

destroyed. There is no hope for the crops. This may result into a famine. I, therefore, would like to request hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture to immediately provide funds from calamity relief fund to save the poor labourers and farmers from starvation. With this, I would like to conclude.

SHRI MANOJ KUMAR SINHA (GHAZIPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some political parties and social organisations have been demanding to form a separate State of eastern Uttar Pradesh for the last one year. We do not support the idea either at the personal level or the party level. But I can say it without any hesitation that the area which has contributed a lot in the freedom movement has been totally neglected by the Central Government.

Late Vishwanath Gehmari ji who was a M.P. from our area, had stated about the miserable condition of that area in the House. The Hon. Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru constituted the Patel Commission for the purpose. The recommendations of Patel Commission have not been implemented till date. Through you, I would like to request the Government to clear the schemes and projects pertaining to roads, irrigation and electricity in the most backward divisions of Gajipur, Balia, Varanasi, Azamgarh and Gorakhpur. The Government should provide special assistance package to complete these schemes. I would like to request you to kindly take an appropriate action in this regard.

I would like to request Shri Chandra Shekharji and the leader of Opposition to draw the attention of the Govt. for the upliftment of these backward areas.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR: This issue was also raised by Shri Gahmari ji in this House. Atal ji was also present in the House. He can verify it that while describing the situation, Shri Gahmari started crying and the Hon. Shri Nehru ordered the constitution of Patel Commission, but the recommendation made by the Commission have not been implemented till date. The people of this area are a distressed lot. This is the golden jubilee year of Independence and I would like to remind you that people of these districts of Poorvanchal played a leading role in the freedom struggle.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to pay attention to the point raised by Shri Manoj Sinha as there was a plan to form a special development board for this region, which could not be implemented. Shri Atal ji was present there, I therefore, would request him to kindly support this issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is also present today.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (LUCKNOW): This is true. I was present in the House at that time when Shri Gahmari had told about the miserable condition of the districts of eastern Uttar Pradesh and while doing so, he started crying. Shri Nehru was also present in the House as the Prime Minister. He was also moved by this speech. As a result, a commission was set up to assess the backwardness of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and thereby

suggest remedies to solve this problem. The report came in but was not implemented. The development Board was not constituted. Even today, this region of Uttar Pradesh is considered amongst the poorest region. That is why, a demand for a separate state is raised by the people of this region. The Central Government is making a large scale spending for the Golden Jubilee celebration of Independence. Such spending can be justified upto some extent but it would be more appropriate if funds are allotted for certain scheme meant for backward areas in the Golden Jubilee year of our Independence.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the miserable condition of the farmers of Punjab. The farmers of Punjab who produce the largest quantity of paddy and other crops are a worried lot. The PR 106 paddy which the Govt. have been purchasing as super fine quality for the last thirty years, now being purchased as a fine quality. Thus the farmers are not being paid the right price for their produce. I had raised their issue last year also in the House. The Government has not issued any directions to put an end to their woes. This is very unfortunate that the PR 106 quality produced in Punjab is being purchased as fine quality but the same quality gets the rate of super fine quality in the markets of Haryana, J & K or Himachal Pradesh. The Government agencies are just looking the farmers on the pretext of presence of moisture and the size of rice. But the same paddy gets higher rate in the market of Haryana and other states. The Government should immediately take corrective steps to stop this loot and pay the farmers adequately, during the present paddy seasons.

13.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock

14.34 hrs.

[English]

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Four Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE IN THE CHAIR)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

NEED FOR STREAMLINING THE PUBLIC
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time allotted for the discussion on Public Distribution System under Rule 193

*At 14.03 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 14.06 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 14.09 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Additional Secretary informed the Members present as follows:

"There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet; and we cannot start the House till there is a quorum. Hon. Chairman has directed that the House will reassemble at twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock."