

Naik, Shri Ram  
Patel, Dr. A. K.  
Patidar, Shri Rameshwar  
Raghavji, Shri  
Raje, Shrimati Vasundhara  
Ram Awadh, Shri  
Ram Sagar, Shri (Saidpur)  
Ranga, Prof. N. G.  
Rao, Shri K. S.  
Rawat, Prof. Rasa Singh  
Sai, Shri Nand Kumar  
Sathe, Shri Vasant  
Shakya Dr. Mahadeepak Singh  
Sharma, Shri Dharm Pal  
Singh, Shri Radha Mohan  
Tarwala, Shri Amratlal Vallabh-  
das  
Thakore, Shri Gabhaji Mangaji  
Verma, Shri R. L. P.  
Yadav, Shri Surya Narayan  
Yadvendra Datt, Shri

**NOES\***

Ali, Shrimati Subhashini  
Bhattacharya, Shrimati Malini  
Bulara, Shrimati Rajinder Kaur  
Chatterji, Shri Somnath  
Choudhury, Shri Saifuddin  
Chowdhary, Shri Dasai  
Das, Shri Anadi Charan  
Datta, Shri Amal  
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra  
Giri, Shri Sudhir  
Handoo, Shri Piyare Lal  
Hannan Mollah, Shri  
Hansda, Shri Matilal  
Khan, Shri Sukhendu

*the interests of farmers*

Mahale, Shri Haribhau Shankar  
Mallik, Shri Mangaraj  
Marbaniang, Shri Peter G.  
Mishra, Shri Balgopal  
Misra, Shri Satyagopal  
Nitish Kumar, Shri  
Pacherwal, Shri Gopal  
Pande, Shri Rajmangal  
Paswan, Shri Chhedi  
Patnaik, Shri Sivaji  
Puroshothaman, Shri Vakkom  
Rai, Shri Lalbaboo  
Rai, Shri M. Ramanna  
Ramakrishna, Shri Y.  
Roypradhan, Shri Amar  
Singh, Shri Danraj  
Singh, Shri Ram Prasad  
Sodhi, Shri Mankuram  
Thapa, Shri Nandu  
Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad  
Zainal Abedin, Shri

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The result of the division is:

Ayes: 42

Noes: 50

*The motion was negatived*

17.15 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE. MEASURES TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF FARMERS**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up the Resolu-

\* The following members also recorded their votes for Noes through Division clerks:

Shri Bhagey Gobardhan, Shri Yuvraj, Shri Het Ram, Dr. S. P. Yadav, Shri Mandhata Singh, Shri A. N. Singh Deo, Shri Ramendra Kumar Ravi Yadav, Shri Ram Sharan Yadav, Shri Bhabani Shankar Hota, Shri Ravi Narayan Pani, Shri Bengali Singh, Shri Sarwar Hussain, Shri Ram Naresh Singh, Shri P. C. Thomas and Shri Heera Bhai.

tion on Measures to protect the interest of farmers' to be moved by Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria. Before I ask Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria to move his Resolution, we have to fix the time for discussion of the Resolution. Shall we fix two hours time for this Resolution?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, No. Let it be 4 hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, let us, for the present, fix two hours time.....(Interruptions).

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur)... (Interruptions). No, that is not good. Four hours should be allotted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Let us discuss it for four hours. Now, Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria may now move his Resolution.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): I beg to move that:

"This House is of the opinion that in order to protect the interests of the farmers in the country, the Government should announce the prices of different crops at least three months before the sowing season; make available the agricultural inputs and implements at reasonable prices and purchase the entire produce of the farmers."

