

[Sh. Miniyan Selvarasu]

Much of valuable and fertile agricultural land has been taken over by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission for drilling oil wells. Besides, the district has so far been kept purposely as a granary for paddy production. But this too has received a set back in the recent years due to the unresolved Cauvery water sharing problem, and is further aggravated by the failure of monsoon. The agricultural labourers in this district do not get employment for more than half of the year. The oil refinery here in the above context will solve some of the problems of this predominantly agricultural district transforming it into a district with some industrial base. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to set up an oil refinery and a gas-based chemical industry in Thanjavur district.

(vii) Need to formulate schemes for development of areas in Delhi

SHRI J.P. AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): The problem of bringing in improvement of slum dwellers all over India needs a special continued attention of the Government of India. The present Government has declared in its manifesto that that it proposed to spend 50 per cent of Government expenditure in the rural India. This is indeed a laudable aim. The previous government had started several schemes like resettlement of Delhi slum-dwellers in specially built areas of Mata Sundari Road and Majnu Ka Tila. However, all such dealers could not be resettled there. More schemes of resettlement of these dwellers in Delhi are the need of the day. Attention may have to be paid to develop various Katras also in Delhi. The government should come out with schemes for development of these areas.

[*Translation*]

(viii) Need to make arrangements for the purchase of cotton from farmers at remunerative prices in Madhya Pradesh

SHRI AMRATLAL VALLABHDAS

TARWALA (Khandwa): Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to the sharp fall in the price of cotton in many states in the country, the cotton growers are in great distress and are facing financial crisis.

Hundreds of cart loads of cotton have remained unsold in the wholesale markets of Khandwa, Burhanpur, Sanavad and Khar-gone in Madhya Pradesh. Lakhs of quintals of cotton is still with the farmers. As compared to last year, the farmers are incurring heavy losses. It is about Rs. 200 per quintal. The Cotton Corporation of India is not purchasing all types of cotton at remunerative prices. The farmers are afraid of losses and are concerned about their future. The Government should take immediate steps to make arrangements for purchase of cotton at last year's price.

12.51 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*CONTD.*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we come to the Motion of Thanks. You all are aware of time allotted to the different parties. The Prime Minister will reply at 5 p.m. Now I call Shri Bhakta Charan Das.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the congress Government was unable to understand the value of human life. I represent Kalahandi district. The entire country and Members of this House are aware of the severe drought that hit the district. I still remember the smile of the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he visited the area during the famine of 1986-88. He did not fulfil the assurances given to the poor and the hungry. I was an M.L.A. at that time. During a meeting with him, I told him that more than 5000 people have died there due to the famine, so some arrangements should be made for these people. There is no arrangement for irriga-