

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUDAM DESHMUKH: I introduce the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Irrigations bills are subsidised. They are less than what the Government has to incur as expenditure.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: No, Sir, in my State it is not there. We have been fighting for it in Uttar Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is there everywhere.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: The rates of tubewell irrigation are higher than the canal supply. It is for that purpose we are fighting in Uttar Pradesh all along. So, regarding water rates, there should be a guarantee. There should also be a guarantee for the supply of seeds to the farmers. I had asked a question last time from the Ministry. I wanted to know their plan for seeds, the quantity of seeds supplied by different organisations to the Government. So far, the answer had not come to me, what I understand is that seeds are mostly supplied by the multinationals. If the multinationals stop supplying seeds, then what would happen? So, the question of supply of seeds should also go to the Grains Board. Being an autonomous Board, it is apt to see that seeds are supplied to the farmers at a reasonable price. There should be no profiteering on it. Along with that, there should be insurance cover to cattle and crops. After all, agriculture here is a gamble with the rains. If there is shortage of rain, there is famine and when there is too much rain, the whole crops are destroyed. What do you do? You give loan, which is called *tuccavi*. When the man's backbone is totally broken, you load him with loans. When you start recovering it, he rushes here and there, seeks obligation to get it postponed. What is that?

15.06½ hrs.
405-58
GRAINS BOARD BILL

by Shri Yadvendra Datt—*Constituted and Withdrawn*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up consideration and passing of the Bills. Shri Yadvendra Datt was on his legs. He may continue his speech.

405
SHRI YADVENDRA DATT (Jaunpur): Sir, last time I was speaking for ten minutes. We had come to a point where I had asked to better the condition of the peasantry and the farmers. Irrigation rates should be uniform in respect of canals as well as tubewells. After all, they have not created the water. They have only made the channels of the water to flow. Why should the Government profiteer on it? So, the rates should be on no-profit no-loss basis. But unfortunately the old, much abused capitalist system is still practised by this Government, by its predecessor and by itself. So, I demand that the irrigation rates must be brought down on the actual investment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They less than the actual.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: If you read my Bill, you will find that I have stated that the Grains Board Bill for farmers is meant to fix the prices and to get other accessories. I will bring the whole thing now.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadvendra Dattji, please do not mind, I am just bringing to your notice that your Bill relates to creating a Board for fixing the prices, for procurement of the foodgrains and with accessories.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: How to create the prices because after all farmer is the only person...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It becomes a discussion on the entire agriculture in the country as such. You should tell us, what kind of Board this would be; how many officers would be there; what would be the amount of money you would require; how would you procure; how would you distribute it and things like that.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: This is what I am coming to. I am going to illustrate my point by mentioning the agricultural policy. Otherwise, how can I illustrate it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, let us not do that. I am asking you to limit yourself to your Bill.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I am limiting myself. If that is the way that I have to mention about how much money to be spent etc., that is all in the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot have the discussion on the entire agricultural policy as such.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I am not discussing the entire agricultural policy. Our agricultural policy is much large.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You must enlighten us on the Board.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Yes, Sir. That is why, I am asking the Board to include all that. I am not putting the Board just only as a shop or a banking business. I am asking the Board to be an entirety in itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How one Board can meet the requirement of the entire country as such. That is one of the most important points.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: You allow me to explain that. But you are not allowing me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am allowing you to do that. I am not allowing you to discuss the other issues.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I am trying to bring it into that Board.

As I was saying, we must give him insurance to protect his crop. For that purpose, I had said earlier in my speech that members of the Board should also consist of the insurance people who will be there to advise the Board about how to do it. And for that, we can create cattle and crop insurance thereby creating more jobs to unemployed youth. That is what, I have been asking for. That Board will consist of a Chairman and Members from the three types of farmers this country has—one is the surplus farmer, the medium-range farmer who lives on his own produce and the marginal farmer who has to live off hardly three to six months and then buy his food from the open market. So, I want, along with agro-economists, insurance people also in the Board so that they can also advise the Board as to how to have an insurance policy in favour of the farmer. With this, the Chairmanship should—although it is for the Government—go to a man who is well-versed in agriculture especially on the farmer's agriculture and not the type of experts that we have in agriculture. If you permit me I will give one illustration. One of my friends who says he is an expert in agriculture told me that in one *Bigha* of land he could produce tobacco on which farmers can earn...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You had said that last time. I was following your speech from my Chamber.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I am repeating it again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, Sir. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: We should have people in the Board who are really well-versed in agriculture—not theoretical agriculture but practical agriculture. They should constitute that Board also. The Chairmanship must go to them.

As far as financial aspects are concerned, the Government should give fixed amount to this Board and let this Board carry on. The Government should also give the distribution of fertilizers to this Board and the fertilizers should be subsidised. What you will lose in subsidy that you will gain in production. What you gain in production you will gain in export also. A loss on one side will be a gain on the other side. This Board should also be authorised when there is a surplus, seeing the needs of the country, to negotiate sales outside the country. This Board should also be empowered to develop oil seeds cultivation in this country. We have been suffering very tremendously with oil problems.

With these words I close my speech with the hope that the hon. Members who are interested in the farmers will come forward and give their suggestions and I hope that will improve this legislation as best as we all can.

[Translation] 409

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in fact India that is predominantly an agricultural country and two-thirds of its population live on farming.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us understand one thing. This is not a discussion on agriculture as such. This is a discussion on the Private Member's Bill. This Bill is asking for creating a Board, a Board which can procure the foodgrains, which can fix the prices and which can distribute them. Please restrict yourself to this.

27—2 LSS/ND/90

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: That is what I am saying and I will not speak for a long time. What I mean to say is that our country has an agriculturally based economy. Our system of agriculture is such that if there is a good yield in any year, we definitely get paltry prices for that. For example, thirteen years back during Government of the Janta Party there was a good sugarcane crop but it could not be sold even for Rs. 3-4 per quintal. I think such issues often come to the fore but there is no solution so far. The farming class of the other countries of the world is affluent, but in India, opting for farming means unemployment, starvation and poverty. The country should, therefore, think properly about the ways and means by which the standard of agriculture can be raised and the economic condition of the people connected with farming is made stable.

The main objective of the Board referred to in this resolution is, to my mind to solve in a proper manner the problems of the peasantry and the farming class so as to remove their distresses. The main objective and the main purpose of the Board is to help the farmers by giving them reasonable prices for procuring more produce with the help of good quality seeds or fertilizers. We can render great help to the farmers if after the constitution of the Board all these objectives are subsumed in it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Pant Nagar University is situated close to the area I belong to. The Government figures as regards the price to be paid for wheat are available there in written form but what prices do we give to the farmers? The farmer will feel that the right thinking people are really coming to govern the country if we impose a check upon the trends and anomalies that tend to put the farmer on the losing side. Till date the agricultural policy decisions were taken while sitting and meeting in five-star hotels but this practice should not continue now onwards. Not

[Sh. Santosh Kumar Gangwar]

dwelling much on it here today, I would only like to submit that the Government should seriously consider all these aspects and present such a policy framework as may enable the common man of India and the farmer to think that the Government they have elected to power will really solve the farmers' problems in a proper manner after taking into consideration its pros and cons.

15.19 Hrs. [SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

Thus, the farmers' problems will be solved, and at the same time more and more people will associate themselves with the farming and with the villages which will present a bright picture of the labour class.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, I will only say that the whole House should think positively on the proposal of Shri Yadvendra Datt for the constitution of the Board and to find out the ways by which the problems of an average Indian citizen and the farmer could be solved.

I thank you for allotting me time to speak.

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI (Misrikh):
Madam, Chairman, at the very outset, I would like to thank Shri Yadvendra Datt who, through his Private Members Bill introduced in this House, has proposed to constitute a Grains Board in order to ensure protection of the crops. He has done a very good thing. The objects and reasons he has enlisted are very significant too. There is need to consider this issue threadbare in the House.

Mr. Chairman, Madam, you would have observed, as you have for a long time been a Member of this House that the question of fixing procurement prices of farmer's produce was always raised as and when a discussion

on Indian villages and farmers was held in the House. This question has arisen frequently that there has never been as much pressure and lobbying by the farmer or the farmers' organisations in fixing the price of his produce as has been exerted by the commercial groups and institutions. It is unfortunate that the farmers' organisations were not invited and involved in fixing the prices for sugarcane, wheat, paddy or pulses. This is the reason he has enumerated in his Bill. When the farmer's crops start getting ripe, the apex of the paddy and wheat plants downwards with the weight of the ripe crop, the maize is ready for harvest, at that time the mind of the grocer gets changed because his godowns are empty. The grocer cannot fill his coffers unless he is able to procure the foodgrains at cheaper rates. So in order to loot the farmers, and fill the godowns and to make profits he sees that the prices start falling. The problem is that our Governments too are handicapped to deal with the grocers and traders strongly. Until the time the produce is harvested and reaches the threshers its prices fall much below. The Board he has referred to must be constituted. Our hon. Member has suggested to constitute a Board at the central level and I wish that the Government should make more efforts in this direction of constituting such Boards both at the Central as well as the State levels. I wish that some amendment be made in regard to the suggestion of including the people as members and the chairman of the Board as made by Shri Yadvendra ji. He has suggested that three MPs, some Government employees associated with agriculture and irrigation departments and some central Government officers should be included in the Board. I would like to say that this should be made more comprehensive and involvement of the farmers in fixing the prices be sought. This is very important. The membership of all the farmers' organisations concerned with the production of sugarcane, groundnut, paddy, wheat, jute or cotton should be ensured in the Board irrespective of the party affiliation or a province.

