

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : It relates to Ministry of Food.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now it is time for the discussion on Private Members' Bill. This can be taken up any other day. We cannot take any more time allotted to the Private Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Would it not be taken up today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It would be taken up on Monday.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Discussion will be held in the Rajya Sabha also on Monday
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Time will be adjusted but now let the Private Members' Bill be taken up.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : We want only clarification as the hon'ble Minister has to give reply today after Question hour as per the business of the House
...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : All of us have to speak on price rise. There is a great resentment all over the country...*(Interruptions)* The prices of wheat have gone up and flour has also become so much costlier but Shri D.P. Yadav is not aware of it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is the decision of the House. If the House agrees, the Private Members' Bill can be taken up later on but I am sorry that I cannot change the decision of this august House.

SHRI PINAKI MISHRA : Then, would it be taken up on Monday?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, we would take it up on Monday

15.12 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: NEW AGRICULTURAL POLICY

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALLA (Kottayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are on the threshold of the 21st Century. Increase in the production and productivity, and ensuring food security for the growing population are the main concern of today. Our population is growing at an alarming rate. But, at the same time, our agricultural production is steeply going down. Our wheat production in this year has gone down drastically and now we are importing wheat from other countries.

As we are all aware, agriculture is not a profitable profession. So, some steps should be taken to make

agriculture a profitable profession. Then, the farmers will concentrate on farming and they will take interest in this profession. Then only will we be able to make more production and we will be able to give more productivity in this field.

As far as the price is concerned, the farmers are facing a lot of problems. So, an effective price strategy has to be ensured. Otherwise the farming community will be totally dissatisfied and they will not take any interest in the farming. As a result of that, the total production of the agricultural goods will come down.

The New Policy should be enforced for land ceiling laws. As rightly pointed out by my hon' colleague, Shri Anil Basu, land reforms are implemented in two States only, that is, West Bengal and Kerala. As far as the other States are concerned, these land reforms are only on paper. They are not in reality. But because of the non-implementation of land reforms in the States and because of this law, our agricultural sector is facing a lot of difficulties. So, it is necessary that our land laws and land reforms should be enforced properly so that the farming community can be benefited.

By 2000 A.D., we need 235 to 240 million tonnes of grains. As I mentioned earlier, now the production of wheat, rice and other essential commodities is steeply going down. So, there should be a concerted effort for increasing the production and productivity.

One of the most important points which I want to mention here is that agriculture - by Entry 14 - is in the State List. But the Centre has made a lot of inroads into this, essentially the State subjects, in the name of national policies related to agricultural development.

Agriculture is a State subject. Time and again, the Central Government has intruded into this subject and very important policies and programmes were taken up by the Central Government. For example, many effective irrigation and other important programmes are now Centrally sponsored schemes. The State Governments have been concerned about the expansion of the list of Centrally sponsored schemes under agricultural development. Since Agriculture is a State subject, the Centre should refrain from introducing into this sector. It is a State subject and it should continue to be like that so that effective agricultural development can take place.

Since Independence, the agriculture sector has been receiving stepmotherly treatment. Because of the stepmotherly attitude, this sector is not at all expanding and more productivity cannot be seen. The farmers are not getting their legitimate price. The reasons are: (1) ban and the restrictions on export of commodities (2) dumping of agricultural products from abroad in the domestic market; (3) restrictions on trade and movement; (4) inadequacy in fixing the floor price and the support price. The farmers are not getting remunerative prices.

I come from the State of Kerala where we are growing spices, rubber and other agricultural products.

Our farmers are always complaining about remunerative prices. Even though the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is, time and again, deciding the floor prices, the farmers are never getting remunerative prices. Farmers producing spices have always been complaining about the remunerative price. The cost of cultivation is increasing day by day. The wages are also going up. When the labour component is going up and when the cost of everything else in the agricultural operations is going up, keeping in view these two aspects, they should get a remunerative price also. Unfortunately, our farmers are deprived of getting a remunerative price, compared to the cost of production. The Government also is responsible for this. The CACP is not taking the actual cost of cultivation into consideration. They are not concerned about the cost of cultivation. The floor price or the support price has to be fixed by taking into consideration the wage component as well as the cost of cultivation. No realistic study is being conducted in this regard. Ultimately the farmers are the sufferers and they are not getting the remunerative price. Because of that, they are going away from cultivation and are seeking some employment. They are selling their lands or are using them for certain other purposes. This is what is happening in our country. So, the Government is also responsible for this.

In the recent Budget, our hon. Finance Minister has reduced the import duty on rubber from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. Our country is self-sufficient in natural rubber. As per the Rubber Board's statistics, we are self-sufficient in rubber. As to today, there is no gap in demand and supply of rubber. I do not understand why the import duty has been reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent. This is having a psychological effect on the rubber growers and they are compelled to reduce the price of rubber. What is happening in the rubber market now? I come from an area where rubber plantation is done on a large scale. Last month, the rubber growers were getting a price ranging between Rs. 60 and Rs. 65, but after this year's Budget, the price has crashed down to Rs. 35 to Rs. 40.

Ultimately the sufferers are the rubber growers. The Government has not fixed any floor price for this by calculating the cost of cultivation and because of that the farmers are suffering a lot. My request to the Government is that time and again the floor price and support price of wheat and the support price of rice should be fixed so that the farmers could get the benefit out of that.

Sir, there are one or two important points which I want to mention here. One is the investment in the agricultural sector, if we go through the statistics, one thing is very clear that the public investment in the agricultural sector is coming down and the private investment is also coming down. After liberalisation we see that there is a boom in the industrial sector. More investment is coming in the industrial sector. But this

farm sector is completely neglected. More investment should be there in the farming sector. Then only we will be able to develop the agricultural activities and we will be able to increase our production. We can see very evidently the spurt in the industrial growth. But no comparable increase is there in the investment of agricultural sector. This should be taken care of very seriously.

Regarding Research and Development, the outcome does not reach the field. Even though the Government of India, the Ministry of Agriculture is spending crores and crores of rupees, and the Research and Development is going on, the real beneficiaries who are in the villages are not getting the fruits of the Research and Development activities.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I will take two or three minutes only.

Regarding the private investment, I have a suggestion. The role of the cooperatives cannot be neglected. A fresh review of cooperatives is very much necessary. There is an urgent need for revamping the cooperatives which can play a very critical role in the investment agencies particularly in the backward areas of our country where private investment is very low. We have to promote and streamline the activities of the cooperatives so that they can give more private investment in the backward areas of our country.

Sir, every fourth farmer in the world is an Indian. But we are always neglecting the farming community. We have to encourage them. Then only can our productivity be increased. There are some apprehensions. My hon. friend here has mentioned that after the GATT the things have changed. I do not agree with his perception. After the GATT agreement has been implemented, because of that, our Indian farmers are very much benefited by that. The apprehensions are totally incorrect. Now the world market is open for us. If we want to be able to compete with the world market, there is enough scope. We have to prepare the Indian farmers to compete in the world market and we have to make them prepare for that.

Now our Indian products are going abroad. Our Indian rice is going abroad. Our horticultural things are going abroad and they are finding a good market there. The market accessibility is there. That will be one of the very important features of GATT.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down now. I am calling the next speaker.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I am concluding.

The total agricultural scenario is to be reviewed in the changed situation. I agree that there should be a new approach. There should be a comprehensive agricultural policy which is very necessary. I welcome this Resolution moved by my hon. friend Shri Anil Basu.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, First of all I appreciate the Resolution moved by my hon. Friend Shri Anil Basu. At present we are having a population of 94 crore in our country. Of this, 70 per cent is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture and of this 70 per cent, sixty per cent belongs to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the O.B.Cs.

Of this 60 per cent, 40 per cent constitute landless agricultural labourers. This is the position.

Now, I come to the agricultural system. Till today, India has been following an age old system of agriculture which has been going on for the last thousand of years. Of Course, this old system must continue for another three or four decades because we do not believe, at present, in the mechanised system of agriculture. If our agriculture is mechanised, I think, crores of people would be rendered unemployed. So, this old system should continue at present.

This landlessness is the disease of the peasantry. I have already said that at least 70 per cent of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are landless because of uneven distribution of the ceiling surplus land. So, we must have thorough land reforms. At the same time, we should review our Land Ceiling Act because even today, so far as my knowledge goes, I know that as per the Land Ceiling Act, an individual can hold more than two hectares of land. So, I should say that the land Ceiling Act should be reviewed and there should be exhaustive land reform measures.

Sir, throughout the country, deforestation is going on. I know that only 50 years ago, there was 27 per cent forest cover in India, but at present it is only 12 to 13 per cent. Whereas Assam previously had 33 per cent forest cover, at present the forest cover has come down to 17 to 18 per cent. So, in such a situation, we cannot keep our environment pollution-free. So, by deforestation you cannot have cultivable land. We must encourage what is called afforestation through social forestry and other means.

Sir, our population is rising in an alarming measure. Now, it is almost 94 crores and by 2000 A.D., I feel, it will exceed 100 crores. In such a situation, we should see that our agricultural production should go up. So far as family planning is concerned - I should not say 'family planning' rather I should say 'Family welfare' - there should be awareness among the common man regarding our family size, of course, for the sake of family welfare and also to keep the growth rate of our population less.

I feel that agriculture and industry are complementary to each other because agriculture supplies raw materials to industry and industry in turn absorbs the excess labour forces of agriculture in the industry.

In this sense, I should say that agriculture and industry are complementary to each other. At present,

we do not want nationalisation of industry. We want that industry should be labour intensive, not capital intensive so that the excess labour force in agriculture can be absorbed by industry.

