be developed and in addition to this there exists the provision to teach them new techniques and to increase their managerial efficiency so that they might be prepared for self employment and employment as workers. Under this programme in 1992-93 three lakh people will be trained.

A special programme for women and child development was started in 1982 in rural areas. The aim of this programme was to give maximum opportunities to women for self employment and enhance their reach to social services. Initially the programme which was implemented in 50 districts of the country has been extended to 241 districts. Every year this programme is being extended in 50 additional districts and it is estimated that all the districts of the country will be covered under this programme during the eighth five year plan. Under this programme poor women in rural areas are organised and market support income generating activities relating to them are provided. For this purpose, a sum of Rs. 15,000 is given as recurring fund. Till date 45,212 women groups have been formed in the country and the number of beneficiaries under this programme is 7,56,171.

The issue of providing water to all the 5.83 lakh villages is a subject matter of top priority for our Government. The hon. Members are well aware of this fact that the primary reason behind the high rate of infant mortality is the use of contaminated water for drinking purposes, for household chores and for other purposes. The National Drinking Water mission was established in 1986 to accelerate water supply with the help of improved and low cost technologies. Out of the 1,61,722 identified problem villages, 1,57,376 problem villages could be provided with safe drinking water facility. There are still 4,346 villages which do not have even a single clean drinking water source within their reach. Out of these maximum number of villages will be provided drinking water by 1992-93.

Keeping in view the fact that still there are around one lakh villages or settlements which have been partially covered by the facility of clean drinking water supply, as also the need of the hour to cover these villages entirely, the State Governments have been asked to conduct country wide survey to make a proper assessment. This survey would be completed by July 1992. On the basis of the results of its report the Rajiv

Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission will prepare a time bound programme to cover all the villages and settlements completely during the eighth Five Year Plan.

In the policy of providing drinking water facility we have laid particular emphasis on making available drinking water in those places in the villages where scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are residing. The State Governments have been given special central assistance to the tune of Rs. 60 crores for providing clean drinking water to 30 thousand settlements of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes facing scarcity of water under the programmes launched to celebrate the centenary year of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Under the National Drinking Water mission the guinea worm problem which is prevalent in only 6 states will now be eliminated from by the end of the current year. Similarly the Central Government has taken several steps to remove the excess quantity of fluoride from drinking water. Alternative sources of clean drinking water and equipments to remove fluoride will be made available to the affected villages. For both the works a special provision to provide funds to the states is being made. Public awakening campaign is being launched in this regard.

The Government have taken this decision to open laboratories at all the places for the qualitative test of drinking water. The setting up of 110 such permanent and 26 mobile laboratories have already been accorded sanction.

I would also like to point out that the constructed amenities provided for the disposal of dirt and dirty water are comparatively very inadequate. This issue will be taken up for discussion at an early date in the National Seminar and the policy will undergo change.

I would like mention that World Bank, U.N.I.C.E.F. and many countries of the World are extending their assistance for the implementation of these two programmes.

The programme started to make available drinking water in villages through Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission is the biggest in the world and has become a model for other developing countries.

In order to systematic agricultural development and to maintain it, an effective system is essential for marketing of agricultural products, so that the interests of producers and consumers may be safeguarded. A model act has been circulated to the States in order to make uniformity in the regulation and management of markets. Till now out of 6,934 wholesale markets 6,640 markets have been brought under this regulation. In order to provide basic infra-structure facilities for these market under a central, sponsored programme, the committees of the trade centres are given an amount Rs. 4 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh per market through State Government. Under this programme, the total amount given to State Governments from the inception of this programme, till now for 3,854 markets is Rs.90 crore. Similarly, State Governments have been given Rs. 37.61crore for construction of 4,628 village godowns.

Now both the programmes of the development of markets and construction of village godowns have been completely entrusted to the State Government. Classification and standardization of agriculture and related matters are very important. In order to ensure classification and graduation services the Marketing and Inspection Directorate have set up a network of regional offices and sub-offices in the country and many Eggmark Laboratories have been set up.

In order to review the function of present State Mandi Acts, and various Agriculture Marketing Bodies and recommend proper measures to strengthen and systemise the marketing of agricultural products, the Government has commissioned a high-level Committee. The Committee has already started its work and it is expected to submit its report within three months. The Commit-

tee's report will be an important guideline for marketing policies of the Government in future.

For the complete development of our villages and the rural people, the maximum participation of the people themselves is essential. In order to encourage voluntary organisations in rural development, the Government of India has set up a registered society of Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology (CAPART). As a part of our development policies like the Integrated Rural Development Programme, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, supply of Drinking Water, Rural sanitation etc. CAPART takes the help of many other voluntary organisations as its partners to implement many programmes. Taking into account the necessities of special areas, CAPART helps new projects also. In order to find out markets for rural handiworks and products the CAPART organises 'Gramshree' fairs also. Such fairs have proved very successful and they have encouraged rural artisans.

During 1991-92 the CAPART has sanctioned 1921 projects of Voluntary Organisations upto January 1992, which will be given the aid of Rs. 37 crores. In comparison to the number of projects sanctioned during 1990-91, the number of those sanctioned during 1991-92 is double. Our Government will always be giving importance to the participation of voluntary organisations for rural development.

In my present capacity of the Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development, I held discussions with many State Governments, in the country and reviewed the rural development programmes on district, block and village level. I talked with the Voluntary Organisations and have made my efforts to introduce the rural development programmes to the poor with the cooperative of everybody and through our Ministry as well .

I do not think that I have mentioned all issues which the Hon. Members have raised during their speech. Once again I would like

to assure the hon. Members that the Government headed by Shri Narasimha Rao is wholly committed to materialise the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru, Mrs. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi about rural development. While performing this task we shall always take the Hon. Members into our confidence and guide ourselves with the suggestions of these hon. Members.

I appeal that we should work and give full support to the work started under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister for the development of the country and the upliftment of the poor together with the Members of Parliament, intellectuals, scientists, industrialists and through the media like television, radio and advertisements.

I would also like to remind you that eradication of poverty is as important as was to free the country. As we make every effort in elections to wake up the people, like that I request all that we should wake up people and be united to remove poverty. This is my polite request.

Before, I conclude, I would like to request to pass the demands of Grants introduced in the Budget of my Ministry.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, ten hours were allotted for the discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. Upto now we have spent, approximately, 12 hours when 10 hours were allotted. Hon. Ministers, Shri Kamaluddin Ahmed and Shri Balram Jakhar are yet to speak. Shri Balram Jakhar has indicated that he would like to speak at 5 O'clock.

(Interruptions)

SSHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the Ministers have already taken two hours.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly listen to me. We can arrive at some conclusion. Shri Balram Jakhar has indicated that he would like to speak at 5 O' Clock. However, there are still about 8 to 10 Members who appear to be very keen to participate in the discussion. Even if five minutes are allotted to each Member, it will take another 40 minutes time. So, it is entirely upto the pleasure of the House whether you would like to extend the time by 40 minutes and also whether Shri Balram Jakhar is prepared to postpone his reply after 5 O'Clock.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Sir, why not we take up the reply tomorrow?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I think we have already agreed to sit upto 8 p.m.

SHRIJASWANT SINGH: (Chittorgarh): I think we can have the reply tomorrow. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I too have been enlisted to speak here. I want that at least our questions be allowed to be raised.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Sir, I may submit that ten hours' time is nothing for such a massive and huge Department of our country. There are so many factors - Agriculture, Food, Rural Development, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution - involved. I think this is one of the main sources of livelihood of our country because 80 per cent of the people live in rural India. This House is giving only ten hours' time for this. I think this is nothing. I request the Chair and the hon. Minister that the hon. Minister can reply even tomorrow. But we must speak on these issues.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I agree with him. For the convenience of the House four or five Ministries have been put together. Generally every Ministry is discussed and answered separately. This is right, as you told that ten hours have been allotted. If the House or the hon. Members are not satisfied with the time of ten hours and now only Dr. Jakhhar remains to speak, I would like to request the hon. Minister that despite the fact that the hon. Minister will have to attend the meeting of Chief Ministers, he should spare one hour for us and instead of replying today he may do so tomorrow. It will be convenient to the House and the Hon. Members.

16.49 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Till now I have not been given an opportunity to express my views. I have been sitting here regularly from the day before yesterday but I got no such opportunity. If I am not allowed to make a speech, at least I should be allowed to ask questions.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think let us extend the time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Extendit upto 6'0 Clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think that we can do. Thank you.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see. We will find time for the Members who want to speak and make new points. Those Members, you

know, who would like to make the points which are already made, they need not repeat them. Balramji will give reply today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Do it 7 '0 Clock instead of 6 'o clock.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think let us start with Mr. Ahamed. Mr. Ahmed, I think you will certainly help us by not repeating the points which are already made.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): One minute, Sir. With your permission I would like to make this one point and this request is related to the discussion on the Demands for Grants and the foreseen events which are going to appear tomorrow. Tomorrow, Sir, in the scheduled will get listed the beginning of the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs. Tomorrow is also Friday, it is Private Members's day. The time available for the beginning or the commencement of discussion is going to be barely 40 minutes. On as important a subject as the Ministry of External Affairs, if the beginning of the discussion is compressed to nearly 40 minutes and then the discussion is fractured by a whole of 10 days and thereafter the discussion to come on the 20th, it will be injustice to the participants and also to the subject under discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree. I don't think that we are going to conclude the discussion and voting on this today itself. It is going to spill over to tommorrow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: What about the External Affairs Ministry's Demands?

MR. SPEAKER: External Affairs will come later.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If that is the case, then let him reply tomorrow.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him reply today. Mr. Kamaluddin will reply tomorrow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is all right.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I just go to the subject I may just inform you, because out of these 12 hours, the smaller parties have only been given very little time.

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard what you are saying, you need not raise it. You, in fact, have very very limited time. It is not necessary for you to raise it again.

SHRI E. AHAMED: Because a number of Members of the smaller parties are there...

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, while supporting the Budget proposals for the Departments put forward by the respective Ministers, I may point out certain points which, I should say, the Government has not taken care of.

Sir, for the Rural Development the Budget allocation has been reduced compared to last year. In the year 1991-92 the Budget allocation for the Rural Development was Rs. 3,521.24 crores while the allocation to 1992-93 is only Rs. 3,113.24 crores. Sir, there is a reduction of about 12 per cent of the Budget allocation compared to last year. I do not know what justification is there for the Ministers on this reduction of the Budget allocation for such an important Ministry. Especially when the Government is going ahead with the policy of alleviating the poverty in the rural public. Likewise, the allocation Jawahar Rozgar Yojana in 1991-92 was Rs. 2,100 crores whereas this year's allocation is only Rs. 2,046 crores, again less than 3 per cent of what has been allocated last year. Therefore, the Government's perspective so far as the rural development and

JRY, whatever may be the commendable things are concerned, is not in consonance with the policy adopted by the Government in this matter. What I would like to bring to the notice of the Agriculture Minister is that there is a reference for setting up of an Agro-Business Consortium, in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister. I would like to know what the Government proposes to do in this matter; what steps the Government has taken to implement this Agro-Business Consortium project, the setting up of which was announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget speech. Again, I would request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to enlighten the House as to the clear idea with respect to this Agro-Business Consortium.

