

[English]

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, why not he accept a Calling Attention Motion?

MR. SPEAKER: That is the duty of the Speaker and not the Minister regarding admission of Calling Attention Motions.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me first conclude....(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

He gave a statement there and after that Rajya Sabha has agreed to hold a short duration discussion of two and a half hours and the discussion has begun. The Government has no objection if the speaker permits a discussion this issue in place of statement in the Lok Sabha under any rule. Government has no objection whether you discuss the issue under calling attention or any other motion. Thereafter according to the conclusions of the discussion we would try to provide relief to the people of Delhi.

As far as the issue of amending the Master Plan is concerned, I would like to tell you that Government is not rigid about it. If the need arise, we are ready to amend the Master Plan by amending it in a flexible manner. The Government is also ready to go to the Supreme Court and ask for more time. Therefore, after the discussion in this House and that in the other House also, the Government will try to provide relief to the people of Delhi according to the sentiments expressed by the two Houses.

13.01 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Severe crisis faced by the Farming Community

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as I mentioned in the morning, I have received 77 notices of Adjournment Motion. I have given my consent to Shri Sujan Singh Bundela, who has secured first place in the ballot, to move the motion in the following form:

"Severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices."

Shri Sujan Singh Bundela, meanwhile in his letter received by me just now, has requested that Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may be permitted to seek leave of the House and initiate the discussion in his place. I have accepted his request.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi may now ask for leave of the House.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek the leave of the House for moving the Adjournment Motion.(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker Sir, what happened to my notice? I have been sitting here since morning.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: If not today, I will call you tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI: Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek the leave of the House for moving the Motion for Adjournment regarding severe crisis faced by the farming community due to burden of the recent increased cost of production and the crash in agricultural commodity prices.

MR. SPEAKER: Is the leave opposed?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.

MR. SPEAKER: Leave is granted.

Under Rule 61, the Adjournment Motion is to be taken up at 1600 hours or at an earlier hour. Under Rule 62, not less than 2 hours and 30 minutes are allotted for its discussion. The discussion on the motion may be taken up at 2.00 p.m. I think, the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, before you adjourn the House, I would like to submit one thing because there will be voting on this motion. You are starting the discussion at 2.00 p.m. and it cannot be less than 2 hours and 30 minutes, but it can be more than that. So, you may just tell the limit of hours you are likely to give and when the voting will be there so that Members can be present. So, it will be better if you can tell the tentative time of voting.

MR. SPEAKER: The voting is at 6.00 p.m. today.

13.02 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

[English]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you can treat the "Matters under Rule 377" as laid on the Table.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise this issue some time and not now.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Why do we not treat them as laid on the Table of the House?

MR. SPEAKER: We will take up this issue later and not now.

14.01 hrs.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

Severe crisis faced by the Farming Community—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Honourable Members, before Shrimati Sonia Gandhi moves her Adjournment Motion, I would like to inform the House that as decided earlier voting has to take place at 6 p.m. We have thus four hours available for this purpose. The broad distribution of time amongst various parties is as follows:

1. BJP and other parties represented in the Government	1 hour 58 minutes
2. Indian National Congress	50 minutes
3. CPI (M)	15 minutes
4. TDP	12 minutes
5. Samajwadi Party	12 minutes

6. BSP	06 minutes
7. AIADMK	04 minutes
8. NCP	04 minutes
9. RJD	03 minutes
10. INLD	02 minutes
11. Small Groups (CPI/RSP/ ABLC/ AIFB/ ML/ RLD) combinedly	06 minutes
12. Independent/ Single-member Party	08 minutes

I would urge upon the Members to stick to the subject and to the time limit to ensure that the House is able to complete the discussion on time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while you have fixed the voting time and such time needs to be fixed, six, o'clock may not be practical because this is an issue on which Members on both sides would like to express themselves. Therefore, please fix some other time; four hours will not suffice.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As of now, let it be six o'clock, but please make it flexible.

MR. SPEAKER: What do you mean by 'flexible'? We have already allotted four hour. Normally, only two-and-a-half hours time is allotted for the discussion on the Adjournment Motion.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Let it be up to 8 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to speak.

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the House do now adjourn."

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to move our Motion of Adjournment on the crisis that has overtaken agriculture across the country. The worsening plight of crores upon crores of our *kisans* and *khet mazdoors* has failed to move this Government. The Indian *kisan* is being crushed in a *chakki* - the rotating stone below is the rising cost of production; the rotating stone above is the falling prices of his output. The Government is neither curbing the cost nor intervening to ensure a higher price. It is clear that this Government has failed on all fronts, as far as the agricultural sector is concerned. It is, therefore, our duty to raise the voice of the *kisan* and the *khet mazdoor* on the floor of this august House.

[Smt. Sonia Gandhi]

There is no policy; there is no foresight; there is no Plan of Action. All decisions are *ad-hoc*. None is sustained. Indeed, decisions are made and modified only under the partisan pressure of a Government that is at odds with itself. The crisis in agriculture covers every region, every single region of our country. In Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh, the heartland of the Green Revolution, the procurement machinery has palpably failed and even if it was cranked up, it was not to serve the interest of our *kisans* but to keep this Government from collapsing under the weight of its internal contradictions.

Sir, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra are in the grip of a drought that has by-passed the attention of this Government. The States of Bihar, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have been devastated by floods which have not evoked even the sympathy, let alone the needed assistance of New Delhi. In Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala, the tea, coffee and rubber plantation industry is reeling. Nothing of note has been done to combat the pestilence and the disease that have destroyed and are destroying thousands of coconut trees all over the South. The Sugar Mills everywhere are failing to lift cane and pay due prices. The State of Uttar Pradesh is a particular case where the situation is very very grim. Sugar mill after sugar mill is being closed down. The workers are not being paid. They have not been paid their arrears for months on end. Their families have been forced to borrow, and worse, even to beg.

Sir, Horticulture and the Dairy industries are collapsing in the face of mindless imports. The worst sufferers, of course, are the small and marginal farmers who are eking out a living in the dry lands with little or no irrigation and where the output of oil seeds and pulses, coarse grains and cotton have been severely hit. As farmers' suicides reach alarming proportions the life itself is going out of our *kisans* and this Government does not seem to be at all concerned about the crisis that has overtaken agriculture. The root cause lies in the severe neglect and serious discrimination to which agriculture has been subjected to.

Sir, the Plan Outlay on agriculture has been slashed by Rs. 500 crore this year as compared to last year. In case of Animal Husbandry, the outlay is down by Rs. 60 crore. On Rural Development, the Budget provision is down by Rs. 100 crore. Public investment in agriculture has virtually dried up. Irrigation projects are neither being taken up nor completed. Ground water is fast depleting throughout the country. Credit to agriculture is hopelessly inadequate and so is our Budget provision for agricultural research and extension. In consequence, the technology

suitable to the needs of the poor and small farmers is not being developed. The State has even failed to make available certified seeds in adequate quantities and affordable prices, thereby, further affecting our farmers.

Sir, we believe that nation-wide crop insurance is both feasible and desperately needed. Tragically, even here little is being done to make this a reality.

Disaster relief is inadequate, inefficient and discriminatory, as seen last year during the super cyclone in Orissa; as seen during the floods in Arunachal Pradesh earlier this year; and as seen in West Bengal during the inter-session period. Equally unforgivable has been the callous attitude of the Centre towards the persistent drought in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Maharashtra and even in the BJP-run State of Gujarat. No plea on behalf of the concerned Chief Ministers, no plea on behalf of the concerned Members of Parliament or the leaders of various parties has been able to soften this hard-hearted Government's attitude.

In the 80s, notwithstanding some of the worst droughts this country has suffered, foodgrain output rose by 40 per cent. In the last five years, the average growth rate has come down to two per cent or less, barely enough to keep pace with the growth of our population. The output of coarse cereals went up in the last decade by 15 per cent; now there is stagnation and even a decline. Output of oilseeds soared 85 percent in the 80s; now the growth rate is down to a third of that or even less. Growth rate of pulses is down to a tenth of what it once was. This slowing down in the pace of agricultural growth has meant a slowing down in rural employment. Actually, it not only meant a slowing down in rural employment but it has also resulted in increased social tension with many of our unemployed youth turning to Naxalism.

This Government has proved hopelessly inadequate to the challenge, obsessed as it is with selling of public sector units. This Government has neglected the foundation of our economy. It has forgotten that India lives in villages. It has forgotten Gandhiji's talisman 'worship of the poorest of the poor'. Decades ago Panditji said, 'everything else can wait, but not agriculture'. This Government has forgotten this dictum. This Government has grossly let down the *kisan*. This Government has grossly let down the *khet mazoor*. This Government must be taken for forgetting its primary duty to the people.

Mr. Speaker, Sir through you I call upon this Government to take immediate and specific measures to protect the interests of our farmers. I, therefore, urge all sections of the House to support this motion of adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

14.17 hrs.

"That the House do now adjourn".

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I start my speech, I crave your indulgence to quote from T.S. Eliot, the Nobel Laureate of the early part of the 20th century. In his 'Hollow Men', T.S. Eliot said:

"We are the hollow men

We are the stuffed men

Leaning together

Headpiece filled with straw. Alas!

Our dry voices, when

We whisper together

Are quiet and meaningless

As wind in dry grass

Or rats' feet over broken glass

In our dry cellar."

I hope I need not elucidate on the matter here, and the import could be quite obvious.

Speaking on the Adjournment Motion, Madan Sonia Gandhi has tried to stress upon certain points. I think, it would be better for me to start from the first point itself. The first point is about the subsidies that have been given in the agriculture sector and what type of support that has been given to the farmers in different categories — small, medium, marginal and others.

I would invite your attention to the Budget provisions made in the current year wherein it can be seen, Mr. Speaker, Sir, that in the agriculture sector itself, something like Rs. 13,000 crore have been given as subsidy in different aspects. In urea, it has been about Rs. 8,000 crore. In fertiliser, it is Rs. 8,750 crore. In decontrolled fertilisers at concessional rates to farmers, it is Rs. 4,500 crore, and the subsidy pattern has been such that the farmers should not be put to any difficulty in going for his product or in going for agriculture.

It can be seen that in the agriculture and allied sectors itself, the Budget subsidy provision is Rs. 7,182.47 crore. This is not a mean amount that has been provided for keeping agriculture at its even trail.

Madam Gandhi was referring to the plan sector. I would invite the attention of the hon. House to the Ninth Plan Perspective. In the Ninth Plan Perspective, the hon. Members also might have seen the comment that Infrastructural Development in Agriculture in the Eighth Plan fell short of targets. Who was responsible for it? I think, I need not enunciate on that. Infrastructure in agriculture includes irrigation, electricity, agricultural research, roads, communication and marketing.

So far as irrigation is concerned, Madam Gandhi had made a passing remark about irrigation. All of us know as to what priority is being given to agriculture. With priority being given to agriculture, the watershed development, small types of irrigation facilities, and many other factors are being taken into consideration to see that there is sustainable irrigation of land. It is a fact that the water level has been coming down in certain areas of the country, and lots of research are going on to ensure that water level does not come down so that water is available to the farmers.

Recently, there were some surveys at many places. Those surveys have yielded good results, and irrigation is being tackled in a proper manner.

So far as communication is concerned, not only funds have been provided but in the Central Road Tax Funds, the Ordinance has also come. More funds will go in for communication and transport. Transport is more important for sending commodities from one place to another, and this is being tackled at a war footing. It can be seen that our roads are increasing in a better manner so that agricultural produce is carried from one place to another.

The Ninth Plan strategy has been to doubling the food production and increasing employment sustainability. Unless we have employment sustainability, neither the farmer would be able to sell articles nor the consumer would be able to buy it. So, all these things have been taken together so as to ensure that the farmer produces the articles and sells it at a proper price. That is why support prices have been fixed by the Government from time to time.

There was a mention about Punjab, Haryana and other places. Perhaps it has not been taken into account that bonus was given for wheat produce in Punjab.

Subsidies are also given in maize, in cotton, in wheat, in rice, in oilseeds and in many other grains so as to see that the farmer does not suffer. The subsidies are given so as to ensure that the farmer is not distress.

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

So far as power sector is concerned, what are the subsidies that are being given to see that a small or marginal farmer is not put to difficulties? The rate of power depends on cost and the methods. The methods include transmission and all other things; I need not elaborate on this. The cost and methods are such that the rate of power would go up, but it has been seen that within the last two years, by the combined and concerted efforts of the Central Government functionaries, the supply of power in the agricultural sector has been quite good and the price is only 29.66 paise to the farmer, compared to the other sectors where it is 242.85 paise per unit. You can compare it in whatever manner, but the farmers are getting subsidies on account of power so as to ensure that they get power and then they are able to irrigate their lands.

There are three types of rates of power for agriculture. That is a very elaborate process of description and I need not describe it here. But this is being done so as to ensure that adequate electricity is available to the farmers. The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Punjab have completely given free power to the farmers and in many other States, it is subsidised. Almost all the States have subsidised it. Although electricity is a State subject and the State Electricity Boards are supposed to fix prices, the Government of India, in its wisdom, has been advising the State Governments the manner in which they should supply power to the agriculturists and to the farmers. So, to say that the farmers are not getting support from the Government of India is not a proper thing. One has to take into account the whole of India while discussing the steps being taken by the Government of India.

There are three revolutions that have come up within the last two years in India. They are very important so far as the farmer is concerned and so far as agriculture is concerned. By concerted efforts, we have been able to get a gene revolution, to develop new process and products for agriculture.

Madam Gandhi was referring to seeds. We have made vast improvements in providing hybrid seeds and high-yielding variety of seeds. They are being given. The State Governments have also been authorised to set up corporations to procure, produce and distribute high-yielding variety of seeds. So, to say that proper attention has not been paid to the aspect of seeds and their distribution is, to my mind, not correct. As I said, there are three revolutions that have come up within the last two years of the tenure of this Government.

The first is the gene revolution; the second is the information and communication revolution. We have passed the information Technology Bill very recently. Since information and communication is the most important one for any development, whether it is in agriculture sector, whether it is in industrial sector, whether it is in educational sector or wherever it is, here, information and communication have been making giant strides to see that India is at the top of the world. I think, in the information technology, India has definitely gone to the highest place.

The third revolution is the eco-technology revolution that is blending the best of traditional knowledge and technology. We have always been saying that we must go in for *swadeshi* as well as to other ideas that have come up. So, this blending is being done in a proper manner so as to see that our agriculturists and farmers are not put to any distress at all.

Now, I come to the matters which have been indicated by Madam Gandhi in her speech on the Adjournment Motion. She referred to drought in Orissa and MP, floods in West Bengal and Arunachal Pradesh and pestilence that has been going on in coconut plantations. The caustic remark is that there is no sympathy from the Central Government. I think it is not a proper remark. The Government of India has been giving all sorts of help. Take the case of cyclone in Orissa. The cyclone first took place in my district, Ganjam. The Prime Minister went to that place immediately. He gave not only Rs. 50,000 to the next of kin of the deceased but also Rs. 500 crore to the then Orissa Government, out of which Rs. 250 crore were for the ways and means advance and Rs. 250 crore for cyclone relief. I objected to it. I asked the Prime Minister as to why he is giving ways and means advance and I told him that all the Rs. 500 crore should go to Ganjam District and part of Khurda District which were affected. To that the remark of the Prime Minister was that the Government of that day was bankrupt. He did not say that in so many terms. He did not say 'bankrupt'. The Government of the day does not have money to run its administration. Unless we give this money, this Rs. 250 crore or Rs. 500 crore that we go for cyclone relief, will be eaten away and will be spent of rigging salaries to the employees. Now, you can make out the agony the Prime Minister must have felt for the cyclone-affected people of Ganjam District and later on to the whole coastal area of Orissa. Money has been given. If the work has not been completed, then it is not the fault of the Central Government. One cannot think that the Central Ministers, including the Prime Minister, will go to Orissa and other affected States and start the work there. It is

for the State Government to start the work. They have to start it. Money has been given to them. For West Bengal, more than Rs. 200 crore were given at one stroke. What work has been done till now? An hon. Minister has been telling that in West Bengal the floods are man-made. Maybe? But I do not want to get into controversies. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly allow me to speak. The hon. Member can rebut it later. But let me go ahead with my speech. It can be seen that at one stroke funds were given to see that flood-affected people were not put to any difficulty. There is no question of neglecting agriculture because agriculture is the main stay of our country. About seventy-five per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture. When seventy-five per cent of the people depend on agriculture, it cannot be said that we are neglecting it. Take the case of Crop Insurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Nothing has been given so far...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Kindly do not interrupt me *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. Hon Members can reply when they get a chance to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Please allow me speak. Let them not interrupt me...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding. Let me say whatever I have gathered. If there is anything wrong in it, the Members are at liberty to rebut it at an appropriate time. So, there is no question of any discrimination. Crop Insurance is still continuing. ...*(Interruptions)* As I said earlier, at every step things are being done in a proper and systematic manner by the Government of India. Those people, whose Government did not do anything to implement it are bringing Adjournment Motion in this House which has to be deprecated.

We should take into consideration the scenario that is prevailing in the country, with 210 million tonnes of food produced. Production of millets is going up. Oilseeds's production is going up. I think, in her speech, the Leader of Opposition has said that the production of oilseeds is not going up. I have a book wherein it has been indicated that by 2001, large quantities of oilseeds will be exported as good produce has been achieved.

Taking into consideration the overall picture I may say that, as I said earlier, it is a hollow voice devoid of any truth. Let us come together. In the matter of

agriculture, let us not think of dry grass. Let us think of lush green vegetation. With a gentle breeze of developmental support let us hear the fine tune of *Esraj*.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Seventy five percent farmers today are on the verge of death and those who are sitting that side are speaking as if they do not belong to villages and as if they are not aware of the condition of our villages. There was a time when the slogan of Jai Jawan-Jai Kisan used to rent the air throughout the country. But today the situation is such that more than seven farmers had to commit suicide. What is the reason behind these suicides. All this has been because of Government policies. The price of milk powder was brought down to Rs. 60 from Rs. 100, of desi ghee from Rs. 160 to Rs. 100, of coffee from Rs. 50 to Rs., 30 of pepper from Rs. 2600 to Rs. 1300 and the price of coconut from which oil is extracted was slashed from Rs. 10 to Rs. 2. Now days the farmer is not getting remunerative price of sugarcane as well as of sugar. On the other hand we are importing everything. Palm oil was imported after spending foreign currency worth 40 thousand crores. Soyabean oil was imported and is being sold here. Now what will happen to our mustard or mustard oil. The companies which are extracting oil, they all are going to shut down. Madhya Pradesh is the largest producer of soyabean but everything is being imported including soyabean and cheese. Milk will also be imported. They say it is condensed milk and semi-condensed milk. All this happened when the plane was hijacked to Kandhar. Everyone here was worried, at that time and summer Israel of commercial department of America and NN Khan of our commercial department signed a memorandum through which ban on import of 714 items was lifted.

The import duty was waived on many items. This Government is very weak. Pakistan levies 200 per cent tax on the import of milk, similarly Bangladesh levies 100 per cent tax but we have levied a little more than zero. You might be aware of the impact of globalization on our farmers. Subsidies as well as grants are being withdrawn. European union is providing the grant of 760 U. S. dollars on milk, whereas USA is providing 706 dollors on milk. This Government has withdrawn all subsidies on milk. It has been stated that this will enhance the export of milk but what is happending is quite contrary; we are importing milk. I feel that even the Government is in favour of imports, no matter what happens to the farmers.

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

Nothing has been done in favour of agricultural labourers. No legislation has been enacted to safeguard their interests. Policies have been formulated to that foreign companies and foreign goods come to India. Nothing else has been done. The Government is not getting the loan from foreign agencies. More than 50-60 farmers have committed suicide in the country in the recent past. The tobacco, cotton and sugarcane growers are committing suicide and now it is the turn of paddy growers because the Government is importing rice. The Hon. Minister Mr. Murosolli Maran said that it was difficult in Seattle.

[English]

"After the Seattle, the question reverberating around the world is:

Has globalisation gone too far? There is a growing feeling that the decisions affecting the daily lives of millions of citizens, the farmers, and the small shopkeepers in street corners and the work force should not be hijacked away from our national Parliamentary institution and subjected to the vagaries of unbalanced international institutions and organisations."

[Translation]

If this happens then the farmers will be ruined. Tax on 714 items has been waived. From April onwards more items will be exempted from tax. In all 1429 items will fall in this category. The foreign companies have even started offering chicken and meat.

Nothing has been done for irrigation. On one hand the country is in the grip of drought and on the other it is facing floods. More than 1500 persons died in Bengal due to floods but there is no assessment of the houses damaged and the land that was washed away in the floods. There was death and destruction everywhere. Whereas Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat was in the grip of drought.

People die in large numbers due to drought and floods. The policies made by the Government in this regard need to be reviewed and steps should be taken to stop the entry of multinationals in the country. The Government is not providing seeds to farmers. The foreign companies will come to India for developing seeds and this seed can be used only once. If there is something wrong in these seeds which may destroy the fertility of my soil, the land will bear nothing in future. This is a matter of serious concern and we should think over it seriously....(Interruptions) Now what will be the future of

PDS? What about the prices of diesel? Where is my sister?(Interruptions) she is not present today.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Atleast I am here....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except Shri Mahboob Zahedi's speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: The Question is what about the prices of diesel and petrol? The price of cooking Gas was rolled back by ten rupees and that of kerosene oil was rolled back by one rupee. Kerosene oil used by the poor men and agricultural labourers of the country and only one rupee was reduced and what will happen to diesel which is the most sought after thing by farmers.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: West Bengal Government has levied highest Sales Tax on this item...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is not yielding to you. If he is not yielding, nothing will go on record except his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Now the subsidy is being slashed in fertilizers. The factory of fertilizers is closed.....Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your party was allotted two minutes.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Sir, I am concluding. On 30th the poor farmers and agriculture labourers are coming to Delhi from all over the country and they will surround you and tell you the truth. All the members of Parliament whether we are farmers or not, we are not serious about this issue. I would like to appeal to all the hon. Members to meet the poor farmers and agricultural labourers who are coming to Delhi on the 30th and see for themselves their plight. This would be an eye opener and you would realize why this adjournment motion has been brought here. One can imagine the plight of farmers in future after having a peep into country's economy. With these words, I appeal to all to pass this motion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Venkateswarlu, you have 12 minutes at the disposal of your Party. If you want to take the entire time, you may take it.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, it is unfortunate that we have been discussing about the legitimate fortunes of the farmers of this country at a most distressed situation. The fall in the prices of agricultural products across the country, in almost all the States, is the most unprecedented one. Never in the history of agriculture that the prices of agricultural products have fallen so much. It is not pertaining to only one particular crop but pertaining to several very important crops. The very survival of the population of different States is on the cultivation of certain crops. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I request that silence may kindly be maintained in the House because we are discussing a very very serious subject regarding the farming community of this country. I feel that it is not an issue pertaining to any political party but an issue pertaining to the farming community of the country. The situation is very paradoxical when one-third of the population of this country is starving for food. We have been very often discussing and seeing in the media that foodgrains are overflowing in our godowns. But, ultimately, what is the result? The farmers are at a very very distressed condition. On the one side, the cost of production is going up. It is increasing unabated. You may take into consideration any particular component which is required for cultivation of crops. It is going up right from the wages to the labour, right from the seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, to diesel. There is no exemption even in one particular input. There is no item where the prices have fallen down in the recent past. The prices have been going up very steeply for the past six to seven years. At the same time, the prices of agricultural products are in a diminished condition. There is no match between these two areas, namely, the cost of the inputs and the prices of products. At this particular point of time, the Government have to take into consideration the exact plight of the farming community and the steps that are to be taken. We should see whether the steps taken by the Government are adequate or not and if not, what exactly is to be done. Sir, this is the situation. So, under these specific conditions, we can just categorise the whole problem into three aspects. One is the production of crops, the second is output and prices and the third is the policies of the Government, whether it is at the State level or the national level or issues at international level like how they have been detracting the prices and having an impact on the agriculturists.

So, if we just take these things into consideration, the position will become clear. I am not going into the minute details for want of time. The point is that the cost of production, every year, has been increasing from seven per cent to twenty per cent depending upon various crops.

Next, with regard to credit, I would submit that with all the nationalisation of banks that had been done in the year 1969 and the subsequent nationalisation of banks done in the year 1980, in spite of the stipulation from the Reserve Bank of India, in spite of the specific guidelines from the Reserve Bank of India, no nationalised bank is sticking on to the guidelines. The 18 per cent flow of credit to the agricultural sector is never met by any bank. This has been debated in this august House on several occasions, but still it has not been done. The average total flow of credit to the agricultural sector from the nationalised banks is between 13 and 14 per cent. Even in certain cases it is less than that. For the rest of the credit needs, as it is the farmer is being driven to a moneylender who is lending money at usurious rates of interest. This position has not been corrected.