Sir, we have adopted Green Revolution to increase our food production. We have got some result, no doubt. But at the same time, research and development is going on and we have got some fruits there as well. The hon. Minister has announced that Krishi Vigyan Kendras would be set up in the country in an extensive way. But my suggestion is that Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be set up districtwise, throughout the country to increase production.

15.31 hrs.

(Col. Rao Ram Singh *in the Chair*)

As far as the new agricultural policy is concerned I would say that we must adopt multiple cropping or what is called the crop rotation system and if we adopt this method, I feel that there should be a proper irrigation system. Without a proper irrigation system, we cannot have multiple cropping or crop rotation.

In Assam, we get only two harvests whereas in other advanced countries they are getting four to five harvests per annum. But in Assam we get two harvest only due to the lack of irrigation facilities. So, we must have a proper irrigation system.

At the same time, we should have a proper marketing system also. Otherwise, the products cannot be sold profitably. Of course, the Government of India announces support prices in respect of certain foodgrains. But this is not enough for rice as well as wheat. For instance, there should be basic infrastructures for the marketing cooperatives, by way of proper surface transport, rail transport and also water transport. Without this network of transport system, these marketing cooperatives cannot survive.

Sir, I have already said about the present state of agriculture. I do not believe in mechanisation of agriculture or collective farming. There must be individual land holding in India. In our vast sub-continent we do not want collective farming or what is called mechanisation of agriculture, of course, at this stage.

It is very clear that the purchasing power of the peasantry should go up. We must give them purchasing power and if we have to give them purchasing power, we should increase our production. If we have to increase our production, it is inevitable that we must adopt a new system of agriculture, a new policy of agriculture which means multiple cropping or crop rotation. For this purpose we want a thorough and proper irrigation system and proper network of marketing cooperative societies. There should be first class infrastructure for these marketing cooperative societies in the shape of road transport, rail transport, water transport and so on.

Moreover, we must have some welfare measure for the peasantry as well. By welfare measures, I mean, crop insurance, old age pension, networking of roads in rural areas, rail transport and so on. I should say that if our agricultural production is increased, then, I am sure, the purchasing capacity of the peasantry will increase. If the purchasing capacity of the peasantry is increased, I am more than certain that agriculture will be able to supply raw materials to the industry and as a result industry will flourish. When the industry flourishes, I am more than certain that our country will develop and this way India could be developed industrially. If India is developed industrially, it will go along with other developed countries of the world. But the basic thing is that, first of all, agriculture must be developed. If we want to develop agriculture, I am more than certain that this new Agricultural Policy should be adopted.

Sir, I am now speaking about Assam because I hail from Assam. So far as irrigation is concerned, till today only five per cent of the land has been irrigated, although at least 50 per cent of the land should have been irrigated. If this is so, how could a province or a State develop agriculturally? So, first of all, I lay stress on the need for having a proper system of irrigation. Without having a proper system of irrigation, agriculture cannot flourish. Therefore, there should be a proper systems of irrigation and, at the same time, through land reform measures should be undertaken and the present land Ceiling Act should be reviewed.

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, here a mention has been made about Agriculture policy. Therefore, I would like to express my views in this regard.

[English]

The resolution says :

"this House urges upon the Government to formulate a new Agriculture Policy to protect the interests of Indian agriculture and agriculturists and to increase productively."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, basically, India is predominantly an agricultural country and there exist lakhs of agriculture whereas the economies of European countries are based on urbanisation and industrialisation. Our father of the nation Mahatma Gandhi had fought for the freedom of this country with the help of lakhs of freedom fighters keeping in mind the development of villages agriculture and decentralisation of power. Today, we are moving forward keeping this in our mind. But today, it is not benefiting the farmers. In villages poor people as well as farmers live but now people are migrating to cities. The reasons behind it is that if we make the farming a profit earning

profession and formulate integrated schemes for the development of the villages of the country, then only our country can make progress in its own way. Today, people in a large number are migrating from villages towards urban areas. The only reasons of its is that our Agricultural Policy contains no such features which can attract and create interests among the people and enable the farmers to earn their livelihood by working in the fields. Today, there is an acute paucity of required infrastructural development in the villages. I would like to congratulate the Chief Ministers of Punjab and Haryana as well as the State Government for the development they have made in their States after independence. They have made so much progress that out of the total production of foodgrains in India, Haryana and Punjab alone account for 50 percent production. The reasons behind it is that the Chief Ministers of these States belonged to the villages and were born in the farmers families. That is why they, understood the needs of villages and agriculture very well and they made schemes in their states accordingly as a result of which these two states have become the biggest producers of foodgrains in India. But Uttar Pradesh had more fertile land as compared to Punjab and Haryana. Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have the most fertile lands but the agricultural development has not taken place in these States properly. In the present time, power is the most important factor for the agriculture development. Members of Parliament from all over the country talk about power in this House. Our Government had fixed a target to generate 30,000 megawatt power during the Eighth Five Year Plan but we would not be able to generate even 17000 megawatt power till the end of this Plan period. I would like to know that in such a situation how we would be able to achieve the objective of National Growth? Today, water is available at the level of 30-40 ft. in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Tubewells can be installed there and with the help of power crops can be irrigated through these tubewells. But not even a single power project or canal project has been sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh during the last six years. In Bihar also, situation is the same. I would like to urge upon you also that the Government should do something for the agricultural development but how it would be done? Just now my colleague was stating that infrastructural development is very necessary for that i.e. roads should be constructed to connect the villages with the cities, power be made available in the villages, farmers be apprised of the latest technique through Agriculture Research Centres so that they can enhance their production. You know it very well that the production of wheat was short by 31 lakh tonne and procurement was short by 4 lakh tonne last year. The hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is present here. Production should not be short in the country like ours. If you see that lands of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar you will find that these two states have the largest number of rivers and the largest quantity of water in the country. Water is available at the level of 30-40 ft in Bihar and

you can install tubewells there. Though, the Uttar Pradesh has the largest number of rivers and most fertile land, then what is the reason that Punjab and Haryana are producing the largest quantity of Foodgrains? The reasons is that Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have no sufficient infrastructural facilities. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the Government that now the Government is going to prepare the draft of the Ninth Five Year Plan and if we want our country to be self reliant with regard to foodgrains, if we want to keep our economy strong if we want agricultural development, we will have to make available power to the villages which is their basic requirement.

[Translation]

The main target of 9th Five Year Plan should be Power generation. Since the Government, in consultation with the Planning Commission, are fixing new priorities and formulating new policies, I request the Government to take power as main priority area. In 8th Five Year Plan, we have fixed the power generation target at 38 thousand m.w. During the regime of late Rajeev Gandhi, the target of generating 38 thousand m.w. power was fixed during 8th Five Year Plan period. The Rajeev Gandhi Government lost the election and a new Government came to the power. No Five Year Plan was formulated till 1990-91 and no power was generated. When the Government was formed in 1991, I requested the Government to set the power generation target at 38 thousand mw, if we had to fulfil the objective of national growth. But the 31st March is the last day of 8th Five Year Plan but we would not believe to achieve the target of even 17 thousand m.w. If the national target for power generation is 17 thousand mw, then how would we be able to achieve our priorities? Today, U.S.A. is generating 7 lakh m.w. of power while its population is only 25 crore and Japan is generating 3.5 lakh m.w. of power while its population is just 12 crores while India having a population of 92 crores, is generating only 70 thousand mw of power. We are not even able to achieve the target fixed in this regard. If our population continues to increase at the present rate... (Interruptions) It is everyone's responsibility.

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : It is the responsibility of those who were in power at that time.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : You cannot get rid of the responsibility by saying so... (Interruptions)

LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Last time the hon. Agriculture Minister in the same context had said that he was not the Minister of Power and you are putting so much thrust on power in the agriculture sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, the time allotted for discussion is about to finish but I have still a long list of speakers. If the House agrees, the time can be extended for one hour. Does the House agree?

[English]

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : I have another Resolution listed in my name. It has to be introduced today and the time at our disposal is only two hours. If you extend it by an hour, then we will have to keep it strictly for sixty minutes; otherwise I will have to forego my chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time now expires at four o'clock. If we extend it by an hour, that means, it expires by five o'clock. And from 5.00 to 5.30, we will be left with another half an hour.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH (Tehri-Garhwal) : The Resolution on Uttarakhand is also important.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only one can be introduced.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Please do not extend the time. Let us stick to the time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am nobody to extend the time. I have to take the sense of the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, you extend it by half an hour... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Please, extend the time of the House by one hour.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think, Agriculture is a very important subject. Sir, if we extend it by one hour, that would be better.

SHRI MANABENDRA SHAH : Sir, are you extending the time of the debate which is going on or the time of the sitting of the House?

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. We are extending the time of the debate on the Agricultural Policy.

So, with the consensus of the House, the time on this subject is extended by one hour from four o'clock to five o'clock.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir, I have absolutely no objection with the consensus of the House to extend its time by 60 minutes. But within that period the hon. Minister should be able to reply and an opportunity should also be given to Shri Anil basu. So, my submission is that you kindly restrict the speakers to their allotted time. Otherwise, I will not get a chance to move my Resolution which is also a very important one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you.

I think, that is a very valid point made by him. Sir, I request all the speaker to kindly adhere to the time limit of 10 minutes, and after that the hon. Minister would like to take some time to reply.

[Translation]

All right, Shri Kalpnath Rai, you may carry on, please. Mr. Kalpnath, you are saying that power generation during 8th five Year Plan was less than the target fixed in this regard. If I am right, you were the Minister of power at that time.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : I had done the maximum job which is on the record.