The third point I would like to mention is about the Government's promotional projects for horticulture. It is said that the Government wants to promote horticulture and that efforts will be made to boost the exports. But, it is a matter of regret that horticultural crops which earn valuable foreign exchange are neglected by the Government. Take the case of cashew-nuts. It earns foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 500 crores a year. What is the total outlay for the development of the cashew crops? It is not even one per cent of the foreign exchange that cashew is earning for the country. The cashew industry is an export-oriented one and to meet the raw material requirements, the country is still importing raw nuts from the African countries. Even then the Government has not taken adequate measures to increase the production and the productivity of cashew cultivation within the country. The provision during 1990-91 for cashew cultivation was only Rs. 47 lakhs. During 1991-92, it was just Rs. One crore. It is heartening to note however, that there is an increase in the provision for cashew development during 1992-93, but this is also not enough. I wonder why there is no Cashew Development Board. There are several boards, for example, Coffee Board, Tea Board, Spice Board and such other organised institutions. The spices which earn only less than a ha of what the cashew is earning by way of foreign exchange has a Board and coffee

[Sh. E. Ahamed]

which is also earning only a half of what cashew is earning by way of foreign exchange has a Board. Therefore, it is high time for the Government to constitute a Cashew Development Board for the development and also for rapid cultivation of cashew.

Sir, another example is coconut, it is also an important oilseed which has been neglected for years. I am happy to note that there is an increased provision for coconut development this year; it has been increased from Rs. 5.5 crores to Rs. Nine crores. However, there is need to strengthen the Coconut Development Board to make it an effective instrument for the development, protection and productivity control. Adequate planting material like hybrid seedlings are not available. More seed farms may be set up and the incentive for cutting and removing of the wild root from the diseased plants may be raised from Rs. 75/- per tree to Rs. 200/- per tree. Then, Coconut and Coconut by product processing unit also may be set up.

Sir, another important matter which I may just bring to the notice of the concerned Ministry is with respect to the fisheries. It is a marine product and it earns about Rs. 1,000 crores by way of foreign exchange every year, but still some of our fishery projects have not been taken care of. Even now, there is the complaint of water pollution.

17.00 hrs.

In Kerala recently there is a disease called Epidemic al ceretor syndrome which affected the fisheries very much and also affected our marine products exports which I hope the Government will take care of.

One important thing is about our food processing units. Quite unfortunately our products are not having that much of sufficient market in the international market only because of the price structure. High price is not because of its cost of manufacture from

the factory. It is mainly because of the duties on the packaging material. Unless the Government implements or brings out a duty cut on the packaging material, our products may find it difficult to get sufficient markets.

I may just bring to the notice of the Food Minister one more point. FCI is supplying rice in Kerala and Kerala is perhaps the only State where there is statutory rationing. Two days back, FCI has even issued instructions to their FCI Manager not to supply rice to the distributors because there was some problem between the FCI and the State Government. How can a Government-controlled Corporation issue such arbitrary orders preventing the supply of rice to the distributors? The entire rice distribution in the State had collapsed for the last two-three days.

Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that when they are dealing with a sensitive matter like the distribution of rice, they should be more careful and they should have been very discreet in passing such orders.

I hope the hon. Minister will enlighten the House about this very innovative idea of the agro-business consortium for agricultural development.

I conclude my speech.

SHRI SUNIL DUTT (Bombay North West): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, Rural Development, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

I compliment our hon. Minister Shri Balram Jaxhar who is keeping in view the dreams of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi who always felt and said that the progress of India lies in the progress of rural India.

We have to fulfil the aspirations of the people of rural India. We have to make their dream come true. More than 80 per cent of the people dwell in rural India. Right from the relics of Mohanjedaro and Harappa and from

ancient civilisation who came and settled on the bank of the Ganges and Jamuna and the Chola dynasty of South India, agriculture was the main source of livelihood.

Therefore, a new democracy was introduced after the independence of India and all our stalwarts who came and adomed this august House whether they were in opposition or in position, they also felt that agriculture is one of the most important aspects of the livelihood of our Indian people.

I do not deny the contribution of the Opposition leaders and the opposition stalwarts who adomed this House and contributed to the welfare of India but I will be failing in my duty if I do not pay my compliments to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. If Mahatma Gandhi is the Father of the Nation, I will call Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as the Father of India's Democracy. He had capable colleagues with him and with the capable colleagues and stalwarts in the Opposition, he built a modern, self-reliant India and he dreamed to make India beautiful and self-respecting. Like a true Gandhian, he started his movement and he thought of rural India. He knew what the land of India needs. There used to be famine earlier. But he said what India needs is water. So, he started programmes to harness the rivers. He knew that we need power and so he started power-stations. That is how we started building up our India with the help of our great leaders like Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We started building up a self-reliant India, the fruits of which we are now reaping. In this august House we are discussing the progress of Rural India. After Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri started a movement called *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*. This movement also picked up. We started growing more food for the people of our country. Shrimati Indira Gandhi completed the task of Green Revolution. Our beloved leader the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi felt that with all our efforts, still the rural poor is being neglected; women and children of the villages are not having a proper distribution of essential things which they need. Therefore, he felt that they not only needed to be upgraded with food but to be upgraded

mentally and physically. So, more emphasis is laid on rural health-care, good living, education and creating self-employment and local jobs so that they do not run to the cities.

Sir, about Agriculture, I would like to say that the farmers of India always stood by the needs of the country. If the Green Revolution is successful, it is because of the sweat and blood of the farmers of our country. In the same way, I would like to say that so far as our fishermen are concerned, if the farmers grow food for us from the soil, the fishermen go deep into the sea and fight with the waves and strong currents of the sea and bring food for us from the sea. They also fight the strong currents and this is how they bring plenty of food for us. But unfortunately we give incentives to them to produce more and we do not give many incentives to them to earn more. A farmer needs good seeds, favourable weather fertilizers, pesticides, water, electricity, tractors, diesel, bulls, labour and his own hard-labour and work. In the same way, a fisherman needs good boat, good nets, diesel, good weather, favourable sea, suitable places to anchor his boat. All these things cost money, labour and a lot of risk to life. But the price fixed for their labour and yield is much less than the labour and money involved. We should not forget that a farmer or a fisherman has to raise his family, educate his children, take care of their health and see to it that they attend festivals, they have proper clothing and he has to see to it that he gets his children married with respect and dignity. He can manage all these things from the yield of his fields or the catch of fish from the sea. Today, with the essential commodities of life becoming very expensive, it will be fair on the part of the Government to give a reasonable, fair price to the yields of the farmers and fishermen.

[Translation]

Mr. Balam Jakhar is very fond of Urdu poetry. I would like to recite a couplet-by famous Urdu poet Shri Allamah Iqbal:-

"Utho Meri Duniya Ke Garibon Ko Jaga Do,
Takho Ubraha Ke Daro-Divar Hilao Do,

[Sh. Sunil Dutt]

Jis Khet Se Dehkan Ko Mayassar Na
Ho Roji,
Us Khet Ke Har Khosh-a- gandum Ko
Jala Do."

[English]

Our farmers toil there in the villages. I am not talking of the big farmers. But I am talking of the small farmers. I am sure they cannot provide full, proper, nutritious diet to their children. I am sure, our hon. Minister being a farmer himself, he will do the needful. I know that he has many programmes and he will definitely take care of the smallest, and the smallest of the farmers.

About Civil Supplies and Public Distribution System, I feel that everything looks very rosy on paper. But at the grass-root level, the enthusiasm fades away. What we need is a social and moral commitment from the members of the Government, politicians or bureaucrats, civilian shop-keepers who have got licence to distribute the various essential commodities of life. They all must have a commitment that any food-stuff that reaches the poorest of the poor, any food-stuff that reaches the villages, will be pure, of good quality and healthy. And, anyone doing any malpractice should be heavily punished. People must have confidence that whatever they are getting at the distribution shops, is the best. Unfortunately, in this regard, the people of our country have got won that confidence.

About the rural development, what is the progress of a country? Is it called progress if we provide more food or if we make dams or we make power stations or bring more jumbo-jets over here to the country or give more conomic and commercial freedom? No, Sir. These are material gains, material progress. But the most essential progress in the progress of human beings, our people, the people of our great country. Our people should be morally, spiritually, physically and mentally progressive. This can only happen when we uplift the men,

women and children of rural India, the poor people, the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes people. This should be and must be our moral commitment-neither verbal nor governmental commitment to our nation. We have to make them feel about the equality. We have to make them feel that they are part of us. We have to create a sense of belonging. They should not feel that the Government, politicians and bureaucrats are giving charity to them. Unfortunately, till date, they are feeling as though they are living on the mercy of the Government. This feeling in them has to go. This can only go with the total commitment from all of us. Our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi felt the pains of the rural India. I remember what he said once in his speech at the Red Fort. He said, "When we give an aid of one rupee to help the poor people of our country, the poor man gets only thirty naiya paise out of it. Where does that seventy paise go is not known. This is because there is no feed-back."

Under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, lot of programmes were introduced for the upliftment of rural India. The programmes were put into gear during the period of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. And like a true and dedicated Congressman, our Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Rao is keen to see that these programmes are implemented very soon so that people in villages have the benefit of these programmes.

I am very happy that he picked up a right man Shri Balram Jakhar who comes from a village. I am sure that he will be an instrument in fulfilling all these programmes whatever the Government of India has decided.

Towards the rural development, we have programmes like the Integrated Rural Development Programmes, Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Rural Water Supply Programme, Sanitation System, Panchayat-raj, Indira Awas Yojna, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment, Development of Women and Children in Rural India and so on. If we sincerely implement all these programmes, it will change the destiny of our country. These programmes cover every problem of

rural India and takes care of people living in villages. Integrated Rural Development Programmes are very good on paper. They are being implemented also and other programmes are also being implemented. But we do not have the feed-back, we do not have any agency to tell us whether the aid is going to the right people or not. Therefore, it is very essential that whatever programmes that we have on paper, we should implement it. These programmes are for the future modern development of India. We have thought of sanitation, we have thought of safe drinking water, we have thought of Indira Awas Yojna whereby we give houses to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. All these programmes are planned with great vision and thinking. But we do not know whether these programmes are being implemented with the same sincerity or not. Media has been writing that these programmes are not being implemented properly. There is no feed back. The food back is only on paper. There is a lack of will and dedication on the part of the people who implement this. My submission is that there should be commission appointed to keep a watch on these programmes as to whether they are being implemented properly or not. And there is no leakage of funds.

Secondly, out of the allotment of funds for the programmes, how much goes towards the salaries and conveyance of the people who are implementing these programmes? How can that be curbed? Proper feed back should be there. Rural Development should be considered as an integrated part of India's progress. Therefore all the Ministries that are concerned with the human beings progress, they should, together, have an integrated coordination and that is, in the case of water resources, welfare, health, family welfare, education, sports, energy and environment and forests. They are all interconnected with each other as far as the progress of the rural India is concerned. And they should be equally involved when we think on how we can upgrade the rural India. We must doubly encourage the local music, pottery, dances, theatre which

are the most important aspects which you must keep in consideration.

I may suggest that the non-Governmental organizations like the social organizations who have been doing a great work in the rural India, they should be encouraged and they should also be helped and some of the finances should be given to those people also. Lastely, I always felt that there is nothing that you cannot achieve. I always felt that there is nothing that is impossible in the dictionary of human beings. And I will end my speech by saying a urdu couplet:

"Wah Kaun sa Mushkil kaam Hai jo
poora Ho Nahi Sakta,
Koshish Kare Insaan to kya Ho Nahi
Sakta"

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari to speak now. You may please restrict your speech to five minutes.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): Please give me ten minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: No, many other Members are there who want to speak.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Sir, I have not spoken, since the beginning of this Session. So, I may please be given ten minutes time.

Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants of the various Ministries that are being discussed today. I was very much touched today by the sincere concern that was shown by the state Minister of Agriculture for the development of hills and backward areas. The hilly areas of the country have been neglected which is a fact-an historical fact. The direct fall-out of this neglect has been the demand of Gorkha land, the demand for Uttarakhand, the demand for Himachal, the demand for Jharkhand and now the problems in Kashmir.

Today, while intervening in the discus-

[Smt. Dilkumari Bandari]

sion, the Minister of State of Agriculture show sincere concern about the backwardness of these areas. The glaring regional imbalances between these backward hilly States and the plains is very much obvious by the fact that the Government itself is aware of it. Though it is too late, but it is always better to be late than never. Many hon. Members have already expressed their views on the achievements of the Government and the problems in respect of these Ministries, facing by the country people very eloquently. So, I will dwell upon the problems faced by mostly the hill people, who are living in the hilly areas.

For a mountainous and hilly State like Sikkim, rural development is the crux of any development strategy. Sikkim, where over 90 per cent of people live in rural areas has yet to achieve a level of economic growth which can adequately uplift the living standards of rural population. This is despite the enormous efforts put up by the State Government in the last one decade.

Rural development in the hills should first address itself to the utterly neglected infrastructures and then the basic needs. The ultimate goal should be to create a sustainable system of development that generates both income and employment without adversely affecting the natural resource base in the rural areas. We in Sikkim have been trying to adopt this strategy of development. For example, the problem of providing potable drinking water to every village is a very stupendous task. The Sikkim Government with its meagre resources has been doing its utmost to cover all the villages in the near future. This is true that the Centre is helping the State. But the assistance is not adequate and is not commensurate with the problem of this magnitude.

Heavy rainfall bring with it constant land erosion, land slides, natural calamities of various proportion and it is a regular phenomenon for us. The damage done is so large and widespread that the funds at the

disposal of the State Government is sordidly inadequate even for the restoration work. That is the reason why some of the damaged portions are still crying for adequate help to bring them back to normal condition. I see no reason why the Centre cannot create a separate fund for the restoration work and initiate some effective preventive measures.

Sikkim has a very limited scope for generating employment in the Government sector. We have seen that unless we set up professional institutions that would sharpen the skills of the rural population, we cannot give any job orientation to the rural people. I feel, despite the immense potential of the small and cottage industries, they have largely remained unexploited. The Union Government must come in a big way with finance, technology and institutions in order to give a boost to this sub-sector.

I can assure that the atmosphere is very congenial in the State for such economic intervention in the State by the Union Government. The first priority item of rural development strategy should be infrastructure. In the hilly regions because of its historical negligence and topographical variations, this sub-sector stands to be the very basis of rural development. For Sikkim, the story is not different. In the absence of any meaningful and substantial initiative by the Centre, rural infrastructure continues to remain poor and inadequate. This is only strengthening the socio-economic imbalance in a strategically situated State. I appeal that this crucial sub-sector of infrastructure should be given serious thought in terms of its multi-faceted development.

In regard to agriculture many people may not be aware that only 14 per cent of the total area of Sikkim is cultivable. Over 90 per cent of the State population depends on this meagre land for existence. The pressure on the land is very high. The tragedy is that the cultivable land is fast shrinking because of continuous soil erosion and huge landslides. A major option is to go in for intensive cultivation, use of more fertilizers, better seeds and modern methods of agricultural opera-

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tions. This is the only way to increase production and productivity.

Here I must mention that the last ten year's data indicate the production of total foodgrains has almost doubled from 62.9 thousand tonnes in 1982-83 to 116.3 thousand tonnes in 1989-90. I am still perturbed that the growth rate could have been much higher particularly for rice and wheat, which is not so. This certainly calls for more agricultural research and lab to land practices. Intensive cultivation has its own limitations. Hence there is need for diversification in the agricultural sector. The State's resources being meagre, it is not in a position to develop or undertake this in a big way, though they have also started pisciculture, floriculture and horticulture. Hence the Agriculture Ministry needs to come to help the State to achieve its plan for diversification in the agricultural sector.

In 1983-84 Sikkim was promised to be given one agriculture university. But that has not materialised as yet. I would urge upon the Government to sanction the same forthwith. I am hopeful that our Agriculture Minister himself being an agriculturist, he knows the need for such an agriculture university in such a backward area. I am very happy that the Minister of State has himself said that the North Eastern areas including Sikkim are very backward and I hope that they will do something positive in this respect.

Sir, poor technology, inadequate critical inputs and geographical constraints have made Sikkim's agriculture more vulnerable to any natural calamities. The level of food production today cannot meet the requirements of the State. Large quantity of food like rice, wheat and other essential commodities like sugar, kerosene oil, etc. have to be brought from outside the State. On the face of it, the population growth together with increasing floating population and tourist traffic, the quota items provided to Sikkim has been sharply falling short of the demand. The Centre is requested to increase the quota on a more rational and scientific basis at the earliest.

Another aspect that needs consideration is that during rainy days, there are landslides on the only line of communication, Sikkim has got with the other States of the country, that is the National Highway 31-A. The whole movement of goods comes to dead halt for a number of days. As a result prices of essential commodities and other consumer articles shoot up by leaps and bounds. So, to contain such a situation, there is a need to have food godowns, cold storage and warehouses, so that perishable and non-perishable commodities could be stored to meet any emergency situation. The Ministry of Food needs to look into this problem and help Sikkim to set up such an infrastructure.

One more aspect I would very much like to highlight is the transportation cost in carrying food and other consumer articles to Sikkim from outside the State. The hike in transportation cost is reflected in prices of commodities in the State. The people of Sikkim have had to pay a much higher price for essential items and other products as compared to other parts of the country. That means the actual rate of inflation in Sikkim is generally very much higher than the rest of the country. In this background, the public distribution system has a very crucial role to play in Sikkim. To make it successful, the supply should not only be adequate but should also be regular.

Secondly, fair price shops should be set up at places easily accessible to the people even in remote villages. Care should be taken to ensure that the supply reaches the people and they are benefited thereby. Hence, there is the need for streamlining the whole set up. It requires adequate machinery and this calls for allocation of more funds to make the system a success. I hope the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies are aware of the difficulties faced by the hilly States in the country. Hence, I am sure that they would, while appreciating these difficulties, help such hilly backward States or areas in streamlining the public distribution system so that the poor people of such areas can

avall of the facilities that fair price shops offer.

Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Amal Datta.

Shri Amal Datta, your party's time is already over. So, you shall have to make a brief speech.

17.29 hours

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I am very sorry that the time is over. Just on that point, may I say that the time allocated to discuss the Demands for Grants of the four Ministries is less?

MR. SPEAKER: That was decided in the Business Advisory Committee and approved in the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Maybe. But, it should be considered at least next time. I am not saying anything about this time.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. But, you are quite capable of making the points in a short time and very forcefully.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: These four Ministries are most concerned with the lives of 75 per cent people of India living in villages.

MR. SPEAKER: That is exactly why we cant you not to make the points on the subjects which are not listed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: My earnest request is this. There were only one or two opportunities in the whole two-three Sessions of the House to discuss these matters. So, next time at least 15,20 hours should be allocated when these Ministries come together.

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you. Now come to the point.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond

Harbour): The Agriculture is a Ministry which is very very wide. In this country, we have lot of things under agriculture naturally. India is a country which has been traditionally agricultural. Only recently, we have gone into industry. We have gone into industry with such a gusto that we have tried to reverse the original capacity, the original - what should I say - tendency of this country to depend on agriculture. This we have done at a time when the relative advantage of agriculture all over the world has increased beyond all imaginations. In 1950s, when the industrial policy was formulated and agriculture was relegated to background and again agriculture had to be brought back to some amount of prominence because of the food scarcity from which we suffered in the 60's, barring that, agriculture has always been neglected in this country.

I for one have always felt that the people ruling the country - whether politicians or the bureaucrats - have not been able to truly biggest the significance of the recent advances - advances which have taken place in the world since 1950's in the biological sciences - giving rise to biotechnology, whose potential has not yet been truly realised not only in this country but not even in the whole world. The potentiality is vast. But we have not done very radically towards biotechnology. Ever forgetting that, biological science development has allowed some improvements in seed production in plan production and all that, in agronomic practices and everything. That we have not been able to absorb in this country.

Now we do not have a proper agriculture policy. We do not have proper economic policy. In the budget speech, I said that this country is not giving proper emphasis to agriculture. Unfortunately then and there the Finance Minister agreed with me that this was a correct assessment. But nothing has been done to change that situation. I am sure that with the able persuasion of our Agriculture Minister and all the other Ministers heading the different Departments which are under discussion now, very soon a policy change should take place. I say this because today

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it is possible—according to FAO's report—for India produce twice the foodgrains that India is producing with less amount of fertiliser.

We have done nothing to exploit the water resources of this country. We have done something. It is really significant to exploit the water resources. In fact, we have not done the detailed engineering work which is required to store the water and use it over the years. We have let it run along and let it run away with the top soil which is being depleted very quickly. A proper agricultural policy is required because we are lacking in resources. Wherever we lack in resources, a proper allocation is necessary and that policy should decide what should be the proper allocation.

We have to decide whether we go for foodgrains production, we go for commercial crops production, we go for all kinds together, but we cannot do that. Therefore, where the emphasis has to be put, for how long? And when we put the emphasis, we should not scatter our resources too much. What we have been hearing in this House— we know from other sources also—is that the Government has scattered its research resources over a wide range. And much of the research which is being done, remains in the laboratory and does not go into the field. For one thing, there is no coordination between research and extension work. The field services are not coordinated to the laboratory. Laboratories say, we do not have a mandate to take it to the people. Something has to be done because it has gone on too long in this way that moneys being spent on research and fruits are not being made available to the people. It is being done over such a wide range of areas that we are losing the benefit of concentration of resources in one sector. For instance, in foodgrains, we are still with high-yielding varieties. But we have not gone for hybridisation which has allowed China to double its crop production in the 70's. Due to hybridisation, China could double its foodgrain production in the course of a few years. I think my statistics should be authenticated by the Agriculture Minister. State-wise highest production in terms of

wheat is 20 quintals per hectare and for rice, it is 27 quintals per hectare whereas in China, it is 37 quintals of wheat and 55 quintals of rice. It is about double in some cases. In wheat, it is little less than double. Now, this has been possible because of improvement in technology. Of course, they are using more fertilisers than India. But we are not concentrating on our resources. That is one point.

Secondly, we have a better climatic condition while, in China, they have four to five months of winter and during winter, they cannot grow anything at all. Whereas we can grow practically all over India barring some hill regions, we can grow three to four crops a year. Now, we would like to have some information from the Agriculture Ministry, Even though agriculture should be an open book, we do not get the necessary information from that Ministry as to how much land is under high-yielding varieties and what is the intensity of agriculture in those lands in respect of high-yielding varieties. What is the production State-wise, block-wise and district-wise? We should get the statistics to see whether there is room for improvement or not. These are absolutely essential information without which no critical examination of the achievements in the field of agriculture can be made. Only after we have suffered a food crisis in the 1970s, agriculture came to limelight. Before that, we saw that our tendency has always been to concentrate on foodgrains as the only subject of agriculture and not diversified little bit of our efforts on fruits, vegetables and other horticultural products on which the world trade is the highest of all agricultural products. The Minister must know that certain under-developed or developing countries in the world like Turkey, Thailand and Indonesia have recently gone in for horticulture production and have done very well in a very short pace of time. I think the idea of the Government of India to improve our performance in exports could be better achieved if we concentrate on certain aspects of agriculture like different horticultural products and piscicultural products and things like and there is enormous scope in it for

[Sh. Amal Datta]

India. In fact, I am told by no less a person than the Fisheries Minister of West Bengal that we can produce so much bracksh water shrimps that we will be able to feed the entire world. Probably, the world will not be able to buy, at today's price, the shrimps produced in India and price of shrimsp will come to millions of dollars. Efforts in these sectors are very minimum. One should seek out sectors where we can make the greatest gain in the shortest possible time and where our medium and long term advantages lie. so, we should have an agricultural policy with short term, medium term and long term persepectives. We do not have that. I hope, in a hort time, the Ministry will take upon itself the burden of having such a policy.

