

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

amounts are being utilised in the coal belt areas for sinking of borewells for drinking water, school buildings for education of children, roads for communication, drainage and electricity.

For the last two years, our local bodies are not getting the coal cess from Singareni Colliery not from the State Government and not from the Government of India. There is no drinking water facility in the area as there is no tap connection. Most of the labourers belong to SCs and STs and are suffering a lot, because safe drinking water is not being provided, and they are afflicted with all sorts of diseases. It is a human problem. The labourers are already frustrated and are agitating and an explosive situation is being created.

I urge upon the hon. Coal Minister, through you that the Government should come forward and provide, every year, minimum Rs. 3 crore for the singareni coal belt areas for drinking water, road communication, drainage and electricity. I request the hon. coal Minister to look into the matter personally and issue necessary instructions for releasing sufficient funds for the Gram Panchayat, Mandals and Zilla Parishad for providing the basic civic amenities to the labourers working in the coal belt area and who are mostly tribals, scheduled caste people. Before the situation gets further deteriorated, the hon. Coal Minister should intervene and provide sufficient funds for the local bodies, as the labourers are already agitating and have threatened not to allow coal to move from the coal belt area.

[Translation]

SHRI LALIT ORAON (Lohardaga): Mr. Speaker, Sir, since 1966, the Army has been conducting shooting exercises in the Bisalpur subdivision of Bihar, as a result of which 15-20 villages have been severely affected.

People belonging to primitive tribes or Assurs inhabit these villages. Ever since these exercises commenced in 1966, the Government has been paying them Rs. 1.50 per adult and 75 paise per minor as compensation. You know very well that the labour wages have considerably gone up, but these people continue to be paid the same amount i.e. 75 paise for minors and Rs. 1.50 for adults.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, those Assurs are in the original inhabitants of that area. Leaving all their work behind, they move out in the morning, only to return in the evenings. Even in this age of sky-high prices these tribals are provided only Rs. 1.50 or 75 paise on the name of wages or compensation, which is totally inadequate. Through you, I request the government to pay attention towards this problem and make arrangements to increase the compensation amount being given to these people.

SHRI TEJ MARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently, on 9th and 10th, some of us and left front went to Tripura on behalf of the national Front and also visited the site where about 142 people have died so far on account of thirst and starvation. Therefore, supporting the contention of Shri Mohan Singh, I would like to say that I feel that the Government has so far not done anything, which was required of it. We held talks with a large of doctors. The Chief Medical officer told us that the sole reason behind the death of so many people was the non-availability of drinking water and food.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell you that it is the same locality in which the people are not able to eat rice and wheat. They are unable to get rice and wheat. Those people, eat wild potatoes over there. They do not have money to buy rice. This is the situation prevailing over there. That is why I urge upon the Government of India to make medicines available in that area.