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on this resolution and all the members listened to me seriously... (Interruptions) This work is done by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. You are member of parliament.

I would like to urge that if we intend to increase our agro-production, we will have to accord top priority to power sector because tube-well system can be operated only by power and the farmers can be provided water only through canals. I urge upon the Government to set power generation target at 60 thousand mw in the 9th Five Year Plan so that our backlog can be cleared and we may generate power as per the need of the country.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present in the House. The Government have reiterated many times that Krishi Vigyan Kendras would be set up in each district. Will the hon. Minister tell the House in how many districts in Uttar Pradesh, out of 68 districts, Krishi Vigyan Kendras have been set up so far alongwith the number of remaining districts? I am sorry to say that Krishi Vigyan Kendras cannot be set up under the present policy of the Government. I am of the opinion that either the Government should bear the responsibility of setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras or pass on this responsibility to the State Governments. If the responsibility of setting up of these Kendras, will not shaped by the Centre and State, the target of setting these Kendras cannot be achieved. In this regard, my suggestion is that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should call a meeting of all the Members of Parliament of every State and the Executives of the Ministry, hear to their suggestions, put forward his point also, and discuss with them as to how the Krishi Vigyan Kendras can be set up in every district and how they are to be monitored and reviewed. We cannot achieve our target without it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made good suggestion, now your time is over.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : In the end, after raising one more point, I am concluding my speech. I demand that the farmers should get remunerative price. At present, the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their products, as a result of which they are joining other professions. Today, a pan seller is in a better position as compared to a farmers. Unless farmers get remunerative price for their production, they are sure to be attracted in other professions.

Sir, only therefore, the Government should implement 'fix the price' policy. A balance should be maintained between the prices of factory products and agricultural products. Our hon. Minister of Agriculture know it well. I request him that the Government should intimate the 'fix the price' policy so that millions of farmers in the country may get remunerative price and also millions of people of the country may be engaged in agricultural work.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Sir, I wish to speak in support of the Resolution moved by my colleague Shri Anil Basu. Everybody will agree that India being a country mostly dependent on agriculture, an overwhelming section of the population who are living in villages are agriculturists. Naturally the importance of the agricultural policy need not be overemphasized. It is very important that a new agricultural policy should be adopted, so that not only agriculture is developed, but also production is improved in such a way that the entire population can be fed.

The House is aware that by 2000 AD, India will require around 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. But the food production in our country is going down every year, though at a point of this time the production is around 190 million tonnes. Every year it is decreasing even though there is good monsoon. If this continues, by 2000 AD we will not be in a position to produce 240 million tonnes of foodgrains in India. It will be around 200 million tonnes. Naturally we will be facing a shortage of about 40 million tonnes. So, we require more production and also increase in the productivity in the agricultural sector.

But, it is seen that due to long neglect of the agricultural sector in our country, a situation has been created in which the required amount of foodgrains to attain self-sufficiency is not forthcoming. So, what is required fundamentally is to unleash the productive forces in the rural areas in our country. In rural areas mostly we have peasants. By peasant we cannot understand practically anything if the classification of the peasantry is not mentioned. There is a lot of scope of agriculture labourers in the rural areas, and there is concentration of land with certain sections of the people. Practically everyday a lot of land alienation is taking place. People are going landless. They are mostly agricultural labourers and poor peasants. Everyday their number is increasing. But there is no rule, there is no comprehensive law to safeguard the intense of agricultural labourers. These are the productive forces of our country. They have no relief because even today land is still concentrated in the hands of a few people. Those who produce are not having land, but those who do not contribute to the production of agriculture are having the land. This situation is impeding production in our country and at the same time this is also

contributing to the loss of productivity. So, what is required essentially is the completion of land reforms which is necessary for the development not only of agriculture, but in the interest of the entire country. It is a national problem: it is not a sectarian question of the peasants or of the rural population. It is entirely for the development of the country. If land reform is done, people in the rural areas who practically till the land, only they will have the land. Along with this their purchasing capacity and their economic standards will also increase. They can contribute a lot to the production in the rural areas. But it is completely neglected in our country. That is why though there is Green Revolution, though the production is a bit increase, it is not sufficient to feed the people of the entire country.

We have seen with the liberalisation policy of the previous regime how this creating a peculiar situation in our country. The farmers produce not only foodgrains, but they are also producing cash crops like cotton, sugarcane, etc. But what is the fate of the sugarcane grow? What is the fate of the cotton growers? They are languishing, they are not getting proper and fair price for their produce. Practically everyday there is a fluctuation in the price and as a result of the fluctuation in the price, the peasants are not getting back even the cost of their inputs into the agricultural production. As a result of the fluctuation of price, those who can hoard are earning a lot and those who are producing are losing.

16.00 hrs.

At the same time, we have necessarily to improve agriculture. An agricultural credit policy is necessary. Our peasants are not getting loans. Our cooperative banks are being practically swindled off. Our Government is also encouraging private sector banking in the rural areas. The private banks will not help the poor agriculturists. They will not encourage or help them. The private banks will not only not help the common peasants but instead will also help the landlords and it will undermine the cooperative bank sector which is helping a bit the common peasant for the development of agriculture in that area.

We have seen that some infrastructure is necessary for the development of agriculture. I am coming from Assam. Basically, there is about 32 lakh hectares of crop area; practically only two lakh hectares of land is being irrigated, though a lot of scope has been there. There is not only surface water but there is a lot of ground water also. But not practical step has been taken for the irrigation of the land. Floods are there; droughts area also there. The floods and droughts are practically inhibiting the peasant and the agriculturist. This is contributing to the continuing backwardness of the country. But it is not attended to properly. If floods are there, if droughts are there, not only the land and peasantry is affected but the country as a whole is affected. The entire water resources are not fully utilised

for irrigation. This is not helping us. It is not only creating problems for us, but it is creating a dangerous situation. It will lead to sorrow and not the happiness of the people of our country, particularly in that area, of Assam.

Sir, What is important is irrigation. Irrigation is neglected and at the same time power is also neglected. If floods of the Branch putra are controlled, there will not only be power but there will also be good irrigation. At the same time, there will be some recovery of land which can be cultivated by the people.

The land reforms are not taken care of properly in our country. During the years after the Independence, the Government has not taken up this issue and hence our entire resources are not fully utilised. It is creating a problem in the progress of our country and also agriculture in our country.

So, I urge that we should take into account all these things and frame a New Agricultural Policy. Some people say that we should go for export and then everything will be all right. But the international market has already been captured by some people. We are not in a position to export. If we export more, it will be at the cost of our people and our agriculture. So, I would like to say that for achieving self-sufficiency, more public investment should be made. If we do that, our agriculture will have a new look and it will help in our socio-economic development...*(Interruptions)* So, naturally we should have more land reforms, more public investments and more equitable and favourable agricultural policy for the peasantry, particularly for the poor peasants. It would encourage the poor peasants and it would contribute to the growth of agriculture. Then, there will be unleashing of forces in the rural areas which will lead to the growth of the country. It would contribute to the growth of agricultural productivity.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Resolution moved by Shri Anil Basu as their Resolution is about the Indian Agriculture and seeks to protect the interests of Indian farmers as well as to prepare the new policy for increasing productivity. This Resolution is in fact very important because agriculture is the foundation of Indian economy and it is the backbone or rather the spirit of the rural economy. Agriculture provides employment to about 70 per cent people of our country. These people are totally dependent upon agriculture for subsistence. After 50 years of Independence, though we have been able to become self-sufficient in foodgrain production and we should be thankful to the farmers for that the whole country is grateful to the farmers and says 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'. We hear this song quite often that 'Mere desh ki dharati sona ugle, ugle heera moti' which reveals that the farmers of our country have slogged to

produce such a huge quantum of foodgrains that India is now self sufficient in foodgrain production and we are also exporting the surplus foodgrains. However, today a situation has arisen in which we are facing foodgrains crisis and we have had to discuss the price-rise in the House. The Government had to request the foreign countries for import of foodgrains which shows our agricultural policy has some faults. Hence the Agricultural policy should be reviewed and a new national agricultural policy should be formulated.

The former Agriculture Minister Shri Balam Jakhar whilst speaking on the agricultural policy, presented a draft policy in the House. However even after discussions, the natural policy which should have been prepared, could not be formulated. The Agriculture Minister is present here. We expect him to bring a new agricultural policy in view of the present discussion and this agricultural policy should look after the interests of small, medium and middle class farmers. Uptil now, the agricultural policy used to protect the interests of landlords and big farmers. However in the hilly areas like Ajmer and Mewar, the battlefields of Rajasthan, there are small fields between the hills and these holdings are divided further. Consequently due to heavy rainfall and sometimes due to drought, at times because of excessive time gap of rainfall and the uncertainty of monsoons, farming is affected. Farming depends heavily on monsoons, we have good crops, better produce and a prosperous farmer. If monsoon does not arrive in time and there is too much of gap or there is a drought, the crops are destroyed. The farming system is thrown out of gear. I do not wish to repeat the points already put forth by my friends but I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister towards a very important aspect. The Government is spending a lot of money of soil conservation programmes but this money should be actually beneficial for genuine beneficiaries. The soil Conservation programme should be undertaken in the right earnest embankments should be there, the erosion of cultivable land should be checked and the land should be conserved. Water conservation i.e. water management is also important because rain water flows away. If soil conservation and water management is taken up in right spirit, small anicuts are constructed, minor irrigation schemes are taken up, small ponds are dug up, the rain water can be collected therein and then we will have water in the wells which can be used by the Farmers for irrigation purposes. This water can be drawn by conventional methods i.e. by using bullocks and then this water can be used for irrigation. Besides if electricity is made available the farmer may draw water for irrigation by using power or the diesel pump. However, the Government should pay utmost attention towards water management and soil conservation. Hon'ble Minister would say that he is not in charge of all these. But I would request the Central Government to form a Co-ordination Committee by clubbing together all the matters related to agriculture, be it power, irrigation or water Resources or chemicals. Department

of Power or Ministry of Chemical and others related to farming should work in collaboration so that the problems ailing the agricultural sector can be solved immediately otherwise the same file keeps on shuttling from our ministry to another.