Now, when I go from the macro to the micro level, I wonder to see that there is no idea in the minds of the people of my constituency as to what is the best suited ago climatic conditions. It is because the soil has not been tested. They do not know what should be the correct crop pattern for different blocks or different parts of different blocks. I understand that the soil conditions vary from field to field. There is no arrangement for doing this. But there should be an arrangement. If there is such an arrangement, then the ideal or the optimal crop pattern can be told to the people that this is their crop and soil condition and with certain additions or alterations, they can grow this crop and so on. But the farmer has not been told that. Extension services are not equipped for that. In fact, our Extension Services have no knowledge of the latest developments in the fields of horticulture and agriculture. I am sorry to state that no State Government has got this knowledge. As I have already said, the links between the laboratores and the extension services simply do not exist. Today, Shri Lenka was intervening in the debate and certain questions were put to him with regard to betel leaf. He replied that this question should be addressed to the Kalyani University which is doing some work on betel

leaf. This is the only university in West Bengal and we do not know that they are doing this work. Though we are very much concerned about betel leaf, the growers do not know about it; their leader do not know about it and traders too do not know. It is not known that certain amount of money is given. It is also not known what achievements were obtained with that money. So, what I am saying is that absolutely there is lack of information. How much are we to suffer because of this lack of information! We cannot really assess our achievements. But whatever we are able to assess, is very poor because there is really no policy and no coordination. And whatever we are doing, we are doing it in a haphazard fashion and spreading the given resources very thinly. Thereby, we are unable to get the effect that could have been obtained through concentration. If you put two and two together in a concentrated way, then you may get a result of even five and not merely four. This is the effect of synergism. But I am very sorry to observe that we are getting only two or three and not even the minimum of four! I hope the Ministry realises that there are various lacunae and addresses itself to the task of removing them.

Reverting to the performance of Parliament in this matter, I say that there is a Select Committee on Agriculture. But this Committee is not functioning. Many countries of the world which have such forums have utilised them very usefully. Especially, the British Parliament has utilised the services of their Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture to achieve very good results. I hope a similar exercise will be undertaken here also.

MR. SPEAKER: We are doing it. Thank you for a very good speech.

[Translation]

*C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to express my views in support of the demands for grants of the

*(Gen.) 1992-93 Ministries of Rural
Development; Food; Agriculture; and**Ministries of Agriculture, Rural Development
and Food.*

As far as Agriculture Loan is concerned, I would like to draw your attention to the sorry plight of farmers whose burden increases manifold due to accruing interest on the loan amount obtained. For instance, an agriculturist in Tamil Nadu who had taken a loan of about Rupees fifty thousand continued to have the loan burden to the tune of about one lakh rupees and above even after paying back about Rupees forty thousand. There is another instance where a farmer had to finally part with about one lakh and seventy five thousand rupees against a loan of about Rupees fifty thousand. At the same time, businessmen and industrialists could manage loan assistance in various forms at lesser interest rates. Even if they do not pay back the banks properly their loans are ignored. They even get waivers in some form or the other. But the plight of the farmers continue to be in a pathetic state. Agricultural lands are taken over for default in payments. As far as Coimbatore district in Tamil Nadu is concerned, Agriculturists have to rely on ground water alone. They have to dig up well up to a depth of about 300 ft to 400 ft. They have to erect pump-sets to draw water and to irrigate their fields for cultivation. Both cotton and paddy have to be cultivated only in this fashion. Hence I request the Minister for Agriculture to consider the case of such farmers in Coimbatore district who have to put in so much towards the inputs and I request the Hon'ble Minister to waive the agricultural loans in the case of such industrious farmers.

Irrigation facility in Tamil Nadu have not been improved ever after 1967. No dam worth its name has been constructed ever after late Kamaraj's regime. It is a sorry state of affairs to which we are mute spectators now. No irrigation scheme has been drawn up after 1967. After the departure of the great leader Shri Kamaraj, many viable irrigation schemes have not been taken up at all. For instance, there was a proposal to turn the course of the West flowing rivers like Pandiar and Punnampuzha to irrigate and

benefit bot the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Instead allowing the wasteful flow of these riverse into Arabian Sea, their course could have been diverted to benefit farming community from both the States. Centre must now take up this scheme pending for a long time now. Both the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Kerala could share the expenses and must go ahead with the scheme. Centre must help in all possible ways to overcome hurdles, if any, in carrying out this irrigation project that will also save invaluable water. I urge upon the Centre to consider this much awaited irrigation project and give ago by to the satisfaction of farmers living in the border districts of both the States.

As far as river Cauvery is concerned, we are aware of the issues involved in tackling the vexed problem. Lakhs of Tamil farmers migrated to Karnataka several years ago and contributed a lot to make that land a fertile one. But, recently thousands of them were rendered homeless and were made refugees in their own country. A relief to the tune of about Rupees two crores and seventy lakhs has been paid. Hon'ble Prime Minister also convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the riparian States. The relief and compenation paid to the affected farmers is inadequate and dismal. Hence, I request the Centre to look into it to pay more relief to aggravated and displaced farmers.

While referring to Animal Husbandry, I must have to point out to the Kangeyam breed which is famous for its sturdy built and industrious labour they offer to the tiller of the soil. There used to be a very big dairy farm in Palaya Kotta in Kangeyam area which is famous for rearing cattle of that breed. It is reliably understood that the dairy farm is proposed to be would up. There are about two thousand cattle heads which may be handed over to prospective buyers. I request to the Government to go in for buying the same and preserve the Kangeyam breed of cows and bulls intact. As far as milk cooperatives are concerned, efforts should be made to ensure that genuine cattle growers and milkmen are members of such cooperatives. Certain anomalies like people

from other occupation being made members of such societies are there. This should be stemmed out. I bring this to the notice of the Government to ensure that any genuine farmers and cattle growers are made members of such milk societies. The Government may also chalk out a plan to introduce a provident fund scheme to benefit farmers thereby ensuring legally valid minimum wages.

Finally, I would like to conclude my speech drawing the attention of the Government to the persisting drinking water problem in Coimbatore district. I am a Member representing that constituency for third time in a row now. I have raised this issue on earlier occasions too. Now I bring it to the notice of the Minister for Rural Development. The upgradation of infrastructure facilities for providing drinking water to people of Coimbatore district calls for your attention still now. Kindly attend to the problem at the earliest. With this I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD
(Salempur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress party has betrayed the people of the country as well as the farmers by giving a false assurance of bringing down the prices within hundred day. With your permission, I would like to make some suggestions in respect of the Demand for Grants presently being discussed in the House.

There is much difference in the words and deeds of the Congress Party. The policy through which Congress proposed to give remunerative prices to farmers for their crops has been changed. Broadly, I consider that the Government headed by Shri Morarji Desai in 1977 was the best for farmers. That Government implemented many schemes for the benefit and welfare of the poor farmers and for those who were fully dependent on agriculture. Ours is an agricultural country. That Government took many measures which helped in large production of foodgrains. At present we are not only meeting the domestic

requirement but exporting the foodgrains.

During the regime of Morarji Desai one bag of urea used cost Rs. 51/- which is now proposed to be increased to Rs. 175/- per bag. Therefore, had you adopted the same attitude which was adopted by that Janta Government you would have been able to do some good to the farmer of this country. After that came the Janata Government which also thought of doing some good to farmers. It announced to spend 50 percent of the Budget out lay of the country on farmers and rural upliftment. When Janata Party Government waived off the agricultural loans of farmers up to ten thousand rupees then the some member of the House criticized this step and opposed it.

Many of our friends had opposed and criticised this step of waiving off the loans saying that it had brought the Government of India on a verge of bankruptcy. But I would like to ask a question from my those friends and particularly from the hon. Minister as to why the loans given to big industrialists were waived off by the Government in the past. Janata Government had waived off loans only upto Rs. 10,000/- of small needy farmers and you people made great hue and cry over it and blamed that Government but you people do not say anything when the loans of big industrialists are waived off. In this way Government has set a precedent of even waiving off big loans. In my opinion, no agriculture policy has so far been chalked out. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh had prepared a detailed policy which is now gathering dust in almirah. Please take the trouble of seeing that policy also. The conditions have changed now. While fixing the prices of the wheat the cost of production is not taken into account. The price of sugarcane produced by farmer is fixed by Government and not by the farmer. Report says that the total area under sugarcane cultivation was 35,00,000 hectares and out of it 16 lakh hectare was in Uttar Pradesh alone. The target fixed for sugarcane production was 23 crores tonnes for the year 1991-92. Procurement price of sugarcane has not yet been fixed and 50% crop is still standing in the fields. If it continues like this

farmers will be compelled to burn their crop. Half of the produce will be burnt by the farmers.

MR. SPEAKER: You have a little time at your disposal. Please conclude soon.

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: I would like to submit that the price of the sugarcane should be genuine and Government should take steps to stop the five percent cut in the Commission by sugarcane committees.

It has been stated in the report that Government proposes to set up six fertilizer factories but the Gorakhpur plant in Eastern Uttar Pradesh is lying closed. Government on one hand proposes to set up six new factories and on the other hand some factories are lying closed. At least Government should take measures to recommission the closed factories.

Agriculture should be declared an industry and the agriculture inputs like fertilisers, water, seeds etc should be sold at cheap rates. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented strictly. Loans at low interests should be made available to the farmers and fifty percent of the budget should be allocated to villages. The price of the agricultural products should be fixed by taking into account their cost of production.

In the construction of the houses under Indra Aawas Yojana, third rate bricks are used. It cannot resist water even for two year. You can find out for yourself that all the houses built under Indra Awas Yojana are in this condition. Government should ensure that such things do not recur. You launched a scheme to construct 10 lakh wells. Under this scheme officials and big contractors have mebezzled the money which was to be given to the people. You please make an enquiry. Now I would like to raise a question related to the land reforms. The land, on which thousands of people belonging to poor and backward classes are inhabited is owned by big (rich) people in the whole country. These rich people force the poor people to work for them. When these people refuse to

work they are beaten by them. Sometimes case is filed in courts. I would like that you please look into such matters. You please make arrangements to distribute the land owned by big landlords, rich person and Ministers, among the poor and landless people. So that they can get land for their livelihood and the enemployed persons can get the employment. A few days ago, I read a statement of the Prime Minister in a newspaper in this regard. If hon. Agriculture Minister is true in his words, he should declare at once in this House that a campaign will be launched in the whole country to distribute the excess land belonging to the landowners rich persons among the poor. Under the Land Reforms Act. I will greatly benefit the Farmers. With these words I appose the demands of grant.