Next, spurious seeds, pesticides and fertilizers etc. are supplied to the farmers. Recently, this House amended the Pesticides Act. There is no perfect, genuine pesticide which is available in the market. Particularly in the State like Andhra Pradesh, pesticide consumption is very high. Even seven per cent of the total production of pesticides in this country is being consumed in Andhra Pradesh. Spurious pesticide is transported there to a very great extent and the business transaction is going on. The Act and the provisions are unable to meet this situation. They are not doing justice to this. In the case of cotton seed, spurious seed is supplied. We have been hearing on several occasions that the cotton farmers are committing suicide. This is mainly due to the spurious and substandard seeds supplied to them. Once the seed is sown, its genuineness can be realised only at the time of crop harvest. The farmer will not be in a position to have a correct picture unless the Government takes action with regard to its policies. The Seeds (Amendment) Bill is still pending. It is to be tightened. More teeth is to be given to the agencies which are exercising the authority under that Act.

The paradoxical situation is that there is a mismatch between the research and extension wings in the country. It is quite unfortunate that this is happening. We are not short of the technical know-how in this country. Very rich, experienced and competent agricultural scientists are available in this country. We have been producing a lot of technologies. We are the donors to as many as 54 countries as far as the agricultural technologies are concerned. Unfortunately, the technologies that are generated in this country are not reaching the farmers. So, we have got the rich research base and the poorest and weak extension wing in this country. I am not trying to touch upon the question of whether it is the responsibility of the State Government or the Central Government. If the Central Government says that

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

extension work is the subject of the State Government, I am not going to accept it. It is ultimately the responsibility of the Union Government to co-ordinate between the research wing and the extension wing. On several occasions, we say that extension work is an activity of the State Government. Unfortunately, at this time, let me take the opportunity of saying one thing. The greatest agricultural scientist Dr. Paroda has been removed. I do not know what had happened with this Government. The fact is that Dr. Paroda has been removed from service. It is shameful that a most highly qualified and competent scientist has been removed from service. It demoralises the entire agricultural scientific forum in this country.

It is not a welcome step. I think that the Government of India should think over as to whether this type of treatment has to be meted out to the agricultural scientists. On the other hand, I would suggest that the highest civilian awards have to be given to the agricultural scientists to boost the agricultural community. Such awards should be given to the scientists like Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. R.S. Paroda. Instead of awarding them, they have been removed from office on some flimsy grounds. It is really shameful for our country.

Natural calamities are taken for granted here. Inputs are available; crops are grown; but natural calamities are destroying the whole thing. It is squeezing the blood of the farming community. We have to take this aspect into consideration while fixing the prices to the agricultural produce. Even the Agricultural Prices Commission has taken into consideration as to how exactly this type of natural calamity is playing havoc to the farming community.

I would just take five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: My difficulty is that the time allotted is.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Let him take full time allotted to our party.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has taken full time.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Andhra Pradesh is facing severe problem on this front. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): I would hardly take five minutes more, Sir.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Besides the Minister for Agriculture participating in the debate, if the Minister for Finance is present in the House, it would

have been more appropriate. ...(Interruptions) I do not know....(Interruptions) Even the Minister for Finance should have also been present in the House...(Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Sir, as far as agricultural is concerned, you take the history of 100 years. For 27 years, crops have been lost. Once in four years, the farmers have been losing their crop. But this has not been accounted for at the time of fixing the agricultural prices. While fixing the agricultural prices, a realistic view is not properly being taken. This is a set back to the Indian farmers.

The House has debated the issue of crop insurance on several occasions. Village is to be considered as unit at the time of computation of the prices of agricultural produce. But it has not been done. The crop insurance is to be revised. A comprehensive crop insurance scheme is to be evolved and the same has to be implemented.

Coming back to the prices, as I have already mentioned, price fixation is not very realistic. Several essential steps have to be taken into consideration. There is no real farmer representing on the Agricultural Prices Commission and thereby, there is no realistic estimation.

Most importantly, there is a lack of coordination. This particular situation is arising for want of coordination between different Ministries. The Ministry of Agriculture is telling that we would have to produce more. The Ministry of Commerce, without having any coordination with the Ministry of Agriculture, is just going on importing. We do not know how to coordinate in this particular situation. The Ministry of Food is not coordinating with two other Ministries, and the Ministry of Fertilizers is not coordinating with other three Ministries. Is there any coordination between these four or five Ministries? All these four or five Ministries are ultimately responsible for the welfare of the farming community. But the farming community is not being properly looked upon on this particular aspect.

During the First Plan the total budgetary allocation for agriculture was 34.5 per cent. Now, it has come down to 19 per cent. Gradually, this kind of treatment is meted out to the Indian agriculture. You can say, agriculture in this country is a neglected area. This has to be rectified. This is not such a shallow subject. This is a very deep-rooted aspect and Indian agriculture is to be given a proper impetus.

15.00 hrs.

What is happening today? On the one side, the farmers are crying that there are no remunerative prices for their commodities and on the other side, the Government is going in for indiscriminate import of many items from other countries. I had been to Kerala last

week and the coconut farmers were agitating there on the streets. They said that copra prices have gone down. What is the reason for that? The reason is that the Government is importing many items from other countries.

In Malaysia, the cost of production of palm oil is totally different as compared to India. Recently, four or five years ago, the Union Government had provided subsidy to palm oil producers. They have encouraged palm oil plantations and they now come up for harvesting. Now, the situation is such that the same farmers are uprooting their palm oil plantations because the palm oil is being imported from Malaysia and other countries at a much cheaper rate. Let this country take a warning that if this country is made dependent on other countries and importing of urea and other inputs are continued, the farmers will be in total distress and they will not in a position to maintain the domestic production.

I would now like to make some suggestions for the consideration of the Government. First, coordination between various Ministries of the Government of India is very important. Secondly, there should be relaxation of quality specifications for procurement of foodgrains by the Food Corporation of India. The relaxations that are there now are not sufficient. If relaxation is done in a particular State for various reasons, including political reasons, since they are demanding it, it is not correct. It should be done uniformly in all the States. The relaxation for shrivelled, immature, damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled rice should be increased from 3 per cent to 8 per cent. Then, relaxation for moisture content should be increased from 14 per cent to 15 per cent and for foreign matter, it should be increased from 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent in the case of paddy and rice. Instead of purchasing rice, the Food Corporation of India can directly purchase paddy also from the farmers, as a being done in the State of Punjab.

I would like to refer to godown space. The godown facilities that are available at present have been created during 1980s. After that, the Food Corporation of India has not added any godown space and that is why, they are saying that the available godown space is overflowing. So, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has offered that the State Government would keep the entire godown facilities that are available with the State at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India so that they can go in for fresh procurement operations. If the procurement operations are further delayed, there will be a lot of glut in the market, because the new crop has already arrived and another crop is now being sown.

In the State of Andhra Pradesh, we have go about 142 lakh tonnes of paddy production this year. The last year's paddy is still there to the extent of 30 to 40 lakh

tonnes. The total will be about 180 lakh tonnes. But what was the procurement by the FCI last year? Last year, the FCI had promised that they would procure 46 lakh tonnes, but then on our demand, they have procured to the extent of 55 lakh tonnes. This year also, they have promised to procure 55 lakh tonnes from Andhra Pradesh. It should be done immediately. Unless procurement operations are intensified, the farmers will be pushed towards distress sale. The situation is the same with regard to maize, soyabean, groundnut etc. If palm oil is imported from other countries, it will affect not only the palm oil producers, but it will also affect the producers of groundnut oil, coconut oil and all other edible oil producers.

Finally, I would like to say that if the policies of WTO that are going to be implemented from 1.4.2001 are not postponed and are not properly looked into, they are going to play havoc with Indian agriculture. If a level playing field is not going to be created between the developed countries and the developing countries, then the World Trade Organisation is not going to be meaningful. Then, the import duties have to be further enhanced. The import duty on palm oil has been enhanced today from 35 per cent to 55 per cent.

It is to be enhanced up to 90 per cent. Then only, a level-playing ground will be there. There is a provision in the WTO. There are obligations also. Unless we rise up to that occasion, the Indian farmer will be in disastrous situation. We will be doing a lot of injustice to the Indian farmer. Let the Government take it in a very serious way. Let there not be any view in isolation. Let them not take the production, the exports and the other inputs in isolation. This type of treatment is not correct. Therefore, I will request, on behalf of our party, that a better treatment is required. The Minimum Support Price, at any cost, whether it is by intervention in the market or through the FCI, is to be guaranteed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Prof. Venkateswari, please conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Once you have expressed the Minimum Support Price for a commodity, that means, the Government will, at any cost, purchase that item. That is to be made so.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Sir, is he supporting or opposing the Motion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman will speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Under what rule you raising the point of order?

SHRI ANIL BASU: You please hear me.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am hearing you. You quote the Rule.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We do not have time. Please do not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU: There are several Ministries of the Union Government which are linked with the farmers. Now, which is the competent Ministry to answer all these questions?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your point of order is out of order.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C.JOS (Trichur): Sir, he has not completed. He has not said whether he is supporting the Motion or not. We would like to hear about it from him....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri Ramji Lal Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Will you please sit down?

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, I have called Shri Suman.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. I have said that there is no point of order. But you are insisting again about it.

SHRI ANIL BASU: Sir, you give a direction to the Government.

* Not Recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no direction business.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS: Prof. Venkateswarlu has not given the verdict finally whether he is supporting or opposing the Motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Whether he is supporting or opposing it, it is his sweet will.

SHRI A.C. JOS: But you asked him to sit down. He wants to say about that.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, I will not ask.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He does not want to do it.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): The judgment has been reserved?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Jos, we are wasting the time of the House.

[Translation]

Ramji Lalji, your Party has been allotted only 12 minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here we are discussing the condition of the farmers. The kind of protection which the farmers and agriculture should have got, was not provided to them. Sometime back, the hon. Minister of Agriculture had announced a new Agriculture Policy but during the last ten years this Government functioned without any Agriculture Policy. It reflects that this Government was not having as much sympathy and caring attitude for the agriculture and farmers what it should have had.

15.09 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *IN THE CHAIR*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1994-95, the contribution of agriculture to the total GDP was 5 percent which have been reduced to 1.3 percent at present. The main reason for the pathetic condition of the farmers is that he is not getting the input and means of cultivation for his produce easily.

Uttar Pradesh suffered a drought recently but most of the blocks in Uttar Pradesh were declared dark. A

farmer who wants to seek an electricity connection can not get that for irrigation purpose. The State Government did not provide any funds for the desiltation of canals. Neither the canals were desilted to facilitate the flow of water upto the fields for irrigation nor could he get new connection for electricity, consequently his present crop is also being devastated like the previous one. The prices of fertilisers can be assessed from the fact that while the price of bajra per quintal was 250-225, that of fertiliser it was Rs. 470 per 50 kilograms. A well planned conspiracy is being hatched to devastate the farmers. Many cases of suicides are being reported in which the worst sufferers were potato growers. The number of potato producing farmers is more in the area from where I hail. The farmer invested their money to take potato crop looking at the high prices of potato in the last two-three years but when their produce were transported to Mumbai, Jaipur and other places, farmers were forced to leave their produce without getting payment as the transportation expenses were much higher than what they were going to receive by selling the potato crop. At least, it can be said that the farmers are facing the onslaught from all the sides.

Andhra Pradesh Government have forbidden the farmers not to cultivate rabi crop as it has neither the arrangement for procuring it nor for storing it, same is the case in Uttar Pradesh. The support price for rice announced by the State Government is Rs. 530 per quintal but it is not more than Rs. 300 per quintal at procurement centres. The farmers are being looked and harassed throughout the country and the present state of availability and the exorbitant prices of electricity, water and fertiliser has broken the backbone of the farmers. Our country is deficient in production of pulses but we import as well as export it. During 1998-1999, we imported 62847 tonnes of pulses 'while in 1990-2000 we imported 83784 tonnes of it. Due to the import of pulses' the prices reach skyrocketing heights. There should be a definite policy in this regard. India has almost double to triple of our buffer stocks for foodgrains. Result is that we will export it. It has come to my knowledge that we are exporting at Rs. 450.15 per quintal while the Indian Consumers are buying the same commodity at Rs. 9 per kg.

To sum up, the situation is such that the farmers are being tormented from all sides and they are not getting the desired protection from the Government. I would like to say that every Government have its priorities but this Government is evading the responsibility of extending its protection to the farmers and agriculture and resolving on priority basis, the problem being faced by the farmers of the country. The attitude of Samajwadi Party is quite clear in this regard. The attitude of Bhartiya Janata Party and Congress is not very different over economic issues. Hence we find both of them on the same platform. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today our country is self reliant in the matter of foodgrains and we have excess foodgrains in our buffer stocks. The credit for all these things goes to the farmers. Had the farmers not cultivated the foodgrains with their hard labour, even today we would have to import the foodgrains.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the leader of the opposition through the "Adjournment Motion" given an opportunity to discuss the condition of the farmers of our country. The country is run according to the policy framed by the Government whether it is present Government or the previous Government. Today the farmers are facing in different States. To say that, only the present Government is responsible for the present state of affairs is not right. The farmers are directly affected by any policy framed by us.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, natural calamities directly affect the farmers and mostly he becomes a victims of them. Sometimes it is flood, which destroy their crops at all and sometimes their crop is destroyed due to drought. The costs of commodities are rising day by day but this thing is to look into as to what the farmers are getting who produce all those things. The farmers are suffering and unhappy in each State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our farmers are dependent on agriculture. I hail from Ratnagiri district in Maharashtra. Through entire Maharashtra is facing a drought like situation, my constituency where maximum rainfall used to take place is also facing drought this year. This situation is such that the entire rice crop has been damaged there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Maharashtra produces maximum quantity of cotton, sugarcane and rice. My constituency produces a lot of coconut also as well as maximum rice. The farmers are not being given the support prices of crop announced by the Government. When the farmers do not get the proper price for his produce which he produces with so much of hardwork, it proves highly discouraging and disappointing for him.

Hence the people are leaving the fields and are migrating to the cities in search of employment which in turn is increasing unemployment. The Government needs to seriously ponder over it. If further the farmers are happy and we paid proper price for their produce, the sons of farmers do not have to migrate to cities in search of employment. It will also check the growing unemployment as he will get the employment from land. Hence we are to give priorities over several issues, then the top priority is to be given to the problems of the

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geeta]

farmers. When a farmer demands proper price for his produce, we are not able to pay him. The Centre should delegate some powers to the States in this regard. Though the States have been given powers but there is a need to under the scope of these powers. For example Maharashtra which is the biggest cotton growing State. Had the States been given the right to export the cotton, thus the farmers would have got proper remunerative price for their cotton crop. Besides, the timely payment could also cause spurt in production. Sugarcane is also extensively produced in Maharashtra. If the States are given the power to export the sugar then the sugarcane growing farmers can get much more price for their produce in turn, can encourage them for better harvesting besides making them happy and prosperous...*(Interruptions)* I am also telling about onion. Today the farmers are dependent upon nature. You might remember that onion have produced a big political storm. You are also aware about the elections fall out in four States which occurred due to the issue of onion. Today the same situation in regard to onion prevails in Maharashtra...*(Interruption)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): It will happen after that...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Only time will tell as to what will happen. Ramdas ji I am not saying anything in political terms. Whatever I am speaking in favour of farmers and is trying to put forward, before the House, the harsh realities and the problems being faced by the farmers. Today the same situation is prevailing in Maharashtra in regard to onion. The onion crop was devastated due to untimely rain. The prices of onion have started increasing. When there is shortfall in onion production in our country we export it while it is produced in abundance, we import it. The Union Government needs to seriously ponder over this thing. See the plight of our agriculture products today, such as potato. Which uncle's this Uncle Chips is, today none eats our wafers. Today one packet of Uncle Chips can be made with just 100 grams of potatoes but it's price varies from Rs. 9 to Rs. 12. And none cares for potatoes. A farmer is not getting kits remunerative price. The Government should consider these issues very seriously. Large difference exists between a trader and a farmer. A customer has to pay more price in the market which results in dearness. Consequently, the traders get maximum profit whereas the farmers get minimum price. There is a need to remove this disparity and to provide maximum price to the farmers. Reduction in Kerosene Oil price by 1 rupee will surely give some respite. Similarly, reduction in cooking gas

price by Rs. 10 will also give some respite to people. But demand of the farmers to roll-back of Diesel's price rise is justified. It does not matter whose demand it is - but it is a fact that the demand is on behalf of farmers who have to face these problems. It is causing price-rise. He has to buy pump set for running tube-well for irrigation. And pump set needs Diesel, whose prices have increased.

Today the farmer does not want to work in fields but he wants to work in factories in the cities because the wages have increased there. Farmers are not getting remunerative price for their products therefore they are dismayed.

Today, plight of farmers is being discussed here. I assure on behalf of my Shiv Sena Party that we will definitely extend contribution, if required, for betterment of farmers. But, politically, I oppose the motion moved on the plight of farmers which states that present Government is responsible for this poor state of farmers. This would not be appropriate to blemish the present Government. Because various wrong policies adopted by different previous Government have put farmers in a bed shape. I oppose this motion and I convey my sympathy towards farmers.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, anti-farmers policies of present Government have made the condition of farmers quite critical. Consequently, our farmer brothers and sisters have to face lot of difficulties. I still remember, in 1990 when BJP was fighting elections in Madhya Pradesh they gave a slogan, "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Karja Maff". It is needless to say that after BJP came to power, loan of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh were waived but only upto 10,000 Rs. At the time of election, there was no such condition.

Even today, I remember that slogan and I reiterate the slogan that - "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Karja Maff", is no more relevant. Today, in fact the slogan is - "Bhajapa Ka Kahana Saaf, Har Kisan Ka Patta Saaf". Today, the condition of our farmer is such that right from North to South and East to West they are appealing frantically for mercy. Our hon'ble Ministers do not often visit the villages. Perhaps, Member belonging to ruling party may not be visiting villages. But, since I hail from rural area, therefore, I would like to reiterate it...*(Interruptions)* I am not yielding, it is wrong to say so. Neither I interrupted Shri Sahuji nor anybody else. I have no such habit. I would like to request you that we should work as per the rules of parliamentary procedure and should keep our traditions in mind.

I have great respect for Nitish Kumarji. He is a gregarious and laborious person. But, it is quite unfortunate that why hon'ble Prime Minister puts him in such a crucial situation. When any crisis is about to come and anyone's downfall is nearing, he is put on test. He was performing very well here unnecessarily he was sent to Bihar for 12-13 days. What a sort of drama it was, the poor fellow returned back to Delhi. I have great regards for him, he has so much of patience. Today, in such a situation when our farmer is stood on the cross-road of downfall and our Government do not seem caring for this sector and are not hesitating pushing them to the corner, you are again at the helm of affairs of Ministry of Agriculture. I feel pity on you since i have great attention and regards for you...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): What Congress has done in Bihar atleast they have not done that...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is needless to say since everyone know it. I take it very seriously. But the production cost for farmer's is increasing day by day and everyone in the House raised a voice against fertilizer subsidy. I know that allies of ruling party, too, are dismayed at it. I was very happy to hear Shri Venkateshwarlu and Shri Anantji's view and I have come to believe that some people put their ideologies in cold storage when they become power-hungry, but ultimately their inner-soul rebels and finally it emerges victorious. Views of Shri Venkateshwarlu and Shri Anantji have roused confidence in me. It is not too late, it is only six O'clock and you have reserved your judgment. Everything will come to light when you deliver it. But farmers will be at a great a loss because of cut in fertilizer subsidy. His production cost is increasing. Take the case of Diesel within one year its price is increased by 64 percent. How the farmer is going to operate his tubewell and tractor. Even transportation charges have increased. Who is going to bear this burden since he has to carry his produce to the market.

Since Government expenditure has increased many fold and it is necessary to control physical deficit but do not put so much burden on farmers since they are foundation and back-bone of our economy, and if you weaken them our entire economy will dwindle. There is so much fuss about subsidy but I would like to tell you that subsidy for agriculture sector is provided even in developed countries which have gone through industrial as well as manufacturing revolution. Be it Japan, Australia, European Union, United States, there is an international criteria for assessing subsidy, which is a very difficult process. This complicated criteria is known as Aggregate Measurement of Support (A.M.S.) As per that criteria an estimate is made as to how much subsidy is provided

for agriculture or any other sector in each country and whether it is in plus or minus and also whether there is a level playing field or not. It has become clear through AMS that in O.E.C.D. countries, which are economically advanced, large part of subsidy is in plus-factor whereas in India subsidy is Minus 24 Billion dollars. when you talk of subsidy you do not propogate that farmers in India are given heavy subsidy which has become a burden on our economy and our expenditure has increased. Therefore, a cut in this subsidy is imperative, because in comparison with other countries we are getting our minus subsidy. America provides 26 Billion Dollars subsidy to her 6 million farmers whereas India provides 24 billion dollar minus subsidy to her 700 million farmers. Therefore, I would like to request you humbly that it is in the interest of the farmers and the nation as well. You have no consideration and you increased the price of Diesel. But, since people have raised this again and again therefore, I would not like to take more time.

Now I would like to speak on open import. Just now Shri Anantram Geeteji has told that though we had a record bumper crop of onion yet the Government are importing onion. I do agree with his point. When there is a record crop of any particular commodity and the Government resort to its import then naturally we got suspicious about the intention of Government.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): You are talking about import or export?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am talking about import and not about onion. I just gave an example that during bumper harvest the Government resorted to import. During 1998 our wheat production was a record 74 million ton, which was all time high. I would like to ask the Government as to what prompted the Government to import eight million ton wheat from Australia, that too on Zero duty when we had a record output of 74 million ton. Yet we do not wish to suspect your intention.

Quite naturally a question arises in my mind. Similarly, when we had a record production of sugar in our country the Government imported sugar on Zero percent duty. I would not like to reiterate that even during Kargil war why sugar was imported from Pakistan. It was imported from several countries. It broke the back-bone of our farmers from Uttar Pradesh. Our sugar factories went in loss. Factory owners could not make payment to farmers and farmers had to burn their sugarcane crop. Why did you resort to import of sugar when there was a record harvest of 15 million tons? We have not got its reply so far. If at all it was to be imported then you should have increased the duty atleast. People's cries went futile. After a gap of six month the duty was increased from Zero to 27.5 percent and still when there was hue and cry it no as again increased to 60 percent after five months?

[Shri Madhavrao Scindia]

I say it is still less. In America there is 130 percent duty on sugar, in European Union it is 200 percent; in Bangladesh it is 200 percent, in Thailand it is 100 percent, in Columbia it is 130 percent and in India after lots of hue and cry, from Zero percent it was brought to 27.5 percent and again it was brought at 60 percent. I want to know why it is so? You are resorting to subsidised import and killing our farmers. Why is this delay? About Edible Oil, it is reported that duty on Palmolein has been fixed at 65 percent.

[English]

Why is this delay? That is why, the question crop up in our mind, and we get suspicious as to what these big deals are.

[Translation]

Rajivji had launched a Technology Mission for oil seeds. From 1986 to 1989 within three year production of oil seeds increased by 85 percent. And during the regime of present Government import of Edible Oil increased by 128 percent breaking the backbone of farmers. What is the reason behind?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Though I am not stopping you, yet there are six more honourable Members from your party who are to speak, so kindly take care of time constraints.,

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore): It is very important speech, who would raise such issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not stopped him.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I understand the reason behind such sort of subsidised import when we have a bumper harvest in our country. And if there is an import, then why imposition of duty is delayed? Until and unless we do not get a reply to these questions, we got to suspect as to what is the real reason behind such import. I feel pity on Nitishji. I do not raise a finger on his honesty, least you become victim of a big conspiracy.

[English]

You are casualty prone, Shri Nitish Kumar. You have to be very, very careful.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: For quite some time you had been Minister for various departments. Despite knowing the duties of an Agriculture Minister well, still you are saying such thing.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Therefore, he is giving a friendly forewarning.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am ready to accept it. In case of fixing a responsibility, blame will definitely come on you. So be careful ! Question have been raised about the team which went to Seattle and signed an agreement.

It was a strange agreement even it was not given a wide publicity. What the Government did, it appointed a spokesperson for the Cabinet, namely Shri Pramod Mahajan. Though there was lot of publicity but not about this aspect. Why, such an agreement was signed, which provided for liberalised import of agriculture product.

[English]

Liberalisation of agriculture imports has been signed at Seattle by the negotiating team in December last year.

[Translation]

This Liberalised agreement was totally against the interest of our agriculture products. Certain sections putting restrictions on imports were just removed to pave way for open import. Today everything, such as wheat, Rice, Milk, Jawar, Bajra, Tea, Coconut, Poultry products, Eggs, Maize including Vegetables and Fruits can be imported under Open General Licence, and nothing is left. This all has been made possible under WTO agreement. Now you do not say that WTO agreement was signed during Congress regime, so what can we do. WTO is an umbrella agreement wherein there is a full scope of bilateral negotiations for Tariff and Trade Restrictions. As per this agreement upto 300 percent duty can be imposed on certain products. But, why these products have been put under OGL? I would like to ask you - why did you not apply tariff barrier and took anti-dumping safeguard measures in this regard. Why this all was done so secretly and no wide publicity was given in this regard? Be it foreign policy, economic-policy or agriculture-policy we are totally pressurised by developed countries. Many observations have been raised in this connection. Where there was much hue and cry, gradually the duty was increased. Nowadays, when you go to the market, you will see in all the domestic products, no matter, they are agro based products of farmers, you will find.