"Gyan door kuckh kriya bhinn hai.

Ichha jo poore ho man ki

Ek doosre se na mil saka.

Yahi vihdambana hai jeewan ki."

Hence appropriate adjustment is a must.

Through you, I would also like to submit that a number of Agricultural Universities have been set up in the country and Krishi Vigyan Kendras to have been set up in each district. But where these Kendras are not available, they should be set up very soon. The Research Centres are also doing good work. The agricultural scientists deserve to be praised. They have done research work for producing improved seeds, plants and have tried to find new techniques, but their Know-how must reach the farmers. The information should be disseminated amongst the farmers in easily understandable manner, only then the farmers can be benefited. Now farmer have begun to understand the advantages of fountain system. The farmers should be trained to irrigate their fields by using less water and their knowledge must be constantly updated.

Farmers live in villages and there is illiteracy in villages because of which villagers are victims of superstitions. It is essential to make farmers literate in order to broaden their outlook so that they may adopt new techniques. Alongwith this, it is important to provide medical facilities in the villages. If all these facilities are made available, the farmers will be able to devote utmost attention to the farming forgetting all other worries you are living in Delhi and around Delhi the cultivable land of Gurgaon and Rewari is being acquired by big industrialists. Large scale industries are being set up there which are causing pollution. The poor farmer lured by the Good prices offered, sells the land which gives good produce year after year and provides food for people. Hon'ble Minister, is it possible that agricultural sector is suffering a set back because of industrialisation? It is true that the farmers too have become money-minded. Such a thing in heaping because people throughout the country are more concerned about earning more and more money. Now farmers are inclined towards producing cash-crops. If farmers keep on producing cash crops, how much food grains would be produced? If there is fall in production of foodgrains, we will have to face the shortage of foodgrains. That is why I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture through you that as far as possible, the sale of cultivable land should not be permitted. Alongwith this, land Ceiling Act and Land Reforms Act should also be implemented otherwise the farmer get embroiled in litigation. In India, the farmers born in debt, grow up and breathe their last in debt. Co-operatives and agricultural sector are

integrally related. Institutions such as the Agricultural Credit Co-operative committees, the Rural Credit Co-operative Committees, Land Development Banks should be strengthened and made more effective so that these institutions are able to provide loans to farmers during the sowing Season. Priority should be given to farmers in the matters like to fertilizers, seeds, purchase of Diesel or power driven machines.

Sir, there is commotion over the issue of subsidy that subsidy should stopped. Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say to the Government that ever in developed country like U.S.A., the farmers are given subsidy. Hence electricity should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates and even if the Government has to give any amount of subsidy, power should be made available to farmers in time. Sir, if power is released for eight hours only at night, had would the farmer be able to irrigate his field in the chilly night? Does not he feel the cold. The farmers of India "sheet Kaanmpta jiske bhay se, aatap thanda pad jatta hai" is a person who keeps on providing foodgrains to the countrymen by zealously carrying on farming against all odds. The farmer has the capacity to keep the storehouses of the country full but we too should look after their interests.

Sir, the Multinational companies are coming ... (Interruptions) world Bank, Multinationals, W.T.O. agreements and GATT, Dunkel, agreements are there. Apart from this, talks are being held regarding seeds for India. These are being patented. In case of Commodities like brinjals and tomatoes and other crops, the farmers of India have been able to develop highly improved seeds and now that knowhow should not be transferred to the other countries and or farmers should not lag behind. The subsidy on fertilizers should not be stopped. The subsidy given on power or tractor etc. should not be withheld. The farmers should continue getting all sorts of subsidies on such items and the supporting price should be announced before the sowing of crops and that supporting price should be sufficient enough so that he recovers the cost of his produce and gets the remunerative price because when the traders in the markets offer Rs. 500 to the farmers but the Government offers only Rs.300 or Rs. 375 so he will definitely suffer losses. As a result he would not sow crops like wheat and rice next time.

Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the Government to introduce a new agricultural policy and continue giving subsidy to farmers. Now-a-days all sorts of international agreements are being signed under pressure of the World Bank but we should not let these agreements affect the interests of farmers ... (Interruptions)

Sir, the amount of loans and investment should not be reduced for agriculture. The quantum of loans and investment is rising in other sectors but in case of agricultural sector it is steadily going down. Sir, the

population of the country is increasing and on the other hand "bade muh aur ghatte Khalihan." Minister must have understood what I mean by that. I mean to say that the number of fields is decreasing and the number of people is increasing. The population is increasing hence it is extremely important to pay attention towards improved farming in order to meet the increasing demand and it is equally important to introduce reforms in agricultural sector. The crop Insurance schemes should be implemented and the rains water should be fully utilised. Full attention should be paid towards small irrigation schemes.

Sir, with these words, I support the Resoulation and hope that the Government in order to make the farmers prosperous, will set up agro-based industries and promote the agro-processing industries. The Government should pay utmost attention towards all these points and due attention should be paid towards such important factors as irrigation, fertilizers, seeds, etc.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support this Resolution brought forward by our colleague, Shri Anil Basu, for a New Agricultural Policy. You know that during the last five years, we, most of the people of our country and peasantry, as a whole, have been engaged in opposing the so-called 'New Agricultural Policy' formulated by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, hon. Minister in the previous Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev!

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His Party.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, at that time, you were also in the Government.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : By and large, the basic feature of that policy was that it was formulated in the interests of big landlords, rich business and rural *kulaks*. Secondly, it was to give an opportunity to multinational companies to come, invest and exploit the land and cheap labour of this country. Thirdly, the priority was changed. Earlier, the priority was self-sufficiency in foodgrains. But they changed the priority from food crops to cash crops. The poor people are concerned with food but the rich peasants are concerned with crops which can be sold and exported and can earn a huge profit.

Fourthly, instead of self-sufficiency, this export oriented policy was formulated. Fifthly, all help regarding irrigation and finance was, by and large, given to rich peasants. Another feature was the gross neglect of the poor peasants, agricultural labourers and sharecroppers. Those people were totally neglected. They were forced to be the victims of distress sale. They are not getting subsidy or fertilisers or loans.

Another negligence was that there was no mention of the agricultural labourer in the last policy. You know that without agricultural labourer, there cannot be any agricultural product. Today, there is even no law for the eight crore agricultural labourers who are one of the main pillars of agriculture. There was no mention by the Government in the last policy.

MR. CHAIRMAN : How is the sharecropper protected in West Bengal?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : That is the best policy in the world.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : Please tell us about that.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : I have no time. I will tell you in the Central Hall. What I want to say there, I will not be able to say now. But I can claim that that is the best policy in the world.

Our friend was speaking about Rajasthan. 'Land reforms' is a state subject. They are not interested in land reforms. Except West Bengal, Kerala and Jammu and Kashmir, there no land reforms. All talk about land reforms is a hoax.

Anyway, they are making laws about the land reforms. But they know that if land reforms come, the landlords have to give their land to the landless. So, they are against it. The lobbies of the *kulaks* and big landlords are opposed to land reforms.

Another thing was about reduction of subsidies. By and large, it is the framework of the last agricultural policy.

Some benefit might have reached here and there for the common people. But, by and large, these are the basic features of the last agricultural policy. Because of that, we opposed that policy.

During the last four or five years, that policy has been implemented. Three major results are very clear. One is decline in investment in agriculture. In spite of all talks of planning and all declarations, investment in agriculture has declined over the years.

The second result of the last agricultural policy is shortage of foodgrains. Yesterday, we discussed it. The discussion is still going on. There is a shortage of foodgrains in the country. The third result is that the overall growth in agriculture is very very slow.

Before this new policy, the growth was much more. So, these are the basic results of that policy before us. Because of that, we opposed the old agricultural policy. We demand that a New Agricultural Policy should be framed.

What is happening is because of the agricultural policy. Yesterday I want to address a rally where hundreds of people came from the State of Madhya Pradesh to protest against the decision of the Madhya Pradesh Government who have decided to give a stretch - 600 kilometer long and 101 kilometer wide - of the ravines of Chambal for making some sanctuaries. One

multinational company, namely, M/s Maxwell has been given two lakhs acres of land on the ravines of Chambal. The company would now clear the ravines and start the production for whatever product they like. Now, 37 sanctuaries are going to be constructed in Madhya Pradesh which should amount to lakhs of people losing their land in that area. We are not against protection of the animals. You should protect the animals; but it should not be done at the cost of the interest of the poor people. I do not know what would happen if these lakhs of people are evicted from there for the proposed construction of those 37 sanctuaries. Hundreds of people came to protest against this decision. I think, they have also given a memorandum to the Agriculture Minister on this. This is how we are surrendering before the multinational companies like Coca Cola and others. Now new companies are entering into this country. It is in this context that we wanted a New Agriculture Policy.

Sir, fourteen Parties have now come together to form the United Front. We suggested an outline for the formulation of the new Agriculture Policy. This Agriculture Policy has to be formulated. It should be translated into action by the Government. It should be a Government policy. I would like to know as to how the Ministry of Agriculture is going to formulate the Agriculture Policy on the basis of the guidance given by the United Front.