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the farmers enjoy a majority representation in our House. Hon. Rangaji is present here; he is the most respected Member of the House and is the leader of the country's farmers. The farmers of the country have been able to achieve a huge agricultural production target in the post-independent India. The target was 172 million tonnes in 1988-89, 175 million tonnes in 1989-90 and for 2000 A. D. it has been fixed at 225 million tonnes. This is a testimony

of the farmers' development. Yet, even today, the poorest man in this country is nobody else than the farmer. 90 per cent farmers live below poverty line in our country. In reply to one of our questions asked in the morning the hon. Minister of Finance stated that a loan amount of Rs. fifteen thousand eighty two crore of the nationalised banks and an equal amount of the co-operative societies is yet to be realised from the farmers and the farmer is reeling under its weight. The farmer remains a poor fellow even after producing so much of food-grains and putting in so much of labour. His wife and his children also work along with him be it the scorching heat of the summer, the chilly cold of the winter or the rainy season, he remains absorbed twenty four hours in his fields and yet he continues to be as poor as he was earlier.

The previous Government formulated many welfare schemes for the farmers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are yourself a farmer. Many people tend to become the leaders of the farmers, deliver speeches and talk of farmers and about farmers but they do not know how to do farming. The purpose of my bringing forward this resolution in the House is to have a debate on the condition of all the farmers of the country so that an agricultural policy is framed to determine the path for farmer in order to enable him to increase production and that way make our country stronger. At what price is the fertilizer being sold to the farmers today? What was its selling price a decade ago? There is a manifold increase now. At first, the tractor was sold for Rs. 20,000 and now its cost has gone up to Rs. one and a half lakh. The price of the fertilizer has increased ten times. All other agricultural implements too have undergone a manifold price increase. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir we should not bring the farmer at the crossroads of poverty and misery after somehow making

an evaluation of all the above mentioned facts. He works with honesty. He is the producer of food. Even today, he lives in a hutment. His children remain devoid of education. He is not able to afford even one time meal. He braves the heat of the sun as well as the Monsoon showers in the hut. He is subject to every type of political exploitation and he is caught in the whirlpool of politics. It is the same hutment that he is living in after 43 years of country's independence. His village remains devoid of a road, a hospital or a school. The powerful sections of the society who indulge in politics have for themselves all the amenities. The same farmer goes to beg before this powerful person. But it is regretful that the farmer cannot have a satisfactory meal in this country even after producing 175 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. This is the plight of the country's farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir the National Front Government was found in this country. It gives us pleasure to see the aspirations of the country's people for a change being fulfilled and this will lead us to the right path. This Government is committed to its pledge of writing off of the loans of the farmers. Our Minister of Agriculture is present here. He is perhaps unaware of the fact that not a single farmer's loan has been waived till date. If the farmer's loans are written off, then our hon. Minister of Finance who has talked of Rs. 16 crore, will not be able to give reply to our question in this Parliament. The farmer is termed as a defaulter. The farmers did not get the fertilizers or the money from elsewhere. We had freed the farmer from the clutches of his exploiter, associated him with the commercial banks and co-operative movements but what is the outcome today? There are 15 crore such people in our country today. If the farmer becomes a defaulter and mortgages

his fields, buffaloes, oxen etc., what will be his condition reduced to? This Government has left the poor farmers at the mercy of trader for their exploitation. That is why the present condition prevails. Neither the Government nor the banks give him any benefit. After all to whom would the farmers go? Today he is going to the exploiters only.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as such I would like to say that in this country, exploitation of the farmers will not be allowed any more. If the farmers are exploited any more in this country then a volatile situation would develop because of the very high growth rate at which population in our country is growing. What would be country's population by the time it reaches the year 2000?

The farmer has worked honestly and laboured hard and produced foodgrains to meet the requirements of 80-85 crore of people of this country. When we became independent the population of this country was 36 crores and we imported foodgrains to feed our people. Today we have a population of 80-85 crores but we do not import foodgrains from outside. Today we have attained the capability of producing 175 million tonnes of foodgrains in our country and for this the entire credit goes to the farmers of this country. It is due to these farmers that we have reached a stage where after meeting our own requirements, we help those countries where food crisis takes place owing to famine etc. In essence, by virtue of hard work put in by the farmers we have been able to hold our heads high before the world. We have emerged stronger and we get honour. This is the result of the labour put in by the farmer. As such we will not allow any injustice towards them. Can any farmer repay the loans to the banks? The farmer is reeling under the burden of