[English]

You will find Swiss chips; you will find apples and

milk products from New Zealand; you will find biscuits from Thailand and you will find Brazilian chocolates.

[*Translation*]

What will happen to our domestic producers. This Government is recreating history by pushing again towards slavery. Specially we have to think about it otherwise the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, wheat growers of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, Soyabean growers of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, Sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra, paddy growers of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and Palmoil and coconut growers of Southern India will become of nowhere. The price of coconut has come down to its half and the plantation are being burnt there. The life of farmers has become miserable. The rate of betel nut was between Rs. 15000 to Rs. 18000 per quintal but now it has come down to Rs. Four to six thousand per quintal. In forecoming months, you will see the intrusion in the area of milk.

[*English*]

They have opened the floodgates. There is going to be an avalanche of milk and milk products from the outside.

[*Translation*]

Most of the women in our country are earning their livelihood through milk and milk products, where shall they go. Right now, one of my colleagues has talked about poultry. The tea is being imported from Kenya, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh due to which the people of south, north and north-east are going to loose their jobs. I wanted to say much more but according to your instructions, I am cutting short. I would only like to request the Government that when they lifted the Q.R. from 714 items on 1st April, you did not take steps towards duties, tariff, anti-dumping measures to safe-guard domestic products in favour of farmers. Small scale industries or other sectors as a result thereof, they were adversely affected. Now, you are lifting Q.R. from 715 items from first April 2001, then atleast this time you can take preventive measures. So, we should identify our weaker sectors so that we may protect them. You should set up your tariff and duty structure right now as to what you are going to do in February and March. For this, we seek a white-paper from you. Please bring it as early as possible as to what tariff and duties you are going to impose so that our farmer are not put in troubles again. 200 farmers committed suicide in Punjab. Some reports have been received from Andhra Pradesh and also from the whole country, such reports are coming. Nitish Kumarji, I request you that this situation should not be repeated.

Sir, at last, I would like to say about what Shri Sahu has just stated that our budget amount as increased. I have stated in my budget speech last year that it is not true, the situation is just opposite.

[*English*]

Cut in the budget for development of oilseeds was 40 per cent; on foodgrain development programme the cut was 75 per cent; on agricultural marketing and marketing infrastructure it was 25 per cent; on soil and water conservation it was 65 per cent; on cooperative in credit programme it was 60 per cent; on animal husbandry it was 30 per cent; on dairy development it was 35 per cent ; on rural employment and employment assurance scheme it was 30 per cent to 40 per cent; and on horticulture and vegetable crops it was 50 per cent. This was the Budget last year. There have been massive cuts. I wish Shri Sahu had read my speech on the Budget last year. If he had, he would have found all the statistics there and he would not have said what he has said here today.

[*Translation*]

Sir, I would like to request you that 70 percent of our population is living in villages and their condition is getting worse. The economy of entire nation depends on them which will also weaken completely owing to it. At a time, when subsidy is being deducted, budget is slashing, the cost of production is increasing, infrastructural investment is falling an indiscriminate exports are being undertaken, a sad state of procurement can be seen in Punjab and Haryana. Even the minimum support price of procurement was carried out only after the hue and cry and agitation by the people. I would like to say that in these circumstances, the resolution brought before us is quite correct. I would also like to request all the allies parties to reach any proper conclusion which your conscience allows. No matter, your decision is correct or not, but if you like to save the interests of farmers, I firmly believe that your conscience will win and by supporting this resolution, you will also show your resentment against the policies of this Government.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, through adjournment motion moved by the opposition, we are discussing here the problems of the farmers of our country. Hon. Sonia ji and other Members have expressed their views in this regard. Just now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia has expressed his views. Whenever we discuss the problems of farmers in the House, we generally forget that after independence if anybody is responsible for not improving the economic condition of farmers in the country, it is Congress...(*Interruptions*). At

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

the time of India's independence, the freedom fighters as well as our farmers had thought that now the government of our own leaders will be formed and priority will be given to agriculture. Today, I regret to say that after independence, our great leader Pandit ji, despite being a very learned person was not acquainted with the farming system of the country. He was brought up in western culture and hence therefore he had no experience of how a farmer cultivates his land. In the name of development, he tried to benefit the industrial sector of the country whereas in comparison to other countries, India is neither properly developed in industrial sector nor in the field of agriculture. I can give many such examples where many smaller countries have attained more developments in these fields. The countries such as Nigeria, Israel, Canada and Australia have produced more foodgrains than we do. Here I am not talking about America and other bigger countries where per hectare production of food grains is two to three times in comparison to our country.

I would like to ask those people of Congress who were in power for 40-45 years that, why the production of our country is less than these small countries? Now, they have tried to create disturbances by pulling the leg of the government for what we have done in the period of one and half years and they are not fulfilling their responsibilities of opposition properly. They have lost the faith of people in them. Whereas hon. Nitish Kumarji. has moved the resolution in Lok Sabha for discussion on agriculture policy. When the resolution was moved by the opposition, the government made it very clear that government is prepared to discuss it under any rule you choose. The decision of the Chair was ignored by them because they wanted to show that how much sympathy they have for farmers. What was the condition of our farmers two-three years back? If you compare, then you will find that this government is working better than its predecessors. Hon. Madhavrao ji, I would like to ask you that Central Government is providing subsidy on Kerosene, diesel and L.P.G. whereas the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Digvijay Singh who is running the government in your alliance may not listen to you. Probably he might listen to hon. Sonia ji.

16.00 hrs.

He has imposed 8 percent sales tax on diesel, kerosene and petrol. Do you have the courage to ask them to withdraw that sales tax in favour of farmers. If you are the sympathiser of farmers, then I would like to request you to direct the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to withdraw the sales tax from petroleum products. It will benefit the farmers. In the last budget of Madhya Pradesh, 4 percent, 8 percent and 10 percent

tax has been imposed on the inputs of the farmers in Madhya Pradesh. If you have courage, then you may ask the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh to withdraw the above tax. All the farmers of country need sufficient water and electricity. The water must reach and every field. But why it has not been possible till date. For the last several years, many proposals have been brought to solve the problem of flood and drought in which it was suggested that the water of perennial rivers should be diverted to the places where the water is scarce during summers and winters. Whether your government ever made any efforts in this direction? The rain water flows from small nallahs and rivers into bigger rivers and ultimately into the sea. Have you made any effort to stop the falling water level? If so, then why this problem is existing till date? Are you willing to consider it. I can establish this fact by giving numerous examples of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Governments. You are anti-farmer. You have nothing to do with farmers. You are a supporter of all the big-wig capitalists and businessmen. You run the government in princely style and have been the supporter of that style...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho):Gehlot ji, keep on speaking whatever you want to. Nobody will stop you.

16.04 hrs.

(SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN IN THE CHAIR)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am enjoying in passing this information to Chaturvedi ji about the Digvijay Singh government in Madhya Pradesh.

The day before yesterday all the members of Parliament from Madhya Pradesh discussed the drought situation prevailing in Madhya Pradesh with the State Chief Minister. Various related issues were also discussed. The State Government have neither made any efforts to provide relief to drought affected people, farmers and agricultural labourers nor took any initiative in this regard...(Interruptions) The same situation is prevailing in Maharashtra also. When we talked to them in this regard, they stated that the State is in the grip of drought and they required an assistance of Rs. 715 crores from the Central Government. We told them that we were with them in the hour of crisis and ready to help them in getting the assistance from the Centre, but we would like to know as to what steps have been taken by them till now. I am sorry to say that the results of crop cutting experiments from 17 districts out of 45 drought affected districts have not yet reached the State Government. Results of crop cutting experiment has not been reached

till date. We all are aware that there was no rains in Madhya Pradesh after August which has badly affected the crops. Results of crop cutting experiments should have been collected well in time so that relief could be provided to the farmers but that was not done on time. Rains ended in August and the crops were ready by September and sold in the market by October. Chief Minister stated that the results would be collected within two days. Farmers have harvested the crop and sold it in the market so how they will collect the results of crop cutting experiments.

Such a careless attitude is being adopted by the Madhya Pradesh Government. No efforts are being made to meet the drought situation. I told them that Central Government would certainly provide assistance to the State but the main question is as to what arrangements would be made by the State Government. We told them that though we do not have the funds but we would try to give the relief by imposing cuts in various departments. Such a situation is prevailing not only in Madhya Pradesh but in Rajasthan and Maharashtra also. Then how they are blaming that the Central Government is not working in the interest of farmers. My submission is that the present Government have accomplished various works in the interest of the farmers and have taken certain decisions in the interest of farmers. It is clearly evident from the new agriculture policy announced by the Union Agriculture Minister in which several suggestions have been made to develop agriculture and to protect the interest of farmers. I am confident that Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji will work for the upliftment of the farmers. They will protect the interest of farmers and make the country prosper. You have pushed the county on a wrong path but we will not do so.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the adjournment motion moved in the House regarding the miserable condition of farmers in our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole House is aware that our's is an agricultural country. Most of our population depends upon agriculture. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to work in the interests of farmers. Problems of the farmers are not related to agriculture ministry alone but to other ministries also. It would be much better if other concerned Ministers would also remain present here alongwith the Agriculture Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to make a lengthy speech. I would like to draw the attention of the Government through this House towards two-three points only. What are the main requirements of the farmers in this country? They require agricultural equipments at cheaper rates. They should get the remunerative prices

for their produce in the market irrespective of area to which they belong or the type of agriculture they are engaged in.

Every farmer wants to purchase agricultural equipments at cheaper rates and to get remunerative prices for his produce. However, Government has failed to do so, that's why farmer is distressed in every field. National Agricultural Policy is formed by the Union Government in the interest of the farmers but instead of protecting farmer's interests, Government pays more attention as to what extent the party in power and the persons associated with the party would be benefited by it. The National Agricultural Policy should be formed cutting across the party lines so as to provide full benefits to the farmers.

Secondly, while deciding about the import and export of Agriculture produce, the Government consider its own benefits rather than protecting the interests of farmers. That is also a cause of distress to the farmers. Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugarcane producing State of the country and the present Government of BJP in the state have sold out many sugarcane mills at throw away prices. Now what will happen to the farmers and their crops? Where the labourers working in various mills will go? Central Government should make it mandatory for the State Governments to take prior permission from the Union Government if it propose to sell any mill directly relating to farmer's crops. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is very bad. There is no such restriction on the Government and the mills are being sold one after the other.

Like sugarcane, potato is also produced here in large quantity. This time also there is a bumper crop of potatoes. However, the farmers are worried whether they will get remunerative prices for their produce or not. Cold storages are also in a poor condition. Not only in Uttar Pradesh, but in the every state of the country farmers who are engaged in the production of any main crops are living in a pitiable condition. We have seen the attitude of the Union Government at the time when any natural calamity occurs be it a drought situation or flood. Relief works are also politicized. The BJP Government at Centre pays more attention towards that drought or flood affected State where BJP is in power. And the states where other parties are in power, it does not pay much attention. That's why people from West Bengal were demonstrating on the main gate of Parliament House regarding the havoc created by the flood there. These Members have also expressed their concern regarding the problems of the farmers during Zero Hour. People in West Bengal are in miserable condition because Union Government has adopted step motherly attitude towards that State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today farmers are living in a pitiable condition. One part of the country is affected by

[Kumari Mayawati]

floods and the other part is in the grip of drought but Government is doing nothing for the welfare of the farmers. Government belonging to any political party has the responsibility to work in the interest of farmers and take decisions in their favour cutting across the party line. Through you, I would like to submit in the House that farmers are distressed today because necessary agricultural implements are not being made available to them on reasonable rates by the Government. The prices of agricultural implements are sky-rocketing and the goods produced by the farmers are being sold at a very low price.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from all angles, farmers of our country are most distressed and dejected. The Government has failed in this regard. Therefore, through you, I request the Agriculture Minister to seriously ponder over the problems of farmers and solve them. We are ready to extend you the cooperation you need, but the miserable condition of farmers in the entire country should immediately be improved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this 'Adjournment Motion' has been moved in the House, keeping in view the pitiable condition of farmers in the country. We are neither supporting the government by opposing this motion nor supporting the Congress Party by supporting this motion, but we are simply supporting this motion in the interest of farmers because today the farmers are in great distress in every field. If we observe the policies of the Government, then we would find that the government always think about its own interest, be it national agriculture policy, import-export policy or any other policy, it does not consider the interest of the farmers. So, it is my request to you that government should take appropriate decision in this regard. Most of population of the country depends upon agriculture today and agriculture is the backbone of our country. So, it is very essential to pay attention towards it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak on such an important subject.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the 'Adjournment Motion, today has been moved in the House to discuss the condition of farmers, but the views expressed by the Congress people and the opposition members in their speeches regarding the farmers have a question regarding their political ideology too. When Scindiaji was speaking, then also I felt that he is politically motivated while delivering his speech on agriculture.

Sir, I belong to the rural area and that is why I know the actual condition of farmers. Today the position

is that people are not buying the agricultural produces of farmers in the market. The shopkeepers are not ready to buy any agricultural produce of farmers in the market, may it be rice or maize. I am unable to understand as to why foodgrain is not being purchased in Bihar. What is the reason behind it? Is it due to the agriculture policy or the policies being implemented by us or is it due to our way of working according to the international market that our farmers are facing difficulties. This needs to be considered and looked into.

I don't think that it should not be considered. We know through the newspapers and even the government has also announced that the godowns of FCI have so much of foodgrains that now it is not possible for the Union Government to procure any more foodgrain. Now, the point to be considered upon is - how to use that foodgrain, how to sell it, which would be its market and where shall we get such an appropriate market and if we are not getting market, then what is the reason behind it. Therefore, when a discussion goes on regarding the removal of restrictions on 714 articles under the pressure of WTO, then we should also see that out of these 714 articles, which is a product of agricultural produce or which is directly an agricultural produce. If any foreign item is directly coming into the Indian market without any restriction and is being sold here, then we should see that it does not make any impact on our farmers. So, now when you will remove restrictions on 715 articles more then please check as to how many of them are agricultural products. Moreover, this also needs to be checked that direct selling of these products in the market is affecting our agriculture or not. That is why rice, maize and other crops in Bihar are not being purchased in the market. I am unable to understand the reasons behind it. If businessman or shopkeepers are not purchasing the foodgrains, then why the State Government or Union Government are not making some arrangement for it so that small farmers may be able to sell their produce in the markets. When businessmen ask for money from the farmers, they say that we get money only after selling our grain. Thereafter, we buy Oil, Salt and other consumables with that amount. How shall we buy these things if our produce is not purchased. I want to ask as to whether the State Government or Union Government would make any arrangement to procure the agro produce at each block or not?...(*Interruptions*). The reason behind the difficulties prevailing presently in Bihar is non-procurement of the foodgrains. Therefore, the State Government and the Union Government should make some immediate arrangement at block level for the procurement of foodgrains of the farmers.

Similarly, the farming is lagging far behind in Bihar. Even today, more than 95 percent of our agricultural

land is tilled through plough. The fertiliser in our State is used in much less quantity as compared to the other States. Similarly, the use of tractors or harvestors is much less in Bihar in comparison with other States of the country. So, if Bihar has any so called town, it is a rural town, like that of Patna. Patna is not an industrial town, but is a rural one. Despite this, we call it the capital of Bihar, but actually it is a rural town. Scindia ji has left, I am asking my Congress brothers that Patna, today, is a rural town, what have they contributed towards its development? Patna could not become an industrial city even after 52-53 years of Independence, and to which extent this government is responsible, which is here for the last one and a half or three years?

If the capital had been invested in the agriculture sector of Bihar and then cultivation would have taken place, Patna would also have become an industrial town. But even in this modern age, our capital is a rural capital. So, it is not good to think about the farmers under a political outlook. We should always think that 70 percent people of our country live in the villages. Our rural way of living, our traditions and our culture, all are diminishing. If any new culture has to replace this old one, then is there any proper planning therefor or not. I think that no such plan has been chalked out for it. I want to add one basic question along with it. We are probably going to discuss upon the agriculture policy announced here right now. The discussion would be on agricultural reforms and land reforms. But I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that whether this policy has also affected the condition of the farmers or not? This should be considered upon. A comparatively bigger land on lease is proposed to be given to private sectors under the agriculture and land reforms. I don't understand why agriculture is being given to private sector. Every farmer has small and big holding. I don't know whether it relates to private sector-industrial and commercial houses or international world or corporate world. If it is so then it is going to bring a basic change in our life because it will bring changes to the life of the entire nation. I would not like to take up the issue whether it should happen or not, that will be discussed later on but I would like to submit only this that the international corporate must have studied the corporate world of Indian and its impact on the market of their impacts are there then what measures the Government propose to take. We will have to contrive some measures. The major change that is to take place on account of the Agriculture Policy is that from peasants to big farmers, they will have to decide as to whom they will leave the land. What system should be evolved if the change takes place in the entire rural life whether it is agricultural labourers or rich farmers. Was this scheme prepared at the time of formulation of Agriculture Policy?

I would like to submit that farmers are facing hardship, the sugarcane are not being purchased so what to say of remunerative prices. The farmers should get remunerative prices to their products, modern technology should be employed in agriculture, per hectare production should be increased, but all these things are not possible in near future.

Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture that this should also be taken into consideration. Political ideology and one upmanship should not come in the way. There was flood in Bihar. My constituency Munger is there in that region and Bhagalpur, Jamui and Sitamarhi are adjacent to it. The entire northern Bihar is badly affected by flood. The district magistrate of Munger said that only in Munger there is loss of life and property worth Rs. 148 crore. Bhagalpur, Lakhisarai, Kagarua and Sitamarhi have also suffered heavy loss due to flood. I don't know whether the State Government have submitted any report to the Central Government regarding the loss of life and property. However if the State Government have submitted the report then, how much financial assistance so far has been provided to Bihar? Kagarua and Bhagalpur are worst flood affected districts which have suffered severe devastation. Only in my district 50 thousand mud houses have collapsed. It is not my report, rather it is the Government report. The situation is such that the people have no shelter. The Central Government's assistance should be provided to restore and rebuild infrastructure, means of irrigation and houses that have been destroyed in flood.

With these words, I conclude and I am not supporting the adjournment motion as it has been moved with some vested political interest.

[*English*]

SHRI PURNO A. SANGMA (Tura): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am quite aware of the time factor. So, I will be very brief. I will make only three points.

Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Unfortunately, adequate attention is not being paid to this sector. *The Economy Survey* of Government of India says that the growth of economy would be sustainable only if the average annual rate of growth in agriculture would be of the order of four per cent. What is the present scenario? If you look at the growth rate of agriculture in the last 15 years, you may find that it had stagnated at 3.6 per cent.

Whereas the *Economic Survey* says that it has at least to be four per cent. From 1990 to 1997 the annual compound growth rate of foodgrains production has been

[Shri Purno A. Sangma]

1.7 per cent whereas the growth rate of birth has been 2.1 per cent. I am making this point just to remind this House that though we are very proud of our self-sufficiency in food production yet the fact remains today that the growth of population is higher than the growth rate of food production. Therefore, I think we will have to be very careful. There is a need, according to me, for a second Green Revolution in our country. That is what Dr. Swaminathan has emphasised. He has suggested that the Green Revolution has to be taken to the Gangetic East, the Brahmaputra Valley and the Central India. But in order to take the Green Revolution to new areas naturally there is the question of investment. The *Economic Survey* itself has said:

"In order to ensure this growth, the *Survey* call for encouragement of high investment in rural assets and channelling of public expenditure towards supported infrastructure including rural roads, irrigation, agricultural research and extension services, soil conservation, irrigation and watershed management."

So, these are the areas where we will have to make adequate investments. As has been pointed out by the earlier speakers, unfortunately adequate investments are not taking place in agricultural sector. Therefore, the management of agriculture in our country would need a lot of strategic thinking. It will need planning and monitoring.

The second point that I would like to make is that the current situation is an extraordinary situation, a crisis situation. The *Economic Survey* of 1999-2000 also says that the money that will be required to subsidise food will be to the tune of Rs. 8,500 crore or something like that. I do not know about it...*(Interruptions)* I think it is Rs. 8,200 crore. So, on the one hand, we are spending so much of money towards procurement for subsidising food, on the other hand, there are no takers today. The FCI godowns are overflowing with surplus stock. The oil depots are overflowing with surplus stock. The same is the case in the edible oil sector. There is a lot of surplus with the NAFED. On the other hand, we are spending and investing so much of money. Why? I think the reason is very obvious. It is a failure of management. I reiterate that it is an absolute failure of management. I do not know how today the market price of foodgrains and oil is cheaper than the subsidised food of the FCI or the NAFED or the Public Distribution System. On the one hand, we say that we are surplus in food production, on the other hand, we have millions and millions of people living below the poverty line. The reason, I think, is just mismanagement. We will have to improve our distribution system in the country. We will have to professionalise the functioning of the FCI and the other agencies.

The third point that I would like to make, keeping in view the time factor, is this. As has already been pointed

out, I think one of the main reasons for the crisis has been the import of foodgrains and oil.

Indiscriminate import of essential commodities, whether it be sugar, whether it be edible oil, in the last two years, we have been importing sugar from Pakistan, Brazil. Last year, I am told that the edible oil import is next to the import of petroleum products. Many members have already pointed out the plight of our farmers. Be it in the area of sugar, wheat, and rubber growers of Kerala and other places. We will have to be very careful.

I am aware of our commitments to the WTO, but we did not have the framework of the WTO. I think the Government can and should take appropriate steps. One of the reasons, as Shri Madhavrao Scindia has already pointed out, is that we have the power to levy import duty. Why did we allow the oil to come without any import duty? Only yesterday the Government have decided to levy the import duty on the import of oil. It may be because the House would be discussing the issue today. Therefore, there are areas which can be utilised and Government can take corrective steps...*(Interruptions)* I do not want to repeat the points that have already been made.

I would like to remind the Government that in Mexico— I think that we should draw our lessons from them - seven to eight lakh livelihoods were lost due to fall of maize prices consequent on the cheap import under the NIFTIER. That is what has happened to the economy of Moscow. In Philippines, the foodgrains sector underwent steady marginalisation, which is happening in our country today. It happened in Philippines in 1998 and the result is that the situation came where the share of rice imports in Philippines rose up to 35 per cent of the total agricultural imports just a couple of years ago. Therefore, we should be very careful.

I am not at all in favour of indiscriminate imports, which will lead to so many problems and sufferings to our farmers. But when we talk about farmers, when we are talking about the agricultural sector, I think, sometimes we forget to remember those who are agricultural labourers, those who are daily wagers. We have 315 million working force in our country, out of that, 110 million of them are the agricultural labourers. They earn their livelihood on daily wages. I think the Government should think about that.

I have been in the Ministry of Labour for sometime. I know the conditions of the agricultural labourers. We had held a number of conferences of Labour Ministers' of the country as to what can be done for them. And a suggestion was, as Kerala has a legislation for the welfare activities of the farm workers, a similar thing for the agricultural labourers can be done by the Government of

India. I think that it is at the final stage of drafting and the Government should expedite that particular Bill, which would regulate the welfare measures for the agricultural labourers.

We have done well since Independence in the agricultural sector. Unfortunately, in the last few years, as I said, it has remained stagnant as far as growth rate is concerned. Much of the credit, not only goes to our farmers; not only goes to our agricultural labourers, but I think the credit also goes to our scientists. Our scientists have done exceedingly well in their research. Unfortunately, today I am given to understand that our scientists are absolutely demoralised.

The manner which Dr. R.S. Paroda, the Director-General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Secretary to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education has been sacked from service is not correct. He is also the President of the Indian Science Congress Association for the current year. The Indian Science Congress is going to meet shortly and the Prime Minister is going to inaugurate it. I do not know how the Prime Minister is going to share the dais with the person who has been sacked by his own Government. I am really very much concerned about the sacking of Dr. R.S. Paroda, after the reported writing of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan, Dr. Abdul Kalam, Dr. Khush etc. expressing their shock. Many eminent scientists not only from India, but also from abroad, including the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Norman E. Borlaug have expressed their shock and anguish over the way such an eminent scientists has been treated.