Sir, it says that agricultural sector cries for reforms. We say, it needs reforms. Nobody is opposed to that. In the past what has been done in the land reforms, what will happen now? The representatives of *kulak* lobby are present everywhere. They are very powerful. They cannot be touched. You cannot levy a tax on the landlords. It has been our demand as to why the tax net is not being broad based. Why should there not be tax for agriculture? The Government would do everything for them but why should they not be made to pay for the country? But you cannot put agricultural tax. With one plea or the other you will run away. The landlord lobby is very strong. They would oppose it. Representatives of this lobby gets a place in every Government and they oppose it. They would not allow to pass the Agricultural Labour Act.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Hannan Mollah, are you advocating for imposition of agricultural tax?

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Definitely. Agricultural tax should be imposed not on the poor peasants and middle peasants but on the rich peasants, the *kulaks*, the agro-industrialists and big farmers. Why will they not pay tax? They are earning. They are not poor people.

Sir, it is mentioned that no strategy of economic reforms and regeneration can succeed without sustained and broad-based agricultural development. We know that this landlord lobby would not permit the passing of the Agricultural Labour Act. We have been demanding for this for the last fifteen years. The law has been drafted five times. Even it has been done by this

Government also. But still it has not been passed. The Prime Minister had promised to pass it in this Session of Parliament but it has not been brought in this Session also. We know that the representatives of the *kulak* lobbies are opposing the passing of this Bill, which is in the interest of the poor people, in order to protect the vested interests. This is how the things are.

Sir, This policy directed that investment in agriculture would be stepped up. I would like to know as to how it is going to be done. It has also been mentioned that all controls and regulations that are in the way of increasing the income of the farmers will be reviewed immediately and abolished wherever found unnecessary. I would like to know as to whether the Government have created any machinery to examine this policy and formulate it on the basis of that.

Controls on the movement of agricultural products and on the processing of agricultural products will be abolished and measures will be taken to ensure that farmers receive fair and remunerative prices of their produce.

This was long standing demand. The farmers should get a good return. They are serving the country. They are feeding the country. Without agriculture we are nothing. But they do not get a good return. I come from West Bengal. About sixty lakh jute growers are languishing there. Jute price has come down. They are not getting good prices and, therefore, they are demanding an increase in the price. Similarly, take the case of cotton. I went to Rajasthan. There was a big 'dharna' and road block because cotton is being dumped in the godowns and nobody is there to purchase it. The Cotton Corporation is sleeping. These type of things are happening. People are suffering because of it. So, a remunerative price should be ensured. What is the policy of the Government in regard to this? The Minister should explain it while replying to the debate.

Special attention will be devoted to augmenting rural infrastructure. What is the Government's planning to augment the rural infrastructure to help rural agriculture? This should be explained by the Minister. A special plan for infrastructure development will be taken up in the 100 most backward and poorest districts of the country.

I would like to know whether those districts have been identified and whether certain direction has been given to the Ministry in this regard. We would like to be clarified by the Minister as to whether the work has started on it or not.

The rural credit system will be restructured so as to double the flow of credit to agriculture and agro-industries, particularly to small and marginal farmers within five years.

How the rural financial institutions are being geared up in this respect? Banks and financial institutions are very eager to give loan to rich people and not to small and poor farmers. They are not there to help them in calamity. What is the policy of the Government and how

it can double the flow of credit to agriculture, specially to small and marginal farmers?

A national policy on water sharing and water management will be devised in order to save farmers all over the country from recurrent floods and droughts.

We have discussed flood and drought in this House. We demanded a master plan to protect the country from such drought and flood. What is the policy of the Government with regard to water management and water sharing?

Agencies that supply inputs to farmers will be professionalised and where found feasible converted into farmer-owned cooperatives.

Regarding cooperatives, what policy the Government has formulated. I would like to know.

Agricultural research and extension organisations will be thoroughly overhauled. The most modern technology will be brought to the farm sector, for example, bio-technology for livestock and cold storage for agro-processing.

What is the Government's policy in this regard? Today hundreds of scientists of CSIR demonstrated before the office of CSIR. We went there to address them. They are the scientists. They are supposed to help us to build a self-reliant agricultural industry but they are on the streets. I would like to know whether the Government has formulated this policy of research and development; if so, how they are going to bring this technology.

A Comprehensive law will be made by Parliament in respect of agricultural workers to guarantee them minimum wages and fair conditions of work, crop insurance and other rights.

We have been demanding a Comprehensive Central law for agricultural workers. The Government has promised that a comprehensive Central law for agricultural workers will be placed before this House. The Government should make a declaration in this regard.

States will be encouraged to implement land reforms by plugging the legal and administrative loopholes. States will also be urged to make a law dealing with land records including record of tenancy rights. In cooperation with the States, larger funds will be allocated for irrigation and extensions of cultivation.

The hon. Minister must explain as to how the Government is going to formulate these guidelines given by the United Front into Government policy and as to how they are going to implement it. He must explain as to how the Government is going to protect the interests of the poor peasants and agricultural labourers, the food security and self-reliance in agriculture. The hon. minister must also explain as to how they are

going to formulate a proper New Agricultural Policy in place of the old anti-peasant Agricultural policy. I would like the hon. Minister to address all these issues when he intervenes. I hope that from his speech we will get an outline of the New Agricultural Policy for this country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, there are still nine hon. Members on the list of speaker after which the hon. Minister has to give his reply, and the time remaining is very short. If you all agree, we will restrict the time to five minutes each. Up to now it was ten minutes each but all the hon. Members were taking 15 minutes each. If you agree, we will restrict the time. Otherwise, some Members may not get a change to speak at all.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, I request the speakers who are going to take part in the debate now the kindly stick to the subject and make short and pointed speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT (Hamirpur) (U.P.): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the resolution brought forwarded by our friend, Shri Anil Basu for new Agricultural Policy.

The Father of Nation, Mahatma Gandhi used to say that the villages and farmers are the soul of the country. But today condition of farmers is very pitiable. They are facing poverty and hunger. The farmer who is called the Annadata is on the streets today. He who ploughs the field, produce foodgrains, is dying of starvation due to the policies of the Government. He is in miserable condition.

The Government have changed but the agricultural policy has not changed at all. The attitude of the Government against the farmers has not changed. Today the United Front Government claims that it is the Government for the farmers and the Hon'ble Prime Minister himself says that he is a son of a poor farmer but it does not seem so from their works. Until now the Government of United Front has not done any such work on the basis of which it can claim that it is the government of the poor, farmers and it is working for the poor farmers. Our Agriculture Minister also belongs to party of poor farmers and labourers and he contests elections on the shoulders of that organisation but I am very sorry to say that Agriculture Minister has not done a single work in favour of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Give him some more time. He has been given very little chance.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Our late Prime Minister Choudhary Charan Singh had said that the path to prosperity of the Nation does not pass through the roads of Delhi and Bombay rather it passes through fields and barns of 5.75 lakhs villages of the country where 80 percent of the total population of the country

is farmers, the Government should spend 80 percent of total budget on the farmers. Rather the Government use to spend that money on those metropolies where only few people of the country live and exploit the farmers

16.41 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the chair)

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government frames such policies because, the high officials in the Government have no rural background. They belongs to the urban areas and their tendency is to develop the urban areas only. Neither they realise nor they pay any attention towards the problems of villages. The policies framed by the Government are such that helps in plantation. But in big towns fountains are installed so that the grass and the flowers of the parks are not destroyed. But the Government is unable to provide water for the crops standing in the fields. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the need of the hour is to provide the infrastructural facilities in the 5.75 lakhs of villages of our country.

The Governmet should provide basic necessities to the farmers such as electricity, means of irrigation, canals, tubewells, small check dames and ponds and metalled roads should be constructed there. A little subsidy is given to the farmers but the farmers are not getting electricity and water for irrigation, metalled roads have not been constructed there to enable the farmers to take their crops to the market. There are no schools for their children, no medical facilities have been extended to the villages. Unless we provide the infrastructural facilities in the villages, the farmers of the country cannot prosper. Sir, through you I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture that there has been 35 crore hectare barren land in the counry at present which can be made cultivable. Today, the number of unemployed youths is more than 10 crores in the country. If the Government agrees to spends money to make this barren land cultivable and thereby distributes this 35 crores hectare land among the unemployed youths of the country in the ratio of 5 hectare per youth, then we can provide employment to the seven crores unemployed youths of the country. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to the fact that if government provides fertilizers, electricity and water in time to cultivats the 35 crore hectare barren land the country can repay the foreign debt within the period of five years.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : What is the amount of foreign debt outstanding against the country?

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Per capita loan is about Rs.6000. Rai Sahib is interviewing me.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are the son of a farmer and 53 percent members of this Parliament have rural background but with regret and I have to say that a private member's resolution has been brought here to

discuss about the condition of farmers. But the problems of the farmers and strengthening the infrastructure in rural area is very rarely discussed in the House. Now the situation is this that if the farmers owes the loan has to pay the stamp duty for and if he is unable to repay the instalments of loan in time then he is imprisoned by the officials of the Tehsil and on the other hand if millions billions of rupees are outstanding against a capitalist and he does not repay that loan he is not imprisoned. Is this the Government of the poor people when a farmer takes loans to purchase a trackter then he has to mortgage his land and pay stamp duty but when a capitalist take s loan from the Government to set up a factory then he is not supposed to mortgage his property. I would like to ask the government why such stepmotherly treatment is being given to this farmers of the country. Therefore, there is nothing wrong if I call this Governmnt as the Capitalist-Government. The Governments have changed but there has been no change in its attitude. If it is the Government for the farmers then farmers should also be provided the same facilities as are being provided to the rich people of the country. Ours is an agricultural based country. 80 percent population of the country depends on agriculture. If farmers of this country are in such a poor condition, then how can this country prosper. If the farmers does not have money or purchasing power then the businessman will also not be able to run its business. Therefore, everything depends on the condition of farmer of the country. Now the need of the hour is to improve the economic condition of the farmer so that both the businessmen and the farmer can prosper.