The Board should be constituted by them. Then and only then can solid steps be taken in the direction of providing reasonable prices to the farmers.

At present the situation is when the new crop is ready for harvesting the farmer of the village who produces this crop has no food grains left for his own house. It is true that the farmer has to meet his requirements with the crops that come to his place whether it is sugarcane, paddy or oilseed. He certainly sells the crop for his daughter's marriage, to cater to the other requirements of his family and due to other constraints and after a lapse of six to eight months he has to go to the market to buy the same foodgrain at double the price. This is the difficulty. I would like to state that we can overcome such a situation only when this board is constituted. This thing cannot be stopped when produce is with the farmer. There is only one way through which it can be withheld. The land institutions are in very bad condition and the administrative structure needs to be improved. If you want prosperity in the village, then goods should be available when required and when the farmer wishes to sell his produce he should be able to do so or keep it with him. It is essential to bring transformation in the prevailing administrative framework. This framework is a comprehensive one. In the 'Nyay Panchayats' the minimum number of Sabhas is five and the maximum is ten. In these Gram Sabhas at village level there are ten to fourteen Government employees. Among these employees are Lekhpal, Amin, (Revenue officials), Krishi Amin, Gram Sewak, Panchayat Secretary, Tubewell operator, Women Health Assistants etc. I understand that their number is somewhere between ten to fourteen. The administrative structure is within the administrative system and as I have said there are ten Gram Sabhas. There is one Gram Sewak, one Panchayat Secretary and one Lekhapal (Patwari) for one Nyay Panchayat and an Amin

who covers the entire Panchayat. If a complaint is made and investigation process starts by B.D.O. for remaining absent on any day, he can make a number of excuses. If he is issued a Show Cause Notice as to why he was not present in the village, the Gram Sewak gets a letter written by some other village Pradhan to the effect that he was in his village on that day. What I want to say is that the administrative structure has become very weak and nobody takes interest in work. They have become shirkers. Administrative machinery is not able to catch them and therefore, in such a situation how can the villages develop. I want modulations to take place in this. One person should be deputed for one Gram Sabha because none of the work there is of a technical nature for which a long training is required. Ten to fifteen days training is enough for the said work. The work of an accountant can be learnt in barely five days as it involves making necessary entries in the account books and *Khasra*. In this manner work pertaining to health can be learnt in five days and work relating to the functioning of Gram Sabha can be learnt in five to seven days time. There is no necessity to learn the job of Gram Panchayat because most of the said posts are filled by the sons of farmers. If they are entrusted with the responsibility of one Gram Sabha and if one person is deputed for one Gram Sabha and after categorisation in A or B and further the same person should be given the responsibility of store and a house should be built for him. The village farmers who produces food grains, molasses or sugar cane keeps his produce in the store and he will earn profit only when his produce is sold at reasonable rates. Bulky commodities like cement, iron and items of everyday use belonging to the farmers should be stored so that the farmer can get these things from there and sell his produce at fair price. If such an arrangement is made I think many qualitative changes can be brought forth, villages can be reformed and farmers can be saved from the clutches of exploitation.

[Sh. Ram Lal Rahi]

The Grains Board that you have referred to is something of national level because it has to be ascertain as to where wheat is to be sent which are the States facing shortage of rice and where rice is to be sent. For this purpose a Grains Board is necessary. These items should be purchased at good rates and should be sold without earning much profits. You are procuring wheat and rice from the farmers at a very low price and selling the same to the consumers at a profit of 30 to 40 per cent. It is a matter of great shame, when things would be sold at profitable rates by the Government or by Government owned shops then why shall the shopkeeper not make huge profits and who will prevent him? Today the prices have gone sky high, what is its cause? The cause is this that who can stop it? You have increased the price of sugar and as a result the producers of khandsari and Sulphur have also increased the prices of their produce because they know there is no one to check them. If you had not increased the sugar price and exercised control over the goods produced by your cooperative mills, the prices would have not risen but you could not control them. I feel that in case you do not impose any control on price rise then this govt. that was formed on 2nd Dec 1989 will see that by 2nd December 1990 the prices of all commodities concerning the farmers will keep on increasing because you have no plans to curb price rise. This is the biggest Problem. It should not be said, it is not a criticism but the fact is that they are all preoccupied with their individual problems.

Shri Yadvendra Dattji has brought this bill and he is helping the government but they are entangled in their own problems, they have encouraged caste war, violence, people are fighting on the streets. The struggle to save the chair is on.

Madam Chairperson, if they keep on fighting then who will control the

prices? As such my submission is that the government should be alert, If it cannot do anything then it should take administrative machinery in its grip so that prices can be controlled and shall give a serious thought to the alternatives or the legislative measures which are suggested in this House and bring such a transformation so that it is able to bring prosperity in the villages, and it will be ensured that the people in the villages are not exploited, their poverty is not exploited and they can get proper price. This is only what I want to say and with this I support this bill that this Board should certainly be set up but not at the centre level but at the State level so that the govt. makes efforts and as our hon. member Sh. Yadavendraji has suggested that these farmers, labour organizations, consumer and producer's organizations.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken on it. Please finish now.

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: This is my suggestion with these words I finish my speech.

416
SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDEY (Deoria): Madam Chairperson, the proposal put forth by Shri Yadvendra Dutt, undoubtedly looks very appealing and it should be implemented. On this earth there are, several such things which the government intends to do and they should be done in favour of the poor but we should unitedly give a thought to the practical difficulties that come in the way and see for ourselves whether we will be capable of doing it or not. It is true that no attention was paid to agriculture till the third Five Year Plan irrespective of the government that was in power. The consequence of this is that all the people attached to agriculture whether they are workers, landless labourers, their condition is pathetic. As a result food grains were to be imported from abroad. You may be remembering that most of the Red wheat received by the villages under PL 480 used to be rotten. And all of us were compelled to consume it. It was only after the

fourth five year plan that we rectified our mistake and started paying more attention towards agriculture but despite this we have not been successful in producing more than two and half times or threefold of what we were producing although the eighth Five year plan is soon going to start; Whereas countries like China and Japan are producing foodgrains many times more than what we are producing. The cultivator who produces crops is not given the adequate price of his produce. This time the government has fixed the price of wheat at Rs. 215 per quintal but if we go to the village market we can find wheat being sold at the rate of Rs. 180-185 per quintal. As such, the statement made by Yadvendraji is correct at its place but the biggest obstacle is this that when we take the levied wheat and procure the same from the villages, the cost of that wheat is increased by Rs. 32-33 per quintal in all the centres run by government.

You can well imagine the burden that we will have to endure if this procurement centre is maintained for barely one year because we supply wheat to the army personnel as also the government employees. Thereafter, we should have to give a careful thought to this fact, whether anyone will be able to purchase this costly wheat. Therefore we shall not be in a position to run our procurement centres for the entire year and Shri Dubey is well aware of this difficulty. Madam, we have taken a vow to eradicate poverty from the country and the slogans raised by the hon. members of this august House sitting there regarding removal of poverty, I may tell you four years back 47 per cent of our population was living below the poverty line and as per today's statistics the said percentage has decreased to 33.7 or 34.7 per cent. In this House itself I had asked the Prime Minister whether he was aware of this fact that in our country there are many such people who have certainly crossed the poverty line but on

account of not getting the second and third doze of subsistence amount which they are supposed to get, have once again come below the poverty line and as a result the percentage of people living below the poverty line has once again become 47 per cent even after a lapse of four years. This implies that 5-6 percent people who had come above the poverty line have once again receded to the previous position. We should pay attention towards the per capita income of our country and assess the income of each family. In this country the population is increasing by one crore and 20 lakh people annually. Our requirements are simultaneously increasing day by day. Our families are disintegrating. The joint family system is becoming obsolete. Consequently our lands are being further divided into small pieces and owing to it our production is also decreasing. In these circumstances if a large percentage of our population is occupied in agriculture then the first principle of economics shows that dependence of more and more people on agriculture implies that the country is heading towards poverty at a rapid pace. Yet no change has taken place in poverty position of this country. The benefits of all the plans beginning from the first to the eighth which we have implemented and framed so far, have gone to the newly emerged class of this country. The poor, the farmers, Harijans, Adivasis, Backward classes and economically Backward classes of this country have not been able to get the benefits of these plans. The benefits went only to those big landowners who had the capital, who were capable of making use of mechanized farming, intensive cultivation. The question before us today is whether, by adopting the methods suggested by hon. Yadvendraji, we shall be able to eradicate the poverty of those people about whose welfare we are thinking, whose poverty we want to remove.