So, I would urge upon the Minister to please review his decision. We cannot afford to bring in demoralisation among the scientists of our country, who have done so much service to this country. Therefore, I would personally plead with Shri Nitish Kumar to have a relook at his decision. If he can rectify his decision, it will be a great service not only to our scientists but also to Indian agriculture, which is the backbone of our economy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH (Balua, Bihar): Mr. Chairman Sir, the discussion is going on regarding the issues related to agriculture. Just now the leader of opposition has expressed his concern and moved an adjournment motion. It is good thing that the House is seriously discussing the issues. Presently the deputy-leader of the Congress Party, Shri Scindia is not present in the House. He was stating that the present Government have increased the prices of fertiliser and diesel which has adversely effected the farmers. If he were present here he would have

realised that the price rise had occurred at the time of Shri Rao's Government in 1991. In 1991-92 the consumption of phosphetic fertiliser was nearly 3.25 million metric ton. They decontrolled phosphetic and potash fertiliser on 25 August, 1992 as a result of which the consumption of phosphetic fertiliser reduced from 3.21 million ton 2.61 million ton in 1993-94. Similarly, the consumption of potash was 1.391 million ton in 1991-92 and when it was decontrolled, its price shot up and its distribution and consumption reduced to 0.99 million ton. Earlier the price of the DAP fertiliser was Rs. 4700 per ton but in 1992-93 when it was decontrolled its price shot up to Rs. 8300 per ton. Then N.P. ratio was drastically reduced and that adversely affected the agricultural land and its productivity. Even Government have acted towards increasing and decreasing the price. Similarly he was discussing about the diesel price. The price of diesel in Delhi in 1973 was Rs. 0.83 per litre. Its price increased to Rs. 2.28 per litre in 1980 and in 1981 it became Rs. 2.67 per litre. Again in the same year i.e. 1981 it increased to Rs. 3.02 per litre and its price kept on increasing till in 1997 when its price was Rs. 10.34 per litre. You please tell me who was in power from 1980 to 1991? You had imported the foodgrains from foreign countries when there was record production in the country in 1996-97. Who was supporting that Government at the centre? We all know that NDA was not in power, that was your Government. Be it a matter of import of wheat or import of sugar, you did not formulate any concrete policy on Agriculture.

It is a fact that the production of foodgrains has increased in the country, and we have become self sufficient in it, but it is also a fact that per-capita consumption is going on decreasing. No concrete policy on agriculture was formulated during the 50 years of independence and the importance of agriculture was also not realised in right perspective. In 1951 our share in world trade was 2.6 percent and presently it has reduced to 0.6 percent. We did not give due importance to the agriculture and all these things happened during the 50 years of your rule. Presently the situation is such that everybody is demanding for the land reform in agriculture sector. But the problem of farmers have not been properly understood by them. What talk of the farmers who have two-four acres of land, even the big farmers who have 100 of acres of land and do not have other source of income cannot marry their daughter or provide medical facility to ill son without selling their land. On second October I was in my constituency. There the tax superintendent was telling that when he goes to farmers to recover loans, the farmer tells him to accept wheat as he does not have money. He told me that the farmer had 100 'man' wheat, 50 'man' maize and 25 'man'

[Shri Ramjivan Singh]

mustard seed. He wanted to sell them but nobody was there to purchase. That is why he can not purchase cloth even worth Rs. 5 for his children on the occasion Durga Puja. Sir, the price rise of sugar and onion leads to the changing of the Government but nothing happens when lakhs of tonnes of potatoes is rotten and the sugar canes of the thousands of acres of lands are burnt. I would like to ask as to after all for whom this system is existing?

You will be amazed to know that if any farmer takes loan for pumping set, tractor, fertiliser, seeds etc. and due to some circumstance fails to repay the loan, then he is sent to jail and the entire expenditure is recovered from him. However if any one commits dacoity in the bank and is caught then the Government bears the cost of his feeding. The entire expenditure incurred on the recovery of the loan from the farmer is borne by the farmer himself.

These days the lack of irrigation facility and electricity is discussed, but only these things are not going to solve the problems of the farmers. Haryana is the example of this. In 1987 when Hon'ble Devi Lal was contesting election in Haryana, there were sufficient electricity and irrigation facility, but the farmers were burdened with debts. Before election he had announced that if he was elected, he would waive off the debt of the farmers upto Rs. 10 thousand and he got two third majority in the election.

I would like to extend my thanks to the Government of India and the Minister of Agriculture that at least they have taken initiative towards the formulation of the agriculture policy and that will also be passed in the current session,

Till now no price policy has been formulated in the country. In 1949 when there was drought and the situation of famine was there in the country, the then Prime Minister hon'ble Jawahar Lal Nehru had constituted a committee for the price policy under the chairmanship of hon'ble Rafi Ahmed Kidwai. The report says that the comparative prices of agriculture products and industrial products should be fixed. It has not been done in 50 years till today. I would like to give one example. Between 1960 and 1965 the price of wheat was Rs. 40 per 'man' and the cost of a tractor during the same period was nearly Rs. 15 to 20 thousands. The farmer could purchase a tractor by selling 400-500 'man' wheat. Presently the price of wheat is Rs. 200 per man and the price of a tractor is Rs. 3 lakh. Earlier he had to sell 400 to 500 man foodgrain to purchase a tractor while now he has to sell 1500 man foodgrains.

16.56 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the CHAIR*)

In 1960's the price of wheat was Rs. 40 per 'man' and the price of 10 gram gold was Rs. 100. The farmers could purchase some gold for their daughters-in-laws by selling 2.5 to 3 'man' wheat. Today the price of wheat is Rs. 200 and that of gold is Ts. 4400-4500. Now he has to sell 20 to 25 man wheat for that. The price of the commodities manufactured in factories keeps on increasing and the price of agriculture products keeps on decreasing. There is no any balance between the two. If you want to protect the interests of the farmers then there should be balance between the two.

We have not paid attention to the post harvest technology for last 50 years. There would not have been such situation if we had paid attention towards that. We have lost our control over production, storage and the distribution. All these this are happening due to this.

Now we should once again conduct the study of climate. The natural climate cycle has been disturbed on account of several scientific experiments conducted so far. Presently our agriculture is based on traditional method. We should pay attention in this direction.

I would like to tell the Minister of Agriculture and the Government that import and import of agricultural products should be panned carefully keeping in view the agriculture production. Otherwise the poor farmers will suffer. I oppose the Adjournment Motion and request the Government of India that it should pay attention to above mentioned points.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali):
Here you are opposing, there you are requesting and we are obstructing you.

SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH: What can you do apart from that?

At the time of formulation of the policy, you must keep in mind that the country can not progress unless the farmers are prosperous. Choudhary Charan Singh used to say that the way to progress of the country passes through the agricultural prosperity. Unless the farmers and the agricultural labourers are prosperous, the country will not progress. The Government should make such policy to take the country on the path of progress.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Madam, this is an extraordinary discussion on an extraordinary motion. As everybody knows, an Adjournment Motion entails an element of censure. This motion has been taken in a lighter vein by the Government

My friend, Shri Nitish Kumar is present. I would like to record my protest against the studied absence of Minister of Finance, Minister of Commerce and above all Minister for Consumer Affairs and Civil Supplies. This is not only a case of benign neglect, it is a case of open contempt for the cause of farmers. I think the Government should be stung into attention, if not action.

Madam, this is a Government-made disaster, which the farmers are facing.

17.00 hrs.

This has been waiting to happen. Only a Government, which is utterly unresponsive and unimaginative, would have let this to happen. The plight and the predicament of peasantry today has no precedent, has no parallel in the annals of free India.

As has been mentioned by many friends here, the cost of inputs, more particularly those administered by the Government, namely of diesel, fertiliser, and power tariff have gone up steeply in the last one year. This is only year in my memory - if my memory is not serving me right, I am prepared to be corrected - when the prices of all the crops in the country have crashed in every part of the country. This is an agonising irony of an embarrassing plenty. This plenty is not in the country. It is in the godowns of FCI because if you look at the records, you will find the per acre yield has not increased significantly, the per capita availability of foodgrains has not increased very significantly, and yet there is no off-take from FCI.

Sangmaji has rightly drawn attention to farm labour. The problems of farmers and farm labour are inextricably intertwined. If the prices of farm produce plummet, the wages for farm labour would simultaneously plummet.

We are looking at the whole agricultural sector. It contributes nearly 30 per cent to our GDP nearly 65 per cent of the labour force in the country is employed in this sector and yet, this sector has been 'immiserised' and impoverished. I must say that this is one of the few occasions when my command over words is failing to convey the degree of plight the farmers are finding themselves in. When the farmers and farm labour get deprived of their purchasing power, this would have an adverse impact on the industry. Who will purchase your products? Who will purchase your soaps even cheap Nirma detergent soaps, your clothes and your textiles? There is a symbiotic nexus between agricultural prosperity and industrial growth. They cannot be seen in discrete parts.

This problem was anticipatable. Many friends on the other side wanted to say that his problem is not created today.

I am not amongst those who say that farmers have been in the seventh heaven during the last 50 years or on cloud nine during the last 50 years. I am one of those who believe that the farmers never had it as good as they deserved. But today their lot is much worse than ever before. This deterioration has come about on account of the conscious policies pursued by this Government in the last two years.

Let me refer to facts. Let me refer to only one statistics. In Delhi, in 1998, the wholesale price of the Parmal rice, *deshi*, was Rs. 868. This was in 1998. In September, 1999, the price came down to Rs. 862. So, you knew well enough in 1999 that the prices of rice were dwindling, were plummeting or were nose-diving. What is the price of Parmal rice? I am only referring to one variety. I do not want to burden you with minute details. Today, in October, the price of this rice is Rs. 842. Is it not a matter of shame? I am sure Shri Nitish Kumar has been alive to this. I have known him in our respective, different incarnations. I have also seen in the Press that Shri Nitish Kumar has had his own in-house battle with another friend of ours, Shri Shanta Kumar; we are not concerned.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Apart from Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I am talking of ideological battles, not of factional battles which are endemic to our tradition.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I see, it is ideological battle.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: We are not bothered about, you in-house battles. We are bothered about results; and the results are nil because you have no political will. Where is the will? The same is the story with wheat. The same is the story with maize, palm oil, soya beans, groundnut oil and so on and so forth. I will come to details if we have time.

I wish my friend, Shri Yashwant Sinha, were here. He has, of late, become a fiscal terrorist. He is all the time reminding us of the fiscal deficit. As one who knows some economics, I am also concerned about it. Does he know that more than 50 per cent of European Union's common budget goes even now in financing the common agricultural policy of Europe? Import duty on agricultural

[Shri S. Jaipal Reddy]

products in the United States, which is the Mecca of liberalisation, goes up to 245 per cent. Our friends were asking, what have we done during the last 50 years? The average annual production for the triennium, that is, for the first three decades, that is, upto 1968-69 was 68-69 million tonnes.

For 1998-99 it is 198 million tonnes. Our production has gone up by three times.

Shri Sangma was pleading for a second Green Revolution. I was also dreaming of it. Today, the talk of a Second Green Revolution sounds like a nightmare. If we cannot deal with the implications of the first Green Revolution, how are we going to deal with the implications of the Second Green Revolution? I am not saying that we should stop producing. In Andhra Pradesh our high-tech Chief Minister has already announced a crop holiday for tobacco. He may soon announce a crop holiday for paddy and so and so forth. It may be for the good.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): Crop holidays are in the interests of farmers only.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: All right, I am supporting you.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: The High Court is also supporting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The High Court is always for the progress of farmers.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Shri Yerrannaaidu, you are pleading for a crop holiday because, in spite of your numbers—because of which this blessed NDA Government is surviving—you are not able to influence this policy-less Government.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are surrendering.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: And, you cannot have the cake of criticising the Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Today you heard my speech. You might have also heard my colleague expressing his view frankly.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: I would like to tell you, Shri Naidu here—in Lok Sabha - and Shri Naidu there in Hyderabad that you cannot have the cake and eat it also. You cannot be a critic of the Government and oppose our Motion. We will judge you in just one hour from now.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: We are ready to oppose. But opposing is not the solution to the problem. Across the table we have to discuss and we have to advise the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Without the permission of the Chair you are all going on talking. Already, we are pressed for time.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam my friend, Shri Madhavrao Scindia has referred to the problems posed by the lifting of quantitative restrictions. But I am astounded by the gathering clouds on the farming horizon. In April 2001 the quantitative restrictions on paddy and wheat will be completely lifted. What will follow? Three per cent of the total national produce of India will have to be compulsorily imported. We have no option in the matter. If the productivity this year and last year together was more by only two per cent - four million tonnes - and we are not able to handle it, how will we handle the compulsorily imported six million tonnes of foodgrains from next year?

In the FCI, we have 40 million tonnes. Where is that Minister for FCI? Has he come? Yes! I salute Shri Shanta Kumar for his masterly inaction. He has been sitting pretty on his plenty! There are places in the country which are drought-stricken, there are places in the country which are devastated, and ravaged by floods. But no grain goes from the FCI godowns.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (SILCHAR): His proposal has been rejected by the Cabinet.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let him say that.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Therefore, will he do with the stocks in the FCI godowns?

I come from Miryalguda constituency which is served partly by the waters of the Nagarjuna Sagar Project.

Let alone the farmers, the rice millers have incurred huge losses. There is nobody to buy. Mr. Agriculture Minister, do you want to tell me - 'Look Shri Jaipal Reddy, I have increased the procurement rate?' Shri Nitish Kumar, I want you to get our paddy procured by the F.C.I. at last year's procurement rate and not this year's procurement rate. This is one of those rare years when the market rate is found to be far lower than the procurement rate.

Therefore, this is not a problem which can be wished away. I do not think this is a problem that has arisen incidentally. It is, in my view, germane to the genetic character of the B.J.P. It is indicative of the class bias of the B.J.P. because the B.J.P. has always represented the creamy layers of India's listless contributions. They do not understand the consumers in the urban areas nor do they understand the farmers in the rural sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please conclude now.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Madam, I am just concluding.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is speaking such an excellent English.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are right...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not matter as to what language he is speaking in.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: One disturbing phenomenon which our Minister, I am sure, would be alive to - the global prices of foodgrains are declining which was not the case before, which has never been the case before. This is a new development of momentous significance, as the option of easy exporting of foodgrains is no longer available to you.

But whatever that price levels are, please export and empty the godowns. Please empty the godowns in drought-stricken areas. Though the godowns are full, the people are starving for want of foodgrains. Here I would like to remind you of the depression that the United States and the Western world faced in the Thirties when people starved in the streets while the godowns were full...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: The American example is the right example...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: That is the only way they can understand. The only language is the language of Uncle Sam. Unfortunately, thanks to Shri P.A. Sangma's community's efforts we were all trained in the Queen's English and we will have to learn some American English too.

Now the State Government - at least my friend Prof. Ummareddy Venkateshwarlu has said - is prepared to make the storage space available from its own sources. Please use that.

Madam, I have one last word. Shri Nitish Kumar is very happy that he has got a wonderful Agricultural Policy

in his pocket. I have burnt the midnight oil to study his Agricultural Policy. What did I find? I found nothing new. It is full of sound and fury, signifying nothing. It is full of pious platitudes; it is full of glossy generalities, it is full of bombastic banalities and it is full of innocuous inanities.

I am sure the same will be repeated in his reply.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Sambalpur): Madam Chairman, presently the discussion is going on in the House regarding the miseries of farmers. However I feel that the discussion is much more academic and the areas which should have been paid more attention are getting comparatively less attention. I would not like to deliver a long speech. In spite of all the discussion it is a fact that our country have become self dependent in respect of food production. Jaipal Reddy was telling that all the storages of the Food Corporation of India are full with food grains. There is no doubt in it...(*Interruptions*) It is a fact that the Government of India have sufficient quantity of food grains. However it is also a fact that several areas of the country are suffering from starvation as the report of starvation deaths are coming from Orissa. Now even the farmer having land holding of nine-ten acres is also leaving their villages. Presently the condition of the western part of Orissa, Chhattisgarh and some part of Gujarat is extremely miserable. We are discussing the condition of the farmers here in the House. During the discussion several Members expressed their views regarding the problem of floods. There is flood in Bengal while Gujarat, Orissa, Chhattisgarh and some parts of Maharashtra are in the grip of drought. We were also discussing this. Sangma ji was telling that in comparison to the population growth, our agricultural production is not sufficient as it should have been. However it is also a fact that for last many years we have achieved remarkable success in the field of agricultural production. It is a peculiar situation in the country that some parts of the country is full of food grains as is the case of Punjab and Haryana where the farmers were doing agitation because there is sufficient storage facility as there was over production of wheat. The wheat are being sent to Orissa for storage. The people are dying of starvation in the country where there are no sufficient space for storage on account of over production of food grains. I do not understand what is wrong. Either our policies are wrong or there is something wrong with the implementation of the policies.

Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was expressing her sorrow for the misery of the farmers. I remember Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited Kalahandi when there was a famine in 1966-67. Her visit was much publicised but the condition

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

of the farmers there is the same as it was some 25-30 year back. In 1986 late Rajiv Gandhi had also visited that area. As far I recall, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi was also with him. It got world wide publicity. There a woman named Phanas Phungi had sold her son for Rs. 40 arranging food for self. There people used to eat food which we call stale rice. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had taken that food. His photograph was published in the international newspaper and the people of that region thought that some pleasant changes are going to take place in their lives.

Now the year 2000 is going to end but even today the condition of the farmers there is the same. Nothing has changed. Today, the Members of opposition party are blaming the ruling party whereas their party remained in power for most of the period since 53 years of independence. I do not understand how long we will continue to blame each other. Today when we are discussing the famine, I would like to take you towards Orissa. I was listening to Shri Sahu in the morning. He was telling that wherever there is famine or flood, the people of that region allege that the Government are not providing any assistance as the Members from West Bengal made uproar. In Orissa the crop worth Rs. 500 to 700 crore were destroyed. There are at least 150 villages in my constituency where I had visited before the onset of the current session and I found that there were many such farmers who did not possess any food grain. You will be amazed to hear that the farmers there are leaving their villages and migrating to Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. If you visit Phatabaji and Titlagarh railway stations, you will find that thousands of farmers are leaving their places. I donot know whether the Central government is aware of the fact or not. I also do not know whether the Central Government is aware of the situation or not and whether any responsibility lies with the government in this regard or not.

[English]

Everyday, thousands of farmers are migrating to other States. Not only in Orissa, but even from the adjacent area, that is, the Chattisgarh State which you have formed recently, thousands and thousands of farmers are migrating every day. They are leaving with their children, ladies and old parents. Everybody is leaving the village; whole villages are deserted now.

[Translation]

There is over production of wheat in Punjab and it become surplus whereas the report of starvation death are coming from Chattisga and Orissa. I do not understand where did we do wrong. The Government should pay attention to this.

[English]

There should be some self analysis on this.

[Translation]

I would like to raise one-two more issues. There is crop insurance for farmers, as far I think, every farmers should be given compensation of the crop insurance.

[English]

Almost all the small farmers are loanees. When they take the loans either from the society or from the bank, two per cent is deducted as insurance deposit

[Translation]

I do not understand as to what type of insurance policy it is.

[English]

Year after year, the farmers are not getting any compensation on account of this insurance. The small things which are hitting the farmer the most have to be taken care of by the Government.

[Translation]

My last word is that my constituency.

[English]

The Western part of Orissa is now reeling under severe drought condition. As you know, Madam, just last year, two-third of the State was completely devastated due to the super-cyclone, and this year, the entire Western part of the State and some districts even in the coastal area are seriously reeling under a severe drought condition. The economy of the State has been totally shattered. I do not understand when the Union Government will come to the rescue of such poor States like Orissa, Chattisgarh, and Gujarat.

[Translation]

I am not excluding Bihar also but the Adjournment Motion that has been moved today.

[English]

I cannot support this Adjournment Motion - I do not know whether it is my fortune or misfortune - because I belong to the NDA.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you support the sentiment !

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Technically, I cannot support it, Madam, but I would utterly fail in my duty if I do not ventilate here the miseries of those poor farmers who are on the verge of dying due to starvation in the drought-affected area.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN (Tirunelveli): Madam, Chairman, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in this Adjournment Motion in support of the farmers.

Sir, a great Tamil poet, Thiruvalluvar, some 2000 years back, had written a poem and I would like to first quote that in Tamil and then I would tell the meaning of it in English. He wrote, '*Uzhutsundu Valvare Valvar, Muttvellam Thozhutsundu Pin silvar*'. It means, those who plough and produce are alone eligible to live on this Earth but others can only follow them. This was what was written by the great poet Thiruvalluvar some 2000 years back. Now, what is the position of the farmers in our country? This NDA Government has disinvested everything, right from the high technology to the farming sector.

Sir, I had put an Unstarred Question some two weeks back regarding the import of milk products. Only yesterday I got an answer from the hon. Agriculture Minister. My question was whether this Government was ready to withdraw the 1992 Milk Products Order or not. The Minister replied in his written answer that the Government was not going to withdraw that Order. What does that mean? They are encouraging foreign farming but the Indian farmers are being let down by this NDA Government. I charge this Government for that.

Madam, farming is not an organised sector. Industry is an organised sector. The Industrial sector has organisations like the CII and the FICCI to voice their grievances and problems, but does the farming sector has any Chamber of Commerce to ventilate their grievances and problems? Is there any such organisation in India or in any State? No, it is not there. The prices of the producers are not sufficient to meet their cost. They invest so much of money but they do not get sufficient return. Take for example the case of the sugarcane growers. They are demanding Rs. 1000 per tonne for their produce. But they were not able to do it. So also is the case with the tea growers. They are suffering. They have been subjected to an economic torture.

Sir, I agree with the points raised by my friends here and I would not like to repeat them. What is the reason for the migration of these farmers to the urban areas? Some three to four generation back, they all were farmers. But now they have either chosen to become doctors or lawyers. They have given up farming.

Sir, what is the position of the tillers today? Are the tillers able to enjoy the right to ownership? When my party, the AIADMK was formed in the year 1972, we had formulated a principle - this was enunciated by the late *Bharat Ratna* MGR - that tillers should have the right to ownership. There were agrarian reforms made by the late Chief Ministers Dr. Anna and Dr. MGR. But the present Government are not able to formulate schemes for the benefit of the farmers.

The Congress and the BJP ruled at the Centre one time or the other. Though we are a regional party we supported many agrarian reforms at the central level. But they have not come true.

The Central Government has failed to protect the interests of Indian farmers. What is the Indian farmer doing? He is in no position to do anything. There is a lack of leadership among Indian farmers. I knew of a *kisan* march that was held in Delhi twelve years ago. That march was conducted from Chandigarh to Delhi. Another *kisan* march was conducted from Bombay to Delhi. The political power at the Centre has failed to protect the farmers. Farmers are in a majority but do not have the economic strength to have a lobby of their own. Farmers have no lobby with the Ministers.

While asking for their votes we promise the farmers that we should give them land and we would give them many concessions. Did the Government at the Centre waive excise duty on tractors? No, excise duty was not waived on tractors, but the milk products import order facilitated zero duty import in 1995. It is raised to 15 per cent now but at that time it was there at zero duty. The Government could have waived excise duty on pump sets. The Government could have waived Central Sales Tax on pump sets. The State Governments could have waived Sales Tax on pump sets.

Government encourages the car industry. There were advertisements in the media saying that anybody could go and take home a new car by paying just Rs. 9,900. Can a farmer get a tractor so quickly? No. Can he get a pump-set so quickly? No. He has to approach the Block Development Officer who must certify as to whether that pump-set would be able to lift enough water. There are many hurdles at farming level.

During this Adjournment Motion we ventilate the grievances of farmers rising above all party affiliations because the farmers are gradually giving up farming activity. If all the farmers march to Delhi to settle in Delhi, who would be there to conduct agricultural operations in the field? If all agricultural operations come

[Shri P.H. Pandiyan]

to a stand still, who will feed you? Farmers are the feeders for the country. Shri Sangma has said that farmers are the backbone of the economy. I beg to differ with him and say that they are the feeders for the country. We can live without the car industry but we cannot live without farming community. Right to life is guaranteed only by the farmer.

Farmers produce food but marketing facility is not available for agricultural produce because farmers have no lobby. They manufacture raw material for manufacturing foodstuff. A poor farmer gets about Rs. 10 for his rice and about Rs. 5 a kilogram for his vegetables. What are the amounts charged in star hotels? How much does a chicken of one kilogram cost in a poultry farm and how much does it cost in a star hotel? It is because they have a lobby and they have enough support. They have the support to the Government. The Government has failed to protect the farmers in India.

On behalf of AIADMK I would urge upon this Government to come to the rescue of farmers.

We raised our voices on the streets of Tamil Nadu regarding tea growers, regarding sugarcane growers' fixation of price at Rs. 1,000 per tonne, and also Cauvery issue.

So, I want to reiterate that there are different concessions. The Centre has released Rs. 10 crore for tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 50 crore for rubber farmers of Tamil Nadu and Rs. 350 crore package for Punjab farmers. But where is the package for paddy farmers? There is a wheat lobby here but there is no paddy lobby. For paddy, we depend on this Government. The farmers of Tanjore district, Tamil Nadu, the farmers of Punjab and other States like Andhra Pradesh have no lobby for paddy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: They have.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: They have no lobby. So, only during Adjournment Motion we can raise our voice on behalf of farmers.

Madam, Chairperson, kindly give me two minutes more to finish my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pandiyan there is no time. There are others also to speak.

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Madam, the distressed farmers are committing suicide. I would say that a distressed farmer commits suicide and not a distressed industrialist or a distressed defaulter. It is the distressed farmer who commits suicide. What for? It is because he

is not able to be supported; he is being supported by the Government. There is no supporting price for his produce.

So, that way, the Government, in all circumstances, should support the farmers whether he is cultivating paddy, wheat etc.

Madam, Chairperson, there is one more thing to be mentioned. The WTO came into being in January 1, 1995. It is going to be completed by December 31, 2004. So, it has got still four more years. So, till 2004, all these essential commodities are going to be imported through the WTO.