Sir, through you I would like to give some suggestions to the Government. I would like to say that the Government should introduce a new agricultural policy and give agriculture the status of industry so that the farmers could get all the facilities that are being given to the rich people e.g. they get electricity, water throughout the day, there are metalled roads in urban areas, they have the facility of schools and hospitals. All these should also be provided to the farmers.

My second suggestion is that when an industrialist manufacture cloths or shoes then he himself determine the process fits product but the farmer can never determine the price of his crop. The price for this products is fixed by the business men. I would like the Government to frame such policy so that the farmer should have the right to fix the price for their agricultural products and he could get the remunerative prices for it. Today, when the price of the machines and equipments used in agricultural sector is increasing, the prices of fertiliser, diesel, tractor, irrigation, electricity are increasing but the prices of agricultural products hae not been increased.

MR. DEPUTY SEPAKER : Rajputji, please conclude now.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Yes, I am concluding. The Government should consider over it

very seriously that such arrangement are made that farmers could get reasonable price for the agricultural products keeping in view its increasing cost. I would also like to say that today the farmers reeling under burden of loans and is unable to repay it and to recover loan from him, he is being sentenced to imprisonment again and again. I therefore, demand that interest of the loans of such farmers should be waived off and only principal money should be recovered during the next year they should be given loan at a very low rate of interest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. Please sit down.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, proper arrangements should be made by the Government for the education of the children of farmers because the percentage of illiteracy is the highest in villages. Today not even one percent of the villagers are graduate. Throughout India no one from the family of farmers is an I.A.S. or I.P.S. officer because the policies are made by these people. Therefore, unless and untill the sons of the farmers become I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers, no policy would be made in favour of farmers. One who is from the family of farmers, born in hut, ploughing the fields and grazing cattles can understand the problems of the farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, you please sit down.

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding. The Government should open Agriculture Science Centre in every district. The Minister of Agriculture is aware of the fact that my Bhudelkhand area is very backward area and there is Agricultural University. I shall be grateful if an Agriculture Science Centre is opened there with these words. I conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you that you have given me a chance to speak on very imporant issue. I beg pardon from my friends, especially from Shri Sukdeo Paswanji because I have requested the Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker to speak is his place and he too have acceded to my request as I am in hurry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today here we are discussing the agricultural policy. First of all I am thankful to Shri Anil Basu Saheb who has brought this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yadavji, you were saying that you were in Jury but you are as slow as passenger train. Please be quick in your speech.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the train is always slow initailly but gradually it gains the speed.

The United Front Government is pro farmers and its leader hon'ble H.D. Deve Gowda ji and the Minister of Agriculture hon'ble Shri Chaturanan Mishraji are themselves farmers and as just now our colleague

Shri Ganga Charan Rajput has told that it is for the first time that 54 to 55 percent members of this Parliament are sons of the farmers in this Parliament. Perhaps for the first time in the history of the country the leaders have represented the farmers of the country in such a large number in this Parliament. The Parliament is the Supreme legislature of the nation and while discussion on the agricultural policy we shall certainly pave the way for the framers of the country with the co-operation of the hon'ble Minister 70 percent of the population of India depends on the agriculture, therefore the maximum amount should be spent on the farmers. The United Front Government has for the first time decided to spend 60 percent of its Budget on agriculture which includes rural development and irrigation as well. It is a good beginning this budget allocation needs to be increased. Several hon'ble members have told that if we give special attention towards agriculture, only then we and our next generation would be free from the foreign indebtedness. Our indebtedness to foreign countries is increasing day by day. Our per capita indebtedness amounts to Rs.6000. Even our future generation is under debt. If we pay attention towards agriculture and gear up our agricultural policy then certainly we would be free from debt. This is the only solution to get rid of the foreign debt. The Government should try to pay attention to these suggestions and formulate schemes to increase the production so that the 70 percent of the population which depends on agriculture could earn their livelihood properly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The extended time is over. In this last session of the House it has been decided that discussion on any resolution or private members Bill will not be more than four hours. If it is to be extended for one more hour then I shall request the hon'ble Minister to intervene. Thereafter he may reply, otherwise the other bills and resolution will remain undiscussed. They are also important.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the time is extended for one hour more then it will continue in next session. You may decide as to what should be done? In any case time will not be extended beyond four hours.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Please give me a chance to speak for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What will happen in one or two minutes. Earlier it was decided to allow five minutes to you but it could not be completed even in five minutes. Tell me not what has to be done? Whether you want an extension of half an hour or for one hour.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : How can it be extended on his request?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SÁNTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : Let this resolution be introduced and then you can extend as much as you like...*(Interruption)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will not be possible. At half past five there is a half an hour discussion. If the hon'ble Minister and the mover also give reply then it can be completed even earlier.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHÉNNITHALA : Sir, please allow him to introduce his Resolution...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How will it be possible? It is possible only after it is concluded.

(Interruptions)

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT : This resolution is important. Please introduce it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright I extend the time by one more hour.

[English]

Now I request the hon'ble Minister to reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Sir will I be able to introduce my Resolution today? I want assurance from you...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I am doing so.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall conclude in a minute. Let me speak first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, you may speak.

MR. RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am concluding after putting forth one or two points. There are three sources of water in India surface water, rains and underground water. Unless a unit is constituted for this purpose and arrangements of distribution are made, irrigation will not be done properly. Unless you consider it as an unit the country cannot process in agriculture.

17.00 hrs.

Secondly, it would have to be made lucrative. Agriculture would have to be given the status of industry. Unless it is made lucrative and the youth participate in agriculture, this sector cannot develop...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Shri Yadav, please take your seat. This is too much. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : With these words I would like to thank the United Front Government and to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture...*(Interruptions)* They have started working for the farmers and I hope they will continue it in future also

so that the farmers of this country may progress and in agriculture is made attractive field of activity
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. thank you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have thanked you so many times. Please take your seat.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am grateful to you. to the hon'ble Minister and to the House and conclude
...(Interruption)

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Please allow me for only one minute

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. it is not possible now.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : I am grateful to the Hon'ble member Shri Anil Basu as he has brought such an important matter in this House. I am also grateful to all those hon'ble members who have given effective suggestions I am very happy that all the members of all the parties in the House are unanimous that the agriculture should be developed. The most pleasant thing is that our friend from B.J.P. also saying that the land ceiling should be implemented strictly. While some people in the country are asking for nullifying the ceiling laws it is a matter of happiness that the House is in favour of continuing it. If you all are having unanimous view than we agree with you that we shall not remove land ceiling. we will continue it.

The proposals moved by him pertain to the agriculture policy. This House and the other House had discussed it in 1955 and during the discussion many suggestions had come. In view of those suggestions we shall present it in a new form before you...(Interruptions)

SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Whether you will implement the ceiling in urban areas?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Urban Area is not our subject matter. You are asking us about what is not our concern. We can reply only when you ask about a subject of our concern.

I would like to draw the attention of my friends Shri Basu and Shri Hannan Mollah to the fact that though the earlier policy was fail but it also envisaged that the small and marginal farmers would be given priority.

[English]

"Item No.2: Indian agriculture is basically dependent on the endeavours of the small

and marginal farmers. Then, the policy would be so pursued as to channelise their energy for exerting greater production"

[Translation]

It was already there is the earlier policy
...(Interruptions) As I have said the people of congress who had drafted the earlier policy, they were also of this view. That is why I said that if you all have unanimity in this regard, then it will be a good thing.

Suggestions from all the concerned departments of the Government have come. Suggestions from the Planning Commission is yet to come. Thereafter we shall call conference of State agriculture Ministers because it is a state subject

And after knowing their view we will finalise the Agriculture Policy. I hope that this House will allow us to do so. You have brought the Motion at the time when we ourselves are going to do so. The salient features of both are the same. Therefore, we can adopt the Motion if you wish. We have no objection to it. However, if you think that it should not be adopted as the Government is going to finalise its policy, it is upto you...(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : If you give assurance, they will withdraw it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : It is upto you
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I would like to raise only two points...(Interruptions) I want clarification from the hon'ble Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no. Do not ask me if Bill is not taken up now...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot be our in this way

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The Hon'ble Member has raised a question about GATT that if GATT agreement is accepted by our country how the traditional rights of the farmers would be safeguarded? Two different opinion have been expressed in this regard. Some people are of the view that we would benefitted much by adopting GATT while others think that GATT would affect adversely. But I do not believe in that. I only want to tell you that all of us one unanimous on the point that the farmers' rights should be protected. We have drafted the Bill and we would send it to the Law Ministry next week. I want to tell you that we would not lease our farmers unsafe in the hands of the foreigners at any cost. The next thing in this direction is that the present era is a science era in which importance of science has increased to great extent and thus the importance of agricultural science has also increased to larger extent. It is being preserved that in some of he next decades, Bio-technology and Genetic Engineering will become dominant to such an extent that 60-70 per cent of foreign trade will be done only by these sectors. To meet this challenge, we have

decided to upgrade our research institutes and agricultural research Universities or colleges. We would constitute a committee soon in this regard after consulting experts in the field. On 16th of this month we are convening a meeting of consultative committee of my Department. We would obtain the concrete suggestions of the hon'ble Members. Secondly, we would co-ordinate the system under which money is spent separately for the same research so that more research work can be done with the less money. It may be possible that we have to seek some financial assistance. So as to promote the research in the field.