The farmers of this country do not get remunerative price of their

[Sh. Rajmangal Pandey]

produce. For the irrigation, our farmers are still dependent on the grace of rain god. We have only 11% assured irrigation and about 17-18 per cent unassured irrigation potential. A total of 28-30 per cent of cultivated land is under irrigation in this country. We do not know how long it will take and how much efforts Government will have to make to improve the economic condition of the people of this country where 72 per cent of cultivated land is still unirrigated and dependents on the grace of rain god. It all will depend on our mutual co-operation and nature of planning. There are so many provisions in the Bill like setting up of a Grain Boards, etc. There are no two opinions about setting up such a Board because farmers get very low price for their produce during lean period. For example, the support price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 215, but the farmers get Rs. 180 to 190 only for the same at several places in Uttar Pradesh. Now question is that all the grains such as wheat, rice, pulses and all other cereals should come under the purview of the proposed Board.

The second question is, if we cannot continue the procurement centres for the whole year, then, through co-operatives, some warehouses and cold storages must be constructed in all the villages. But this will also need funds. Wherefrom shall we bring money because our resources are limited. We are not able to expand the railway and road network, power potential in the country because of resource constraint. We need steel in greater quantity. There is 40 to 50 per cent price rise in steel within every three to four years. The country is experiencing the shortage of iron. We are not getting coal according to our needs. Many of our Thermal Power Stations remain closed due to non-availability of coal. Keeping in view all these circumstances, we will have to be practical about the proposals incorporated in the Bill though they may help us in removing the poverty. As just now Shri Ram Lal

Rahi has rightly said, the condition of farmers of this country will not improve unless we provide some base whereunder whatever they produce....

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): Madam, for the last one and a half hours, I have tried to stand between the police and the boys. I am not making any statement on the merits of this or that. But the fact remains that if the students have announced that they are going to gherao Parliament, the police must make arrangements. I am not going into the merits of that. But right now when I was standing there and appealing to the boys to go back and also appealing to the police not to indulge in any lathi charge, the police ordered lathi charge in front of my eyes. They threw two tear-gas canisters in front of my eyes. Now, what is going on here and what are we discussing here? Since 2.10 P.M. to 3.45 P.M., I have been standing outside Parliament House between the police on the one side and the boys on the other side. They want to know, when is Parliament going to discuss Mandal Commission's Report.

I will tell you their demands.....
(Interruptions).

I am not going into the merits of the issue. I am not saying anything on merits.

All I am saying that they want to know when Parliament will discuss it. They thought that today, Parliament is discussing it. I said: "Who gave you this idea." They said: "We were told that Parliament is discussing it today." I said: "No, it is not in the List of Business, today." They said: "When is Parliament going to discuss it?" So, this is going on. Of course my car was stopped, that is a different matter. I left my car there and I came finally here. For the last one and a half hours, I have been trying to stop the police and the boys. (Interruptions) I am not saying anything on merits. Please understand what I am saying. All I am saying

is, do something for Heaven's sake to tell the boys that the matter will be discussed in Parliament. Do something. But do not lathi charge the boys. Do not throw tear-gas at them. This is going on right now. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Chidambaramji, you have made your point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Sitamarhi): It was discussed before lunch when Mr. Chidambaram you were not present in the House.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: All I want you, Madam, is to convey to Government that this cannot go on. This will continue on Monday. So, let us come to some understanding as to when we will discuss it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are on record. The Government will think over. Let us now proceed with the business.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI K. C. TYAGI (Hapur): Madam Chairperson, I want to say that the police are not performing their duties properly. What Shri Chidambaram is saying is not correct. The M.Ps are being abused and a few people are spoiling the atmosphere of the country.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I appeal to all hon. Members with folded hands that all your points are on record. Please, do not go into it now. We hope that the Government and the Business Advisory Committee will take it into consideration. Kindly, let us continue the discussion.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. TYAGI: They are accusing the Members of Parliament.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not accusing anyone anything. What are you talking? I am not accusing the Government. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have not taken note of any such thing. Mr. Pandey, you may continue your speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDEY: Madam Chairperson, the disproportions between the price of the produce, the farmers sell and the cost of inputs they purchase, is the greatest problem that they face today. They have to sell their produce at cheap rates either owing to their own circumstances, or general fall in the market prices. They have to purchase the goods like iron, cement, bamboo, timber etc. prices of which have been raised three to four times during the last three-four years. The price of bricks was rupee one hundred fifty to two hundreds per thousand three-four years ago, but now it is being sold at rupees one thousand per thousand. In these circumstances you have to see how you can improve farmers' life. He sells his wheat at rupees 180 to 190 per quintal and he has to purchase bricks at rupees one thousand per thousand pieces. Now the rate of iron-rods is rupees 1200 per quintal against rupees 600 three years back. Cement is not available even on Rs. 105 per bag. Then, how can we improve his condition. In these adverse circumstances, some way out will have to be found out. Any Government, which talks of democratic values and of giving protection to the farmers, will have to think something for those people. How can we improve the lot of the poor and of those farmers who have not seen any change in their lives?

If the farmers do not get remunerative prices on their produce and have to pay high prices for purchasing

[Sh. Rajmangal Pandey]

their requirements, this would break their backbone. The breaking of joint families and the agricultural units and the hike in prices of animals created a situation that persons procuring tractors on rent have to bear high cost on filling and weeding operations which push up the cost of production whereas the return is not remunerative. Though I wish to support resolution moved by Shri Yadvendraji, I cannot deny the fact that we have to think over practical difficulties. Though it is not possible today but Government would have to launch a timely programme to show that it really thinks about farmers' problems and interests and is concerned about their welfare. We should overcome the practical difficulties in time. In every village or in a big village having a population of four to five thousands, a ware-house, a cold storage and a panchayat should be provided to enable the farmers to store their agricultural produce safely and not sell it at throw away prices. The farmer should be capable of storing his produce and selling it at remunerative prices at right time. Today, tomatoes are being sold at Rs. 20 per kg. in Delhi, while there was a time when tomatoes are available even at the rate of Re. 1 or 50 paise per kg. Thus, we see that within a period of four months, the price has gone up twenty times. Therefore, I welcome this well-meaning resolution whole heartedly. A time-bound programme should be implemented for setting up Grain Board in every district with our representatives on it. The Hon. Minister should give some assurance in this regard. Mr. Dubey should also think something about the practical difficulties which create problems in the daily life of farmers. Will they be overcome just by adopting the resolution? I think that the persons like him who are farmers as well as erstwhile landlords and princes should devise a way keeping in view the problems faced by farmers. It is not a matter of controversy that it is a national issue and there should be a national consensus on it. We should discuss the ways

and means and prepare a time-bound programme which should go a long way in ensuring welfare and the economic prosperity of the farmers. The practical difficulties may be solved but that may take time. It may be possible that we can think in more practical terms after 10-15 years. It may take time to solve our present crisis. Due to resource constraints we are not able to go in for railway expansion, electricity generation and road construction which are necessary for raising the living standard of the people. With these words, I would like to thank him for bringing a well-intentioned resolution which seeks to abolish poverty. I would like to say that considering the Government's difficulties, we all should find out some new way on this issue and not crush it.

424
SHRI PREM PRADEEP

(Nawada): Hon. Madam Chairperson, it is a serious issue not only for the farmers but for the entire nation. It is a fact that the farmers including the agricultural labourers comprise 80% of the total national population. If Government undertakes the procurement of agricultural produce and its distribution among the consumers at fair prices, it will benefit the farmers and the consumers also. The hon. members who spoke before me also admitted that the middlemen and big hoarders buy the produce from the farmers the moment they bring it to their homes. They bring down the prices to purchase it from the farmers at cheap rates and later on, they increase the prices manifold and sell it to the consumers which includes the small farmers and the agricultural labourers also.

By setting up such a Board, the difficulties in making foodgrains available to the consumers at fair prices and providing remunerative prices to the farmers would be overcome. We should see to it that the farmers get remunerative prices for their produce. The farmers engaged in cultivation face a lot of problems. In case of no rains, their crops wither in the fields and in case of floods or excessive

rain, their crops are washed away. In such times, the prices of foodgrains soar up.

Just now, one of our friends was telling that the Tomatoes are being sold at Rs. 20 per kg. while there comes a time when its price is rupee one or 50 or 25 paise per kg. You should think out a way which may enable the farmer to get remunerative price for their produce. The farmers need money at the time of marriage of their daughters or at the death of their parents, to perform some rituals. They still believe in ancient rituals for which they need money and sell their produce at very cheap rates. Again, when he falls in debt trap, then too, he is forced to sell his produce at cheap rates. I would like to give a suggestion to stop all this. The farmers should be given money against their foodgrains so that they are not forced to distress selling in case of need of money. You should give him the needed money by keeping his products as security or guarantee through a board. This will protect him as well as his product.