On behalf of my party, I want to know from this Government about this WTO. What is this WTO? What are those articles they are going to import? We have raised this issue on many occasions in this august House...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi): Which was the Government who signed the WTO for the first time?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: That is why I say one time it was the Congress and now it is the NDA...*(Interruptions)* ... Though we are regional parties, we are supporting people on all-India level. Let the Government place a White Paper on the floor of this august House telling about the articles that are going to be imported and the concessions that are going to come.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri P.H. Pandiyan, please conclude now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: Madam, one of the conditions in the WTO is withdrawal of subsidy...*(Interruptions)*... I am talking about *kisans*...*(Interruptions)*... We sold our lands and we became lawyers. I was having 20 acres of land in my village. Basically, I am a farmer. In the last three generations, we were farmers but due to migration, we sold all our lands. What for?...*(Interruptions)*... After wearing coat, you cannot plough. *(Interruptions)*...

The position of farmers should be upgraded. What is the status of a farmer at the national level? It is not because of industries. Farming is not an industry.

So, in that way, I support this Adjournment Motion and also urge upon all the Members of this House including the NDA Members that they must support this Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): We cannot support this Adjournment Motion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.H. PANDIYAN: You are getting the votes of farmers. So, you should support the cause of farmers by casting votes in favour of this Motion on the floor of this House.

With these few words, I support this Motion.

SHRI ADHI SANKAR (Cuddalore): Madam Chairperson, I am very much thankful to you on behalf of the DMK party for allowing me to participate in this very important discussion.

In our country, more than 75 per cent of the population is directly or indirectly involved in agriculture. It plays a vital role in the all-round development of the country.

During the last two decades, the Government investment in agriculture has been very poor and has been showing a falling tendency. The Plan allocation for agriculture has been coming down each successive year. Concern over inadequacy of capital in agriculture has been expressed in the National Agriculture Policy also.

I strongly believe that there is an urgent need to step up investment in agriculture, which plays an important role in the economy of the country.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture, in its various Reports on Demands for Grants has strongly recommended arresting the trend of falling investments and raise the Plan allocation of this sector.

The credit facilities available to farmers are not adequate. Small and marginal farmers do not have easy access to the lending institutions and they take loans from money lenders who exploit them. The interest charged by the financial institutions is also very high. The co-operative banks charge a very high interest rate of 15 per cent to 18 per cent. In this regard, some of the State Governments are ready to bear the loan burden of the farmers but the NABARD has not permitted the State Governments to do this. At least, during the course of this discussion, the Government should come forward to write off the interest on all agricultural loans.

The agricultural labourers and the landless farmers are the backbone of India's agriculture. But the Government has ignored the interests of the agricultural labourers and landless farmers. With the result, the condition of the agricultural labourers is miserable. The National Agriculture Policy, laid in Parliament recently, is also silent on the interests of the agricultural labourers and landless farmers. Unless some steps are taken for

protecting and safeguarding their interests, the progress made in agriculture will have no meaning. I am very happy to say here that the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the eminent leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, has given free electricity to the farmers. I am also happy to say that for the welfare of the farmers, the Government of Tamil Nadu has constituted a Farmers' Welfare Board.

Agriculture requires incentives in the form of better remunerative prices for the agricultural commodities. Substantial stress should be given to this aspect. Over the years, agriculture has become less and less rewarding because of the apathy of the Government towards giving remunerative prices to the farmers to sustain their production and meet their livelihood. The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the great leadership of Dr. Kalaignar, has created farmers' markets known as *uzhavar chandai* in each and every *taluk* in Tamil Nadu.

We have also seen that the Technology Mission on Pulses, Oilseeds and Cotton have not delivered as per the expectations. The farmers have not been able to raise the production as new technology has not been disseminated to them. The latest Technology Mission on Cotton that started last year has not yet made its impact. The cotton farmers in Andhra Pradesh and other States continue to commit suicides every year due to crop failures and the Government is a silent spectator.

With the coming up of the WTO, the agriculture trade has become very complex. Here, the Government has full responsibility to protect the interest of the farmers against the unfavourable consequences of the WTO. But it is already found that the farmers' interests are affected due to cheap import of edible oils and milk products. We strongly desire that the Government should rationalise the import duty, keeping the farmers' interests in mind.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Madam Chairperson, a discussion on the Adjournment Motion proposed by the Leader of Opposition Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, is going on and eminent M.P. Shri Jaipal Reddy, while supporting it, he has said —

[English]

"Adjournment Motion is equivalent to censuring the Government."

[Translation]

He protested and that is why some Ministers came here. Ministers are arriving here only when the time of voting is getting closer. What a carelessness it is? One

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

point is very clear by the discussion that the condition of the farmers is miserable in this country. Their condition is very bad. Members from the other side have also accepted that the condition of farmers is very poor. Why is it so? We should discuss this issue. I would like to say something in brief about the solution to this problem. BJP and its allies have been in power for the last three years. I can challenge that they have not given a single decision in favour or in the interest of the farmers. If anyone has the courage, he may tell us. No one can give even a single example. They have given decisions against the farmers. And if it is not so, then they may mention any of the pro-farmer acts of the Government.

AN HON. MEMBER: Kisan credit cards were issued.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He is very clever. He says that the Kisan credit cards has benefited the farmers and the farmers are happy. I was listening to the speech of his party members. They should speak the truth here. This Government call fall on the said proposal but there is no other option at this time. We do not want that an immediate voting may take place on this. That is why we are tolerating all this. We are talking to other parties. They cannot give even a single example of doing anything in favour of the farmers. They increased the prices of diesel, kerosene oil and domestic gas. Prices of kerosene oil and gas has been reduced only because of hon. Mamataji. It is being said that the price of diesel would be reduced by the efforts of Yerrannaidu ji and Chandra Babu Naidu ji. A rumour is in the air that the price of diesel would decrease when Shri Chandrababu Naidu would give a threat of withdrawing support of his party. I wonder under these circumstances how the country will prosper. It was said that their prices were increased because of the oil pool deficit. Now their prices would come down with the threat of resignation. Does any country run with such a policy? In this situation what will be the destiny of country's farmers? This needs to be considered. Farmers in the entire country are in a very miserable condition. Coconut growers and rubber producers in Kerala, cotton growers in Maharashtra and sugarcane, paddy and wheat growers in Andhra Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are on the verge of destruction. Even in Bihar, all cultivators as well as jute growers are ruined. Farmers are committing suicide out of frustration. Why don't you understand this problem? this is an anti-farmer Government. Prices of diesel, rates of electricity and irrigation facilities and seeds have gone up. Amount of subsidy given to them has also been reduced. This Government has taken all its decisions against the farmers. No one is ready to buy the produce of farmers. Rupees 510 were fixed as the rates for normal paddy (rice), but

the people will not buy even at these prices. This is cheating under these circumstances farmers are compelled to sell it at a rate of three or four rupees per kg. four crore tonnes of foodgrain is stored in the Government godowns. Foodgrain has also been stored outside the godowns in the remaining open space...*(Interruptions)*. How can they say so? I cannot say that they are mad. Price of wheat in the market is five or six rupees per kg. despite that its price at the Government shop is nine rupees per kg. So what should we say is it madness or conspiracy? What is the logic behind such a difference?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): I think it is unparliamentary. It should be expunged from the records...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He did not call anybody as such. He is talking about the act.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I only want to say that its rate in the market is Rs. 6 and at the PDS it is Rs.9 per kg. What is the calculation, is this technology. From where will the people buy. Godowns of the Government are over stored with food grains and the Government is thinking as to how to reduce this burden of excessive foodgrains. So with the view that its price may be decreased and it may be sold to the traders at lesser rate, the price of wheat in the market is Rs. 5/- per kg, but it was sold to the traders at the rate of Rs. 6/- or 6.50 per kg. Now you tell me who will buy? So in this way price of wheat at the Public Distribution Shop is Rs. 9/- at traders shop is Rs.6/- and in the market, it is Rs. 5/- per kg. No one buys this wheat. Now we have information that Government is thinking of exporting wheat in foreign countries. International rate of wheat is four or five rupees per kg. Shri Prasanna Acharya was saying that wheat would be exported abroad. A poor man in the country was getting wheat at the rate of Rs. 2 or 2.50 per kg. Now they are not ready to give wheat to the poor at cheaper rates, but will export it abroad. Lakhs of people in Kalahandi area of Orissa are dying of hunger but they will not get this wheat. It had not mattered if the Government had increased the rate of foodgrains by 20-30 paise, but this is not proper that they have altogether doubled the rates of wheat. Government has raised the price of wheat for APL. I do not understand the intention of the Government.

Madam Chairperson, I give warning to the Government for doing fraud with the farmers. Government does not have space to keep foodgrains and so the Government is cheating the poor farmers. It shall not give foodgrains to the farmers at the minimum support price. With this act of Government farmers would be discouraged and they will take little interest in cultivation. Now the country is going to face a food security crisis. We are presently facing danger due to the policies of the present Government and would face it in future also. They have ruined our present and are going to do the same in the future also. So, I would like to caution this anti-farmer Government that farmers are going to revolt in the entire country. A few days back Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Surendra Mohan had called a meeting of farmers and they have formed Kisan Vikas Manch in Uttar Pradesh...*(Interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not disturb. Let him speak.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Government's acts are against the farmers and you are accepting all these. What solution do you have to this problem? You are sensible and intelligent citizens of the country. We should give to, priority to the food security of the country. 100 crore people live in this country and this problem is for all of them. They can become the victim of food weapon. Farmers are raising this question only to avoid such a danger. I want to put an example before you that in 1997, 123 centres were opened in Bihar for purchasing paddy, but now 100 out of these 123 centres have been closed down and it has been said that only 23 centres would buy paddy. If this question would be asked to the Minister of Agriculture, he would say that this matter is related to food and I am not responsible for this. We are not for procurement and then he will say that what is in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture?

18.00 hrs.

He will show his helplessness. How can we understand that this would lead to the welfare of farmers of the country? And when the hon. Minister of Agriculture would say that this is not in his hands, we will say that they are doing service in the Government. You please tell me whether Minister are doing service in the Government? Sometimes they go to Bihar and come back on lien. All intellectuals and learned persons have said that farmers are the backbone of the country's economy and we have become self sufficient only by the diligence of farmers but every decision has been taken against the farmers. In the WTO more than 300 items like agricultural tools and equipments out of total 714 items are of the farmers and item No. 715th is coming from the foreign country. Oil producing farmers are also facing destruction.

When there was a shortage of only 12 lakh tonnes of oil then why 40 lakh tonne of oil was imported. Can anybody answer? Potato growers are also ruined now. No one is ready to keep it in the cold storage. 2 crore 40 lakh tonnes of potato is produced and there is no space in the cold storage to keep even 50 per cent of that. Because of this all farmers are in great problem and the Government have not taken any action against the black marketeers or persons having balck money. They have increased the prices of diesel and fertiliser and thus have burdened the farmers but on the contrary, they have not taken any action against the people on whom income tax amounting to Rs. 52000/- crore is outstanding. Rs. 58,000 crore is due on NPA. What action did you take? That is why all their decisions are in favour of the black marketeers and against the farmers. So, we want that this anti-farmer government should be defeated through this motion, oierwise the farmers would rise in revolt against them. This Government is giving the slogan of 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan and Jai Vigyan' but in contrary working for the slogan - Kshaya kisan, Kshaya Jawan and Kshaya Vigyan'. They need to be taught a lesson. All the allied parties together asked this Government to roll back the prices of foodgrain in the PDS but the Government is not going to listen to anyone. They did not reduce the prices and the godowns of FCI are full of foodgrain, but the farmers are not getting minimum support price. Existence of this government would lead to a danger to food security and so we shall have to remove this Government if we really want to save the country.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Madam, since it is already six o' clock , I request you to take the sense of the House in extending the time for discussion till all the Members have finished their speeches ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me take the sense of the House. There ae a few more speakers. I may also tell you that the names of a number of Members, who are raising their hands, have not been sent to the Chair by their respective Whips. So, their names are not on the list before us. Now, if they wish me to give them time to speak, I cannot do that. Even otherwise, we still have got six speakers listed and a number of others are waiting. I feel, if you all agree, we will have to extend the time for discussion by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Let us extend it by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us agree to have the voting by seven o' clock.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allot the time according to the party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Malhotra ji, the list you have sent, includes the names of the Members of your coalition parties also. I will have to invite everybody in the first round. Then we will see in the second round.

[English]

We are doing that very carefully.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Madam, you can increase the time limit of all parties in proportionate to the total time limit, you are going to increase.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Madam Chairman, the House is discussing the problems of the farmers and the farmers themselves are not being given the opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will give you time to speak.

[English]

After we finish with all the speakers, there would be reply by the Government and the mover. That is going to take another hour. Everybody wants to speak, but everybody cannot be allowed.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North West): Madam Chairman, I rise to speak on the Adjournment Motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.

Madam, at present the farmers of the country are severely affected and are facing difficulties through out the country about which we are deeply concerned. Unless we react at the appropriate moment, this situation is supposed to go out of their grips. It is good that the Adjournment Motion has been brought at an appropriate time. We, who are in the Treasury Benches, also did not oppose the motion when the Leader of the Opposition moved it. It has naturally been reflected that the whole House and all the Members of all the Political parties of this country are deeply concerned with the problems of the farmers.

Madam, if agricultural sector of the country is neglected then certainly the whole country is affected. The farmers of this country mostly get affected due to flood, drought as well as due to high prices of diesel

and fertilisers. So, we have to pay proper attention to it. While adopting any decisions regarding price rise, we have to certainly keep in mind that the poorest of the poor sections of this country are not affected.

Madam, recently price hike took place in domestic gas, petrol, diesel, and kerosene. Ultimately, the price of domestic gas has been reduced by Rs. 10, i.e. by 25 per cent and in the case of kerosene by Re. 1, i.e. by 35 per cent which we fully appreciate. We thank the hon. Prime Minister who had taken the decision at an appropriate time. But still we would be happier if the price of diesel could have been reduced by certain extent so that the farmers could have been really benefited. I would have been happier if this proposal could have been projected and ventilated in this House by every political party who had taken part in the discussion on this motion. It is because diesel mostly affects the farmers. But we would wait for further decision by the Government which could reconsider the decision so far as the price hike of diesel is concerned.

Madam, we want to raise a few important matters. Firstly, we broadly require cold storage facilities in the country in maximum possible numbers. I can tell you the experience of potato growers of West Bengal. The farmers grew maximum potatoes in the State of West Bengal.

But, for lack of cold storage facility they had to proceed for the distress sale and sell potatoes for Re.1 a kilogram. Then the farmers decided not to cultivate potatoes in future because they had to sell everything and face tremendous difficulties.

Another proposal from our side is that the Crop Insurance Scheme should be made compulsory as far as farmers are concerned. Recently the West Bengal farmers in the flood affected areas could not get a single paisa from insurance companies because this Crop Insurance Scheme has not been implemented in the State. This has been broadly criticised. The Central Government has also written about this to the State Government and the State Government has admitted their fault that it was a great mistake on their part not to have brought the farmers of the State under Crop Insurance Scheme. Therefore, all the farmers throughout the country have to be compulsorily brought under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Kisan Credit Cards were proposed in the last Budget for fifty lakhs of farmers. We propose that these cards should be extended to at least 25 lakhs of farmers in the next Budget.

18.12 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

We fully appreciate and associate ourselves with the issue raised by Shri K. Yerrannaidu to impose maximum Customs Duty on important materials used by the farmers. Otherwise the poor farmers will certainly be badly affected.

Subsidy on fertilizer has to be provided to the farmers to the maximum possible extent. The flood affected people should get maximum assistance from the Central Government. We made a demand for this in the morning today on the floor of the House. The eastern region has always been neglected after Independence and the regional imbalances have fully been reflected in this region. We would like to appeal to the Central Government to extend all sorts of cooperation to save the people of Bengal who have been particularly affected by floods.

Today morning I wanted to raise one issue. This is about the release of flood water by two barrages from 18th September to 20th September this year. Millions of farmers have been affected by floods in West Bengal. They have become homeless. They have no scope of survival unless the Central Government assistance reaches them.

I would take just two minutes to give the facts and figures about what happened there. On 18th September 2000 the Tilpara Barrage released 43,167 cusecs of water without any warning. On the next day it went up to 1,29,238 cusecs of water and on the subsequent day it was 1,57,903 cusecs of water. On the Durgapur sector it was 33,200 cusecs on 20th September. On 21st September it was 1,07,850 cusecs; on 22nd September it was 1,66,000 cusecs and on 23rd September it rose to 2,23,292 cusecs of water.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, there was no control over water and the barrages were left open. So, this has been a man-made flood...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It was done because of the rainfall. It shows the intensity of rainfall...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: This was a man-made flood and millions of farmers had to suffer in West Bengal. This is the style of functioning of the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

Sales tax charged in West Bengal is the highest in India. The Government of West Bengal is charging the

highest sales tax in the State. It should be immediately withdrawn...*(Interruptions)* Sir, what is the problem and what is wrong. If I mention these things?

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): All these figures have been submitted to the Central Government by the Government of West Bengal. What is the problem of my good friends now?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So, Sir, this was a man-made flood in West Bengal. Lakhs and lakhs of farmers have been affected. And what are we doing about it?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: This is a very serious matter. Every section of the House has been discussing a very serious matter...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Sir, how can he speak now? Have you allowed him to speak?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I am on a point of order. No irrelevant matter can be said in the House. He is misusing the floor of the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt like this.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: So, West Bengal Government is charging the highest sales tax in India so far as petroleum products are concerned. But they are saying that theirs is a pro-people Government and making big promises. I hope that the State Government will take all measures to see that the farmers of West Bengal are getting relief and not being charged uneconomically by the State Government of West Bengal and vis-a-vis the Central Government should extend all kinds of assistance to save the farmers of West Bengal. This is our positive demand.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati Rama Pilot may speak now. This is her maiden speech. So, please maintain silence.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT (Dausa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing an Adjournment Motion. While according my approval to it. I would like to place a few facts before the House through you. In our childhood, when we go to schools, we had to go through a number of books, one of the subject we taught and most of the Hon'ble Members would agree to it that India is primarily an agrarian country. It means India depends on agriculture, the base of the country is agriculture. The discussion is continuing since the afternoon, and since

[Shrimati Rama Pilot]

then, almost all the hon'ble Members have expressed their views and have raised all the issues regarding the farmers' problems. I don't want to waste the time of the House by repeating them. I agree with all the views which **express** the problems of the farmers. On my behalf I would like to add that it is something to be regretted to **increase** the sufferings of farmers by the Government. **When** ordinary farmer is already in trouble. A farmer who **feed** his family by cultivating on the land when become so frustrated and compelled to commit suicide, in Andhra Pradesh. Many such farmers had committed suicide who could not get proper prices of their agro products or who could not get loans for cultivation or for buying agricultural implements...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have told you that this is her maiden speech. So, please do not interrupt her.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RAMA PILOT: Farmers of Andhra Pradesh had also suffered many problems. Many deaths also occurred in Andhra Pradesh. Punjab was also no exception to it. Central Government has provided subsidy to the farmers, but what proportion of that subsidy was received in Punjab? Some of it was given here, some of it was given there and whatever remains goes to the corrupt officials. The farmers did not receive even a single paisa of subsidy. The farmer there was frustrated. They produced paddy with the labour of their own and their family, took loans for cultivation and that produce was ruined in front of them. Was there no law under the Central or the State Government which would have allowed it to show mercy to the farmers. The farmers grow paddy by labouring with their children of about 10 years of age and it should have been procured by the Government. The farmers could not even get the support price determined for them. The price for paddy has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 500 per quintal. I also own some land in Uttar Pradesh. I also cultivate it and I have also produced paddy crop. But my paddy is still lying idle in my farm. Not a single weighing machine was set up by the Government in the 4-6 districts of Ghaziabad, Bulandshahar, Aligarh, Meerut etc. to procure the produce of the farmers. They were compelled to go to private traders. The private traders paid them on arbitrary rates and they had to accept it. It means that they could not recover even their investment in agriculture. More than 70% population of our country depends on agriculture and lives in villages. How the farmers of such a country are supposed to earn their livelihood for themselves and their children.

I don't know what will be the future of our villages if the Government tries to do what it is doing these days. Under the liberalisation, goods are being imported. Agricultural commodities are also being imported which are purchased by the affluent persons and families and they take those commodities to their homes. Poor farmers and poor people are compelled to buy sub-standard goods from the market. At present, the country is importing apples on the one hand and the produce of farmers of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir is not procured on to other hand. They have to keep their produce with themselves and most of that gets spoilt. Apple is being sold in the market at Rs. 100 per kg and people are buying it because it is attractive in looking. The farmer who toils round the year to maintain his orchards, invests his money, with his entire family, is not getting market. This situation is existing not only for foodgrains and fruits but for oilseeds and pulses also. Today, the House has discussed this issue in detail. Many of hon'ble Members have put forth their view on the condition of oilseeds. About a month ago I had read an article in the newspaper, wherein a person was stating that once he went to the market to buy a bedsheet and found an attractive one. When he asked the shopkeeper about its price, he was told that is Rs. 300. He found that the bedsheet was made in some other country, the name of which he does not remember now. He looked of another bedsheet and the other one was priced at Rs. 500. The other bedsheet was made in India. If the foreign manufactured goods cost less in our country, the consumer will naturally buy those things. In this case, which market, consumer will buy the goods of our farmers. What I want to say is that the farmer is being suppressed from all sides, be it the matter of market, or that of production of goods, or that of fertilizers, or that of electricity, or that of seeds he is being compelled to suffer in all matters.

Since these issues have been discussed in the House, I don't want to waste the time of the House by repeating it. But I must like to say one thing. 30% of the population of the country lives in the cities. Everybody gets worried if they have any difficulty. This is happening in Delhi for the last 3-4 days. The issue was relocation of the small scale industries out of the city and it led to chaos in the national capital. The House is also aware of it. Agitations were conducted, there were shootouts and the buses were burnt. In monetary terms, huge damages were caused. Only 30% of the population lives in cities and yet there have been many occasions when the Government had to reverse its decision to appease this 30% population. On the other hand, the 70% population, which lives in the villages, were compelled by the policies of the Government, on many occasions to burn their crops. They could not get market to sell their crops and they had to burn their sugarcane. But they never undertook processions, nor showed any lawlessness which was seen in the national capital recently. Even then, the Government is not aware of the problems of the farmers.

On the other hand, it is very much aware of the problems of city-dwellers and is conducting meetings and formulating plans about the steps to be taken in future. No step was taken for the farmers by the Government. I fail to understand why the 70% population of the country is not being treated similar. I resent it and want the Government to reconsider its policies, which are making the farmers more and more indebted. I appeal to the Government to formulate policies which facilitate the farmers to get loan. Banking system should be more convenient. A farmer is usually illiterate, unaware, and there ought to be a system where he can easily get loans from the bank and thus is able to get his work done in time. A farmer also has to take loan for the marriage of his daughter. It will be better if he gets 100% subsidy and no interest accrues on it till his crops are bought. The interest should accrue only after his crop is sold. Farmers are always cheated. If he is given some facility in getting loans from the bank and he goes to the bank to avail it, touts approach him. If he wants a loan of Rs. 5000, the touts demand a commission of Rs. 500 for doing the work. Since most of the farmers are illiterate they pay Rs. 500 because he has to marry his daughter on fixed date and he has no other option.

I would like to say that it is not a political issue. No party should make such policies in its own interest, nor should they speak for it. We ought to formulate policies for the welfare of the farmers rising above narrow party-politics. All party meetings should be held. The specialists and the intellectuals should be asked to participate in such a meeting and thus a policy should be formulated which does not create problems in any manner to the farmers. It should enable the farmer to recover from its indebted condition and to grow crops using latest technology.

SHRI SAHIB SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. All members have stated that our country is predominantly agrarian country, there is no doubt about it. Agriculture is the backbone of our country. Leaders of the farmers from Congress party Shri Madhav Rao Scindia, Shri Jaipal Reddy and Smt. Sonia Gandhi have expressed their concern for the farmers. Several other leaders of the farmers have also expressed their views regarding farmers(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua): She is leader of the farmers....(*Interruptions*)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: Smt. Sonia ji is the leader of the country....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAHIB SINGH: There is no doubt that she is not a leader of the farmers....(*Interruptions*) I have stated so because just now Shri Buta Singh has told me to

Speak truth. I called her leader of the farmers, perhaps it is not true, that's why he has pointed out. Perhaps, unguardedly, I did not utter truth, that's why he is shouting. Kumari Mayawati has also expressed her views. Several members have placed their views. It is true that since our independence, none of the Governments worked for the welfare of the farmers. If they had worked for the welfare of the farmers, they would not be in such a plight. Even the Land Acquisition Act which was enacted during Britisher's time in 1894 to grab the land of the farmers against a compensation of meagre amount in two-five years, is still intact today. Nobody bothered to solve the problems of the farmers otherwise this Act would have been repealed during the last 50 years. Unfortunately, it has not happened till date. The present Government in considering to do so but still the Act is prevailing. It is an open truth that farmers in our country have always been remained under burden of debt. We all are aware that the loan once taken by the farmer continues to be repaid even up to tens of generations. That's why the famous revolutionary Shri Chhoturamji had made a law that the debt on the farmers would be waived off. Once our Government had also waived off their debts. It was a very good step. However, it is also a fact that even today to cater their financial needs, farmers have to mortgaged their crop for getting loan and when they failed to repay, the resort to suicide, or sell their kidney or blood to repay the loan. I would appreciate the present Government for implementing some schemes since it has come into power...(Interruptions) Agriculture policy is a separate issue but nobody can deny the fact that till today 70 lakh farmers have taken credit cards because they need money. How these 70 lakh farmers have got credit cards? Which Government have issued them the card? The issue of crop insurance scheme was under discussion for the last 50 years but only the present Government has implemented it. Even the Agriculture policy has been formed after 50 years by this Government. Nobody can deny this truth. However, I would also like to mention as Shri Sangmaji was also telling that the schemes formulated in the interest of the farmers are not being planned and monitored properly.