SHRI DATTA MEGHA (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the demands of the Ministry of agriculture, rural development, civil supply and public distribution. Before my allotted time expires that the drought in Maharashtra is very serious. I would like to mention for which the hon. Minister has already made a reference in Question Hour. That question reads that 58.16 lakh acre. of land had been affected by drought in Maharashtra and the State Government has sent a proposal of Rs. 791.41 crore for relief works. In reply to that question it has been stated that a Committee will be sent in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh but there is no need to provide an additional assistance to Maharashtra and Karnataka. In these circumstances, when there is an acute shortage of drinking water in the villages and there is severe drought on large scale in Maharashtra, we get this written reply that the Central Govt. is not going to provide any assistance. I appeal to the Central Government that the poor, dalits and adivasies also live in the villages of Maharashtra and they all are facing the draught. It is correct that Maharashtra also has big cities like Nagpur and Bombay.

The Central Government especially our Prime Minister has a very good relations with Maharashtra. Shri Balram Jakhar also visited

[Sh. Datta Megha]

there. He knows each and everything about Maharashtra. Today there is heavy draught. You please send a Committee there. If it is not done people will take a wrong impression about the intension of the Government. The Central Government should fulfill the justified demands of the Maharashtra Government because all the States are equal before the Central Government.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, regarding agriculture, I would like to mention a few vital points due to lack of sufficient time. A scheme for procurement of cotton has been under operation in Maharashtra, since several years. We request the Central Government to provide assistance to the Maharashtra Govt. for ten years. But in Maharashtra there is some rumour that the State Govt. wanted discontinue this scheme because other states do not have similar scheme. Maharashtra is a good State Co-operative sector has done well there. Today the farmers get good profit from cotton production and if there is any loss the Government bears it. We always make request for export of cotton and to prepare yarn from the cotton. We can get more price if we prepare yarn and cloths but I find that the rich people are demanding to discontinue the scheme for the procurement of crores of rupees of Farmers are lying with the State Government deposit as. This scheme is very important for the farmers. All of us and the all the farmers of the State want that the Central Government should start this scheme in other states also so that the farmers may get full assistance. I think, the rumours to discontinue the scheme is baseless. In my constituency ranges is produced in abundance. It is the Central Government' scheme and the State Government bring it into practice. But today, the crop of orange is very good.....?

MR. SPEAKER: Time is over.

SHRIDATTAMEGHE: I am speaking at the first time during the session. This is the

first time I have been given an opportunity to speak and moreover I am not making a speech; I am stating only some points others have taken 15 minutes for their speech. I am not taking so much time but if I do not talk about my constituency, my presence in this House has no meaning. I fail to refer the problems and difficulties being faced by the people of my constituency, my coming to this House becomes fruitless and it would have been better if I had not been elected to this House.

MR.SPEAKER: It is not a Maharashtra Government budget.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: I know it, well. That is why I am stating that the Central assistance is being asked for the cotton scheme. But the Central Government does not want to provide assistance and wants to discontinue the scheme. It is a good scheme of Maharashtra Govt. please you should take over this scheme. The Central Government can help the orange producers and can provide assistance to the research Centre.

The Central Govt. is providing assistance to the Rural Deptt. of Maharashtra Govt. and I think it is also the duty of the Central Govt. and I think it to the State Govt. in this regard. I had already mentioned about rationcard in Delhi. Bombay too is an economic capital of India. It is a very big city. It gets grains etc. from the whole country. But we get very little quota of civil supplies while Delhi gets double of it. Cities like Bombay and Delhi should be given equal quota. We do not supply equal grain to those people who work hard, who are labourers and they cannot afford to purchase it from the market. So you please arrange to supply the same quota of foodgrains as you are supplying to Delhi. Bombay is a big city and when the matter relates to the big cities it should be treated alike. I conclude with one more point that the development should be equal. For years, we have been demanding for the constitution of a development board. Our Chief Minister will come and will have a talk with the Prime Minister tomorrow. We have talked to the

Prime Minister, he has told us that he would constitute development board within 24 hours if a proposal is brought before him. We can spend money, for the construction of roads and irrigation in villages, which we will get from the development board. Our demand is that the demand of development boards should be set up for Vidarbha, Marathwara, Konkan and other regions of Maharashtra and funds for these Boards should be allocated. Then, we can develop these areas from the money which we will get from these boards. Maharashtra Government says that it has sent the proposal to the Central Government but we do not know the whereabouts of this proposal. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Nagpur, he publicly announced that he would consider about the development boards if he came in power. We want to fulfill the promises made by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. So you should consider our demand for development boards so that we can get funds for the development of backward regions of Maharashtra State.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to express my views on Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Our hon. learned Members have said so many things and I don't want to repeat them. But some things have been left out. I want to put forth those things in the House. Sir, I have been straight forward from the very beginning and it has become my habit.....

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nagina, there is no time for such things.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: You kindly listen to me for a while. It was said that people were dying of starvation. Any hon. Member who is above sixty years old may tell whether two square meals was available to the people of the country 42 years back. But today people get two square meals. At that time, the population was 36 crore and now it has increase to 84 crore. Food is made available to everybody. It is all due to the efforts put in by our agricultural scientists. That is why, I am thankful to them. Today, the

people of country are getting food and we are self-sufficient in the matter. But it is true, as our hon. friend has said just now, that the production in India is lower than that of other countries and he has given an example of China in this regard. I would like to make a request that our scientists should go abroad to acquire knowledge. Our population has increased from 36 crore to 84 crore. We are providing food to the people of our country. It will create problem, if we don't increase our production at the ratio the population is increasing. Therefore, we should increase our production.

Today, the most important thing is that ceiling of farmers' land has been fixed. It has been fixed after independence and during the regime of Congress Party. It is a good thing. I want to tell you that still there are some big Talukedars who possess a large area of agricultural land. On papers, it has been shown in the names of their grandsons - daughters and dogs and cats. It is a matter of pride that the Minister of Agriculture of the country has been bestowed upon the title of 'Krishi-Pandit'. Farmers are proud of their Minister who is expert in agriculture and a 'Krishi Pandit'. Thus, I would like that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should get the matter examined. I belong to rural area and Lekhpai is the highest officer in a village. His version is considered to be final. Most of the agriculture land is in the possession of big landlords though it has been shown in different names. Secondly, I would like to submit if he has shown the land in the name of poor persons, the landlord will litigate even upto the Supreme Court and try to maintain his possession. That is why, the law should be amended. The litigation has been going on for the last twenty years. The Government should formulate such a law that landlord has no scope to move to the court. Government should get back the agriculture land from them and disburse it among the poor people. Not only this, some people have formed trust and made their family members as members of the trust. They too utilising it. I would like to request that the Government should get it examined.

MR. SPEAKER: Tenancy law and land ceiling is the subject of State Legislatures. You have explained your point of view. Now please come to the next point.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: The Central Government can also enact law.....

MR. SPEAKER: It is the subject matter of the State Government.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA: It is true that much of our cultivation depends on nature. I belong to such an area where drought and flood occur almost every year. I would like to submit to provide irrigation facility where it is not available. If the country wants to progress, the Government must provide irrigation facility. There should be arrangement to check the floods. There are areas in the villages which generally remain water logged. Thousands of acres of land is submerged under water and standing crops are ruined. There must be some drainage system to flush out that water. Today, the fate of sugarcane-growers is in dark in Uttar Pradesh. You will be surprised to know as the hon. Minister has said in his statement that the Government realises taxes worth billions of rupees. I do not think that there is any sugar mill from which Government does not realise as Rs. 2-3 crore as taxes. Government also realises taxes from Sugar Development Corporation. But what is the condition of farmers? Large sums of farmers are outstanding against mill owners. At the time of marriage in the family, the farmer has to take loan from moneylender or Talukedar against this slips of sugarcane at the rate of interest of Rs. 25-30 percent. There is also Government recovery. If he does not pay his property is attached, warrant is issued against him. He is arrested and imprisoned. What is all this going on today.?

The Government is giving subsidy on wheat. Immediate payment is made at the time of procurement of wheat and pulses, etc. Sugarcane grower is the most unfortunate person who faces hardships and has to face even attachment and warrant. Thus, I would like to point out that in the past

also, Central Government had done favour of farmers. Loans to the tune of Rs. 120 crore advanced by banks to farmers have recently been waived off. If you can't do anything in this regard, you may do one thing I am not begging any sympathy. I would only request the Central Government on behalf of the sugarcane growers that arrangement should be made to make payment to them by banks against the slips given by the mills owners to the farmers so that they may be able to meet their requirements. These slips are their guarantee. When the mill owners make the payment, it should be paid to the Banks. No other facility can be as big as this facility.

Secondly, I would like to submit that there are 105 sugar mills with 800 to 1200 tonnes capacity in Uttar Pradesh. They are incurring losses of crores of rupees. Their recovery is the lowest. According to an information given by the Government, only 30 percent sugarcane of the total production of Uttar Pradesh comes to mills and the remaining goes to 'Kobhu' or crusher while the mill rate is Rs. 45 per quintal and the crusher rate is Rs. 28 to Rs. 30. The difference is that the crusher owners who procure sugarcane at the rate of Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 makes cash payment whereas the payment of sugarcane which is sold to the mill at a rate of Rs. 45 per quintal is not made immediately and is paid later on. There is considerable production of sugarcane. I would like to make a request because you have become the advocate of farmers. We are having rich crop of wheat as well as sugarcane because of the efforts put in by Deptt. of Agriculture. I would like you to be an advocate of farmers. You are the advocate of sugarcane growers, you should plead the case with the Government and make proper arrangement of procurement of sugarcane. The small factories are sick and their recovery is going down. The capacity of mills with 800,2200 tonnes should be increased to 2500 tonnes. Besides, I understand that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has asked for more licences from Central Government keeping in view the importance of sugarcane. Applications seeking 50-100 licences from the Government have not yet been cleared. No

licence has been issued so far. There are billions of rupees lying in the account of Sugar Development Fund. Earlier, also, the Central Government has given permission to increase the capacity to some sugar mills. Allocation to Devaria mill has not been increased for the last two years. It was assured to raise the allocation of funds to Laxmiganj, Betalpur and Bhatni mills. But due to paucity of funds, it is not being raised. In the same way, I would like to make a request to handover these mills to the private sector, if you cannot run them properly. We know that all the applications are lying pending with the Central Government. There are 14 sugar mills in Deoaria. The capacity of these sugar mills is 800, to 1200 tonnes. There is a need of increasing the capacity of sugar mills throughout Uttar Pradesh especially in Deoaria. There is need to set up 3-4 sugar mills in Deoaria. The applications seeking licences to set up sugar mills have been by the private sector. I want that sugarcane should be crushed in time. The conditions in South India differ from those of north India. Weather conditions of south India are congenial to sugarcane crop all the year around, but in North, sugarcane begins to dry just after May and thereafter the recovery comes to 4 per cent. Therefore, sugar factories do not work for more than 6 months in North India, whereas in South India they run for about 9 months. Therefore, attention should be paid towards crores of farmers who depend on sugarcane and steps should be taken for their welfare.

Sir, our area falls in the terai region and just now the hon. Minister also made a statement that water of our area does not contain iodine. Deficiency of iodine causes diseases like goitre, elephantiasis and malaria people are drinking water from ditches. My submission is that clean water from tubewells should be made available to people there so that they are saved from the diseases. Likewise, there are no roads in Narayani area in the Nepal border. If sugarcane and other crops are produced, how to transport them from one place other without roads. There are also no bridges

over the rivers. Hence sugarcane and other commodities are being transported by boats from one place to other. So, I request that roads and river-bridges should be constructed.