Moreover, the problems of the people of the country including those of the farmers would have to be considered from all angles. But as I have stated earlier how its cost price will be calculated. There are number of pesticides whose prices have gone up. In my area pesticides are used in large quantities. Our area occupies a significant place in vegetable production in the country. The farmers are not getting the price of their produce in proportion to what they spend on saving their crops. The price of fertilizer is going up rapidly. Unless the farmer puts manure and irrigates his field he cannot get good yield. Only remunerative price can ensure good production and in case of enhanced production we will also be in a position to disburse the foodgrain at fair price in times of natural calamities like flood or drought. Such a step is correct and it should be taken. There is a proposal that a Board should be set

up by the centre. It is good proposal. We have to ensure that its benefits trickle down to the poor farmer community and it should be examined, whether such Boards can be set up at state level, district level, block level or at the village level so as farmers can be given remunerative price for their produce by providing storage facilities. There is a vast difference between the cost of production of agricultural produce and the goods produced in a factory whether the goods include manure, agricultural implements and tractors etc. The factory produce can never go waste. I am sure about this, but the agriculture produce is liable to damage and every step is risky. The farmer is under a constant threat of loss and he falls an easy prey to it. In a country where farmers constitute 80 per cent of the population and lead a miserable poverty stricken life, we should look into their problems and the reasons for their poverty. We cannot achieve the country's development in the real sense of the word unless agriculture and farming are developed and the farmers are given remunerative prices for their produce. It is a matter of gratitude, that the National Front Government has assured the farmers that 45 per cent of the Budget money would be allocated for agriculture. If this is done then our country which is predominantly a rural country, as number of cities in the country can be counted on finger-tips only, will benefit a lot. The development of our villages means the development of all those engaged in various economic activities such as agriculture, carpentry, handicrafts and allied activities etc. it will ultimately mean the overall development of the country. If we want to limit our development efforts to handful of people, then the benefits thereof will naturally go to Tatas, Birlas, Dalmias and Singhanias etc.—but we wish that the Board should be constituted and as proposed there should be three Members of Parliament in it but what type of people should these Members be? I mean to say that they should possess some knowledge about farming, they should be well versed in agriculture. If you

[Sh. Prem Pradeep]

make people, who have no first hand knowledge of the field the Members of the Board, how will they be able to fix the prices. I would also like to say that the factory owner fixes the prices of different items produced in his factory but farmer is not entitled to fix the prices of his produce. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. I would like to tell him to see to it that the farmer's representation is sought while fixing the prices of the produce. Many suggestions have already been rendered with regard to the constitution of the Board and the time allotted to me is also about to expire. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving time to put forth my point of view.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on the Grains Board Bill just now introduced by the Hon. Member. Shri Yadvendra Datt.

This Bill should have come from the Government itself, but our Hon. Member has tried to protect the farmer's interests by bringing this Bill before the House. Before I express my views on it, I would like to say that a Corporation had already been constituted by the Government the Food Corporation of India and this Corporation too was constituted with the same objective and it received approbation in this House itself. Its objective was to save the farmers from exploitation of traders community but ultimately what was the outcome? The consequential effect of its formation was that a handful of people, the FCI officers and other employees and the middlemen amassed crores of rupees and the farmer for whom this corporation came into being remained as poor as he was before. Whether you constitute a Board or a Corporation, it hardly makes any difference, because the welfare of the farmer actually depends upon the wish of the Government. The Government will think about the farmer and take steps for his welfare only if it is

really concerned for and in favour of the farmers. You will have to prove your claim that you are working for safeguarding the interests of the farmers by telling us what you have done for them. A single party Government ruled the country for so many years since independence and there has nowhere in the world been such a strong Government of one and the same party, if we look into the history of democratic states. What did the Government do for the farmers even after remaining in power for so long. Keeping this fact in view, there is need to constitute this Board.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I belong to a farmer's family. Our family is dependent on agriculture because they have no other occupation at hand. Politics is our another vocation and this is a separate thing but a farmer who does farming knows everything about it. Farming has become more expensive now-a-days. Modern agricultural techniques are applied and now the more we invest in it, the more money we can generate. The old fashioned farming is gone where in the seedlings were sown and left to grow into plants. Take an ox, for example, whose price has increased fourfold now as compared to that of a decade ago. The tractor that was sold for Rupees fifty thousand earlier costs Rupees one and a half lakh now. The price of accessories like the chemicals, the fertilizers and medicines etc. have also undergone a hike and fake material is also being supplied. I would like to remind the House that four years back such a fertilizer was distributed in Bihar by which the plants got scorched and the Government had to pay the compensation therefor. This fertilizer was supplied by Shri Tapeswar Singh, the then Chairman. Thus, there were many congress big guns in it. I do not say this with the aim of casting aspersions on any person but it is imperative to talk about the farmers' interests. You may today in the interest of the farmers, fix the price of grains at Rs. 500-600 per quintal but as a consequence thereof the poor sections will be affected badly. Therefore, we shall have to find

a way out whereby remunerative prices are given to the farmers and alongwith the consumers are not adversely affected too.

The price of the factory produce is decided and fixed by its owner but the price of the agricultural produce is fixed by the traders or the Government. We do not favour the grains to be sold at Rs. 500 per quintal so that the consumers get affected but wish that such remunerative prices be given that leave no adverse effect either upon the consumer or the farmer. But you will not do it, you do not have the required will. The grain is being sold at a price less than that fixed by the Government itself. In such case, there is no use of fixing remunerative prices for the farmers. Just now, our Hon. Member said that the Government have fixed Rs. 200 per quintal as the price for wheat whereas wheat was sold at Rs. 180 per quintal in the open market. Under such circumstances, what is the use of fixing the support prices? Thus, you have not succeed earlier too, then how can it be guaranteed that things will be put right after the formation of the Board.

That is why I submitted, first have the right intention then only you will be able to accept this Board and work properly. The price of agricultural produce should be fixed up by the Board. Today the task of price fixation is being done by I.A.S. officers who claim that they are well conversant in the field of agriculture but their knowledge is somewhat like the knowledge of those four scholars who wanted to a cross river and who had assessed the depth of the river by taking out the average of the depth of river which was 3 feet, 4 feet and 6 feet at different places and the result was they all got drowned. Likewise in agriculture the formula of average cannot be applied. The price should be fixed up by the Board and it should involve the representatives of farmers, who use modern techniques of cultivation, officers and the consumers, who

consume foodgrains. It is true that the Chairman of this Board will be selected by you but our objective will only be achieved when the farmers will get fair and remunerative price for their produce. The position of the farmer is not like that of a trader. If a trader becomes bankrupt he gets duly compensated because he had insured his property. For example if a jeep is purchased and insured and thereafter if it is hit deliberately against something a claim of fifty thousand rupees can be filed with the insurance company. It proves how courageous our farmer is.

Three years back my constituency was ruined badly by a devastating flood. The standing crops got damaged by the flood. The Minister of Bihar Government and some legislators belonging to congress party made an aerial survey. The loss has not so far been compensated. Is this Government a pro farmer Government? Last year there was a drought and this year paddy crop of the entire area is ruined. We want that the Board should not only be entrusted with the job of procuring the foodgrains and fixing the price of the produce, but it should also ensure that where a farmer's crop gets destroyed due to such reasons his loss is compensated through a Crop Insurance Scheme. Then only the farmers can get relief. Today the farmer is in distress. The farmer grows crops and if the yield is good you also claim that you have surplus foodgrains. If such a situation starts developing in the country as it was six years back then I would ask the government not to retreat to that situation. Our economic policy is based on agriculture. India is predominantly an agricultural country. It sounds excellent when such a statement is made but the irony is that it is not considered primarily as an agricultural land. Had it been so the government would have definitely paid more attention towards the farmers. During the last 42 years the government did not pay adequate attention towards them but this government should pay more attention to them. Even this Government is not paying any special attention towards the farmers. I will

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh]

not take much time of the House. The Crop Insurance Scheme should be introduced. This is my request to the Government. In order to help and compensate the farmers the Govt. should conduct a survey of those areas where crops have been destroyed and where Kharif crops can also not be sown. The Government should compensate them by paying off their cost of production. I have gone through the entire constituency of mine and have found that farmers are suffering a lot. They have grown up daughters who have crossed the age of 22 or 24 years whom they want to marry off but they are not in a position to settle their marriage their sons are not able to continue with their studies so one can imagine their plight.

While supporting the proposal for setting up of the Board I request the Govt. 'if it is really a profarmer Govt. it should accept the contents of this Bill brought by the Hon. Member and Government should bring an official Bill incorporating the provisions of this Bill.