Nobody can deny this fact that in this country the crop depends upon the nature god and the fate of the farmer. By God's grace sometimes he get bumper crop but sometimes vagaries of nature destroyed his crop. Hence, only by God's grace we get food quantum of foodgrains. Farmers should at least get the minimum support price to cover their cost. He will be ruined if he does not even get the support price for his crop. Previous Government did not pay attention towards this aspect. The present Government have implemented various schemes for providing support price to the farmers. The goods which were not considered by the earlier

[Shri Sahib Singh]

Governments are being purchased by the present Government and farmers are also benefited by it. Government have tried to provide funds to each State. Some members have complained that funds are being provided only to those States where BJP is in power. A policy should be formulated to provide funds to the States according to their needs.

Sir, prices are fixed on the basis of demand and supply. Prices will definitely come down if supply is more than the demand. At present our godown are over flowing and there is a need to seriously ponder over the problem of storage. Even the people living below the poverty line are also not purchasing these foodgrains. Foodgrains are lying in the godowns. This is also a fact that still there are several people in our country who are not having sufficient food to satiate their hunger. We should identify such States and such people and foodgrains should be provided to those needy. Government should also decide to provide the foodgrains at a very cheap rate of Rs 2/- per kg but State Governments should also take interest in all this. Farmers are not an organised people. Other organised people take advantage from the Government. Then who will work for the farmers if they are not an organised sector. Parliament is aware as to what extent farmers should get respect in an agriculture based country. I viewed the discussion initiated on this subject as an important one. The issues which have come up during discussion are required to be pondered over. Though the prices of Petrol and Diesel have increased in some States but in some States sales tax on these items is also very high. Those States are required to look into the matter. If State Government of West Bengal really wants to help the farmers, it should reduce the sales tax on diesel instantly.

Sir, so far as export and import is concerned, our Government have taken a decision to increase the import duty on edible oil. 15 to 25% hike in import duty has been made on palm oil and on other goods it has been increased from 35 to 65%. I would like to mention here one thing that had the import duty been increased some time earlier, it would have benefited the farmers more. During the past few years mustard crop was sold at the rate of 2000/- per quintal. At present it is being sold at Rs. 1000-1100/- per quintal. Undoubtedly prices of some foodgrains and crops have been increased. Last time prices of chana, urad, sugar and cotton have been increased, but it is also true that prices of rice and wheat have come down. There is a need to seriously consider the issue import of foodgrains so that we may control the prices of these items. There is a need to a system for expeditiously framing the policy of enhancing import duty on agricultural commodities. Files in this regard should not remain pending for 6 months. Immediate action

should be taken by the Government. With these words I oppose this motion.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I rise to speak while giving full support to the Adjournment Motion moved by the hon. Leader of Opposition.

Sir, the faulty policies of the Government and indifference to the repeated pleas that were being made to it have led to the situation in which there is a serious deterioration in the plight of the farmers.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the liberal unrestricted subsidised imports of various agricultural commodities at zero or low duty has presented the country as a dumping field for the foreign nations. There are several other factors. We find the cruel attitude of the Government towards subsidies for the farmers irrespective of the fact and irrespective of the extent to which other countries give protection to their farmers.

Sir, there are umpteen factors that can be placed before you. We find more than 700 items placed thoughtlessly on the OGL and with a determination to place an equal number on the OGL in the next year also. We have also this disastrous phenomenon of Government being reluctant with respect to the fixation of the minimum support price and a total lack of management in the matter of procurements from the farmers. There have been an increase in the prices of inputs, particularly the administered price, like those of kerosene, diesel and so on.

For all these, as a result, as a consequence, the thoughtless, heartless policies of the Government have led to serious crises and such an escalation that is there in plight of the farmers. There has been a disastrous decline in the prices of agricultural commodities for the farmers. The farmers throughout the length and breadth of the country have suffered.

Because of the time constraint, I may refer to only Kerala. In Kerala, we have crises in coconut, in rubber, in the case of pepper, coffee and all these articles over there. Indiscriminate import of palm oil has led to such a crash in the prices of copra and the coconut oil, which is the lowest in the past ten years. Such is therefore, the position. In the case of coconut - Sir, you know Kerala's economy - nearly one-third area of the total crop area is covered by the coconut. Nearly five million people depend upon coconut for their livelihood. And here we have a Government, under such a phenomenon of a crash in the prices because of the wrong policies of the Government, being not responsive even to the fixation of

the minimum support price for the green coconut in the interest of the farmers and to come forward with procurements of green coconut from the farmers.

Therefore, I say and I emphatically put it before the House that the Government has miserably failed in the protection of the small, marginal and risk prone farmers of the country. My party, therefore, strongly supports the Adjournment Motion that has been brought by the Leader of the Opposition.

This Government does not deserve to continue in office in the interests of the farmers and in the interest of the national economy.

[*Translation*]

DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA (Sirsa): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the Adjournment Motion today we are discussing the bad condition of farmers. If we look at it in real perspective, then the previous Governments have been responsible for their bad condition. In our country, we failed to make a policy to improve the condition of the farmers. If appropriate policies were formulated, the condition of the farmers would not have been so bad. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana are considered to be prosperous, but even then they are in debt. In other States, such as the Government of Andhra Pradesh advises its farmers not to grow Rabi crops because of the lack of storage facilities. Because of that reason the Government would be unable to buy the foodgrain. In the case of Bihar, the paddy is procured at the rate of Rs. 250 to Rs. 275 and the farmers do not get proper price for their produce. In the case of paddy Uttar Pradesh, the Food Minister himself said that paddy is bought at the rate of Rs. 300-350. What is its reason? What caused such circumstances? In reality the godowns of the country are filled with grains. Everybody says that India is principally an agricultural country. The farmers have increased the production by their hard labour. Our godowns are full. If we look back on the past and see the case of wheat we would know that once we had to import wheat. Along with the production of wheat, we also increased its import which led to the increase in the storage. According to the records, the quantity of stored wheat was 105 lakh tonnes in 1996. Total import in the year 1996 was 10 lakh tonnes. In this way every year wheat was imported, sometimes it was 10 lakh tonnes, sometimes 15 lakh tonnes and sometimes it was 20 lakh tonnes. Thus the stores continued to increase and that is why this situation has arisen. The aim of the politicians and intellectuals was to ensure the prosperity of the farmers. At present the farmers of our country consider Chaudhary Devi Lal as their saviour. Why? Devi Lal ji tried to make the farmer prosperous through his policies.

During the formulation of all his policies he kept in view the interests of the farmers. He provided them electricity and water round the clock so that they could increase their crop production. He made available for the farmers other means of irrigation. At present the Haryana Government is one which professes to work on the principles enunciated by Chaudhary Devi Lal. At present the price of sugarcane is Rs. 110 per quintal there, which is more than that at any other State in India. It is in the interests of the farmers. As far as the procurement of paddy is concerned, last year the Haryana Government procured 60% of the paddy production to ensure the farmer's interests. If our Government makes policies to ensure the prosperity of the farmers, give facilities to them there is no doubt that the farmers would respond with toiling hard to increase their crop production.

It used to be said that India is backward in foodgrain production, but the farmers, with their hard labour have enabled in India to export grains to other countries. I would like give example that in the year 1997 the productivity rate of wheat in the USA, Australia, Brazil and Canada was 2673, 2996, 1846 and 2360 respectively while in case of India it was 2689. In spite of it, our country continued to export wheat. Recently we imported wheat from Australia, Brazil and Canada. What are the reasons? Food Corporation of India was responsible for it as it could not fulfil its role properly. I would like to term it as 'mismanagement' because it led not only to increase in the stocks of grain but also caused distress among the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate the decision of the Government of India to establish a foodgrains committee in which there would be a number of experts. They would find out the ways to utilise the foodgrain stock. Before I commend Shri Nitish Kumar, I would like to express my resentment that in the previous years no agricultural policy was formulated as was done by this Government. It is a matter of farmer's right. I am also apprehensive of the ill impact of W.T.O. on the foodgrains Committee formed by the Government. People of the country are scared that under the W.T.O. regime the farmers will become a labourer in their 2-4 acres of land holdings. My suggestion is that such a policy be formulated for the betterment of the farmers that they get not only diesel but also everything on reasonable prices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude by saying that just as the Government helps the farmers of Punjab in their distress by making available for them crores of rupees, it should also not turn its head from the woes of Bihar or Haryana. Such discriminatory policies should not be followed. The Agricultural policy of the Government is not going to bear fruits in just one year because the condition of farmers has not deteriorated in

[Dr. Sushil Kumar Indora]

a single day or even in one or two years. The seeds of it were sown much earlier. It is going to take time before the advantages of the new policy are materialised and the Government should take measures for the welfare of the farmers. We only want the prosperity of the farmers and the Government should ensure it. Therefore, I oppose this Adjournment Motion.

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I stand here to support the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition, Smt. Sonia Gandhi. I have heard the speeches of my colleagues who are opposing it and came to know about their feelings towards farmers. I respect my friend Dr. Sahib Singh Verma but he has said something which is neither factual nor based on history.

While opposing Congress, he said that the old policies are responsible for it. Through you, I would like to tell Verma Saheb as well as the august House of this country that if through green revolution, this country has become self-sufficient in the production of food, then it happened only due to the policies of Congress. This is the report of World Bank which states that if this country can treat it as an achievement that a revolution has come in the field of agriculture, it has been possible due to the policies of Congress. You cannot deny the efforts of the great leaders of Congress. You cannot deny the speech given by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru on Bhakhara dam, the contribution of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi towards farmers...*(Interruptions)* They are killing my time.

The Congress Party has honour for one of its highly honest leader, Lal Bahadur Shastri who gave the slogan of Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan on behalf of the Congress Party. Therefore, there is no point in this argument. I would also like to say that at the time of our struggle for freedom when the majority of people including farmers were participating in it, Ajit Singh, uncle of martyr Bhagat Singh gave the slogan of 'Pagri sambhalo desh ke kissano' and 'Dana dana hind ka, videshi brother le gaye.' But today, I would like to accuse N.D.A. and the partners of N.D.A. that they are extracting the blood of farmers and snatching every grain from them. I would also like to keep my view in the House. As history repeats itself, I would like to mention the words of farmers Urdu poet Iqbal about farmers:—

"Jis khet se dahkan ko mayassar na ho roti

os Khet ka har gosha-e-gandam ko jala do".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am a ninth down batsman. As the time is less I would like to complete my statement in short. I would like to give four examples. Thousands

of sugarcane growers of Lakshmiganj near Gorakhpur, U.P. are agitating against sugar mills on whom their Rs. 2000 crores are outstanding. On one hand the farmer movement is on there and on the other, 14 out of 29 sugar mills are closed in the rule of N.D.A. Government. Why the coconut growers are blockading shipyard of Kochin in Kerala on 11th October? That is because the coconut is being imported from Malaysia and they are protesting because it will ruin them. The third example is of the thousands of tea and rubber producers who have called for a mass agitation on 12th October at the Mangalore port of Karnataka. Despite this, what your Government is doing? I want a reply from you. Now, I come to the operative part.

It would have been my pleasure if from my neighbouring State, Shri Shanta Kumar had been sitting here. He has left the House for sometime. I would like to invite the attention of the House towards the procurement of the paddy in Punjab.

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot explain the loot of farmers which took place in Punjab. Now-a-days, the Bhakhara dam and canals of Punjab are not producing foodgrains, on the contrary they are being used for committing suicides by farmers because after roaming around the market for a month or so, they are not finding any agency to procure their harvest. The agency of Central Government also reached there late by 15 days. The Centre declared a package of Rs. 370 crores but before that the farmers of Punjab was compelled to sell its produce of Rs. 540 per quintal to as low as Rs. 400 per quintal. The root cause of this was that the procurement agencies of State and FCI of Central Government were 15 days late in purchasing paddy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I can challenge in this House today that out of the Rs. 370 crore package declared by Central Government, not a single rupee reached the farmers of Punjab. We cannot find a worst situation like this, whereas this Government is talking about farmers. It is not necessary that only a jat or a person like me can talk in terms of farmers, even Mahatma Gandhi has spoken about farmers who belonged to a family of bania and invoked the country with a single 'lathi' but even he was not spared by BJP and RSS. I would like to tell Sh. Sahib Singhji that, we have people here who work on with tractor upto twelve hours everyday before coming to House and then about farm and farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to invite your attention towards three-four matters. There is a very sensational story that the Chairman of FCI went on a tour to Punjab and after roaming thoroughly he recommended that 80 per cent produce of Punjab is not

worth purchasing. The fact is that he is the man who migrated to America after changing his passport and was involved in Fairfax and other scams and also he undertook his Punjab tour without the advice of the University. Nitish Kumarji, I would like to say that who has given this right to the Chairman of FCI to declare that 80 per cent product of Punjab is not worth purchasing and that too without the advice of University?

Sir, today in this House I would like to directly accuse the Government that when the Ministers of Akali Dal have purchased paddy for Rs. 400 per quintal, then this Government purchased paddy from Punjab @ Rs. 540 per quintal. As a result, the Ministers of Akali Dal sold lakh of tonnes of paddy to the Government agency @ Rs. 540 per quintal which they purchased @ Rs. 400 per quintal from farmers. I would again like to accuse the Central Government that they have taken the decision of purchasing paddy @ Rs. 540 per quintal in Punjab in favour of the Ministers of the Akali Dal. The irony is that the ordinary farmer received nothing out of this. There is no shameful act than this.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to accuse the Government of BJP and its NDA partners that this Government is exploiting the farmers. Here, I would like to appreciate the Cabinet Minister Shri Shanta Kumar for suggesting that FCI should open its buffer stock of foodgrains worth crores of rupees for the poor people of the country one or two rupees cheaper. Since the policy of BJP is based on America and farmers of foreign countries, they refused his proposal and instead let that stock of foodgrains get wasted. This is the policy of the Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today I would like to say in the House that if the lakhs of tones of foodgrains are not removed from the godowns, then in future the crop of wheat will go wasted due do it. The work which was done during the period of Congress specially in the time of Smt. Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi and earlier Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri cannot be undertaken with equal zeal by this Government at any cost. Therefore, I support this 'adjournment motion'. There is one more point I would like to mention.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at last I would like to say one thing...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (*Srikakulam*): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the House was extended for discussion up to 7.00 p.m. only. So, I would request that the House may please be extended further...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time till the completion of the discussion?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, there is only more point which I want to raise...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (*Chhindwara*): Sir, we may extend it by half an hour...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Since this discussion is on Adjournment Motion, this cannot be postponed. Therefore, we will sit for another half an hour and complete it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Brar, please conclude now.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI J.S. BRAR: I would like to add a point to the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition Smt. Sonia Gandhi, that a Joint Parliamentary Committee should be constituted in the House for enquiring the suicides committed by the farmers in the country and thus we can fight for them.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (*Coochbehar*): I would try to speak in Hindi...(*Interruptions*) Today we are talking of farmers but I am very sad to say that farmers are not only those who do agriculture related work. He who speaks for farmers is a farmer. And who is a farmer, he who own a Farm House. Feudal System was prevalent in pre-independence India. Before, independence there was August uprising in 1942. INA was formed under the leadership of Shri Subhas Chandra Bose, a war was fought against the British Yoke. Many rebellions, including Postal uprising took place, but after 1947 agricultural land in India has been under the ownership of landlords. We need to do something in this regard. A person who is a tiller at least, he should own some land. After independence nothing like social or cultural revolution took place. Since we are in the Opposition, so we raised this issue. I congratulate Shri P.A. Sangma who raised, the issue relating to land reforms in the House. Land reforms, which should have been done earlier, have not been done. Very few people have large agricultural land holdings. Most of those engaged in agriculture are agricultural labourers.

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

[English]

Sixty percent of the total population dependent on agriculture are agricultural labourers or workers.

[Translation]

We should think what did we do for agricultural labourers. Merely talks will not help. I am telling this thing to you and I would certainly tell them also.

What have you done? Yes, you have framed a law but what sort of law is it. Estate Acquisition Act and Land Reforms Act were passed in 1953 and thereafter you forgot everything. After Sixth Plan your party also came to power but you did not allocate anything for land reforms. Except West Bengal and Kerala, nowhere land reforms were undertaken. You say, you want to do good to the farmers and the poor people. It can not be done at this rate. You must take positive steps if you want people to work in the fields. And land reforms is the first step in this direction. Today, look at Andhra and Bihar, naxalites are increasing their activities. Main reason behind such activities is the land reforms, which we could not do...*(Interruptions)* We carried out land reforms in West Bengal. Earlier, when Congress was at the helm of affairs, they said that they would finish it through Licence, but when Shri Jyoti Basu came to power he decided to carry out land reforms...*(Interruptions)* He said that merely cursing naxalites won't help and hence land reforms should be carried out.

Where is hon'ble Minister dealing with Agriculture Marketing Policy? Farmers are committing suicide because this time rice is being sold at Rs. 7 per kg...*(Interruptions)* Paswan ji, your Government is in power. Rice is imported from Thailand at Rs. 6 per kg. It is not a way to save the farmers. It will further make farmers poorer. You should have announced minimum support price for commodities such as wheat or jute etc. and the market price should not be allowed to go below MSP.

Tomatoes and green chillies are extensively grown in my area. Daily two hundred truck loads are sent from this area. But what is the state of affairs if these are not sold in market then farmers would throw their tomatoes on the way itself, since it does not fetch even 25 paise a kg. Something should be done in the interest of the farmers to avoid such situation. I am not talking about big farmers, I am talking about small farmers who have only one acre of land. If the Government want to save agricultural labourers it will have to change its agriculture policy and a new way will have to be found out - it

should be done at the earliest, otherwise the productivity will decline and we will not get food even. You are happy to have become a Member of WTO, but you remember PL-480. This time it will be WTO-880 and not PL-480. So it should be stopped. India is a great country which have enough cultivable land and water. And if we make a proper use of it and provide our agricultural labourers with adequate work then I am sure we would be able to produce enough to export even. It should be done in the interest of the nation.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the House is discussing a very important issue and adjournment motion has been moved by the opposition.

Of course, on several occasions the problems relating to farmers are discussed. If there is a flood or drought any where, it is a problem relating to farmers. Some where or the other we discuss problems relating to farmers. Today I had made up my mind, that even if I was to vote against the Government, I should do so since it was a question of the interest of farmers. But what I saw was that Sonia ji initiated the discussion on issue relating to farmers and she has nothing to do with farmers or with agriculture...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): What are you talking, you do not know anything.

[English]

This is total.*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why are you provoking him?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am telling a very nice thing.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What does he mean? *(Interruptions)* He is talking total*...She has been to every single...*(Interruptions)* He cannot say like this...*(Interruptions)* It is completely untrue...*(Interruptions)*

19.18 hrs.

At this stage Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the floor near the Table

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Sir, no, this is not acceptable...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is any objectionable, then I will expunge that.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there is any objectionable remark, I will expunge it.

19.20 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Kantilal Bhuria and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir,..."

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI (Visakhapatnam): There is nothing wrong in what the hon. Member has said. Why are they interrupting like this?...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that it is a very serious issue. Lakhs of our farmers are victims of this. I would like to make a humble request that let us desist from making personal comments and take up this issue, keeping in views the dignity of the House. Therefore, there is no need to make personal comments.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many people objected to it when Sahib Singh ji called Sonia Gandhi ji as leader of farmers during his speech. But when I said that she had no knowledge of agriculture, why there is so much hue and cry. What wrong did I say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please speak on the subject.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): If our hon'ble Prime Minister speaks on Science and we say that he has no knowledge of Science, will it be appropriate or will you allow it...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Farmers of different States face different type of problems. These 70 per cent farmers bear the burden of entire nation. But all are not farmers among them. People associated with the occupation of agriculture are also included in this category. It includes agricultural labourers also...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ramdas ji you will not get a chance like this. I had thought of giving you a chance.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Agricultural labourers have their own problems. They toil hard right from sowing till harvesting. In Bihar they have a share in the produce. Their effort is to ensure maximum yield. Similarly, a middle class farmer has his own problem. It is of different nature. Though they produce, yet it is inadequate to sustain them for a year. Farmers those who have limited harvest, which is just sufficient for catering to their needs only, they face problems relating to education, medication marriage etc. of their children and they expect the Government to provide some facilities so that agriculture output can be enhanced. That's what I want to say...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now please conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The Congress Party does not like me speaking, if you too desire the same then I would stop my speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not so. Time is very less, that is why I am saying so.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Though this question relates to farmers, yet the people who do not know anything about farmers get more time to speak...(Interruptions) whereas people like us should be given more time.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: What do you know about farmers?

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I would like to place the problems of farmers before you and the House as well. I would like to apprise you of the pitiable condition of the villages and agony of farmers. I would like to urge the Government to provide some facilities to middle class farmers but the facilities have not been provided by the Government. The farmers are experiencing lot of difficulties due to rise in prices as a result of recent withdrawal of subsidy on fertilizers and like with prices of Diesel etc. Merely by shouting before the Government or the House, the problem of farmers cannot be projected, we will have to solve their problems. There are no sufficient canals in Bihar, if at all these are there in some of the areas, these are not at all successful. If we raise a finger at Congress, they will be annoyed. During Congress

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Prabhunath Singh]

regime canals were dug up and entire funds went into the pockets of leaders and contractors and thereby farmers suffered a great loss. Farmer's land was acquired in the name of digging a canal but the digging work was never completed. Many offices were opened, large buildings were constructed, officers were deployed but the farmers never got water for irrigation. When farmers need water for their crops, water is not provided whereas when water is not required, water is released in the canals causing flood like situation thereby causing loss to the crops of farmer which means a loss to the Government and damage to the crops. On the contrary farmers are served with a notice that water worth so much amount was supplied to them and their cattle folk are taken away so as to recover the water charges. Farmers go to jail for fault of the Government. We need to pay a serious attention towards the problems of the farmers. The farmers are neither able to produce more nor able to get facilities provided by the Government. The prices of Diesel as well as fertilisers have increased. I would like to say that there are three categories of farmers. Farmers under the third category are those who have enough agricultural land and sell their produce in the market. Their condition is critical. The condition of farmers, especially in Bihar, is such that they find no taker for their produce.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Though Government agency procures food and godowns are also there yet procurement cannot be done through this agency properly. Farmers are using wheat and maize as fodder for their cattles. Grains are rotting. I would like to urge Central Government to open a procurement centre at the Block level.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is just beginning. A procurement centre should be opened at Block level so that they can sell their produce at these centres and get appropriate prices. The matter relating to the determination of prices of foodgrains need a serious thinking as the farmers belonging to the second category will be a loser if higher price is fixed and if lower price is fixed then the farmers with big land holdings who produce enough and sell their stock will have to suffer a lot. Therefore, we will have to think seriously while determining the prices. New generation is running away from agriculture and they get a job for Rs. 1200 to Rs. 2000 in Delhi and Gujarat. Therefore, the Government need to give more incentives to the farmers.

New generation is leaving villages for getting job for Rs. 1500 and Rs. 2000...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now you conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: If you do not permit me to speak then ultimately through you I would request the Government to give a serious thought to the problems of the farmers and their pitiable condition. In several cases the farmers could not get appropriate facilities due to the clash between Acts and Rules framed by the Centre and the concerned State Governments as these create hurdles. Therefore, I would urge the Government to take appropriate action for augmenting productions and providing adequate facilities to the farmers by relaxing these Acts and Rules through better coordination. I would also like congratulate our agro-scientists who have played major role in increasing our production. With these words, I convey my thanks to you also...(Interruptions) People say that politics should not be dragged into such issues but what this is going on, people are playing politics only. People from Congress have brought this motion with a political motive, therefore, I strongly oppose this motion and support the Government...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): None of these persons can claim to be a genuine farmer. We do not just put nail polish on these hands...(Interruptions) We plough the fields with these hands...(Interruptions) It is a matter of great shame that they laugh at ladies even on such occasions, they are not human beings. They have no right to laugh like this...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is a lot of noise in the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members, why do you not allow a woman Member to speak in this House?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Some senior Members were saying here that those who have no knowledge they do not want to speak. Are they not aware that even women work on half of the area with farmers. What are they taking. Are they not aware of the fact that today our country is passing through a critical phase even mothers like me are thinking of committing suicide.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I seek the cooperation of the leaders. This is not the way to treat an hon'ble Member.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I wish to place on record my utter contempt for such behaviour.