Similarly, the Fair Price Shops are allotted to a selected few. The commodities are either grabbed by officers or sold in black market by shopkeepers themselves. Only 1/3rd of it is distributed. In this connection, I would suggest that these shops should be allotted to crores of unemployed youth of the country. In this way the unemployment problem could be solved and the distribution system too would improve. The middlemen should be removed.

In the same manner there was also a reference to wheat procurement. The thing is that even Government purchases are made through middlemen. When the farmer goes direct with his wheat, it is first filtered in water and then the defects are pointed out. But when the same wheat is brought to the centre through middlemen it is accepted without any check. Therefore, I want that at least the farmer should be assured that he will not be harassed and there will be no middlemen in between.

With these words, I conclude with the hope that due attention would be paid to my suggestions and the problems solved.

[English]

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (Sundargarh):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak in Oriya.

MR. SPEAKER: Have you given notice to speak in Oriya?

[Translation]

*KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO: Yes Sir, Interpreter is there in the booth and he has been informed that I would like to speak in Oriya.

[Kumari Frida Topno]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development, Food, Civil Supply & Public Distribution. As time at my disposal is very short, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government to some problems of Orissa pertaining to these Ministries. Sir, Irrigation facilities are not available in the State of Orissa except the coastal districts. So, the farmers in the other districts mostly depend on rain water to cultivate the land. Irrigation projects have not been executed in these districts. So, they have no other way to get water. They can develop the agriculture if proper arrangement has been made to set up dug wells in large number in the dry areas of the State. There are some areas where irrigation is possible through lift irrigation only. Keeping in view the difficulties of the farmers in the absence of water for cultivation, the Government of India should arise the State Government to give priority for lift irrigation where it is found possible. Constraint of resources should not pose any problem. The Government of India should allocate adequate fund for this purpose. At the same time dry land farming should be encouraged. If it is done, the farmers in the dry areas can grow new varieties of crops. In this connection, Sir, I would like to say that the dry land farming was initiated in my district, Sundargarh in 1988-89. The farmers were supplied with good quality fertilisers and certified seeds. That is why they were able to get good crops. Even they had done the cultivation on the fallow land and had good harvest. The poor people, particularly the small and marginal farmers were mostly getting benefit from dry land farming. But, it is regrettable that this centrally sponsored scheme is not being properly implemented now in these districts. The present Government in Orissa is not paying proper attention to supply good quality seeds and fertilisers to the small and marginal farmers. So, the farmers are not much interested to take up dry land farming. Sir, this is a centrally sponsored scheme. So, the State Government should be advised to implement this scheme vigorously in Sundargarh and

other dry districts of Orissa. Farmers should be helped adequately to start dry land farming.

Sir, it is not possible for the farmers to earn their livelihood from farming alone as they do not have the facilities to grow crops throughout the year in every area. They remain idle for several months in a year. How can they meet their family expenses when they have no work? In order to generate employment as well as purchasing power, the Government should create job of some kind or the other. In this connection, I would like to stress on dairy development. There is a great scope to promote dairy in Orissa. If the rural people get facilities like loan to buy good variety of cows and buffaloes and also some help under the centrally sponsored scheme they will be able to produce milk and milk products from which they can generate income to earn their livelihood. Therefore, I urge the Government of India to pay adequate attention to promote dairy in different parts of the country. Priority should be given in implementing schemes pertaining to dairy in the districts where farmers do not get irrigation facilities.

Then Sir, there is a great scope for the development of fishery in the coastal districts of Orissa. The fishing potentiality of the State has not been properly tapped. There are several villages in the coastal areas where people do not have work throughout the year. Therefore the villagers should be assisted to undertake fishing operation. It is regrettable that the big private companies are given lease in Orissa for fishing particularly prawn cultivation. I urge the Government to direct the State Government of Orissa to assist the traditional fishermen and local youths to undertake fishing. In this process local unemployment problem will be resolved to a large extent. Therefore the Government should identify the fishing zones in the State and exploit the fishing potentiality in order to generate employment for the people of the coastal villages.

Sir, I would like to give emphasis on rural development in my constituency. We have got a steel plant at Rourkela and a

cement plant at Rajgangpur. People of these areas have got some employment. Rest of the areas in my district have a number of problems. The people of rural areas do not have any other scope to earn their livelihood throughout the years. The centrally sponsored schemes are not properly implemented. So, they do not have any work to do. Therefore, Government should monitor the implementation of the rural development programmes and see that the benefit is actually given to the people for whom the schemes have actually been sponsored by the Central Government. It is regrettable that every village do not have roads. There are several villages where health centres, schools and drinking water facilities have not been provided. No industry is set up in these villages as there is no motorable roads. Therefore every village should be connected by roads. There are some tribal areas which are located in the forest and hilly tracks. Roads should be constructed to connect all those villages in the hilly area under the centrally sponsored rural development programmes. Priority should be given for construction of roads to the inaccessible areas. Sir, the Government offices, hospitals and school buildings located in the villages are not being properly maintained due to constraint of fund. I request to the Central Government to allocate fund adequately for the proper maintenance of the Government establishment located in the rural area in my districts. As it is a backward district, Government of India should made fund provision for that district for that purpose under the centrally schemes. I hope the Minister for Rural Development will pay proper attention to implement my suggestion.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the problem of drinking water in my district. The potable drinking is not available in every village. We have got some tubewells in some villages. Sir, those tubewells have become defunct. They should be immediately repaired. Otherwise the problem of the people will become more acute. Then, Sir, there are several villages which have not been supplied with potable drinking water. The crisis will deepen further

if we are not able to provide drinking water in those villages. The Government of India should give top priority to ensure potable drinking water facility to those villages before the ensuring summer season.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say a word about the Food and Civil Supply Ministry. The allocation of wheat and rice to Orissa is not adequate. The poor people are not getting rations from the Fair Price Shops according to their actual need. Moreover, there are some irregularities in the distribution system. I request to the Minister of Civil Supply to put an end to the irregularities and revamp the public distribution system expeditiously.

I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I support the demands whole heartedly and conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the number of hon. Members who participated in this discussion is 42. I am thankful to them for offering their views. Everybody expressed his sympathy for the farmers. In fact, they should. There can be nothing more important than this for use. Some of our friends say that 70 to 80 per cent people depend on agriculture. I believe that 100 per cent people depend on it. Sant Kabir has said -

"Na Kuchch Dekha Nem Dharm Mein,
Na Kuchch Dekha Pothi Mein,
Kahe Kabir, Suno Bhai Sadho, Jo
Kuchch Dekha Sarothi Mein".

Bread is the biggest thing. these is a saying in Punjabi -

"Dhid wich Ni Rotiyan
Te Sari Gallan Khotian."

If the stomach is empty, everything appears useless and nothing can be done. Agricultural production is the very basis of bread. If there is production everything runs smooth. Some of our hon friends are saying that production has declined and foodgrains are not available. It is also not so that there

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was no agriculture policy earlier and there is none now. It is not that we are running the work without any policy. Had it been so, we would not have commended the farmer. We would not have praised them that they have shouldered the responsibility of the whole country. Earlier the population of the country was 34 crore whereas it has exceeded 86 crore now. Everything runs smooth. Earlier we required 50 million tonnes and now our requirement is 176 million tonnes. It is needless to say that still we require more foodgrains. We are moving ahead and expecting increase in agricultural production. On the other hand, nobody sees that production has increased. People will complain that they are not getting sufficient food. It is because every year there is an increase of 2 crore people in the country. How can it be checked. We shall have to think over it. There is no expansion in the land area. It remains static.

We shall have to consider all these points. Everybody asked me as to what is the Agriculture Policy and what I was going to do. A system is being followed right from the beginning and the production increases at the same ratio. There should be co-operation from both sides. Nothing can be done single-handedly. Our scientists are busy in research. Had there been no co-ordination and encouragement from the Government, perhaps we would not have achieved that much progress. My efforts and endeavours are also aimed at it. We are proud of our achievements. During the course of the debate there was, inter-alia, a reference to Bhanu Pratap Committee. It was alleged that the recommendations of the committee were not implemented properly. It was discussed in the Cabinet as well, but it was not implemented that time because of certain consider actions. It would not be good if we act without proper thinking. During the past months I asked all the States and reply from almost all the States have been received. I consulted the farmers of different States separately thrice. Just now Shri Venkateshwar was saying something. He

happened to be an agriculture scientist earlier. I would like to inform him also that if there is anything practical he should come direct to me and offer his suggestion. I will accept them. There is no objection in it. We all should work together. This matter is above party politics. If agriculture prospers, all the parties will be benefited and the health of all will improve. That's why we will have to work with national spirit at heart and in this connection have also invited suggestions from all. I have got no objections in this regard. I will arrive at same conclusion very shortly and in the coming session. I will definitely came up with it before you, so that development and progress could be ensured by following a set of policies in a systematic way. I hope your valuable suggestions will definitely enrich the process.

It is the demand of everyone, including the hon. Members, that the farmers should be paid remunerative prices of their produce. And at the same time inability to pay remunerative prices is also expressed. I felt sorry at the burning of wheat during the protest staged on 6th. This pained me much because we are equally concerned about the welfare of the farmers. You people persistently raise the demand for payment of higher prices to farmers of their produce as if we are against it. Agriculture is my only vocation, which I did myself and did not pursue another profession viz. trade etc. An hon. Member enquired from me about the total land in my possession and whether I have distributed it or not. I would like to submit that I was the first person to have invited people for distributing land with ownership rights. You people can yourself witness how I have converted the barren land into the fertile land. The area which was once a desert now abounds in greenery and stands as a beautiful oasis. I love both nature and farmers. I love plants like my own off sprigs. That's why I do not want to hurt the farmers sentiments nor I am against payment of remunerative prices to farmers of their produce. However, besides this we also have to think of the interests of the nation while taking care of our farmers. Farmers have voluntarily done a lot for the country.

Farmers have not got involved in any sort of corrupt practice i.e. black marketing, hoarding and profiteering. But if the demand is made for excessive increase in prices of agricultural products, then it is not correct. Decision to import of wheat is also opposed; it is another matter whether the imported wheat has arrived or not. The Ministry of Food has stated that the wheat has not yet arrived. Can the purchasing of medicine for a patient, Suddenly fallen ill, be postponed for next day if the medicine costing Rs. 5 is available at Rs. 15 in the night? You have alleged that as per our promise we could not roll back prices within 100 days. However, can it be achieved that way? We will have to see things in right perspective and also to keep a proper check and balance between various things. If the farmers' interests are to be watched then we will have to watch the interest of the common man too. We will have to consider the conditions of both the farmers and poor. That's why after a deep thinking I announced payment of bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal on wheat to farmers over the above the procurement price. The demand to increase the procurement price should be made after due consideration. We take so many things into account then we fix the procurement prices. I would like to inform you that.

[English]

"While making this recommendation, the CACP takes into account the need for "balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regards to the interests of producers and the consumers". The following factors are taken into consideration:

1. Cost of production
2. Change in input prices
3. Input-Output price parity
4. Trends in market prices
5. Inter-crop price parity
6. Effect on Industrial cost Structure.

7. Effect on general price level
8. Effect on cost of living
9. International Market Price Situation
10. Parity between prices paid and prices received.

It will thus be seen that while fixing support prices, it is ensured that it covers cost of production and also provides a reasonable margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology.

The cost of cultivation/production taken into account includes all paid-out costs, such as, those incurred on account of hired human labour, bullock labour/machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased-in-land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material inputs, for example, seeds, fertilisers, manures, pesticides, irrigation charges, including cost of diesel/electricity for operation of pumpsets. Besides, cost of production it includes imputed value of family labour. The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings. As such, the cost of production covers not only paid-out costs, but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses."