16.20 Hrs. [MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER
in the Chair]

[English] 231

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, I am supporting the Bill. The Grains Board is necessary in order to protect the farmers. All of us are aware that our country is an agricultural country and the farmers are the backbone of our nation. The farmers in our country are suffering a lot because they are not at all getting remunerative prices. Nowadays, farming is not a profitable occupation because the cost of production is very high. By seeing the cost of production, people are now shifting from their primary occupation to other occupations. Moreover, the middlemen are exploiting the poor farmers. As rightly pointed out in the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the trading community, during the

time of harvest, are exploiting the farmers like anything and the farmers are not at all getting remunerative prices. In order to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers and also to ensure the availability of foodgrains to the consumers, this type of a Board has to be constituted.

To save the farmers from the clutches of the trading community as well as the middlemen, this Board will help a lot. In order to protect the farmers, this Board is highly necessary. As clearly explained in the primary objectives of the Bill, the foodgrains pricing policy should be three-fold—fixation of minimum support price, procurement of grains by the Government, and fixed issue price for the consumers.

In Kerala, the Government is procuring paddy after its harvest, from the farmers, but they are not at all getting enough price. The Government is not at all giving remunerative prices to the farmers. As far as paddy cultivation is concerned, the farmers, or those who are engaged in its cultivation, are suffering a lot. As a result of that, because the cost of cultivation is very high, they are now shifting from paddy cultivation to other occupations.

As regards irrigation facilities, the farmers are not at all getting enough irrigation facilities. In certain areas, dewatering is very necessary for the cultivation. Moreover, the farmers are the mercy of the vagaries of the monsoon. Whether the monsoon is very low or whether floods are there, in both the situations the farmers are suffering miserably. So, crop insurance is highly necessary. Without crop insurance we will not be able to help the farmers.

The Bill, very clearly points out the representation of various sections of our society—the Members of Parliament, the Members of the Legislatures and others. In addition to that, I want to point out one important thing that more representation to the officials is not necessary. That is my feeling. It is mentioned in the Bill

that four members will be appointed by the Central Government from amongst the farmers. This number has to be increased. Total six members must be there and three must be from amongst the marginal farmers, otherwise all the big farmers will be included. In order to save the marginal farmers, we have to increase the representation of the farmers and three out of six must be from amongst the marginal farmers. Representation to agricultural labourers is also necessary because those who are working in the fields also must be represented on the Board so that there will be fruitful discussion and they can also raise their points in the Board itself.

I do not want to take much time of the House. This Board is very much necessary to protect the farmers and also to save the farmers from being exploited by the trading community, the middlemen.

[Translation]

433

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH (Lucknow): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the attendance in the House reveals the concern of the House for the farmers. In the afternoon, many members expressed their concern for the poor and on the issue of reservation, Yadvendra Dattji is called Raja Sahab in our area.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: It is not a sin to be a Raja.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I am not saying that it is a sin. It is my good fortune that I had represented Jaunpur constituency in the Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha and Raja Sahib was among the voters. Raja Sahib himself is a farmer and he has furthered the cause of the farmers in this House and for this the credit goes to him. But all those who make tall claims that they are the sons of farmers could not take any initiative in moving the Bill. For this, I congratulate Raja Sahib. Today the word Raja Sahib is no longer pronounced with contempt but with respect.

First of all I would like to emphasise on this point that unless the process of land reform is rightly implemented, it is futile to talk about eradication of poverty and cry for the cause of the poor. This Government has shown a ray of hope by amending the ninth Schedule of the constitution although I do not consider this move to be a revolutionary one and for this you may pardon me but at least there is a ray of hope that the issue of land reform is being taken seriously. I also want to underline this fact that the entire land is owned by those who are not the tiller of the land. For example, the land is on my name and I happen to be a member of parliament or principal of a college and have diverse professions but in the record with Lekhpal land is shown against my name and in that case I should not have any political and constitutional right on the ownership of that land. This should be the basic principle and then only we can achieve our objective. The hon. Prime Minister has several times given this assurance that he is shortly going to announce an agricultural policy on the lines of industrial policy resolution. It is a long awaited demand. The sooner it is done the better.

The farmer is called the backbone of the economy. This has become an idiom and idioms are used only in speeches and they have no importance in implementation. As such, since we call farmers the backbone of our economy we will have to consider the entire issue from the view point of the farmers. Many of our colleagues have expressed their views in this regard and without reiterating the same I would like to put it in my own words that the owner of a factory has full right to determine the price of his produce and dictate his own terms but it is an irony that the farmer can neither dictate the terms, nor he can fix the price of his produce. The dictate comes from elsewhere and he is compelled to resort to distress sale. This is very unfortunate that in this basically agricultural country, even after 43 years of independence,

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

the farmer has to take recourse to distress sale because he has no storage capacity, no housing facilities to hold back his produce. So, he has to sell his produce. When he brings his produce to his home particularly in the 'rabi' season, he has to fulfil many obligations like daughter's marriage, sons tilak, last rites of old ones, payment of land revenue and other dues because at the end of financial year, vigorous campaigns are launched to recover dues. Today in the morning the question of recovery of income tax dues worth about six thousand crores of rupees was being debated. In the case of dues to be recovered from the farmer, his bullocks will be auctioned if he fails to pay the dues and he will be put behind the bars, whereas in case of income tax dues, one many bring stay order either from the High Courts or from the Supreme Court. That is why the farmer has to resort to distress sale either through brokers or traders or the money lenders or persons possessing cold-storage or any other agency.

I listened to the mover of the bill when he was speaking thereon. He underlined the fact that Food Corporation of India should construct airtight wells to store foodgrains which is an ancient method and was appreciated by Rajaji. This method does not need mixing of insecticides which caused two hundred deaths during rains. We have seen that an air-strip constructed near Naini station of Allahabad during second world war is covered by plastic rags and millions of tonnes of grains are stored there which becomes unfit for human consumption.

Sir, the inputs like labour, water for the irrigation, fertilizers insecticides are available to farmers at higher prices. Therefore, the rate the farmer gets out of distress sale is not remunerative. His labour is not rewarded and his investments is not rightly evaluated. The important part of this bill is ensuring remunerative

prices. The term 'support price' appears to have been coined by the bureaucrats. Our friend Shri Harish Rawat has always been saying sarcastically that:

[English]

Our kisans are not prepared to rest on crutches. The Government might resort to crutches, but not the proud kisans of the country.

[Translation]

The very term 'support price' hurts my feeling because I also belong to a kisan family. That is why I say that some organisation should be formed which may ensure remunerative price to the farmers. As one of our communist friends was saying, he is not present in the House, we have to protect the interest of consumers also and this Bill also makes a mention of it. I also support with all the force at my command the suggestion of Raja Sahib for taking over the wholesale trade of foodgrains and appeal to the House to do the same. I shall go a step further. Many of my relatives grow potatoes in bulk. But they never get more than Rs. 100 per quintal. I am telling you the round figure for illustration and otherwise they get a maximum of 70 to 80 rupee per quintal. Potato is sold at rupees 40 to 50 per quintal when there is glut in Farrukhabad as the wagons for supplying it outside are not available. Badaun and Bareilly have a different story. I am the representative of Lucknow. There is a large posh colony namely Hazaratganj, as Shri Harish Rawat knows, there the Mem sahebs come in motor cars to purchase Potato-chips. They purchase it at the rate of rupees 1400 per quintal. What is special in it except that chips are contained in a polythene bag. We do not need an industry or the machines costing crores of rupees to prepare chips. We talk of encouraging rural industries and of providing more employment opportunities. So, if a small machine is installed in the house to slice chips out of potato and to fill the same in polythene bags, the

farmers will get rupees 1400 instead of rupees 100 they get for their potato today. In this way fried potato chips with tea will be served to the people like you and at the same time the farmers will also get rupees 1400 as the price for their potato. Now the question arises as to where does this sum of Rs. 1300 go? Who pockets this money? I am just giving only one example but in fact the position in respect of entire agricultural produce is the same. I have given the example of potato in the House just to highlight this position. The day these 1300 rupees go to the farmer his condition will improve automatically and the discord like reservation etc. will end as all the unemployed hands will get jobs. The problems of the nation cannot be solved just by calculating arithmetical percentage in the computers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is very fine, we would like to hear more from you.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: But the time as well as the resource constraints are there. All the members are worried on this account.