[*Translation*]

Now-a-days the condition of farmer has become so bad that nobody wants to marry young daughter of a farmer.

They think that this girl will not get anything in future.

[*English*]

SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI: Sir, you may have to extend the time of the House now. Please let us have the final extension now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, I have to extend the time of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay, the time of the House is extended by an hour. Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury may continues.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Today it is being said in Andhra Pradesh that crop holiday in regard to Rabi crop should be taken. Perhaps the Government has failed to understand its meaning. It does not mean that we should go somewhere to enjoy holiday. I would like to ask as to what assistance the Government will provide in case the farmers go on crop holiday. What will happen to those farmers and labourers who are dependent on agriculture because they earn their livelihood only from it. There was the time when the farmers used to be given a lot of respect and the slogan like "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" was raised. It is the farmer who is the mark of National glory and it is only due to him that we were never forced to go to other nations with begging bowls. Today the farmer of the country is in a position to feed teeming millions of his country. I am getting the impression that the House is responding in a stereo type behaviour over this Adjournment Motion ...(*Interruptions*) Today, India is in a position to feed its millions of hungry masses. There is no agriculture policy in our country today. The tilt of the agriculture is towards cash crops from food-crops.

Unless we pay attention towards it, we will not be able to get rid of the ongoing situation of crisis prevailing in some parts of the country. Though we have adopted the technique of tissue-culture but we are unable to carry it through second generation or re-generation phase. The farmers are being devastated due to spurious pesticides. Today a farmer takes the same crop as the one being grown by his neighbouring farmer. But when we adopted the modern technique we never gave thought to the fact as to how we will provide minimum support price for various crops once its bumper harvest will be ensured due to adoption of superior technology. Though the rural banks do not lend money to the farmers, they keep pressing the farmers to repay their so called debts. At least 60 farmers in Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide due to this problem... (*Interruptions*) Are you aware that the reason for our insisting for crop holiday for Rabi crop is the non-availability of water for irrigation purpose. How can we claim to provide facilities to the farmer in such a scenario. What is it that we can do? In such a phase it is our duty to provide assistance to the farmers. We had among us, the parliamentarians like Shri. N.G. Ranga and late Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel who had gone on Satyagraha for the farmers.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This kind of running commentary is very bad. I am sorry to say this. A lot of noise is coming from this section.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If this continues, nobody will be able to speak continuously. If anybody starts giving running commentary from this side, then somebody from that side also will start giving running commentary. We are not here to see our muscle power. It is only an intellectual exercise.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Rudy, please hear me.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:*

SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN (Coimbatore): Sir, how can she describe other Members like this? You are allowing and that is why running commentary is coming from this side.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, I will expunge all those remarks. I will expunge it. I will not allow anybody. I will not allow anything of that kind.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, it is only the farmers who live in the remote corners of our country where there is no infrastructure even for their families.

[Translation]

Their children can not go to convent schools. There is no hospital to take care of the elderly in case of their falling ill. They are migrating to every nook and corner of the country. They shower their blood to take crop for feeding their countrymen ... (Interruptions)

[English]

We need a comprehensive policy approach. Land laws are not equal. Agriculture land laws vis-a-vis industrial land laws are not equal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, now you have to conclude.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes.

The State Governments, particularly that of Andhra Pradesh has not allocated any funds for agricultural sector in this financial year so far.

[Translation]

Electricity supply is not proper in Andhra Pradesh but the State Government there talk about computers ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): If Madam Renuka Chowdhury wants to accuse only Andhra Pradesh, then she does not know the facts. It is because she does not know agriculture at all. ... (Interruptions) Maximum attention is being paid to the agriculture sector. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, in this House we have given the particulars of what the Andhra Pradesh Government has done to protect the interests of the farmers. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: She says there is no electricity for agriculturists. How is it possible? ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: It is on record that spending for agriculture has dropped. I will challenge it. I will prove it. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Madam, you can conclude now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All the 'challenges' are removed from record.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Madam, please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I will present my colleague a dictionary to see that the word 'challenge' is not unparliamentary. His English is weak. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Everybody knows how strong you are. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I request through you that the Governments must immediately become pro-active, remain more sensitive and create infrastructure for the farmers. Banks have to be directed on an emergency basis that recoveries should be banned for sometime. Pressure should be brought on the State Governments to see that power supply to farm sector is given priority. There should be stable power supply. It is because due to unstable power supply and fluctuations, motors have burned down. Small farmers cannot afford to spend Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 5,000 every time for rewinding of motors. With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the last speaker. Mr. Speaker has pleased to allow Shri Bhadana to speak for two minutes.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I may also be given two minutes to speak. ... (Interruptions) Sir, my name is also there. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Meerut): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the leader of the opposition has brought this Adjournment Motion to draw the attention of the country to this very important subject of the plight of the farmers. In this regard, I would only like to say that the discussion on this subject is taking place quite late and this important subject is not being taken seriously.

19.46 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

I would like to request you people that you must also be careful for maintaining the decorum of the House. Hon. Vajpayeeji has always played an important role as the leader of the opposition and he has never been treated in this way as he is being treated now in this House. You are setting a new convention in the House. If you set this type of convention it is not right to do so ... *(Interruptions)* It is a matter related to the farmers. The farmers in the entire country are facing problem and we have gathered here to discuss their problems being faced by the farmers. You must take this matter seriously.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to talk about the farmers of Uttar Pradesh and last time also I had mentioned about the dismal condition of the sugarcane farmers. BJP lead Government is functioning in Uttar Pradesh as well as in the Centre. The farmers are being treated very badly by the BJP Government in Uttar Pradesh. The mills are not procuring the sugarcane of the farmers and mills have not even paid the outstanding dues of the farmers. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to apprise the entire House that Maukhas mills at Meerut has not been revived and restarted and those mills which were functioning have also been closed. Due to it the farmers are in a dismal condition. I am of the opinion that the farmers cannot fulfill even their basic needs in the absence of any payment to them. While on one hand, crore of Government money are outstanding against the farmers, on the other their belongings including their tractors and cattle are being forcibly snatched away from them and they are being forced to languish in lock up. Such type of discriminatory treatment is being met with to the farmers in Uttar Pradesh. I request all the hon. Members in this House to rise above petty politics and to formulate a policy for the welfare of the farmers so that the farmers could be saved from being rained ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Mr. Minister will speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, I have called the Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. This is not the way.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. What is this?

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not disturb the House. This is a serious issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the reply of the Minister.

*(Interruptions)***[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, for the past six hours, discussion is being held in the House on the adjournment motion moved by the leader of the opposition. During the discussion, problems of farmers have been discussed widely. One or two specific points have not been raised rather several issues concerning them have been raised. A number of Hon'ble Members have thrown light on several issues ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you, please take your seat. There is no time now.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing you once again. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It shows that you are not serious about the issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I am once again appealing you.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except the reply of the Minister.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, this is too much.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, several issues have been raised during discussion and it is not possible to take all of them in a limited time period. The House as well as you Mr. Speaker are aware that for the first time after independence a National Agriculture policy has been adopted and announced by the present Government and is placed in the House. I have also given notice during the last session and expressed my intention that National Agriculture Policy should be discussed in the House but the same could not be done. I would have been happy had the discussion held on it during the last session but we did not get the time. I want that this issue should be discussed during this session ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): I am on a point of Order, Sir. I may be permitted.

MR. SPEAKER: Please show me the rule first. Tell me the rule position.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am raising my Point of Order under Rule 376 of the Rules of Procedure. I would like to submit that the time allotted to the various parties is given clearly. But, all the parties have exceeded the time allotted to them. Some of the one-man parties like Kerala Congress also represent the farmers. Therefore, I cannot sit quiet without mentioning a few things on the subject.

In fact, the hon. Commerce Minister Shri Murasoli Maran is not here. But the Minister of State in the Commerce Ministry should have been here. Tea, coffee, spices; all these items should come under the purview of the Ministry of Agriculture. But, just because they come under the Commerce Ministry, nobody is going to respond to the issues pertaining to these commodities.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order. Now the Minister may continue his reply. Nothing will go on record except the Minister's reply.

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, this is too much. Once again I am appealing to you to please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not allowing you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: I am not challenging your orders. But, in protest against not allowing me to speak for the farmers, I am walking out from this House.

19.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri P.C. Thomas left the House.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may please continue his reply.

... (Interruptions)

19.59 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Sansuma Khunggur Bwiswmuthiary left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion continued for 6 hours. Several issues have been raised and there is a problem before me as to which issue I should take up first. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has raised many issues and I was listening to her. Apart from her I have listened to other members also. Therefore, I expect them to respond in the same way when reply from the Government is given.

20.00 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ramdas Athawale left the House.

Shri Madhav Rao Scindia has also put forth his views. He is the Deputy leader of Congress Party. I hold him in high esteem but he has stated that Members and

* Not recorded.

Ministers of ruling Party can understand the problems of rural people only if they visit the villages. I am the Agriculture Minister of the country. I do not belong to any affluent family. I was born in a village and belong to a very ordinary family. Therefore, when we decide to visit a village, we definitely visit there. And I would give reply keeping in mind by both the sides since most of the Members belong to rural areas, therefore, it is inappropriate to blame a member whether belonging to Janatantrik Gadhbandhan or to any other Party that he does not visit villages. Members of Lok Sabha have to go their respective Constituencies and all hon'ble Members of the House are aware of the problems of their respective villages though it is a separate issue that how much interest they take in regard to them. Therefore, the statement made by you that the Members should visit the villages to understand their problem is not proper.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I had stated that the attitude of your Members shows that they are not visiting villages. I didn't mean that they do not to villages, however, I fully agree with the clarification given by you.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I thank you for that but now stated about the attitude. You have levelled many charges against us. So from which point I should start speaking. I think your main point of emphasis was that the huge imports have deteriorated the condition of the farmers and the inappropriate policy adopted by the Government is responsible for the excessive import of commodities. Another charge has also been levelled that prices of agriculture produce are going down which also mean that the excessive import is affecting the agricultural products. We all are aware that the negotiation with WTO had not taken place during the tenure of NDA Government. You have also mentioned that this issue will be raised ...*(Interruptions)* I have stated that but you please listen to me first. I have listened to all the Members. If you are satisfied with my reply then division will not take place otherwise it will. First you listen to me. Shri Scindia Ji, W.T.O. or GATT negotiations were held during the regime of the same Government of which you were a Minister. Whatever happens at that time... *(Interruptions)* I will not level any allegation rather I will place the facts. Whatever happened ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You did not understand the meaning of WTO even now ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Various agreements had taken place under World Trade Organisation and Agreement on Agriculture was one of them ... *(Interruptions)* We all know you very well, there is no need to give a fresh introduction. All members of the House know each other very well. Therefore, we all should listen to each other. There is no harm in it and also to oppose the

objectionable statements, however, I have not completed my sentence. Is it not a fact that GATT Agreement was signed during the tenure of Congress Party. You mentioned about umbrella agreement. Various agreements were signed at that time under WTO, one of them is Agreement on Agriculture ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. You must be practising as advocate at Chandigarh. You will be sent as Indian representative to WTO for dispute settlement. If you are so much interested, you will be sent to WTO for dispute settlement on behalf of the Government as and when required. To present our country's stand in an effective manner there, you please listen to me first and then express your views ... *(Interruptions)* our market is not being opened for agriculture produces under any agreement included in Agreement on Agriculture. You can confirm it from your party member Shri Manmohan Singhji that why the markets are opened.

It is being said repeatedly that we had time upto year 2003 for lifting the Quantitative restrictions from trade. But you have lost your case in the WTO dispute settlement tribunal. You are supposed to do away with all the restrictions by 2001 and open up your entire market. In this context only that the market is being opened up and not because the NDA government has reached any agreement with WTO. Nothing can be further from the truth than this claim made by you. The entire market is being opened up because your Balance of Payment position has improved. You could have relied on the plea of adverse condition of 'BOP' for postponing the opening of market till 2003 but you lost the case in WTO dispute settlement. You have to completely open up the market by the end of 31st March, 2001. WTO or GATT Agreement was not made by hon. Vajpayeeji's government but by that government in which you were an honourable Minister ... *(Interruptions)* you will again get an opportunity. Hence no accusation can be more irrational than blaming this government for opening the flood gates of the economy to the foreigners ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: (Mahasamund): Why do not you abolish the agreement? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shayamacharan Shuklaji, you better try to convince your brother Vidya Charan Shuklaji in Chhattisgarh ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nitishji, please address the Chair.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Today the market is opening up and our government is not at fault. It is completely true and if you don't think so then let it be confirmed

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

from Manmohan Singhji who the Minister of Finance at that time.

SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA: You increase your balance of foreign exchange and raise import duties and adopt anti-dumping measures ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR. Scindia Saheb, we will come whenever you give us an opportunity. Now the issue is that the market has opened up. But we have two instruments in our hands as controlling measures, one is tariff restrictions and second is anti-dumping measure. You say that we must use them. It is being said that government opened the market to such an extent that our market has created a lot of problems for the farmers. I would like to present some facts and figures for your knowledge. The total value of agricultural import in 1998-99 was Rs. 12,584.08 crores which reduced to Rs. 11,510.09 crores in 1999-2000. So during our reign agricultural import has decreased instead of increasing. As far as the question of the share of agricultural import in the total import is concerned it was 7.05 per cent of the total import in 1998-99 and it was reduced to 5.63 per cent in 1999-2000. These are our figures. You can challenge them if you want. These figures are based on the import. Now the question is as to why the import duty was not increased? Now the issue is to identify the problem areas ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): You tell as to what was the total import.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already told you about that ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have told you the total import made during 1998-99 and even the share of total agricultural import in it ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Bhurijaji, what is going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: These are incontrovertible figures and are enough to prove that agricultural import has decreased instead of increasing during Vajpayeeji's regime. Our farmers will not be exposed to face any kind of threat or problem with the ongoing GATT provisions. I would like to present more facts before you. Hon. Sangamaji, I beg your pardon for you were our hon. Speaker, but let me clarify that contrary to what you said

import duty is already imposed on it. This year the import duty has been revised twice on many articles. Once it was revised on 12th June and then on 21st November ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What is this going on?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members can seek clarifications after Minister completes his speech.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It is true that if any agricultural produce has been most affected due to the import it is edible oil. There is a wide gap between demand and production of edible oil. Despite the fact that the Technology Mission on oilseed and pulses is still on, we have not been able to become self-sufficient in regard to oilseed and pulse production. Steps are being taken in this regard. I will dwell on this subject later on, only if the House have the time to hear it. But the oilseed productions has to suffer losses due to import. Three times the duty has been revised and twice this year only in regard to edible oil. Import duty was also increased on pamolien, but one problem which crops up is that when it comes to increasing the import duty on edible oil, the Ministry of Agriculture is always in its favour keeping in view the interests of the producers. But the Ministry of Finance has to take care of the interests of the consumers as well. I remember the days of onion crisis. You were raising this issue every now and then at that time. Onion was exported in 1998 as your government had made commitment to do so and due to the adverse climate, onion crops were damaged and there was a great dearth of onion in the market. The then government was blamed for exporting the onions without taking into consideration the internal demand. You have been in power for longer duration and you are well aware that the export market does not wait for you. If you have made a commitment to export and if you do not keep your commitment in regard to the perishable and edible commodities like onion then the other parties are not going to wait for it too long. Hence the export of onions has to be done every year in the interest of the farmers. But what happened in 1998 was that the prices of onion increased and these Congressmen raised such a hue and cry over the issue of onion that BJP had to suffer electoral defeat in three States. The whole issue of onions abruptly came to an end with the electoral defeat of BJP. Today, when the onion farmers are not being given proper

remunerative prices for their onion crop then why are they not concerned about it? Yesterday you were shedding tears over the crises of costly onions in Delhi markets but today when the farmers are not getting the price for his produce you are sitting silently. Export of onions was stopped due to the hue and cry raised by you on this issue and it resulted to the losses for the farmers. This time the export was permitted without paying any heed to your hue and hoopla. The permission for a total of four lakh fifty thousand tonnes of onion to be exported in four instalments of 1 lakh 50 thousand tonnes each has been given this year. The prices had increased for a brief span of time; in the meanwhile I have just come back from Haslagaon in Maharashtra, considered as the biggest onion market in Asia and met with the onion farmer there. The problem was there for just to one and a half week. The issuing of No Objection Certificate which was discontinued, has once again been started immediately and now the export of onion is being made so that our farmers could get proper remunerative price for their produce. Today the problems are being faced in regard to increasing the import duty. Today, we debate this issue with the Minister of Finance, but when we come out of the House we say that though it may be increased on Pamolien but we cannot increase it more than 45 per cent on Soyabeen for it is the bound rate for it. Who is responsible for fixing this bound rate- is it Shri Yashwant Sinha, Shri Murasoli Maran or Shri Vajapayeeji? No, it was fixed by your government.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You are telling a lie. You should not misguide the people ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What I am saying is true. You can bring in privilege Motion against us if we are not speaking the truth ... (*Interruptions*) You have got the weapon in your hand to counter any lies being told by us and you can use it. But you can not prevent me from Expressing my opinion. When agreement on GATT was taking place no consensus could be arrived at for fixing bound rates on agriculture and at that time people accepted to fix the bound rate and put restrictions on imports. Japan could have fixed a bound rate from 200 per cent to 500 per cent of their import duty. At that time why did not you pushed through you agenda any further ? The bound rate of import duty is 100 per cent on primary products, 150 per cent on processed products, 300 per cent on edible oil except Soyabeen, on which it is 45 per cent.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: You are in government you give its reply.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are telling it that it was your government which fixed the bound rates. You people

have tied our hands and we cannot go beyond certain point. When the debate over this issue used to take place in the House, we used to sit on the opposition benches. We used to say this then ... (*Interruptions*) Mr. Speaker, Sir, except Soyabeen oil on which 45 per cent duty has been fixed ... (*Interruptions*) It is the real problem that it is 45 per cent on Soyabeen oil but I want to assure you that we will not lay behind in to being whatever steps we can take in this regard and for the welfare of the farmers of the country.

Here, the reference was made about dairy products. Probably, Soniaji also mentioned about it. You are aware that the conventionally the sound rate on milk was zero percent. It was quite natural. Since the assumption of the role of founding Member of GATT in 1947 by India, the rate was zero per cent on milk. It was because we were not self sufficient in milk production and milk powder used to be imported. Scindiaji, you might have been educated in an reputed schools but, we went to village primary school and you might be knowing that we were given this skimmed milk to drink as mid day milk which was supplied in tons from foreign countries. Teachers in the school used to take our help in preparing it and then distribute it among us. I am talking about the schools in rural areas. You might not be aware of it as you have got your education from big and reputed schools. Similarly Soniaji, might not be aware about it also. It is useless to think as we do not expect anything in this regard.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: You have been brought up drinking imported milk.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: No, I am not. I was only telling that I have drunk the imported milk which used to come as assistance. But it was noticed that approximately 17000 to 18000 tonnes has arrived and the import duty in zero per cent on it. Then, separate agreements were made with all the concerned countries. The zero percent rate was raised to 60 per cent in the form of import duty on 12 June, 2000.

Now you tell as to how much milk is being imported after it? You cite an example and immediate action will be taken in this regard. But there is no such thing. Rumours are created and you are aware as to why the prices have fallen? There is a reason for it. It is a myth created by you. A rumour is created that when so much is imported it is bound to affect the market. The private traders do not buy the produce of the farmers. The government cannot buy the entire produce of the farmers even if it invests its entire efforts into it but at the same time government wants to buy maximum. The figures reveal that the procurement has been rising during previous years and if we are having second production

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

of foodgrains we are also making record procurement but regarding procurement we don't have ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: 'Loot' is going on ... (*Interruptions*)
You are saying wrong in regard to procurement ... (*Interruptions*)
Losses to the tune of crores of rupees are being suffered ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If any foodgrains are to be procured then the problem of storage is there. You are aware that we are making procurement ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI J.S. BRAR: You are lying. You are misguiding the House... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Procurement is being made regularly. Coconut is being procured. The hon. MPs from Kerala had met the hon. Prime Minister and you had also convened a meeting in your room. The procurement of coconut shell is going on and it is being done in record quantity to benefit the coconut growers. Not only this, in Andhra Pradesh ... (*Interruptions*)
Procurement is going on, what are you talking about ... (*Interruptions*)
You are saying that procurement has not been made ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Brar, he is not yielding. Please take your seat. What is this?

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, he is not yielding. Please take your seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussion based on facts should be held in the House. It is the Supreme House. This is the highest body elected by the people.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a good practice.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Even today we are making highest procurement of coconut in Kerala ... (*Interruptions*)
The procurement is going on unabated ... (*Interruptions*)
The procurement is going on unabated ... (*Interruptions*)
Even in Andhra Pradesh, in the matter of Palm Oil marketing international skill we are sharing their burden. The coconut shell is being procured by NAFED and foodgrains are being procured by FCI. Not only this we are having record foodgrains production. FCI has authorised and the cabinet has also decided that State Governments can go in for procurement. Government has taken a policy decision regarding decentralised procurement and State Governments have been informed about it. The State Governments are repeatedly being asked to go in for procurement ... (*Interruptions*)
the loss will be borne by us but only few State Governments are doing procurement. Some State Governments do not during procurement. FCI is not the sole agency of the centre which is involved in procurement. Now every state Government has a right to open as many centres as it requires for procurement. The State Governments can open as many centres as possible. What more can be done for the farmers? To check the import, we will increase the import tariff. Even then if the situation does not improve, we will not hesitate to take the anti dumping measures. Nobody would be able to dump cheap commodities. To improve the condition of the farmers, on the one hand procurement is being done and on the other efforts are being made to save them from the dumping. We are taking these measures and the leader of the farmer from Congress party is requested to suggest any other measure if he has in mind. We will consider and try to implement that also.

A high level delegation of Congress party former Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar, Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Shivraj Patil met me and expressed their concern ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jaipal Reddy, he is not yielding. Please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, what he said just now is incorrect ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are seriously considering their suggestions. We are ready to take steps in the interest of the farmers by rising above the party lines. You please suggest us as to what steps should be taken. With this objective, we have formulated the agriculture policy. Shri Sangmaji, you mentioned in your speech that we want to attain the growth rate of more than 4 per cent ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a point of clarification ... (Interruptions) Sir, he has made a comment on me, I would like to seek a clarification from him ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Shri Jaipal Reddy, please sit down. We are old friends ... (Interruptions) Earlier you were on our side, why did you go to that side. You were with us. You used to speak very good English and when you were in Janata Dal we used to take pride that we have an English speaking leader in our party also who can reply to Shri Somnathji and Shri Scindia. However, you changed your loyalties ... (Interruptions) I listened your speech. There was no logic in that. There was only jargon ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, it shows the hon'ble Minister is not fully confident of his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, some issues have been raised as to what more steps are to be taken in the interest of the farmers. Farmers require loan for which the Union Government has implemented. farmer's credit card scheme and more than 70 lakh farmers have been benefited by it. Credit cards have been distributed more than the target fixed ... (Interruptions) Risk of the farmers should be covered. We all state that farmer is committing suicide but why he is taking such as extreme step. Actually his losses should be covered. That's why insurance cover has been extended to agriculture. Earlier crop insurance scheme was applicable only on those farmers who were taking loans. Now National Agricultural Insurance Scheme has been launched which will be available for those farmers also who are not taking loans. We are also reviewing it with the intention to make the panchayat a unit so that in case of any loss to any unit, it can be suitably compensated. In this regard, we have

called a meeting of the Agriculture Minister of States on 14th September. Then we will take further steps ... (Interruptions)

The Union Government has initiated capital investment subsidy scheme to solve the problem of shortage faced by the farmers. Under this scheme, cold storages will be set up where fruit, vegetables, potatoes etc. can be stored ... (Interruptions) We want to create 12 lakh tonnes of new storage capacity and renewal and modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of existing capacity alongwith the creation of 4.5 lakh tonnes of new storage capacity and renewal and modernization of 8 lakh tonnes of existing capacity alongwith the creation of 14.5 lakh tonnes of storage capacity of onion during 9th Five Year Plan period. Capital Investment subsidy scheme has been initiated to achieve all these targets, 25% capital subsidy will be provided by the Union Government and anybody can avail its benefits be it private or public company, corporation or cooperative sector. A detailed discussion has already been held in the House in this regard. Various schemes have been launched to benefit the farmers.