[Translation]

We do not procure the products forcibly. It is with the consent of the farmers. We only want to insure the farmers against loss in the years of bumper harvests when prices are very low. If we do not purchase then who will come to their rescue? At present the position is comfortable but a few years back what was the position? 5-7 years ago during harvest season the crop could not be sold at any price. That's why the support prices were fixed to prevent the prices from going down beyond a certain level so that the farmers may not be in loss. All this was done to insure the farmers against loss. You must be remembering the past time when the prices were not beneficial to the farmers.

There have been a failure of onion crop in Nagpur and Nasik. Recently, the issue of garlic crop was rightly raised that one year it was sold for Rs. 3,000 and another year for Rs. 500. We will have to check all these things and I have got a scheme in my mind as to how we can even out these cyclical changes with your cooperation. I would like to chalk out a scheme for farmers so that they may be able to know before hand the required quantity of crops to be sown and in which area it is to be sown depending on the marketing facilities. In case of more crops, prices come down and farmers suffer loss. In case of failure of crops, there is scarcity. Thus the farmers suffer both ways.

Mr. Speaker Sir, just now Shri Mishra was talking about sugarcane. Sugarcane is cultivated for profit if crop is bumper then it has to be burnt. Therefore, I propose a balanced cultivation of sugarcane depending on the total demand for sugarcane, sugar, gur and khandsari. Similarly, the cultivation of potato and other things should also be undertaken in proportion of demand for these items. The farmers need to be informed about all these things. I feel pained when anyone accuses us of lack of concern for farmers, because if farmers suffer then where will we go? We cannot ampute our legs because without legs we cannot move. So, it is not correct to make allegation against us that we are working; against the farmers' interest. Rather we will set right the vested persons who dare farm the farmers' interests.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand to confer the status of industry on agriculture was raised. Undoubtedly, it is a heart moving demand and it will be given a thought as to what benefits can be provided to the farmers. There are so many issues which are to be considered in this respect. I would like to make available all such benefits to agriculture as are available to the industries but with certain changes. Should I make the loans available to the farmers at the rate which is applicable to the industries? Should I provide

electricity to the farmers at the same rate that is applicable to the industries? Should I do all these things which are not in favour of farmers. I want to make the agriculture profitable. I do not favour blanket increase in prices of agricultural produces because I have to keep in mind several things in this regard. I know how much toil and labour are involved in agriculture. Yesterdays' speech of Shri Nitish Kumar painted me very much. You must have heard the story of Caesar in which Cassius and his ruffian Caucus united to assassinate Caesar. They brought Butus to their fold. When Brutus struck at Caesar with a sword, Caesar had said, "Et Tu, Brute then fall, Caesar!" If a farmer's son questions me for putting on a suit, it does not look nice. Rather, he should be happy that a farmer's son can afford to wear a costly suit. It may not be tolerable to a king. The kings were repressive to us. A king may allow us to wear fur caps but not coats. We can prove that we were not born from heaven. We are the sons of farmers. We have vigour and ambition. I want to change the lot of the farmers. I want to make them aware that they are inferior to none. We want to go ahead shoulder to shoulder. We are not prepared to accept second class status. There is only one thing in my mind that we are all Indians, we are all equal. The kings have become a thing of past. Today we are the king because we produce. We earn with our own hands and make both ends meet. So please do not take it otherwise for my quotation 'Et tu Brut'. A reference was made to agriculture and to the rate of interest. There was a point in my mind but I could not so far talk to the hon. Finance Minister in this regard. Perhaps he is not understanding my language or I am not understanding his. He does not understand me because I am a farmer. But I will make him understand one day the basic problem of the farmer i.e. the rate of interest? How to effect a cut in the rate of interest. I will take up other things later. But I will say that the present rate of interest is low. It is now 11.5% upto Rs. 17,000 and 13% upto Rs. 25,000. The rate is higher when the amount increases further. I want to reduce the rate of interest of the amount between these limits. I seek your co-operation for it.

Then comes the question of foodgrain production. There was a reference to China in this regard. As you all know, I have visited China. I have visited almost all the countries of the world in public interest. I studied the system prevailing in these countries and explored as to what can we do for our county and what can we learn from them. I put the same into practice after returning here. Had I not visited these countries, my outlook would not have been broader and I would not have been able to do what I am doing now. I would not have been able to think what I am thinking today. Because a man becomes weak without a broad outlook. I want to inform the House that we have 30 percent irrigated land. We have worked hard and made progress year after year. But till now, no proper system could be evolved for irrigation. So agriculture is not that strong. Irrigation is the base of agriculture. This year the Kharif Crop was very good though there was no rainfall in the end of August and beginning of September. We suffered a loss of 5-6 million tonnes due to that. I sought funds from the Ministry of irrigation and other Ministries for better agricultural production. I have demanded more funds from the Planning Commission and I hope I will get it. I agree with you that the present allocation is not sufficient and that is why I have held meetings with Planning Commission twice. I know that the commission is also experiencing Financial constraints. Even then, I urged them some how to mobilise resources for the Ministry of Agriculture. If funds are not provided how will I fulfil my promise of annual production of 2 crore tonnes, for this, I want that there should be proper irrigational facilities. I want maximum benefits from minimum water. We experiment everything. We provide assistance for protection from flood havoc and funds for irrigational facilities. Still it is not enough. People have progressed a lot. Someone advised me to borrow modern technology from Israel or other countries. I have said already and again saying that -

"Uttam Vidhya Lijiye Yadyapi Kishi Se
Bhi HO,

Paro Apavan Thaur Mai, Manchan Tajai
Na Koy".

I am always prepared to learn from anybody and accept good suggests from any quarters. I want to infuse new blood in everything. If we can have irrigation, we can change that whole structure of agriculture. I am working on that today.

I want that we should adopt new methods for development works. At the same modern methods of irrigation by should be adopted. The hydel projects, and dams, for irrigation should be constructed with modern technology.

This thing is being done in Narmda Sagar. Vajpayeeji, I would like to inform you, for example, that today Gujarat has 20 per cent irrigated land and it will increase by 100 percent once the Narmda project is completed. Then it will be 40 per cent. It will change the entire shape. But we have to work for that and educate our farmers., Indira Gandhi Canal flows in Rajasthan. I know its weaknesses and since beginning I have been saying that the problem can not be solved only by releasing water. The main point is how to utilise it. We need extension services and develop command areas. If we release more water it may cause salinity, It may prove counter productive. So, we have to make research. That is why I have asked our researchers to go ahead. I do not want to keep them confined to laboratories. I do not want to make them show pieces only. Let them give results. I will not be satisfied to see them in labouratories alone. I want them to come out of the labouratories. I want that they should make their research in the fields practically.

We need more funds for irrigation. We will have to launch more schemes for irrigation. We require funds as much as possible for the water shed programmes. I want to implement this scheme in the entire country. I have directed in clear terms that the scheme should be implemented everywhere. I would like to make a submission about Bihar. How production will take place in Bihar unless the regional

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imbalance is removed? I can say that if Bihar can make progress like Punjab, we can also provide food to whole of Bangladesh. These States can provide food to the whole country as well as to other countries. We have everything. The only thing we lack is a desire and a devotion. Someone was appointed somewhere, but he did not work. As such people should be encouraged to work. The work can be accomplished in a better way by division of labour. We have to remove regional imbalances. I would like to inform about a new variety for which research papers have been published. A new research in agriculture has come to light. We have got seeds of a new variety which will produce 30 to 40 per cent more in dry farming. That is —

[English]

"Development of a new and more efficient cropping system to enable water economy up to 30 per cent without any loss of production on a sustained basis...."

[Translation]

I am talking about horticulture. New high-yielding varieties of seeds are being released.

[English]

"Development of superfast growing and early maturing rice varieties possessing a fair degree of tolerance..... Increase in the production of breeder seed of oil-seeds etc.

[Translation]

There can be no work without new varieties of seed. We have to keep in mind this special point in production. We will have to do more research on seeds. I have a scheme to amalgamate both State Seed Farm Corporation and Mietro Seeds Corporation. After that we should work in full swing to produce good quality seeds. Alongwith it I also want that farmers should increase production by using the new variety

of seeds and benefit from that. But I need good persons who work honestly so far as seed sector is concerned because supply of substandard seed will cause wide spread damage and ruin the entire crop. This is the priority sector so we will supply seeds keeping this fact in view.

In addition to that we have carried out research and here are its findings for you.

[English]

"Release; of high-yielding varieties/ hybrids in various crops including 192 in cereals, 74 in oil-seeds, 21 in pulses, 30 in commercial crops and 16 in forage crops were released/identified. development of rice variety, increase in production, development of new cotton variety. LRA 1966."

[Translation]

We have done all this and have also developed a new variety of mango, which is very good. We have also developed Tendermat, Cocnut hybrid variety. Today, we are getting 8-10 kg. cashew from one tree whereas we used to get only 1 kg earlier. We want to do all this. We have stopped importing and we are producing those things in our country which may yield good crop. I had gone to Pattur to inaugurate a seminar. The Government has opened a research centre there which is very beautiful and this Centre has started releasing new varieties of seeds as a result of which there will be a sea-change in the condition of the farmers and a new ray of hope will be seen on their faces. The Government wants to work like this. Alongwith it, new high-yielding varieties of vegetables have been developed. If seeds are good, one can hope to have good production of tomato as high as 300 quintal in an acre. You go and see for yourself as to what the small farmers are going. They have adopted this technique.

[English]

Development of new techniques to increase productivity of fish farms.

They are doing a lot and just now our hon. Member Shri Amal Datta has left the House. I would like to tell him that I have recently inaugurated a project of Rs. 100 crore of prawn fish in brackish water

I have seen the production of paraewen fish in brackish water at our Research Centre in Madras where it is 2 to 4 tonnes in an acre and the price of 1 tonne is Rs. 2.5 lakh. It means Rs. 10 lakh from 1 hectare. I am happy with that too. I said that I would be satisfied by 5 lakh at one time but later on my appetite for more production will increase. I would like to do all this in the field of sea-products. Hatcheries and feed making machines should be there. After doing all this, I would like to take it up.

One of our friends Shri S.C. Patnaik said that nothing had been done in Orissa. We have started land and prawn farming in brackish water in seven thousand eight hundred hectare and not only this, the Government proposes to start it in many states and wants to implement it all over the country. We have increased the production of fish from 7.8 lakh tonnes to 38 lakh tonnes. According to my estimate and scheme it should be increased to 90 lakh tonnes. At present there is a small area under fish farming later on more area will be brought under it.

I would like to reserve 50% for small farmers and want to leave 50% for others, so that, they may not suffer any loss. I had requested the Government of West Bengal in the recent past to enact the law, which is not in force only in Bengal and Gujarat. No law has been enacted to check fishing by poachers. Poachers come there. We have to safeguard the interests and rights of small fishermen. Therefore, they should enact this law.

[English]

Then, holding of 4000 demonstrations covering most of the agro-climatic zones

demonstrating yield of rice, wheat, pulses, oil-seeds two to three times the yield of the neighbouring farmers.

[Translation]

We have done all this. Seeing is believing. The main reason of the development of agriculture in Punjab is that there are demonstration block in each village. These people do all this after watching one and the other. This is our position. Therefore, I want to make it clear that the farmer can do this much and given the incentives he can perform much better.

[English]

Adoption of 20000 farm families under land to land programme in areas of rain-fed farming demonstrating increase in productivity by forty per cent.

[Translation]

We would like to increase 40 per cent productivity in rainfed areas.

[English]

There were 95816 training courses of Krishi Vigyan Kendra benefitting 207446 trainees and 1445 trainers. 26,500 Scheduled Caste and Tribes farm families have increased their annual income from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000. 183 Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been established in 180 districts in the country. This work was already started there.

[Translation]

I want to do a lot but at present I have to cut my coat according to the cloth and I shall not think of proceeding further. We would like to implement these schemes everywhere during the next five years. I would not like to set up Science centre only for name sake. I would like these centres to work in association with the farmer and develop a new attitude. I think of increasing production in this way. Not only this, horticulture will also be taken up along with it. I would like to adopt a new

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attitude in regard to Horticulture. I would like to produce value added products. Only .05 percent of the total production of vegetables and fruits in India is processed and canned. It is negligible. It requires an infrastructure. For that I have asked for Rs. 1000 crore from the Planning Commission. Let us see how much is given. Last year only Rs. 16 crore were given. I am fighting continuously. Neither I have learnt to say no nor I have ever learnt to lose. In spite of their repeated no, I will get it done.

I will include in that.....

[English]

Packaging, grading, forwarding, marketing, processing, storage, transportation; transportation by railways, by trucks, by aviation, by ships and then export orientation of fresh fruits.

[Translation]

I am the first person to take initiative in this direction and I am proud of saying that 14 to 20 containers of grapes are being daily exported to England. I want to improve the quality of the grapes to such an extent that there is no one in the world to compete with it. People of Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are producing it. Plum of these states is superior to the apple. There are also other crops which need to be encouraged these are sapadibla, pomegranate etc.

People say that they require foreign exchange. Foreign exchange is lying beneath our earth, it is in the hands of our farmers. We can change the entire position. It is said that the fruits of the efforts put in by the farmers are received after a long time. For example an old man was planting a tree. Somebody asked him as to what was he doing. He said that he was planting a mango tree. The man said you are planting among trees but being an old man your life is short who will eat the fruits? He said my sons and grandsons will

eat them. I will also do such a work that all of you would be happy. We can make export of Rs. 40 thousand crore and it is 100 percent yours. Where is the need of IMF and the World Bank? There will be no need of aid from IMF the simple thing is that the farmer will produce and enjoy it.

I am optimistic. Life is hope and hope is life. The person, who is not optimistic in life becomes sad. Now I would like to come on co-operative sector. There is a good co-operative system in Maharashtra. Many mills are running on co-operative basis. It is also functioning well in Gujarat. We have also done some work in this direction. But there is a problem of interference by Government in this cooperative sector. It pinches me very much. I see the interference of Government in every sphere of co-operative sector. The Government appoints an I.A.S. or any other officer its managing director who remains there for 1-1 1/2 year and goes back. He manipulates the things according to its sweet and acts arbitrarily but nobody can challenge his authority. I shall do away with this system. I would like to entrust the responsibility on local people. They would be answerable after three years as we are. I would like to introduce a new legislature for the people who work.

The Government would like to introduce a new Bill soon for co-operative sector. The Government have also given some suggestion to the State Governments regarding co-operative. We will suspend it, if your party does not come into power; what is this way? What sort of democracy is this?

[English]

It is dictatorship; it is sheer negation of democracy.

[Translation]

We have to do away with this system.

19.00 hrs.

:You have asked about fertilizers. All is

well with your grace and will remain so in future. I have appointed a new committee which is determining as to how many mills are to be set up how much expenditure is to be incurred how much expenditure is superfluous. Hon. Members have also asked that last year Rs. 405 crore were allocated for it, but this year allocation has not been made. It is all under consideration. We will discuss it later on. There is nothing to worry about in this regard. I shall surely satisfy them. We will get funds in one way or the other. I will satisfy them but there is a paucity of funds. For this I have approached the Government. Government has reduced import duty and excise duty slightly. The Department of co-operative has asked good corporations to produce fertilizers and produce it properly so that it may be made available at cheaper rates. They act arbitrarily. Fear of inflation haunts them, if procurement prices are increased. It is said that inflation will increase if prices of agricultural products are increased. If prices of agricultural products are increased by only Rs. 25, inflation will increase. Does the increase in agriculture products increase the inflation? Nobody say anything when prices of car, sugar, spirit and razors are increased. But when procurement prices of agriculture produce are increased by Rs. 25 people become prejudice to farmers. Has anybody else ever done farming? He toils hard. He works day and night. Some people were suggesting to impose income tax on agriculture income, but come to me for one year if not possible for two nights.

Mr. Advani, if a person goes to water has field at 12.00 hrs. in the night in the month of January, when the temperature is zero degree, in the morning he is bound to be struck by pneumonia. Put on trousers in the month of June when harvesting is done, harvesting is going to start after 15th April. If you work for a week or 15 days harvesting the crop, you will come to know the travails and the ground realities. I had also said that he who has not worked in the field should not be made an Agriculture Minister or a Secretary in the Department of Agriculture. Everyone finds his own work easy. I admit

that the allocations for agriculture have always been less.

[English]

I want more investment in agriculture—private as well as governmental. That is my thrust.

[Translation]

If we do not invest money, how there can be production. The allocations for this sector are decreasing gradually. We want money and for this I would like to tell the House that all of us should be unanimous on agriculture and for its various disciplines i.e. Research and development, No obstruction of any kind should be there. Till money is not there, no irrigation project for development can be taken up and no factories can be set up. I would like to set up agro based industries and that too in villages. Even in this I need your help. Shri Manmohan Singh has proposed for creation of an Agri-business consortium. I want to expand it upto Kashmir. I would like to see that its target is achieved. I can only see one thing. Like Arjun, I can only see one eye of the sparrow. I see my target and nothing else. My aim is that the farmers should march ahead and alongwith it the country should make progress. Without farmer, the nation cannot march ahead.

An hon. Member talked about China. In China they take the entire production into account. But we do not do that. We only estimate the foodgrains. They include potatoes, fodder and vegetables also. It is only due to this their total shows such a high figure. I have seen all this and studied it. They cannot excelus. I have done it and even now I can do it and show. We will rejuvenate it and uplift the backward States. If I am required to make request with folded hands I shall do it and ask them to work. In Punjab the per capita consumption of energy is 631 kilo watt; but in Bihar and Orissa it is 106 kilowatt. Then how to work in this and make progress? This is not the way to make progress.

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Our hon. friends were saying that there are no roads. There will be roads when there will be money with us and when the Governments are effective. You may go to Punjab and Haryana each village has three approach roads. I have done them with my own hands. We put soil and constructed roads. A lot of hard work was done and we got its fruit. There were villages in which there was no water. But now, everything has changed. No village lacks electricity or roads. There is hardly a village in which water is not supplied through taps and there is not a village where there are no schools or middle schools. I say that there can be phenomenal changes. Today, there are telephone centres and telephone exchanges. Then, why there will not be a change? We have to work for this. In fact, a sense of enthusiasm should be there and people should have strength to work. This has been done.

As far as technology transfer is concerned, I want setting up of extension services for development. These are most essential. I want to do everything for extension services and I want that it should reach the villages. A link should be established. The Gramsevaks have no link with the villagers. Now everyone says, that no work is being done in the villages. Then what do we people do? Have you ever asked that question to yourself whether we have any sense of responsibility or not? They began to say that manure is not available, it goes in black. If black marketing of manure is done in the villages, then what the villagers are doing? Is there nobody from the Bhartiya Janata Party, the Janata Dal, the Congress Party or the Communist Party? Are all of our workers useless? Do they not have any feeling in their hearts love for the nation? Is there no honesty? We should do something about this. You talk of natural calamities. These are the whims of nature and we suffer great losses because of this. I had myself gone to Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry, I went every where. Just now, Meghe Sahib left the House. The people of Nagpur were saying that I did not go there. I keep going to

Maharashtra every day. There is no such thing. I have no objection in going there, but we shall have to change the policy for this. When we do not have anything, what is the use of going. There is a proverb that those who lack food make empty claims. When we lack basic things and just of there to show our faces, then can we be called very philanthropist people?

[English]

It looks so bad to me. I do not feel elated on that. I feel pained.

[Translation]

Earlier, we used to do it and extended help from the centre. The States which suffered losses used to get financial assistance from the centre. Now the States though that why should all resources concentrate in the centre. They wanted to amass the resources themselves and now it has proved counter productive. That is why we should do something new in this regard.

[English]

We have to bring it again for consideration.

[Translation]

Because a calamity does not come with advance notice. The States divert the funds for some other purposes. They do not keep it in resource to meet the eventuality.

One more important thing remains and that relates to insurance. Even the Hon. Prime Minister made an announcement about insurance. I said that we shall introduce an insurance scheme. We shall try to insure each crop and for that reason I had made an appeal to all of you very humbly to offer suggestions. I have convened many meetings. I called all friends for the insurance policy, I called you, I called the farmers, I called the exports, I called the officers, I called the officials of the general insurance corporation, I called everyone but till today

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nobody has been able to give me a meaningful policy. Look Sir, at places floods occur. At places there is drought. At places there are illnesses. How to assess the quantum of production from various crops viz. sugarcane cotton and potato etc. How will you decide all these things. One crop is going to be plentiful and the other is not the same. In Gujarat and Maharashtra abundant cotton is grown through dry farming process. This time the crops were affected by drought and the yield has not been even two quintals. But in our area the yield from this crop was as 11 quintals. Last time the price of cotton was very low. But this time it fetches Rs. 1500 per quintal. When the price is high you should at least give us applause. When a child has studied and passed the examination, then the members of the house should pat him and give him a pencil at least, and applaud him. The work is done in this way, and that strengthen man's morale to do work. I think all this can not be done in this way. It shall be done after thinking properly. I have tried to make a pilot project in each district and I shall make an experiment for the new policy. I have asked the general insurance company to prepare a draft because we have to include all aspects before finalisation. We have to give shape to it and make it a success. We have to see as to what should be the premium for various crops. These are the things that needs to be considered. There are many different issues and I can not make any assessment right now. So, we should make an experiment after careful consideration. Whatever I have said, it is correct. Suppose one factory is covered by insurance. It gets money and this facility is not available at other places. Suppose that some villages, experienced hailstorm and they were devastated and a village close to them was saved. In this connection a reply had been given in the House that unless the entire village was affected, insurance money would not be paid. I had asked a question when I was sitting on the Speaker's chair and

Bhajan Lalji was giving the reply. I put the question which I should not have. But I did. I asked that if the entire industrial area does not catch fire, you will not give money. When the entire locality catches fire, only then you will give insurance money. All these things are in my mind, but how should I solve these vexatious issues? I am expressing my inability in front of you. I would not like to hide anything. I would like to do everything by taking all of you into confidence.

One of our Senior Members, Sultanji was just now, talking of our hills. States *(Interruptions)*.....

I would like to provide them a new plant material which has been produced through tissue culture. After procuring drawn varieties form abroad we want to produce twenty to twenty five tonnes in place of present two tonnes. I have gone and seen it. If it can be done, then why should not we do it. Our farmers capable of learning a technique if it is demonstrated to them just once. In Ludhiana, if you show them Jets and Vayudoot they will produce a prototype on the third day. It is a very minor thing. In a way, we have made a firm resolve to make progress and we are determined to do so, I would like to thank you a lot for listening to me. If something new is there, I will again come before you. We shall try to proceed well. Please try to ensure that the Agriculture Ministry is allocated more funds.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, Friday, 10th April, at 11 A.M.

19.12 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, 10 April, 1992/ Chaitra 21, 1914 (Saka)