[English]

Time constraint is not there during the 'Zero Hour'. But when you are in the Chair, there is constraint of time.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I was saying another thing. What will be the form of the Board, how much money will be needed, who will work there and what will be the fate of FCI, if such a Board is to be constituted.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I want to conclude with that. You have raised a very pertinent question in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Another question connected therewith that will arise is as to whether the State Government will procure it or the Central Government, if the Central Government does it, what will be the relations between the Board and State Governments.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: My submission is that the scope of the Bill introduced by Raja Saheb in the House is limited. I just hinted towards the much promised agricultural policy of the Prime Minister. We expect and hope that agricultural policy will be such as provides for purchase of agricultural products, take-over of whole-sale trade of foodgrains, arrangement for storage-facilities, etc.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have already made a submission for widening the scope of foodgrains. For that I have given the example of potato. It is all about the 'Scope of the Bill'. Now we come to the organisational structure. As you have suggested there should be a 13-member Board at the centre consisting of 3 members from the Parliament and some official. These are the details which can be worked out. But I agree with the suggestion that in such a large country where geo-physical conditions differ, an autonomous full-fledged Board should be constituted and all kinds of agricultural produce should be brought under it because we shall say something, the people living in hill area, will say another thing, the people who grow apples will say yet another thing. The people of Himachal say that after all apples also are grown by the farmers and not by the merchants. So, it is also an agricultural produce. Autonomy is still a mirage in this country. Autonomy should be in its real meaning in which representatives of growers, consumers and producers and agricultural experts should be included. There should be grading. A number of Boards at different levels should be set up. One such Board should be in Delhi to decide the policy at national level, one in each States to decide the policy at State-level and further below down there should be one each at the district and

[Sh. Mandhata Singh]

the block levels. Only this way shall we be able to increase production, remove poverty, ensure right to work. All the problems of this country will be solved if we are able to locate Rs. 1300, that is, the difference between the sale price of potato of Rs. 100 and Rs. 1400. *(Interruptions)* What will happen to the cotton produce? Geographically, the jute and cotton producers from Berar, Central Province are raising the issue of their respective crops.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In Maharashtra, the entire cotton is procured by the State Government.

SHRI MANDHATA SINGH: I would like to suggest that it should be named as "Wholesale Take Over Of Trade In Agricultural Products". The details like the prices of tomatoes of Rs. 20 per kg. and 50 paise per kg. can be easily worked out. Here we are talking about policies.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the House is grateful to Raja Sahib for he has given one more chance to discuss this issue through his initiative. I hope that all these suggestions would be incorporated in agricultural policy as the senior Ministers and important personalities like Sharadji, Nitishji and the incharge of Programme Implementation are also sitting here. I would like to submit that you would be unable to guarantee anything like 'Right to work' without taking care of such issue.

Hon. Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me a chance to speak and listening me patiently.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, not patiently, we have listened to you affectionately and reverentially.

939
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for having given me a chance to speak on this Bill. I am thankful to Shri Yadvendra Dattji also as the Bill introduced by him has given us one more chance

to discuss about farmers, agricultural policy and also about their produce. This is not a comprehensive Bill and may lack in some aspects, since it is a Private Members' Bill. Therefore it is the responsibility of the Government to introduce a comprehensive Bill.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, the agricultural insurance has been completely stopped. Besides, the proposed crop insurance is also not in sight. The farmer is regularly trapped like anything due to one or other natural calamity like flood or famine or drought. As far as prices are concerned, the Government wants to give minimum wages to agricultural labourers as per those recommended in the Hanumantha Rao Committee Report. But the traders give lower wages to them. Again, when it comes to paying the wages, the labour done by the family members of the farmers is not taken into account. These are the basic issues. The Grain Board is alright. But perishable goods and the food-grains demand entirely different treatment. We have established Pepsi Cola in Punjab. But who are the beneficiaries? The employment guarantee scheme of Maharashtra was mentioned just now. The land reforms programme is also being implemented there under the auspices of above mentioned scheme. The procurement work of Maharashtra Government is sometimes obstructed by RBI. In this connection, I would like to request the Minister that an extension of three years should be granted for the pending procurement to Maharashtra Government as it has demanded ten years' extension. There should be a uniform and easy system which may cause no loss to farmers and farm labourers. All of us want transfer of technology, particularly high technology suited for agriculture. Prasadji has rightly observed that our agriculture has become a capitalist agriculture meaning thereby that it costs very much. We do not think about it. Therefore, unless we minimise the input cost, it would be futile to increase the prices. The farmers would remain unsatisfied and inflation would go up. During the

famine, the farmers fail to produce even a single sack of grain. If irrigation facilities are there, the farmer can increase his production.

The Prime Minister has declared this decade as 'The Farmers, Decade'. But what would it be about? What kind of security, social and other, are you going to give him? He toils in farm day in and day out. His son also adopts the same profession. The condition of a small farmer is worse than that of a peon. Yesterday, Shri Chokka Raoji was asking about the area covered for vegetables. It is surprising that no one is monitoring the work of land reforms. The children living in cities get education but the children of farmers are forced to adopt their family's profession. A child of an industrialist may become industrialist but the children of farmers invariably fail to become doctor. We want that the farmer should be master of everything he produces. The profit should go to the farmers and labourers. Therefore, unless you change the system, it is meaningless to observe 'The Farmers' Decade'. Have you ever tried to ascertain the loss being incurred by FCI. Nobody bothers how much is going into the coffers of the officers there and how much actually is going to the farmers, and how much foodgrains are consumed by men and how much are eaten by rats. Only God knows how the work is going on there. Unless we think over all such issues, there would be no progress. So, we should have a policy in this regard.

There is a lot of talk about food processing and agro-processing. But what does it mean? What is its definition? In reality, you are trying to segregate the farmers from these things. Is it justified that industrialists should prepare the products from the raw material produced by the farmers? Why not you educate his children in such a way that they may compete with the city born children? They have no opportunity to read in villages. All the villages are without central, public or

English schools. The schools there remain open for just two hours instead of eight hours. After having studied upto seventh std. he fails to get admitted in an English-medium school because he is just ignorant of English alphabets. We should consider these basic facts.

I just mentioned about the input cost. Unless, the farmers are given to decide the prices of their agricultural produce, there is no chance to ameliorate their lot. The middlemen misappropriate the prize of the work done by the farmers. Only formulating of agricultural or industrial policy would not help. You would have to revise your industrial policy, itself. You are observing a 'Farmers' Decade'. Therefore you should formulate an agricultural policy which may help the simple farmers and should give industrial status to agriculture while framing industrial policy side by side. You should introduce a comprehensive Bill, after thinking over farmers' problems in a healthy way. With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time fixed for this Bill is upto 16.57 hrs. I think that the time is over. It can be given more time provided the discussion is strictly about the Bill. If you go on speaking on agriculture, it would become a separate topic. All of you can give your suggestions regarding the constitution of the Board. But if the speeches are on agriculture, the other Bills' time gets spent. And it may be that the other Bill is not taken up at all. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can give you as much time as you want if you are speaking on the Bill. If you are not speaking on the subject which is before us, then it becomes a little bit difficult. I have a long list of Members. I would request the Members to speak on the Bill and not on Agriculture. Agriculture is important. But we are discussing the Bill regarding Grains Board. Let us have your view on the Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (Sitamarhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many speakers have spoken before me ... (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just a minute. I think we have to extend the time. Shall we extend the time up to 5.30 pm?

SEVERAL HON'MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, agreed. We extend the time up to 5.30 p.m. for this Bill.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA (Bettiah): When will the next Bill be taken up?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is exactly what I was telling just now. I want to inform you that on the Bill itself, and if you are talking of a subject which is really not part of the Bill then the other Members' Bills suffer. Your Bill suffers. That is exactly what I was telling. I am requesting the hon. Members in the House to speak on the Bill.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: The next Bill should be taken up today itself.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will try.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: I was saying that when many of the speakers were delivering their speeches, you hinted them to confine themselves within the purview of the Bill and the perimeters of the Bill are restricted to the Board itself but I ask what are the reasons for the constitution of the Board. There can be no formation of the Board unless the reasons that impel us for that are explored and those impeding factors removed. Chaudhary Charan Singh was India's

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Other hon. Members have no two opinions about those reasons. How to remove them?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: Thus that book entitled as "Economic Nightmare of India" written by Chaudhary Charan Singh contains a chapter on how the farmers are exploited through trade and commerce of grains and when hon. Mandhata Singh was speaking on that, it was asked as to what fate will be that of the state F.C.I. Trade Corporation and other commercial institutions. Once the Board is formed?.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Will the procurement powers of the State Government come within the jurisdiction of its purview? What will happen to all of them?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: I am saying that one category of trades is that of the private tradesmen dealing in food grains, another is of these trader who are running the trade under the governments' control and thirdly Shri Yadendra Datt has now proposed the constitution of the Board. Two systems are open to our view but I would like to say that the Food Corporation of India is the most engaged body in the trade of farmers' produce and perhaps no private tradesman or businessman would have been doing more ruthless injustice to the farmers than the way and intensity with which the Food Corporation of India in its role as a middleman is looting the farmers on the one hand and the government on the other by devouring the amount of subsidy on foodgrains given in the name of farmers. I would only like to cite an example of its act of embezzlement with the help of this piece of paper lying with me. Rs. 710 crores in 1982-83, Rs. 835 crores in 1983-84 and Rs. 1100 crores in 1984-85 was the state aid alone paid to the Central Food Corporation by the government of India in the shape of subsidy. The F.C.I. procures wheat from the far-

mers, stores it in its godowns and sells it to the consumers and there is a difference of Rs. 50 and Rs. 40 per Quintal between the prices paid to the farmers and that paid by the consumers. My submission is that the Corporation buys from the farmer and sells to the consumer and in the process earns a profit of Rs. 40—50 and still it shows a loss. I have only given you the figures of three years upto 1984-85 that account for approximately Rs. 2500 crores, so, for government of India gave the subsidy of Rs. 2500 crores to the F.C.I. in order to make up its losses in addition to the profit it made with an additional consumers price surcharge of Rs. 50 per Quintal. We are the farmers, a clearcut policy should decide as to what should we be paid, we had raised a slogan during the socialistic movement, the movement led by Dr. Lohia that "Anaj ke daam ka khatna badhana aane seer ke ander ho". Be it a marketing Board, be it the government or be it the private tradesman who fixes the prices but there should not be more than an anna's price differential per seer of grains in between the period of one rotation of crops, that is, between March-April when we sell the wheat and October-November when we buy wheat. So, this is, in fact, the exploitation of farmers by the tradesmen. How to check it?

