

the drains. Further, there will be savings of 6 TMC of water by lining selective reaches. After modernisation, there will be additional ayacut of 20,000 acres. Further the crop area which is at present 15.35 lakh acres is expected to increase to 23.65 lakh acres. So, I urge upon the honourable Central Water Resources Minister, through you, to kindly look into the matter and take necessary steps for the speedy disposal of the case and necessary funds should be released immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDEW RAM (Palamau): Mr. Speaker, Sir, although drinking water problem exists all over the country, the problem in the Palamau district of Bihar is very acute. It is hilly region and as such there is scarcity of drinking water even in urban areas. Government has not made any provision for repairing faulty tubewells. I urge the Government to solve the drinking water problem in Palamau on a priority basis.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drought situation in Western Rajasthan is very serious. Sir, the condition in certain areas is so grave that potable water is not available in wells, tubewells or any other source. Similarly, the Prime Minister had made an announcement in Barmer regarding the Public Distribution System. After that, paddy supply has been reduced from 10 kilograms to 1.5-3 kilograms. Sir, it is indeed a grave injustice that the toiling villagers are provided with only 1.5 kilograms of paddy in a month. I would like the Union Government to make adequate supply of paddy to the Rajasthan Government so that it can make available at least 5 kilograms, if not 10 kilograms, paddy to the people. The amount allocated to the State Government for fodder and other material to deal with the current drought situation should be given in the form of grant. The State Government is working on a workable solution to this problem,

but in the absence of resources in a desert area, which has always been facing acute shortage of food and drinking water, the Central Government should pay special attention on to the State. Therefore, through you, I request the Union Agriculture Minister to make proper arrangements for the supply of paddy. So that people could be provided minimum 35 kilograms of paddy every month.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister had announced that every possible assistance would be provided, but I urge that at least potable water should be made available.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support him as I had myself been to that place on the 9th and 10th of last month. The drought condition is very serious. The people of that area say that whoever provides water to the area is as good as God for them. That's why I support whatever the hon. Member has said.

Along with this, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards a very important issue, for which I have been giving notices continuously for the last ten days - i.e., when our party was in power, we had constituted an expert committee to resolve the Bodo problem. Now, that Committee has submitted its report to the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is our request that the report submitted by the Committee to the Home Ministry on March 31, be placed on the Table of the House. I want to submit only this.

[English]

SHRI A. INDRA KARAN REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in my constituency, Adilabad, more than two lakh labourers are working in the coal belt area. Previously, local bodies were getting more than Rs. one crore every year as coal cess from the collieries. That amount goes to Gram Panchayats, Mandal and Zilla Parishad in the ratio of 18:22:60 respectively. These