

apathy of the Central Government, the people of Maharashtra are observing a band today. I have just confirmed at 12.30 p.m. There is a total band in Maharashtra. The people are worried and agitated. That is why I demand that the Central team must go immediately. It is not only the Central team but the Prime Minister must also go and visit the places. As demanded by the State Government, Rs.500 crores should be given.

Sir, you are aware the by-elections in Maharashtra have been specifically postponed because of the drought conditions. It is such a serious matter and still the Government is not sending the team. So, I demand that a team must be sent and the Prime Minister must also visit Maharashtra immediately. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDV(Vijaywada): Sir, through you, I draw the attention of the Government to the sad plight of the sugar-cane growers in Andhra Pradesh. The cane-growers are not paid their cane-dues for the cane supplied. Many of the private sugar factories as well as the cooperative sugar factories are not paying the amount and as a result of which, the Cane-growers, who have to pay for the harvest-charges, transport-charges, are facing problems. Also, this is the time when the bankers are pressing them for the recovery of their loans. Moreover, the Revenue Department is pressurising these people and even coming to take physical possession of the goods in respect of the arrears relating to the Irrigation Cess and the revenue arrears. In that way, the farmers are suffering. So, I draw the attention of the Government to take immediate steps to see that the cane prices are paid by the factories. Also, the additional cane prices payable by the factories to the growers depend on a factor called "L". Until the Central Government communicates that factor "L" which is in the Bhargava formula for additional prices payable by the factories, the State Government will not take action.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude. Today, we want to allow many members.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Sir, I am concluding. For the last four years-1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91, 1991-92- the additional cane prices are not being paid to the cane growers. And I urge upon the Government to look into this aspect and take immediate steps to see that the prices are paid to the cane growers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH(Ferozepur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the labourers of Punjab who are victims of the system of contract. The labourers, whether they are in F.C.I. Labour Union, Punjab Labour Union, or in Food and Supplies Union, are given wages by the contractors. The labourers who work from dawn to dusk, are not given full wages by these contractors. They give them wages according to their wish. When the labourers are not given full wages it means their sweat is not compensated for. The system of contract of paying wages to labourers which is in vogue in Punjab should be put to an end immediately. As in the other States of the country, the system of contract of paying wages to the labourers has been abolished and the labourers get wages directly. Likewise the system of contract in Panjab should also be abolished and the labourers should get wages direct. Besides it, the three F.C.I. depots, which are located in Amritsar, Ajnala and Navansher have been made Pucca and the rest of 125 kutch depots of Punjab should also be made pucca.

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI(Sitamarhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar. The regional news are not telecast by television in our State but these news are not telecast in the whole State. There is a low power T.V. tower due to which this telecast does not reach all the districts. therefore, more powerful transmitter should be set up there. Besides, the demand of broadcasting a news bulletin in Bangle-language has been lying pending since long. Bangla speaking people are living in 10-12 districts of Bihar. Their demand should be fulfilled and a news bulletin should be broadcast in Baugla language.