17.00 hrs.

Now that a Board will be constituted and it will start functioning but Choudhary Charan Singh, when he was the Finance Minister, had proposed that there should be a godown in every Panchayat where the farmers can store their grains and a branch of the bank should be opened in the area that should finance 80 per cent of the current market price of the farm-produce to the farmer. With that money the farmer would be able to meet his immediate farming expenses and thereafter can sell his grains at will when he gets a handsome price therefor. He can reimburse his bank loan with this money

and take the remaining amount home as is the practice with tradesmen and other industrialists. If this Board is constituted and managed and controlled at every panchayat level and its commerce of grains arranged with the construction of the godowns, then we might be saved from being plundered. What I mean to say is that unless the farmers themselves control the trade of their farm-produce, they are not going to be saved from being exploited even if you make any other alternative arrangements till then. You may constitute the Board, the F.C.I. or the institution that buys onions like the one in Maharashtra or any other organisation, the farmers' will continue to be exploited.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude by saying that there are three categories of farmers—one is that who owns palatial houses, the other category has a moderate standard of living having a roof over their heads and the third category is devoid of both. Its only asset is the plough. The people of first category are the I.A.S. and I.P.S. officers, the M.L.As., MPs., Birla and Tata whereas from this end to that, there are farmers and farmers alone..... (Interruptions) leave my case aside, you view me as a big landlord but what can I do? It is my misfortune.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are an M.P.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: I do not deny the fact that I am an M.P. But despite being an M.P. when Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav visits his home-village, he ploughs his fields with his own hands, something you do not do but others do for you (Interruptions) therefore, I say that those farmers living in mansions

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Who are the moderate farmers with a roof over their heads?

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: The first category of farmers is of those who go to their vill-

[Sh. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

ages in their own vehicles. Somebody else is working in their fields and they will go and ask the toiling person to earmark some maize or corn, some green gram and other things for their children. Such people call themselves as farmers although they never work in fields or plough the land and have not seen the cattle. The other category of farmers of those who stand at the mound dividing the fields and employ labourers to toil in their fields. They assist their farm labourers, bring them food and water, stay with them and help them — they are chhatradharis. The third are Taldharis — who plough their fields with their own hands, mix their sweat with the earth of their fields and produce on their own. These are the three categories of farmers. I favour the first category of farmers who plough their fields with their own hands and I oppose the second and third categories of farmers. These artificial farmers will continue to dominate the real farmers until these people continue to claim themselves as farmers. I was saying that the real farmers should be freed from the clutches of these unreal farmers. Whether you constitute this Board or make any other arrangement in order to liberate the farmers but I would like to submit that such a hierarchical system should be constituted in which the whole grains trade is controlled by the farmers. Unless the trade of the farm-produce is handled by the farmers, it may be done by the State agencies, the only difference. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, will be as Tata and Birla draw loans from the Banks and with that money buy the grains and destroys the future of our children with the help of our own money, and if this control is taken over by the government officials, they will do the same thing. Thus, there is a trader, who is thriving on the others, hard work and in English we call him the White Elephant. The farmer is being crushed under the feet of the elephants in this jungle. Kindly liberate the farmers from these elephants. Then they will control and

handle their trade of farm-produce. With this, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kusuma Krishna Murthy will speak on Grains Board Bill.

17.05 hours 448

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to compliment Shri Yadendra Datt, for introducing this Grains Board Bill. There are no two opinions about the importance of this Bill. Everyone spoke about the need to constitute this Board and about the plight of the farmers. We have been discussing this matter under the Ministry of Agriculture on various occasions. We know the plight of the farmers, but the very significant aspect, brought before us today is the forming of the Grains Board.

We are already having Food Corporation of India, probably with an important objective of serving the interests of the farmers, especially for giving them remunerative prices. But, unfortunately, when you analyse the functions of FCI, it is quite disappointing. The purpose for which it was constituted, I personally feel is totally defeated. Recently also, we have seen an example. Andhra Pradesh was very severely affected by cyclone. Farmers were also severely affected. This is closely connected with this Board. The Prime Minister was kind enough to visit the place twice. He gave instructions to the FCI to help the farmers. They gave the impression that they are actually helping the farmers. We requested F.C.I. to open purchasing centres in important places, but the total policy was diluted and middlemen came into operation. I am sorry to say that one lakhs of rupees were made by F.C.I. officials through middlemen and farmers were looted by FCI officials for their own sake and farmers did not get anything at all. They are put to all kinds of troubles. They are forced to give up their stocks at whatever cost the

middlemen wanted to have. Therefore, the purpose for which the FCI was constituted was not served.

This is an important Bill, which the hon. Member has brought forward. What I would like to impress upon the Government is that. When you are constituting this Board, you kindly see...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, I would like to know, how this Board will function differently?

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: I am coming to that point.

I would like to impress upon the Government that when they are constituting this Board, importance should be given to the farmers, specially marginal farmers and small farmers. When you are appointing the Chairman, you should not give it to an Officer. It should be given to a person who can understand the plight of the farmers and also their sufferings. Such persons should be made in-charge of the Board, so that whenever a decision is taken, he will be able to understand clearly the objectives for which the Board is formed. In a democratic set up, major decisions are taken only by majority opinion. Therefore, the composition of the Board should at least be in the ratio of 2:1, to the farmers and traders so that the real sufferings of the farmers and their actual difficulties would be reflected properly when major decisions are taken.

Now-a-days, as you all know, agriculture is subjected to the vagaries of nature. Industrialists decide the rates of industrial products specifically, keeping their profits in view and such other aspects. But, so far as the agricultural produce is concerned, it is not possible for the farmers to decide the rates. It is subjected to various considerations, sometimes the vagaries of nature cause havoc to the farm produce. Small and marginal farmers cannot wait as farmers' financial position will be vulnerable to all kinds of pressures. They will not

be able to withstand the pressure of the financial troubles. That is why they yield to this kind of pressure. Therefore, when you are giving an opportunity to take major decisions by vote, the major decision will be taken by the majority opinion. Therefore, the farmers must have a say in it. Then, we will be able to protect the interests of the farmers in providing them whether you call it remunerative price or supporting price.

When you are creating this kind of board, the financial strength of the board is also very important. The board may take a decision. But who is going to implement it? Its implementation is very important. If we can form the board or any corporation, they may take a decision. The implementation is a very important aspect. Only that helps the farmers. To implement the decision of the board, they must have financial strength supported by the Government. They must have some independent financial strength. Then, they can go in a big way to improve the plight of the farmers. This definitely would go a long way in helping the farmers. The formation of the board and also the financial strength are the important things.

I support this Bill. The Government can improve upon the Bill and make it a law.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the introduction of this Bill and saving the farmer from exploitation is concerned, I agree with it. But I feel that only by multiplying the agencies by forming various Boards, committees will not be of much help to the farmer.

The farmers' interests can be protected if the institutions formed for the purpose of serving the farmers are used in an effective manner.

[Prof. Prem Kumar Dhumal]

The suggestion given with regard to the constitution of the Board like the selection of the Chairman and the Members, the inclusion of the M.Ps., officials of different Ministries of the Central Government, personnel of different Ministries for purchasing the crops, the involvement of the Ministry of Fertilizers and all that is meaningless, I understand. I was taken aback to learn that the names of only a few states were enlisted in it, like Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Should the other states not be represented for whatsoever crop they are producing? I would like, if this Board is ever constituted, that the representatives of the states that produce fruit, jute, sugar-cane, cotton and various other agricultural products should also become the members of this Board so that their interests are as protected. It is not advisable to take people from different government agencies and there are many of them.

