

of the United States Development Agency started that improvements are being carried out in India at four places instead of two places. When experiments are carried out in Genetics then many types of such bacteria are injected into plants which needs perfection so that the same may not spread in the surrounding areas because such type of plants affect the plants growing hereby and we cannot say that it also affects the blood groups and blood cells of the persons working there. This issue is important because here we were not aware of it and not only that similar experiment of improvement is being carried out somewhere near Delhi. Experiments are being carried out to improve the breed of brinjals. An ad-hoc Committee was Constituted for this purpose. Members of this Committee are changed from time to time. Therefore, due attention is not paid on it as it should have been.

Another thing is that there is no mention of the on going experiments being carried out for Genetic modified genes in the Annual report of the department of Bio-Technology. It is very important to have transparency in view of the people of India, its flora and fauna as many Chemical factories that are running here which are prohibited in foreign countries. Everything is possible in our country. Thus, if things go this way ultimately the experiment on Gene would affect the soil and people of our country. My request is that it is a very important issue. Since the Prime Minister is holding the portfolio of Science and Technology he should make a statement in this regard. Transparency should be ensured in it and people's representatives of people may also be the ad-hoc Committee alongwith the officers. The Committee too should have transparency in its functioning reviews be given such astonishing facts should not come to light so that there is no adverse impact on the people and environment the on-going work for Gene's improvement is good but I would request that some consideration be given over it to ward off its adverse impact.

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I belong to the State of Bihar where there is acute crisis of Power. My district Aurangabad is very backward and I am drawing the attention of the Government through you towards it. Tenders were invited by Ponla Grids Corporation of India on 30.8.1996 on behalf of ministry of Power for Setting up of a Coal-based 2000 MW Capacity Thermal Power project in Nabinagar region of my constituency. But not a single tender has been received. Agencies involved in developmental works have not submitted any tenders so far. Therefore, I am drawing the attention of the government through you that work on Nabinagar thermal Power project be started after including it in 9th five year Plan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would like to tell one thing before calling the next Members to speak that it would be better to raise matters of national interest during zero hour. I agree that you should raise matters relating to your Constituency, it is a good sign, but if matters of national interests are raised during zero hour

then some of its importance would remain. It is a request and it would be better if the speech is brief.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I would like to bring this to the notice of the entire House, including our great leader Shri Vajpayee. Our country's economy is being shattered now. No industry is going to come shortly. The capital market has totally phenomenally failed and no institution or bank has either the inspiration, spirit, courage or the guts to come forward to encourage any industry with the fear that it will be harassed and found fault. With the result, today our country's position has unbelievably become weak.

Perhaps, till now, in Indian history it has never happened like this. At this rate, if things keep on going like this, I do not know what is going to be the future of this country. Therefore, my request is that the entire House should feel concerned about this situation. I am calling upon the Government that they must make hectic efforts and take effective measures to improve the situation.

They must give a big moral support to banks and other institutions to come forward. The banks and the financial institutions should be given a clear cut understanding that people who work with integrity and honesty will not be harassed and will be given support by the Government.

On the question of how the capital market is going to be improved, I would say that by giving more confidence in the public, Government must make efforts to improve it.

Lastly, in the Budget, MAT has been introduced. That has also become a very big problem for the growth of industry. Recently, our hon. Prime Minister came out openly that he has also understood the mistake of the Government by introducing MAT. Even in my Budget speech, I objected that MAT should not be introduced in the corporate bodies. I am very happy that, at least, the Prime Minister has come forward openly and has agreed in a public meeting that he is going to call all the captains of the industry of this country and discuss with them the MAT problem and try to improve the industry in this country.

I welcome this and I request the Government to take quick and strong action to abolish the MAT system so that the economy is given a new life by giving new inspiration for improving the industry.