A change is taking place in the farmers society. Today, youth in a large number having education upto tenth or 10+2 standard are taking keen interest in agriculture. They want to do mechanised farming. If they are asked to plough, they will not do but if they are asked to drive tractor or to operate power tiller, they will definitely do it. I am of the view that new generation should be imparted education about agriculture from the very secondary level so that they can accept this challenge. I am making efforts for that.

The most important task before us, about which the hon'ble Members have also made a mention is that we should be self reliant so far as the matter of foodgrains is concerned, we should be able to produce such a large quantity of foodgrains that we may have export thereof to the other countries. I do not want to criticise the former Government. I want to tell you that if we compare the agricultural productivity of our country with Japan, it works out to one fourth of the agricultural productivity of that country. But if we compare the productivity of Bihar, West Bengal and eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh with that of Punjab and Haryana it comes to half or less than half.

SHRI KALPNATH RAI : If we take China?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Leave China. I am talking about Japan but you are talking of China. You have more knowledge about China. I am just telling about the position of our country. If these states produce even equal to the half of the production of Punjab and Haryana, we may become self reliant as far as foodgrains are concerned. The agricultural area of these states is 70 per cent whereas area of Punjab and Haryana where green revolution has taken place is only 30 per cent. We are making programmes for the 70 per cent area. We will hold a discussion on the point about which Shri Rajput ji is very much concerned that we have taken no steps in this direction...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI I.D. SWAMY (Karnal) : You should not ignore the Punjab and Haryana which have 20 and 30 per cent area while flourishing the 70 per cent area...*(Interruptions)* Punjab and Haryana should also be taken altogether in the process of agriculture development.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have told you many times and I repeat it once again that we would

make efforts to develop the remaining 70 per cent area continuing all the facilities to Punjab and Haryana. Our approach will be that if this remaining 70 per cent area produce foodgrains as per. the requirements, and if we say that West Bengal is making progress, let it make required procurement, let Bihar make required procurement, we would feed the entire north east region alongwith our own region. Then, we will not have to spend money on freight transportation from Haryana. We will provide grains to the South after procuring it from Orissa on cheaper rates and also to the north-east. Besides this, we can keep the grains produced in Haryana reserve for export purpose and thus we will move smoothly towards our objective. It is our strategy which I have put before you. I am telling you what we have started.

The first step which we are taking and which is in the interest of all farmers is that we are getting the soil of each Gram Panchayat tested. In Bihar, we have started this work and we have also sent a team to Orissa. We have also started soil testing in Indore region of Madhya Pradesh. I myself visited West Bengal and said that we would conduct soil testing in Midnapur district centrally which is the biggest district of West Bengal and remaining testing will be done by them...*(Interruptions)* You said that small area have not been covered under this strategy. I want to tell you that if this soil testing is completed, our poor farmers may understand that which fertilisers and what quantum thereof they should use otherwise their lands will become infertile and what crop they should produce and which crops will be better yield. We have got soil health cards printed which give all these informations as to which kind of fertilisers in what amount farmers should use in their fields. Our scientists would go door to door and they will give these cards to concerned farmers on the spot after conducting the soil testing of the villages. We have started this task.

Sir, I have already informed the hon'ble Members that we want to open atleast one agriculture science centre in each district. We have prepared a list of 100 most backward districts of the country and sent it to the Planning Commission two months back for clearance. We are seeking advance and we will manage with this money only. We have asked for Rs. 36 crore as advance and it will be adjusted in the next year. If it is possible to cover 100 districts in this budget then we cover up rest of the districts of the country in the next budget. Then, we would be able to provide one agriculture science centre to each district. I had talked to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission. He told me that the list has been sent to the Ministry of Finance and as soon as they received it back...*(Interruptions)* First let me complete my point...*(Interruptions)* We have worked out the district-wise requirements of seed and varieties for the entire country. We have two corporations. We would get a depot opened in each district and our next step would be that there should be a dealer in each

Block so that farmers can get these seeds where they want to get it. There will be the high yielding seeds. As a result thereof, production will increase. Small farmers will also be able to produce more. We have prepared a plan for that. I want to tell you that my colleague Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat ji has said about subsidy. "Yesterday a delegation of World Bank had come to us to discuss about subsidy as the World Bank is very concerned about subsidy. We have put an alternative proposed before them about which they will take a decision in the month of February-March. We are in favour of minimising subsidy without increasing prices. You must have read it in today's newspaper. Some of you have doubt. Though, I should not say it because the hon'ble Members can not have any doubt, only Government may have apprehension. But I can say that the farmers are not getting benefit of the subsidy. I would like to take two minutes more for that. People say that subsidy is being given on electricity. I would like to say that PLF of electricity is very low. There is a lot of power pilferage. We can get the amount equal to the subsidy given to the farmers if we are able to lesson the power pilferage only by five per cent in ten years. It is said that subsidy is being given to the farmers but pilfers take its benefit. The prices of Urea in our country is less by three to four thousand per tonne than prices of that Urea imported from other countries. You do not give us but you subsidise the other countries and say that farmers are being provided subsidy.

You have said about sugar that a subsidy of Rs. 800 crore is being given on it. Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra are main sugar centres. In Maharashtra recovery is made by the corporations which is 10-11 per cent and in Uttar Pradesh it is between 9 to 10 per cent. It is in the private sector. We said to the World Bank that private sector was friend of yours. The profit has been taken away by them. Their machines remain out of order due to which recovery remains less as a result of which prices go up. The rate of their sugar comes out to Rs. your per k.g. If we are able to increase the level of recovery, we can cut the amount of subsidy without increasing the prices of sugar. But unfortunately, the private sector of sugar industry is sick and this is the responsibility of that sector only. Now private is compelling the Government not to decontrol it. Earlier Government had made a policy so as to remove the control and it had actually done so. The present Government was also following the same path. But as soon as the people come to know that control is being removed an uproar begins in the market that there is no wheat in the market and at last we are compelled to the same impose restrictions. We have told the World Bank that the Government of India has been friendly to the market.

[English]

The Government of India is friendly to the market but the market is not friendly to the Government of India.

[Translation]

Thus these people compel the Government. I can tell about each subsidy.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not know how much time Shri Anil Basu will take. I do not want to curtail his time. I would like to conclude it at 5.25 p.m.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already told you about crop insurance scheme which will be based on Panchayats and small and medium farmers will be brought under its purview. We have sent this scheme to the Ministry of Finance. You have mentioned about market in which the share of benefit of middlemen is very high. So far as jute is concerned we have constituted a Committee in this House. Hon'ble Members are the members of the Committee. As soon as this Committee presents its reports the purpose would be served. As far as cotton is concerned, a committee has been constituted in the other House. The profit of the middlemen will be reduced and suggestions received in this regard would be accepted. We are entrusting that responsibility to you. A women Committee has also been constituted to look into the problems of women farmers. We will take action according to the report of the Committee.

You told that a lot of degraded land was lying unused. You can hold a discussion on it. If you become unanimous about it, we can take some decision in this regard. There is 19 acres of degraded land which is lying unused. If all the parties especially leftists agree and allow us to do something, we can definitely find a way out. It will provide employment to at least 20-25 percent people. We will not give ownership or proprietorship to any other persons but only to the poor. We are really to do so if you consider it unanimously. We will have no objection to it and we will do it.

Discussion was also held on co-operative here. We have constituted a committee of all who belong to cooperative. We have given representation almost to all the parties in it. We have received a suggestion from them and one more suggestion is also expected to be received. We will make an amendment to the co-operative Act very soon. We have asked the banks to increase the credit. We have also contacted the World Bank in this regard. Please give some idea about it. We do not have correct figures of it. Our Government is taking action in this direction. Nothing has been finalised so far in this regard. A final decision will be taken in the next plan about it. We would allocate around Rs. 60 crore for the agriculture and village development i.e. we will double it. We will double the present expenditure so that the benefit may reach them... (Interruptions) If you want to give them equal status, we will have to levy tax on farmers also... (Interruptions) If you are insisting on giving them equal status, you should also listen to us. We will have to levy tax on them as is being levied on industries.

The hon'ble Member Shri Hannan Mollah has said that they should levy income tax on them. But this is a State subject. If the Government of West Bengal takes initiative in this direction, the rest of the country will also follow it. Therefore, you should get it done. This is a State subject. How can we encroach on it? ...*(Interruptions)* I have just said but you did not hear it. We have constituted 3 Committees. You should decide something and we are ready to provide but you should keep in mind onething that we do not want to increase the prices of any commodity so much that people are forced to starve. If unfortunately it happens, you will bring Calling Attention Motion. We do everything keeping in mind the interests of the poor. If we increase the prices of cotton, handloom weavers will have to face starvation. If we increase the electricity charges to a large extent, landless people will die to hunger. After keeping a balance, we are ready to provide as much subsidy as we can.