[Sh. Dileep Singh Bhuria]

debt. His land is auctioned. Interest is recovered from him, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if we want to increase the production of foodgrains in this country and if we want to help the farmers then we shall have to try and see that a very nominal rate of interest is charged from him. We may even think of granting him interest free loans. Government's announcement regarding waiving of loans of farmers, is not going to help them and they will not gain anything. I can say all this on the basis of my experience since I am myself a farmer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the day the Government made this announcement, the price of cotton was Rs. 1200 per quintal. I myself grow cotton and I fully know about its cultivation. On that day I was really pained to bear the announcement made by the Government. I raised this issue here. After I left the House I kept on thinking about the situation that will develop as a result of this announcement. Can we make the farmers stronger in this manner? Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you will be surprised to know that immediately after this announcement the farmers reduced the price of cotton and it came down to Rs. 500-600 per quintal. Whenever the produce of the farmer reaches the market, the price of that item is reduced to half. This happens only in India and nowhere else in the world. If we take the example of Japan we will see that the support price of the product is fixed six months in advance. In Japan the price of each product is declared in advance as the price of wheat will be this and for other items it will be this much. If they fix the price of wheat at Rs. 500 or 600 per quintal then they will subsidise the consumer, in the process they may have to sell the foodgrains at Rs. 200-250 per quintal. The gap of the price is subsidised by the Government. But in our country the process is reverse. We buy wheat for Rs. 150 and sell it Rs. 300 we will keep the price of cotton

at Rs. 10-12 per kilo but it will be sold at Rs. 150 per kilo after the cotton is manufactured. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a huge margin and it is exploitation and injustice. Today itself I told Chaudhary Devilalji that since he claims to be the leader of farmers, he should tell us the ways by which we can make the farmers stronger but he said that since he had not been allotted any seat he was not in a position to say anything. I asked him to come to this side and speak or speak from any place in the House or to come to our seat as it does not make any difference. I would like to say that instead of entering the race for becoming a leader we should care for the welfare of the farmers and frame schemes for them accordingly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the question of providing electricity in our country arises the industrialists are given electricity during day time.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Ex-Member of Parliament, Kumari Mamta Banerjee has expired.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT (Tehri Garhwal): Because she was beaten by the police yesterday.

SHRI K. S. RAO: It is quite unfortunate. In the morning when we raised the issue...

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYAPAL MALIK): The Minister of Home Affairs is coming in a short while. It is necessary to confirm it.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): This is not confirmed. They are verifying.

SHRI K. S. RAO: It is confirmed and the other House was adjourned. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Please go and confirm and then inform the House.

[English]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: My suggestion is, give them 10 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let them confirm the news of anybody's death. We should not rush to that conclusion.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Rajya Sabha adjourned.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, you kindly direct him to get it confirmed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have asked him to do it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhuria, you may continue tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have got this information after talking to the Chief Secretary of West Bengal that she is all right.

[English]

She is all right and she is recovering.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would rather believe his statement and I will not rush to any conclusion now. I would ask some responsible members from the Minister's office to talk to the Chief Secretary and the

Collector of that area to confirm about it.

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Sir, within 10 minutes, one more confirmation is expected.

17.31 hrs.

#### HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

*Establishment of separate Development Boards in Maharashtra*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I take up Half-an-Hour Discussion listed for today, I wish to explain briefly the procedure. As the name of the device "Half-an-Hour Discussion" indicates, this discussion is required to conclude within half-an-hour.

Honourable Prof. Ram Ganesh Kapse in whose name the discussion is listed may kindly make a short statement bringing out the points of fact on which he would like to have elucidation from the Honourable Minister.

Honourable Members who have given notices of their intention to ask a question and whose names have been notified may ask a question, which should be relevant to the discussion, brief and pointed. Then, I will call the Honourable Minister to answer all those questions together.

I would repeat that this entire process has to conclude within half-an-hour and is not to go beyond.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Since, we are not exactly aware of this procedure, we should be allowed to ask questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The procedure is that you give a notice and other Members also ask for permission to ask questions. If your