Here, I would, once again, like to draw the attention of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee that he must take personal interest to see that industry is improved in the country. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN (Sri Ganganagar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I had raised the matter on 19.11.96 during zero hour and Government has taken

no notice of it till date. I am compelled to raise this issue. Sir, farmers are being exploited today. You know that 80 percent population of our country is dependent on agriculture, 20 percent population is dependent on factories, and 30 percent population is poor only because of the fact that businessmen are exploiting the farmers. When crops are ready for harvesting it comes in the hands of businessman who is turn reduce its price to such a low extent that the farmers are forced to sell their crops even below its production cost. Farmer's of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan and of other provinces are not getting reasonable prices for cotton. Lakhs of farmer's are sitting in queue in markets, they are a pitiable lot. Cotton is sold in markets at the rate of 1100 rupees per quintal. I am pointing it out through you that four to five quintals of cotton is produced in an acre whereas five thousand rupees are spent per acre on fertilizers, Seeds and medicines from the time of sowing of its seeds to the harvesting. Cotton produced by farmers is sold at a throwaway price. When the farmers sell their produce in the market it is sold cheaply but its price doubles when it is sold by businessmen. Wheat was sold at the rate of four hundred rupees per quintal in April but now it is being sold at the rate of nine hundred rupees per quintal. This is exploitation of the farmers and labourers. Our Prime Minister propagates himself as being the won of a farmer through big posters, radio and television. If the son of a farmer be the Prime Minister of this Country and such exploitation of the farmers goes on, you can imagine the plight in the rest of the Country. I would also demand from the Government that the rate of Cotton be fixed at the minimum of two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmers might get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that in the first five year plan budget allocation for irrigation was 16 percent whereas land for irrigation was not the same as it is today. Today there has been increase in the area of land to be irrigated but only 6 percent has been allocated in the budget.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nihal Chand ji, reading out a written paper is not allowed during zero hour.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : I want to request to the Government through you that the budget for irrigation be enhanced from 6 percent to 25 percent and price of cotton should be fixed at two thousand and five hundred rupees per quintal so that the farmer's may get reasonable price of their produce. I would also request that Akashvani and Doordarshan should give coverage to the 5 labourers who on fast unto death and the Government should think about them.

[English]

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME (Birbhum) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this House and to the Government an important issue. Though this issue is pertaining to my constituency and to my district, it is an important issue.

Sir, in my district, Birbhum, there is a Colliery, that is Kankartala Colliery Field under the Eastern Coalfield Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Limited. Now the work has been suspended in the Kankartala Colliery Field and the mining operation has been stopped. The Government wants to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector. I do not know the reason for that. The Government took a stand to hand over the existing Colliery Field to the private sector. I urge upon the Government to immediately start the mining operation in the Karnataka Colliery Field and not to hand over this Colliery Field to the private sector.

I would like to raise another very important point that illegal mining and illegal coal trafficking are going on in the entire colliery belt in my district and in the bordering areas of Bihar. They are going unchecked. I have pointed out this matter to the administration several times but still they are unchecked. There is a vast reserve of a very good quality coal. This reserve should be exploited by having a new project for exploitation of good quality of coal in the district of Birbhum and in the bordering areas of Bihar.

[Translation]

I would like to know the reaction of the Government on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the question of poor weavers in the House through you. There are 10 thousand poor weavers in Handloom Corporation at Nagpur who are dying out of starvation. Their condition have become pitiable cotton yarn are not available with them for the last four months they are not getting any work. Despite their pitiable plight atrocities are being committed on them, be it the Central Government or the State Government no body is concerned about them. Efforts have been made several time but all in vain, they could not solve the problems of the weavers. Their position is going from bad to worse. The people working in handloom corporation took their case to the Supreme Court of India and the court pronounced judgement in their favour that the facilities should be given to them by treating them as industrial labourers but the said verdict is not being implemented.

Therefore I request the Central Government through you that any Minister or Secretary at apex level should be sent their to get this matter because the State Government as well as the Central Government is responsible for this. Today more than ten thousand workers of Handloom Corporation demand justice from you. Please do justice to them. They should get work as per the judgement of the Supreme Court. They should have got justice according to the verdict pronounced, but they are not getting it. We have had talks with the officers of the Corporation. They told if they will have to