Sometimes it is alleged that spurious quality of seed is being provided. At present we have Seed Act, Seed Control Order etc. but the responsibility to implement them vests with the States. In the month of June, a complaint was received in Delhi that spurious quality seed is being sold in the market in Andhra Pradesh. State Government was informed about it instantly and it took the action immediately. Raids were conducted at various places and action was taken against the guilty persons. Today, they mentioned about the unavailability of seeds. I do not know but figures are there ... (Interruptions)

Sir, if you permit me, I can explain in detail. The issue of agriculture can be discussed at any length "Hari Anant Hari Katha Ananta." If you permit me, I can discuss in detail each of the issue of Seeds, pesticides, micronutrients, water and electricity separately and about the steps taken by the Government in this regard. There are some irregularities regarding seeds. We have lesser control over seeds. Therefore, we are taking steps to amend the Seed Act, 1966 so that if a crop gets damaged due to the use of a particular seed or if the germination of the seeds could not take place as per the claim of the company, farmers will have the right to get compensation from that company. That's why we want to bring the new Seed Act.

We are working on a Seed Act which provides that only those seed companies would be able to do business here which will register themselves in the country. We will protect the interests of the farmers by bringing this Act. The use of pesticides is declining in our country. It is a good sign. The technologies developed in Integrated

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

Pest Management is being disseminated in the villages gradually. Farmers have reduced the use of pesticides. Figures are available regarding pesticides sold and imported from other countries. Even pesticides manufactured in our country in being exported. Therefore, we are taking action on all these points simultaneously and the National Agricultural Policy also focuses on these points. The area which is included under green revolution has to be developed and those parts of the eastern area which have great potential to be tapped is also the foremost objective of the agriculture policy. If you will try to understand our policy you will find that we have done a lot for the farmers otherwise you would not find anything. It depends upon your feelings for the farmers. For us they are like God but not for you because you do not have the sympathy for them. You only want to score the points on their issue. Had you really been sympathetic towards them, you would have initiated the discussion on the adjournment motion yesterday itself. Yesterday also, we were ready to hold the discussion but you could decide as to who will move the adjournment motion. You wasted the entire day of the House. To what extent farmers would be benefited by your behaviour. Please give concrete suggestions and discuss the matter patiently. We have presented the agriculture policy in the House. Though the House has discussed the agricultural policy several times before and during the term of 10th Lok Sabha also. We discussed the same but since our independence no agricultural policy has been formulated till now.

In the year 1990, when Shri Jaipal Reddy was in Janata Dal and National Front was in power, the then Finance Minister had stated that there should be a National Agricultural Policy in the country ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: You have mentioned my name but you ... *(Interruptions)**

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Hon'ble Shri Reddyji, I was not aware that to improve your image in the eyes of hon'ble Soniaji, you would resort to cheap language. I was not expecting that you will say that I am of someone. However, you are well versed with the fact that I am not, I meet the people in a friendly and amicable way but I can not do... I do not know but perhaps you have started it after joining that side ... *(Interruptions)*

(English)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the situation of the farmers in India and this is the type of discussion that we are having. Sir, I am very sorry to say this ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, it is very sad to see the attitude of the Agriculture Minister, This is most inappropriate. It is very sad ... *(Interruptions)*

(Translation)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We called the all party meeting which was attended to by the Members of Congress Party also. Farmers' organisations and voluntary organisations were also invited. The meeting was held on 13th September in Parliament House Annexe. On 14th September discussion was held with Agriculture Ministers and Food Ministers of all the States. Now there will be full transparency in all the international agreements. Therefore, before holding the meetings, we sent the related documents to all the parties including Smt. Sonia Gandhi who attended the meeting in the capacity of Party President. Then during the meeting held on 13th and on 14th also when discussion took place between the Agriculture Minister and Food Ministers of all the States, they expressed their considered views. We are preparing the documents as per the consensus evolved in the discussion. On the basis of it, we will express our views on the mandate review going on Agreement on agriculture in WTO. We will raise the demand that developed countries should reduce their domestic subsidy, remove the subsidy on exports and also to make separate provisions for the food security of the countries like us.

Developed countries are indulging in unfair practices in the backdrop of agreements in WTO. Subsidy is generally allowed. You have mentioned about aggregate measure of support. It is a very common thing and all the persons at least the members of Parliament should be aware of it. I agree that America is giving large subsidy. Other developed countries are also giving much subsidy. Non product specific and product specific subsidy should be added to arrive at aggregate measure of support. It will be in the interest of our country if they agree to do this. The point is that Negative subsidy is being given on agriculture in our country but this is to discuss the issue at WTO forum.

We all are aware that the Union Government gives subsidy on various commodities. It is a separate issue for discussion. We will demand that separate definition of resource poor farmer should be evolved. In my area, farmers with 4-5 acres of land are poor. At some places farmers with 50 acres of land are also poor. Therefore, we demand that uniform definition of resource poor farmer should be evolved and the assistance given to them should not be included under Aggregate measure of support. Shri Scindiaji, it should not be like the last time that who should take the initiative in this regard. Earlier even the Agriculture Ministry used to remain unaware of

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

the negotiations held by commerce and other ministries in WTO. This time hon'ble Prime Minister has stated that Agriculture Ministry itself will deal with all the agreements regarding agriculture. Agriculture Ministry has prepared it after eliciting the views of the people from all over the country. We will forcefully present it in WTO. Under the able leadership of hon'ble Prime Minister the reputation of our country in the world has gone up. Those days are gone when the President used to meet on working lunch. Those days people always remain ready to extend red carpet welcome. Now the time has changed. Our prestige has gone up ... (*Interruptions*) We will forcefully present our views. We will not back track. We want to rectify the mistakes committed by your Government. You please cooperate in this regard. It is not only in the interest of the farmers but will protect the interests of the entire country. I request holding of wide ranging discussion on agriculture policy to consider the issues relating to farmers. Such issues will continue to be raised for the coming two-three days, thereafter, you please give me the time to reply to these issues at length. With these words, I conclude and request the House to reject the adjournment motion.

[English]

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (Amethi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank all those who have participated in the discussion on our Motion of Adjournment. Regrettably, there has been not enough time to accommodate everyone who wanted to speak but enough has been said to enable the House to come to an informed conclusion on the issues raised.

From the speeches of the hon. Members irrespective of party lines, except for a few on the other side and, of course, except for that of the Agriculture Minister, all agree that the agricultural sector deserves immediate and urgent attention. And it is evident that this is only the start; this is only the beginning of a nation wide debate.

The Treasury Benches have failed to respond to our demands. The hon. Minister, of course, has given us an extremely long presentation. He has evaded most of our points. Of course, he had plenty of figures to give us on paper. He has said that he comes from a village. He has said that he lives in a village, we appreciate that. He has also said that he knows how life in the village is. Well, I would like to tell him that he has not convinced us.

And I am sure that he will not be able to convince his own village people. And the answer will come from the Kisans, from the people of our country. It will come from the Kisans of our country and we shall wait for that answer and we know what that answer is going to be.

Our basic point was that the Government has done nothing to curb rising costs or to ensure fair and just prices. And it is a matter of disappointment that the hon. Minister has been unable to give our Kisans, our Khet Majdoors any comfort on either point. We believe, we know, that our Kisans continue to be ground in the Chakki.

Therefore, through you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want once again to request the House to support this Motion and censure the Government in such a manner that it is obliged to seriously formulate an effective overall agricultural policy to address the grievances of the farmers and stem the downward trend blighting the agricultural sector.

I urge all sections of the House to rise above partisan considerations in solidarity with our Kisans and Khet Majdoors and vote for this Motion of Adjournment.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn".

SOME HON. MEMBERS: We want a Division.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Let the Lobbies be cleared.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the Secretary-General.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Kind attention of the hon. Members is invited to the following points in the operation of the Automatic Vote Recording system:

1. Before a Division starts, every hon. Member should occupy his or her own seat and operate the system from that seat only.
2. As may kindly be seen the 'red bulbs above display boards' on either side of hon. Speaker's Chair are already glowing. This means the voting system has been activated.
3. For voting, kindly press the following two buttons simultaneously immediately after sounding of first gong, namely:
 - (i) One 'Red' button in front of the hon. member on the head phone plate and also
 - (ii) Any one of the following buttons fixed on the top of desk of seats:

Ayes	—	Green colour
Noes	—	Red colour
Abstain	—	Yellow colour

4. It is essential to keep both the buttons pressed till the second gong sound is heard and the red bulbs are 'off'.

IMPORTANT: The hon. Members may please note that the vote will not be registered if both buttons are not kept pressed simultaneously till the sounding of the second gong.

5. Do not press the amber button (P) during Division.
6. Hon. Members can actually 'see' their vote on display boards and on their desk unit. In case vote is not registered, they may call for voting through slips.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, three Members, namely Dr. Bikram Sarkar, Shrimati Kumudini Patnaik and Shrimati Rama Pilot have not been allotted seat/division numbers so far. They will be supplied 'Aye'/'No' printed slips for recording their votes.

These Members may kindly record votes of their choice by signing and writing their names, identity card numbers, constituency and State and date at the place specified on the slips.

(m5/2050/san-rpm)

Now, the Lobbies have been cleared.

The question is:

"That the House do now adjourn."

The Lok Sabha divided:

AYES

Division No. 1

20.55 hrs.

Abdullakutty, Shri A.P.
Acharia, Shri Basu Deb
Aiyar, Shri Mani Shankar
Ajaya Kumar, Shri S.
Alva, Shrimati Marget
Alvi, Shri Rashid
Ambareesha Shri
Athawale, Shri Ramdas*

Banatwalla, Shri G.M.
Bansal, Shri Pawan Kumar
Basavanagoud, Shri Kolor
Basavaraj Shri G.S.
Basu, Shri Anil
Bauri, Shrimati Sandhya
Baxla, Shri Joachim
Begum Noor Bano
Bhadana, Shri Avtar Singh
Bhagora, Shri Tarachand*
Bhatia, Shri R.L
Bhuria, Shri Kantilal
Botcha, Shri Satyanarayana
Brar, Shri J.S.
Bundela, Shri Sujan Singh
Chakraborty, Shri Ajoy
Chakraborty, Shri Swadesh
Chatterjee, Shri Somnath
Chaturvedi, Shri Satyavrat
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh
Chinnasamy, Shri M.
Choudhury, Shri Samar
Chowdhary, Shri Adhir
Chowdhary, Shrimati Santosh
Chowdhury, Shri Bikash
Chowdhury, Shrimati Renuka
Das, Shri Nepal Chandra
Dasmunsi, Shri Priya Ranjan
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan
Dhinakaran, Shri T.T.V.
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra
Dudi, Shri Rameshwar
Eden, Shri George
Farook, Shri M.O.H.

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Galib, Shri G.S.*
 Gamang, Shrimati Hema
 Gamlin, Shri Jarbom
 Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia
 Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya
 George, Shri K. Francis
 Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh
 Gogoi, Shri Tarun
 Govindan, Shri T.

 Hamid, Shri Abdul
 Handique, Shri Bijoy
 Hassan, Shri Moinul

 Jaiswal, Shri Shriprakash
 Jalappa, Shri R.L.
 Jos, Shri A.C.
 Kamal Nath, Shri
 Karunakaran, Shri K.*
 Kaur, Shrimati Preneet
 Khan, Shri Abul Hasnat
 Khan, Shri Sunil
 Krishnadas, Shri N.N.
 Kumarasamy, Shri P.
 Kurup, Shri Suresh

 Lahiri, Shri Samik
 Lepcha, Shri S.P.

 Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar
 Mahant, Dr. Charan Das
 Makwana Shri Savshibhai
 Malaisamy, Shri K.
 Mandal, Shri Sanat Kumar
 Mayawati, Kumari
 Meena, Shri Bherulal

Mohan, Shri P.
 Mollah, Shri Hannan
 Muniyappa, Shri K.H.
 Muraleedharan, Shri K.*
 Murmu, Shri Rupchand
 Murugesan, Shri S.

 Naik, Shri A. Venkatesh
 Narah, Shrimati Ranee

 Ola, Shri Sis Ram
 Osmani, Shri A.F. Golam

 Pal, Shri Rupchand
 Pandiyan, Shri P.H.
 Pasi, Shri Suresh
 Paswan, Shri Sukdeo
 Patel, Shri Atmaram Bhai
 Patel, Shri Dahyabhai Vallabhbai
 Patel, Shri Dharm Raj Singh
 Patel, Shri Dinsha
 Patel, Shri Tarachand Shivaji
 Patil, Shri Amarsinh Vasantrao
 Patil, Shri Laxmanrao
 Patil, Shri R.S.*
 Patil, Shri Shriniwas
 Patil, Shri Uttamrao
 Pilot, Shrimati Rama*
 Pramanik, Prof. R.R.
 Prasada, Shri Jitendra*

 Radhakrishnan, Shri Varkala
 Rajbangshi, Shri Madhab
 Rajendran, Shri P.
 Rajukhedi, Shri Gajendra Singh
 Ramulu, Shri H.G.*

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Reddy, Shri N. Janardhana
 Reddy, Shri S. Jaipal
 Reddy, Shri Y.S. Vivekananda
 Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
 Roy, Shri Sobodh*
 Roy Pradhan, Shri Amar

 Sanadi, Prof. I.G.
 Sangma, Shri Purno A.
 Sangtam, Shri K.A.*
 Sar, Shri Nikhilananda
 Saradgi, Shri Iqbal Ahmed
 Saroj, Shri Tufani
 Saroj, Shrimati Sushila
 Saroja, Dr. V.
 Sayeed, Shri P.M.
 Scindia, Shri Madharvao
 Selvaganpathi, Shri T.M.
 Sen, Shrimati Minati
 Seth, Shri Lakshman
 Sharma, Capt. Satish
 Shinde, Shri Sushil Kumar
 Shukla, Shri Shyamacharan
 Singh Deo, Shri K.P.
 Singh, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad
 Singh, Rajkumari Ratna
 Singh, Sardar Buta
 Singh, Shri Balbir*
 Singh, Shri Khel Sai
 Singh, Shri Lakshman
 Singh, Shri Rajo
 Singh, Shrimati Shyama
 Sivakumar, Shri V.S.
 Sorake, Shri Vinay Kumar
 Sreenivasan, Shri C.

Subba, Shri M.K.
 Sudarsana Natchiappan, Shri E.M

 Thomas, Shri P.C.
 Tiwari, Shri Narayan Datt*
 Tiwari, Shri Sunder Lal
 Topdar, Shri Tarit Baran*

 Verma, Shri Rajesh
 Verma, Shri Ravi Prakash
 Vyas, Dr. Girija

 Wadiyar, Shri S.D.N.R.

 Yadav, Shri Akhilesh
 Yadav, Shri Ramakant

 Zahedi, Shri Mahboob

NOES

A. Narendra, Shri
 Abdullah, Shri Omar
 Acharya, Shri Prasanna
 Adhi Sankar, Shri
 Aditya Nath, Yogi
 Adsul, Shri Anandrao Vithoba
 Advani, Shri L.K.
 Ahmad, Shri Daud
 Ananth Kumar, Shri
 Angle, Shri Ramakant
 Argal, Shri Ashok
 Arya, Dr. (Shrimati) Anita
 Atkinson, Shri Denzil B.
 Azad, Shri Kirti Jha

 Baalu, Shri T.R.
 'Bachda', Shri Bachi Singh Rawat
 Badnore, Shri V.P. Singh
 Baina, Shri Ramchander
 Bais, Shri Ramesh
 Baitha, Shri Mahendra

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip
 Banerjee, Kumari Mamata
 Bansawal, Shri Shyam Lal
 Barwala, Shri Surendra Singh
 Behera, Shri Padmanava
 Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal
 Bishnoi, Shri Jaswant Singh
 Biswas, Shri Ananda Mohan
 Bose, Shrimati Krishna
 Brahmanaiah, Shri A.

 C. Suguna Kumari, Dr. (Shrimati)
 Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya
 Chandel, Shri Suresh
 Chaubey, Shri Lal Muni
 Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai
 Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal
 Chaudhri, Shri Manibhai Ramjibhai
 Chauhan, Shri Shriram
 Chikhalia, Shrimati Bhavnaben Devrajbhai
 Choudhry, Shri Nikhil Kumar
 Choukhry, Shri Padam Sen
 Chouhan, Shri Nihal Chand
 Chouhan, Shri Shivraj Singh

 D'Souza, Dr. (Shrimati) Beatrix
 Daggubati, Shri Ramanaidu
 Dahal, Shri Bhim
 Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru
 Dhikale, Shri Uttamrao
 Diler, Shri Kishan Lal
 Diwathe, Shri Namdeo Harbaji
 Durai, Shri M.

 Fernandes, Shri George

 Gadde, Shri Ram Mohan

Gadhavi, Shri P.S.
 Gandhi, Shri Dilip Kumar Mansukhlal
 Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka
 Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar
 Gautam, Shrimati Sheela
 Gavit, Shri Ramdas Rupala
 Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram
 Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand
 Goel, Shri Vijay
 Gohain, Shri Rajen
 Gudhe, Shri Anant
 Gupta, Prof, Chaman Lal

 Hussain, Shri Syed Shahnawaz
 Indora, Dr. Sushil Kumar

 Jadhav, Shri Suresh Ramrao
 Jag Mohan, Shri
 Jagannath, Dr. Manda
 Jain, Shri Pusp
 Jaiswal, Dr. M.P.
 Jaiswal, Shri Shankar Prasad
 Jatiya, Dr. Satyanarayan
 Jha, Shri Raghunath
 Joshi, Shri Manohar

 Kamble, Shri Shivaji Vitthalrao
 Kannappan, Shri M.
 Kanungo, Shri Trilochan
 Kashyap, Shri Bali Ram
 Kaswan, Shri Ram Singh
 Katara, Shri Babubhai K.
 Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal
 Kathiria, Dr. Vallabhbhai
 Kaushal, Shri Raghuvir Singh
 Khaire, Shri Chandrakant
 Khan, Shri Hassan

Khandelwal, Shri Vijay Kumar
 Khanduri, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C.
 Khanna, Shri Vinod
 Khunte, Shri P.R.
 Khurana, Shri Madan Lal
 Kriplani, Shri Shrichand
 Krishnamraju, Shri
 Krishnamurthy, Shri K. Balarama
 Krishnan, Dr. C.
 Krishnaswamy, Shri A.
 Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh
 Kumar, Shri Arun
 Kumar, Shri V. Dhananjaya
 Kuppusami, Shri C.
 Kusmaria, Dr. Ramkrishna

 M. Master Mathan, Shri
 Mahajan, Shri Y.G.
 Mahajhan, Shrimati Sumitra
 Maharia, Shri Subhash
 Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari
 Mahato, Shrimati Abha
 Majhi, Shri Parsuram
 Malhotra, Dr. Vijay Kumar
 Mallikarjunappa, Shri G.
 Malyala, Shri Rajaiah
 Mandal, Shri Brahma Nand
 Mane, Shri Shivaji
 Majay Lal, Shri
 Manjhi, Shri Ramjee
 Mann, Shri Zora Singh
 Meena, Shrimati Jas Kaur
 Mehta, Shrimati Jayawanti
 Mishra, Shri Ram Nagina
 Mohale, Shri Punnu Lal

Mohite, Shri Subodh
 Mookherjee, Shri S.B.*
 Moorthy, Shri A.K.
 Munda, Shri Kariya
 Muni Lall, Shri
 Murmu, Shri Salkhan
 Murthi, Shri M.V.V.S.

 Naik, Shri Ram*
 Naik, Shri Shripad Yasso
 Nayak, Shri Ananta
 Nishad, Capt. Jai Narain Prasad
 Nitish Kumar, Shri

 Padmanabham, Shri Mudragada
 Palanimanickam, Shri .S.S.
 Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar
 Pandeya, Dr. Laxminarayan
 Panja, Dr. Ranjit Kumar
 Panja, Shri Ajit Kumar
 Paranjpe, Shri Prakash
 Parste, Shri Dalpat Singh
 Passi, Shri Raj Narain
 Paswan, Dr. Sanjay
 Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas
 Paswan, Shri Ramchandra
 Patasani, Dr. Prasanna Kumar
 Patel, Dr. Ashok
 Patel, Shri Chandresh
 Patel, Shri Mansinh
 Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh
 Pathak, Shri Harin
 Patil, Shri Annasaheb M.K.
 Patil, Shri Balashaheb Vikhe
 Pati (Yatnal), Shri Basangouda R.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Patil, Shri Jaysingrao Gaikwad
 Patnaik, Shrimati Kumudini*
 Patwa, Shri Sundar Lal
 Pawaiya, Shri Jaibhan Singh
 Ponnuswamy, Shri E.*
 Potai, Shri Sohan
 Pradhan, Dr. Debendra
 Pradhan, Shri Ashok*
 Prasad, Shri V. Sreenivasa

 Radhakrishnan, Shri C.P.
 Radhakrishnan, Shri Pon
 Rai, Shri Nawal Kishore
 Raja, Shri A.
 Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara
 Ram, Shri Braj Mohan
 Ramaiah, Dr. B.B.
 Ramaiah, Shri Gunipati
 Raman, Dr.
 Ramachandran, Shri Gingee N.*
 Rana, Shri Kashiram
 Rana, Shri Raju
 Rao, Shri D.V.G. Shankar
 Rao, Shri Ganta Sreenivasa
 Rao, Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana
 Rao, Shri Y.V.
 Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh
 Rawale, Shri Mohan
 Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh
 Rawat, Shri Pradeep
 Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender
 Reddy, Shri G. Ganga
 Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender
 Renu Kumari, Shrimati

Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap

 Sahu, Shri Anadi
 Sahu, Shri Taranchand
 Samantray, Shri Prabhat
 Sangwan, Shri Kishan Singh
 Sarkar, Dr. Bikram*
 Sathi, Shri Harpal Singh
 Sengupta, Dr. Nitish
 Sethi, Shri Arjun
 Shah, Shri Manabendra
 Shaheen, Shri Abdul Rashid
 Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dr. Dhani Ram
 Shanmugam, Shri N.T.
 Shanta Kumar, Shri
 Sharma, Vaidya Vishnu Datt
 Shashi Kumar, Shri
 Sikdar, Shri Tapan*
 Singh Deo, Shrimati Sangeeta Kumari
 Singh, Capt. (Retd.) Inder
 Singh, Ch. Tejveer
 Singh, Dr. Ram Lakhan
 Singh, Shri Bahadur
 Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap
 Singh, Shri Digvijay
 Singh, Shri Maheshwar
 Singh, Shri Prabhunath
 Singh, Shri Radha Mohan
 Singh, Shri Ramjivan
 Singh, Shri Rampal
 Singh, Shri Sahib
 Singh, Shri Th. Chaoba
 Sinha, Shri Yashwant
 Solanki, Shri Bhupendrasinh

*Voted through Division Slip.

*Voted through Division Slip.

Somaiya, Shri Kirit
 Srikantappa, Shri D.C.
 Srinivasulu, Shri Kalava
 Swain, Shri Kharabela
 Swami, Shri Chinmayanand
 Thakur, Dr. C.P.
 Thirunavukarasu, Shri
 Tiwari, Shri Lal Bihari
 Tomar, Dr. Ramesh Chand
 Tripathee, Shri Ram Naresh
 Tripathi, Shri Prakash Mani
 Tripathy, Shri Braja Kishore
 Tur, Shri Tarlochan Singh
 Vaiko, Shri
 Vajpayee, Shri Atal Bihari
 Varma, Shri Ratilal Kalidas
 Vasava, Shri Mansukhbhai D.
 Veerappa, Shri Ramchandra
 Venkataswamy, Dr. N.
 Venkateswarlu, Shri B.
 Venkateswarlu, Prof. Ummareddy
 Venugopal, Shri D.
 Verma, Prof. Rita
 Vetriselvan, Shri V.
 Vijaya Kumari, Shrimati D.M.
 Vijayan, Shri A.K.S.
 Virendra Kumar, Shri
 Vukkala, Dr. Rajeswaramma
 Wanaga, Shri Chintaman
 Yadav, Dr. (Shrimati) Sudha
 Yadav, Dr. Jaswant Singh
 Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad
 Yadav, Shri Hukumdeo Narayan
 Yadav, Shri Jagdambi Prasad
 Yadav, Shri Sharad
 Yerrannaidu, Shri K.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members please take your seats. The Members from the back - benches may please take your seats.

Subject to correction*, the result of the division is:

AYES: 139
 NOES: 248

The motion was negatived

20.56 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fourteenth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members. Matters under Rule 377 listed for the day will be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (i) **Need for early construction of Railway overbridge at Kishangarh-Madanganjnagar in Ajmer district, Rajasthan.**

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The Ajmer district of Rajasthan has an important commercial centre called Kishangarh Madanganj which is an important production centre of marble and where people from all over India come to buy marbles. At present the town is divided into two parts by the railway line and the National

* Ayes 139 + 14 (S/Shri Ramdas Athawale, Trarachand Bhagora, G.S. Galib, K. Karunakaran, K. Muraleedharan, R.S. Patil, Shrimati Rama Pilot, S/Shri Jitendra Prasada, H.G. Ramulu, Subodh Roy, K.A. Sangtam, Balbir Singh, Narayan Datt Tiwari, Tarit Baran Topdar) = 153

*NOES: 248 + 8 (S/Shri S.B. Mookherjee, Ram Naik, Shrimati Kumudini Patnaik, S/Shri E. Ponnuswamy, Ashok Pradhan, Gingee N. Ramachandran, Dr. Bikram Sarkar, Shri Tapan Sikdar) = 256

** Treated as Laid on the Table of the House