We are not against this Resolution

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : You have not said anything about agro-based industry

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The agro-based industry is not my subject. I am in favour of that, that should be done, but time lag is there and industry cannot be opened within a minute

[Translation]

If you want we can also pass resolution. If you have faith on us, we can leave it. I leave it to the will of the House. We do not want division on this issue. You said it to be done unanimously, we are ready for that. I have requested to give some time that after taking the opinion of Agriculture Ministers Conference, I will do it. Taking this point in view, if the hon. Member take it back then I shall pay my thanks to him and if he continues it, even then I shall pay thanks to him.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member raised precise worthy points which cast an impression that they are going to bring a sea change. 70 per cent population of the country lives in villages. The average of agriculture in national income during the last 40 years has fallen from 60 percent to 30 percent. 70 percent people are still engaged in agriculture but the area of agriculture has decreased by 4 percent. As per the figures with me, as compared to Budget in Central Plan of 1991-92, the allocation for agriculture and co-operative was 2.6 percent but it has fallen down to 1.69 percent in 1996-97, which shows that there has been constant decline. The outlay for agricultural researches should be one percent while it was only 0.32 percent during 8th Five Year Plan. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards these matters.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have already told that I am considering for 60 crores.

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy-Speakers, Sir, I am very much grateful to all the hon. Members who participated in the discussion on my Resolution. I am also grateful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture who has explained the present position of the United Front Government in regard to the formulation of a New Agricultural Policy. He has also said that he was in complete agreement with my Resolution and that he had no objection if the Resolution was adopted in the House, as the Government itself was coming before this House with a New Agricultural Policy which is at the stage of formulation now. I am very much thankful to all the sections of the House including the Government for expressing solidarity with my Resolution.

Sir, I brought this Resolution because I was deeply concerned about the decline in the investment in agriculture for the last two or three years. There is also a decline in the growth of agriculture and in the production of foodgrains. It is all because of the new economic policy of the previous Government. The whole strategy of the previous Government was to lease out the development of agriculture to the richest section of the farmers and also to the market forces. The New Agricultural Policy which was adopted by the previous Government was an outcome of the New Economic Policy. At that time, it was thought that the prices of agricultural commodities would be higher and there would be a good return for agriculture. They also thought that more investment would come from the private sector and the production would increase. That was the perception at that time

For this purpose, the Government of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had withdrawn the role of the Government in regard to public investment for the development of agriculture and also in all sectors like irrigation, power, infrastructure development, marketing etc. The allocation was reduced in the field of research and development during the last two or three years. So, that was a great concern to our country. If we cannot arrest the decline in production and if we are not able to maintain the growth in agricultural production, it would create a serious to the whole economy itself, because ours is a big country, a great nation with more than 90 crores of people. We have to feed our people, we have to maintain our economy and we have to bring our people above the poverty line. So, if the agricultural sector is neglected and the whole responsibility is given to the private sector, then this very important sector of the economy would not survive and that would bring a total peril to the economy of the country. That was the main concern why, I brought this Resolution. Now, I am very much thankful to all the sections of the House, because they have extended their full support.

Even in the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Eighth Five Year Plan by the Planning Commission - this is for the information of my good friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala - during the Congress Government, it is stated:

"An impact of adoption of new economic policies the availability of food per person in the country was going down, investment in agriculture was falling, the fertiliser use was not growing at the rate expected and the Government's skewed pricing policy was leading to an imbalance in fertiliser application with adverse consequence for soil productivity and fertility."

This is the mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission. It further says:

The peak level agricultural production of 186 million tonnes was recorded in 1994-95. Yet the per head food availability in the country kept going down. In 1992, the per person food availability went down to 468 grams per day and then fell further to 460 grams per day in 1993.

Sir, though there is some increase in the food production in some years, yet the per person food availability is coming down. So, this is the mid-term appraisal of the Planning Commission of the previous Government

Shri Ramesh Chennithala has also supported my Resolution. I also support the major portion of his speech. But I cannot agree with some portion of his speech. So, there are 10 or 11 sectors to which more importance should be given.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Basu, please conclude.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, we lost 15 minutes. So, we will get 15 minutes more.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Ten minutes were there I am aware of that. But another resolution is to be introduced.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, I can assure Shri Drona that I would conclude quickly so that he could move his Resolution

Sir, there are ten important sectors. The decline in investment should be arrested. The Minister has already said about the land reforms. It is also the declaration of the Revenue Ministers' Conference which was held on 27th December, 1995 in Delhi. They formulated some policies and those policies have to be implemented throughout the length and breadth of the country. Whenever we speak about land reforms, some people say - it is being said by the Prime Minister himself - that it is the State subject. Even if it is a State subject, we can do something. In Panchayats, we have introduced the Constitution amendment and compelled the State to

hold Panchayat elections and to have Panchayat body at the grass root level. So, why in the case of land reforms we cannot do something? It is very important for the economy of the country. We cannot ignore it by saying that it is a State subject. It should be taken proper care of. It has been resolved in the Revenue Ministers' Conference also. They have formulated some policies which have to be adopted throughout the length and breadth of the country. But besides three States West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura - no State has implemented that policy. Why should there be so much option? Now some States are even giving a go by to the land reforms. Why? So, the Revenue Ministers' decisions of 27th December, 1995 should be implemented through the length and breadth of the country.

Now, there is price fluctuation in the prices of non-food crops like tobacco, chilli, spices, etc. There is some price fluctuation during the last two-three years; that is why the poorer sections of the farmers are facing a lot of miseries. Now, the case of our country is that even after 50 years of Independence, the villager is always a loser, a cultivator is always a loser. When he sells his commodities, he is a loser; when he produces some commodity, he is a loser. When he sells his commodity, there are so many middlemen involved. There are so many agencies between the producers and the consumers. The producer does not get actual prices and the actual benefit of his produce. The consumer also does not get the benefit out of the production from the agricultural sector. The middleman eats away everything. There is a very wide gap between the price paid to the producers and the price that has to be paid by the consumers. So, in our country villager is always a loser whether he purchases or whether he sells some commodity. The marketing information should be there. The crop insurance is very important. More coverage should be given to the crop insurance sector. It should not only be done in the case of loans from the cooperatives or the banks, but it should be extended where the people have invested their own money. Crop insurance should also be available to them.

Now, 50 per cent of the credit is available from the cooperative banks and the commercial banks; the other 50 per cent credit is being given by the money-lenders. So, this remaining credit has to be covered.

Horticulture and animal husbandry are the other sectors where the small and marginal farmers and the poor sections of the peasantry can be benefited. In horticulture, the allocation has been increased to Rs. 1,000 crore.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What do you propose now?

SHRI ANIL BASU : A majority of this allocation is going to the big business houses. In the East Asian countries, horticulture has given the benefits to the

lowest strata of the peasantry. Here also that type of policy should be adopted in the horticulture sector. For the science and technology development and extension work, the budget allocation has been reduced and that should be given proper priority. As the Minister has already said, in the bio-technology and gene sector...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu, please conclude now. -Would you like to withdraw your Resolution or not?

SHRI ANIL BASU : I am finishing in a minute. Lastly, I would like to quote before this House what has been said by the Government of India in the recent Rome Summit. In the Rome Declaration, it has been said that:

"Besides spectacular increase in the foodgrain production in recent years, the problem of chronic malnutrition continues to exist extensively among children and women because they are caught in the relentless sequence of ignorance, poverty, inadequate food intake, disease and early death."

The paper also glosses over the skewed foodgrain production patterns being pursued in the country. Pulses, considered the key source of protein for the poorer sections, have registered a downward slide with the per capita availability coming down from 69 grams in 1961 to 37 grams in 1995. The only source of protein which is available to the poor, to the villagers in the countryside are the pulses and their consumption has come down to 37 grams.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu, I have to take up the Half-an-Hour discussion also. What do you propose now?

SHRI ANIL BASU : So, Sir, a New Agricultural Policy is urgently required for the economy of the country, for better living of our countrymen, for the betterment of our agricultural sector and also of the peasantry. I urge upon the Government to formulate a New Agricultural Policy to protect the interests of the Indian agriculture and the agriculturists and to increase the productivity. All sections of the House have extended their support to this Resolution and the Minister had also promised that they are in tune with this Resolution, and that he would come before the House with a New Agricultural Policy. They will have to decide in the Cabinet and after that they will have to come before the House and give us a chance for discussion. All the points have been noted by the Minister. I am very happy that the Resolution has been accepted not only by the Government but by all sections of the House. That is why, I am not pressing the Resolution; I am withdrawing my Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Anil Basu be withdrawn?

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.38 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

[Translation]

SHRI JAGATVIR SINGH DRONA : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House expresses its grave concern over the large scale illegal immigration into the country. Since 1975 and recommends that concrete steps be taken to identify all those illegal immigrants and deport them to the country of their origin."

Sir, I have moved this resolution because illegal immigrants are creating a lot of problems in our country. The population of our country is already 95 crore, and in 9 country like ours where we find ourselves unable to provide employment to our people, raise the standard of living of our people, when two and a half crore illegal immigrants will reside here, they are sure to cast far reaching effects on the standard of living of the people and on the situation of employment, the security of the country and other problems and I would urge upon the other hon. members to raise themselves above the politics and party times and express their views in the House in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Drona? you may continue your speech afterwards.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI (Karnal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Now, it is almost 6.00 p.m. Half an Hour's short duration discussion is also to be taken up but my resolution regarding the creation of Uttaranchal is very important which is also listed in today's agenda. Since, this discussion is sure to continue, if you allow to move my resolution also, it may be taken up for discussion afterwards.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one and not two resolutions can be moved at a time.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Second resolution can also be moved with due permission of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we have taken up half an hour discussion.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : My resolution pertains to the creation of Uttaranchal announced by the hon. Prime Minister from the Red Fort... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Swami, please sit down. Two resolutions cannot be moved at a time.

SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Two resolutions can be moved at a time with the permission of the House and there have been such precedents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let the Half an Hour discussion be take up.