

of delay of their flights. The higher authorities have also admitted that one minute delay in flight leads to the wastage of fuel of 5 thousand rupees. In this way, the Government is suffering a loss of 4 crore rupees just on fuel.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you to the Government that talks should be held with these officers. These officers had given due notice. They had given their charter of demands and had informed that they would resort to work to rule from 1st May. Even then the Government is not paying any heed to them and the loss of fuel is being suffered and the air-traffic is also being delayed. Therefore, my submission, through you is that they should be invited for talks.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I have given notice on this.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Sir, you will recall that the hon. Minister of agriculture had given an assurance to this House that he will send a Central team to Maharashtra to review the drought situation and to see whether Central assistance is to be given or not. It is more than ten days. It is not on one occasion but the hon. Minister gave the assurance on two occasions in the House. The team has not gone to Maharashtra yet. Maharashtra Government is waiting for some communication from the Centre. However, there is no communication. It is my understanding that the team has not even been formulated. I also understand that the hon. Minister of Finance is not willing to associate himself with the Central team. Unless the Ministry of Finance associates, the whole exercise will be infructuous. I also understand that the two teams which have gone to Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat also did not have anybody from the Ministry of Finance. The Nine Finance Commission very clearly says that in case of severest of severe calamities, adequate Central assistance will come in the form of 25 per cent advance from the next year's allocation. So, I would request that a state-

ment should come stating why the team has not gone to Maharashtra. This is a very specific assurance which has been given twice. I request the hon. Minister to let us know about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, about the air Traffic Controllers' agitation, I have given a notice. Please allow me to mention about it.

Sir, all the flights are being delayed since 1st May. The Air Traffic Controllers are on agitation. They have resorted to work-to-rule. They have been appealing to the National Airports Authority for improvement in their promotional prospects and for other remuneration and perks commensurate with their job responsibility and accountability. The job of Air Traffic Controllers has been recognised by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) as also by the world experts as unique with heavy responsibility and it requires instant decision-making capability. The ILO has opined that keeping in view the responsibility, the Air Traffic Controllers more closely resemble with that of the Pilots and hence it recommended the remuneration and perks should be comparable with that of the remuneration and perks of the professional pilots. Further, the Air Traffic Controllers Guild has been appealing to the management to concede their demands, but the management is silent on that. The management is not talking to Guild, to the association.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Civil Aviation Minister should send instruction to the management so that the management could talk to the Air Controllers to end the agitation, which was resorted to by the Air Traffic Controllers. Because of that agitation, all the flights are being delayed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I would like to say something on the drought situation prevailing in Maharashtra. The people of Maharashtra are waiting for the Central team just like to chatak' bird waiting for the rain. In order to protest against the

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.