

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, around three thousand labourers have been retrenched in the Forest Department during the last years in Uttrakhand region which also includes the employees of Forest Corporation who have been continuously serving in the Forest Development since the last 15-20 years. An agitation is going against the retrenchment of these labourers, they are staging relay fast and fast unto death. All of them are poor labourers and due to retrenchment they are on the verge of starvation. Not only this, around 2000 labourers of Water Corporation have been retrenched on the pretext that the Corporation does not have any funds to give them salary. Thus, due to retrenchment of 5000 labourers of Forest Department, Forest Corporation and Water Corporation of Uttar Pradesh and their families are on the verge of starvation. On the one hand, the Government like of providing security and social justice to the labourers but on the other hand, labourers are being retrenched in Uttaranchal region. I had raised this issue yesterday also and the hon'ble Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has also noticed this issue. I want that the Government should intervene in this matter immediately as there is President's rule in Uttar Pradesh at present and how long it can continue but I want that the Government should issue necessary directions in this regard to save the labourers from starvation there. All these labourers had been working for the last 10 to 15 years on the wages of Rs. 35/- per day. I urge upon Government that their outstanding wages should be paid without any delay and action be taken to reinstate them.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the voice of lakhs of farmers of my constituency in this House. In my Parliamentary constituency Sri Ganganagar, on Indo-Pak border there are such areas like Tibbi, Rawatson, Pilibaga Tehsil Headquarter where dampness has developed in the entire land of the farmers due to which life of the farmers is ruining. The houses of farmers have submerged in water. The Govt. of Rajasthan has provided an amount of Rs. eight crore for this problem but it is not sufficient. I urge upon the Government that an amount of Rs. 50 crore may be provided to the Government of Rajasthan without any delay to save the farmers of my constituency so that dampness in land can be checked and water can be collected at one place.

SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH (Sidhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you as you have given me an opportunity to raise my point in the House. Due to uncertainty of monsoon, Kharif and Rabi crops have been badly affected during this year in the entire Sidhi district of Madhya Pradesh. The people of several Tehsils

like Churhat, Rampur Naikin, Singhawal, Devson, Gopadvatas etc. of Sidhi district are migrating to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh to earn their livelihood. I would like to submit the Government to declare Sidhi district as famine affected district and relief work should be started there. Famine affected people may be given employment immediately and instructions should be issued to the State Government to waive of the land revenue of the farmers of Sidhi district.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as you are aware, we are on the threshold of the Ninth Five Year Plan. In spite of the eight Five Year Plans having been implemented so far covering a period of more than four decades, the very noble purpose underlying the planning process, that is, elimination of poverty and regional imbalance, has not been achieved to our satisfaction.

On the other hand, the regional imbalance is on the increase. There is more and more poverty in some States like Bihar and Orissa. Because of the inability of certain States to raise required internal resources, even such States are not able to avail of the Plan outlay fixed by the Planning Commission and the Government of India. This is a very funny and tragic situation obtaining in our country. National unity is much more needed for our country. In fact, it is threatened. Unless poverty is eradicated and growing regional imbalance is contained, this cannot be done. We are on the threshold of the Ninth Five Year Plan and last evening, as reported in the Press, the Cabinet has considered the 9th Draft Plan Approach Paper. Parliament being supreme and sovereign, it is essential that this Approach Paper is discussed in this House before finalisation of our Plan by the Government of India and the Planning Commission. It is very essential that this House should discuss different aspects relating to the Approach Paper of the Ninth Plan. This way, we will get an opportunity to express our views. That would also help the Government to finalise the Plan, in right perspective. Since the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here, I would request the hon. Minister to see that this is debated in Parliament.

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : I want to draw the attention of the House about the recent meeting convened by the Minister of Agriculture which was convened for identifying low productivity areas in the country in terms of agricultural output. It is unfortunate that the map presented by the Expert Committee in that meeting, did not contain the North-Eastern region.

You know, the North-Eastern region is an economically backward area. This is also industrially backward because of lack of adequate infrastructural facilities. But unfortunately, the map which was provided