I visited Andhra Pradesh with the Parliamentary committee. We met the farmers there. They said that the export of onion was undertaken some years back and they produced onion on a large scale. Then the Government decided not to export onion. The onion got putrefied. Then potatoes were produced and an empty sack was exchanged with the one full of potatoes. Shri Mandhata Singh was saying that the potato-chips are served in the hotels but they are costly. I only want to say that things cannot be improved by merely constituting Boards, Committees and Corporations. To my mind the farmer's interests can well be protected if the existing structure is duly modified and the people involved in growing different agricultural commodities including the fruits be properly represented. The time is very less and I said what I felt about it.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION
IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICUL-

TURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would, at the very outset, like to thank Shri Yadvendra Datt for invoking a healthy discussion in favour of the farmers in the House. Approximately eleven Members expressed their views on the Bill. So far as the spirit of the Bill is concerned, nobody can dispute and disagree with that. The spirit of the Bill says that the farmers should get remunerative prices for their produce and that in turn should be made available to the consumers at reasonable rates. This is the objective of the Bill. There can be no disagreement with this objective and I respect this feeling of Shri Datt but the question is whether there is need to constitute the grains Board in order to achieve this objective. The Bill the hon. Member, Shri Yadvendra Datt, has presented here and the ideas he has incorporated in it and whatsoever he himself said about it seems to be out of the scope of the Bill. I would like to confine my speech to the formation of the Grains Board. Keeping in view the time limitations, it would have been better if the Government's progressive agricultural policy was highlighted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let us discuss it, if necessary under Agricultural policy.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government is itself trying to bring the Agricultural Policy Resolution. As far as possible the Government intends to bring it in this very session. In this session or in the coming session, it will be considered. I want to restrict myself upto Grain Board only. I agree with Shri Yadvendra Datt regarding giving procurement price to farmers. Shri Mandhata Singh had referred to support price and I do not disagree with his sentiment too. Procurement price or support price are one and the same thing. In order to fix the same, Commission on

agricultural cost and prices is there. The Commission has a methodology. Through that methodology the prices are decided. There are eleven factors which are taken into consideration and out of them cost of production is one which is taken into account by C.A.C.P. for fixing the prices and thereafter it gives its suggestions to the Government and if the Government considers them proper, it accepts the suggestions regarding increase or decrease in the prices. This is the discretion of the Government to take the final decision, keeping in view various interests in consultation with the State Governments. Question of support price or methodology of procurement price has undergone major reforms. When the present Government assumed power, the Government formed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Hanumant Rao to give suggestions regarding the formulation of methodology pertaining to cost of production and procurement price. Some important suggestions were made and on the basis of them there was a hike in the prices. This contains that the labourers get the actual wage or the statutory minimum wages whichever is more. The second thing is that the input of the management has also been taken into consideration. The family of the farmers should also get the remuneration of the management. 10 per cent of the total cost has been included in the input cost to arrive at the new input cost. The third thing is that the procurement price is decided before the sowing of crop. As such a provision has been made to fix procurement price even after the declaration of procurement price, in case there is substantial increase in the input cost by the time the crop reaches the market. The terms and trade have also been kept in mind. Leaving apart 1972, 1973 and 1974 every year the terms and trade have been against the interest of the farmers. How to make them favourable to the farmer, all these aspects have been taken care of in the new methodology and the views of Sharad Joshi Committee have been taken where the recommendations made by Hanumant

Rao Committee were not found favourable to the interest of farmers. In the end the Government and the Prime Minister took a decision on the matter. In this way, much better decisions have been taken in the interest of the farmers in comparison to earlier decisions. As such I feel there is no need to set up a separate Grain Board when the new methodology is available for fixing the price. Whatever existing facilities are available to us we can strengthen them. Regarding C.A.C.P. many Hon'ble Members have stated that the farmers should take a decision in this regard. There are many such matters in which the farmer is interested and all these matters are under consideration. There is a standing enquiry committee under the Ministry of Agriculture which is headed by Shri Sharad Joshi. The Committee gives its suggestions on the policy matters and due importance is given to these suggestions by the Ministry of Agriculture. Thus the Ministry of Agriculture is working for the cause of the farmers. We fully agree with the views expressed by Shri Yadvendra Datt. We want to do more and more work to serve the interest of the farmers, but at the same time we want to strengthen the public distribution system in order to serve the consumer in a better way.

The hon. Members have said that subsidy should be given in respect of fertilizers. The hon. Members may be aware that in the case of fertilizer subsidy worth more than four thousand crore rupees is going to be sanctioned shortly. In this field, the provision of subsidy is definitely there and keeping in view the welfare of the consumers and to make sure that they get things at fair price, the consumers can get subsidy to the tune of two and a half thousand crore rupees through P.D.S. It existed in the past also, but it has been increased now. As far as the question of increase in outlay in agriculture sector is concerned, it has been increased by 15.5% this year as compared to the plan outlay of last year. You are aware

[Sh. Nitish Kumar]

of this fact that the Prime Minister has declared the forthcoming decade as the farmer's decade and half the amount of budget plan will be spent on rural and agricultural development. The Government respects the sentiments of the hon. Member and wishes to work for the welfare of the farmers as well as the consumers. As such by arranging adequate funds the Government wants to take concrete steps for the welfare of all so that the people belonging to all sections of society are benefited. Many hon. Members have raised questions not concerning the Grain Board. If hon. Deputy Speaker had given me the permission, I would have expressed my opinion regarding those points also. The Government is in agreement with the views expressed by Shri Yadvendra Datt. The Government fully honours his sentiments. Before resuming my seat, I wish to indicate that the financial memorandum given by him as a part of his Bill has been examined and work relating to public distribution and other matters will be looked into. The issue of storage was also raised here. A lot of attention has been given for providing adequate storage facilities during the Eighth Five Year Plan and arrangements will not only be made for providing proper storage facilities for perishable commodities, but creating such conditions that farmers are not compelled to distress sale. The interests of the farmers, particularly the interests of the small and marginal farmers are upper most in our mind. The eminent farmer from Bihar hon. Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav has favoured the Constitution of Grain Board. In the end I would like to refer to the financial memorandum attached to the Bill. It has been said that implementation of the provisions of this Bill will require a recurring expenditure of Rs. 15 lakh and non-recurring expenditure of 20 lakhs. The Grain Board will comprise of a Chairman, several other Members and there will be other expenditure also. However the Hon'ble Member has taken great pains in preparing this Bill and I am thankful to him. Our existing frame-

work is quite competent to look after the interests of the farmers. For this task strong will power and determination is required and at the same time, it should be strictly implemented. You are aware that the Government has will power, its intentions are clear, the policies are clear and the Government wishes to work for the interests of the farmers living in villages and for the cause of the poor and this can be sternly performed in the existing machinery. For doing this we require cooperation from all of you. As such I would request Shri Yadvendra to withdraw this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadvendraji, please try to give a reply in brief so that another subject could be taken up.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I am grateful to hon. Minister that the subsidy about which I made a mention has been agreed to in principle. I am once again grateful to him for subsidy on fertilizers and thank him. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say a lot of things but I will say only one thing that the spirit of this Bill is quite clear. You are aware that a Private Members' Bill is only the blue print and it does not contain the minute details. The hon. Minister has made a mention about the financial memorandum. If the amount shown therein is less, the Government can increase it. But finally a comprehensive Bill has to be brought by the Government itself. It is just in the form of a resolution and through this resolution the attention of the Government is invited and it is being done with the belief that they will consider it because he has already said that there are enough resources and also the will power, but what lacks is to translate the will power into action. There is a fiesta of words and funeral march in action. This will not do. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the will to do the task is there but power to translate it into action is lacking. Try to awaken it. I may be excused for saying that the brilliant blue-eyed boys of Bureaucracy are only interested

in word. The Government should ask them to act. A very bad nexus has developed within the country, try to break it. I have stated about cattle and crop insurance, so that the farmer could get advance from the banks for his standing crops. After harvesting the crop, he may store it or construct storage houses so that there is no need to go to the "Distress sale". The support price announced by the Government and other means adopted by them for the welfare of the farmer are not enough. I would urge the Government to agree to my suggestion.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yadvendraji, if you do not finish, the Minister will not get the opportunity to reply.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I will finish it within one minute.

[Translation]

I will finish it within one minute. If you are incorporating this request and my sentiment in the Agricultural policy then I am prepared to withdraw my Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the views of all are being taken in regard to the Agriculture Policy Resolution. It will be placed before the Parliament too and everyone will have the opportunity to express his views.

[English]

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for establishment of an autonomous Board for fixation of minimum prices every year of all the agricultural commodities in the nature of foodgrains and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for establishment of an autonomous Board for fixation of minimum prices every year of all the agricultural commodities in the nature of foodgrains and for matters connected therewith."

The Motion was adopted

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: I withdraw the Bill.

458

17.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

(Substitution of new Article for
Article 263)

By Shri Dharmesh Prasad Varma

[English]

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD
VARMA (Bettiah): Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend
the Constitution of India be
taken into consideration."

Sir, the Bill seeks to establish an inter-State Council charged with the duties mentioned in Clauses A, B and C of Section 1 of the Bill. It is very heartening to learn that the Government of India have already constituted a Council by a Presidential order dated 28th May, 1989.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak next time.