

Vidisha Parliamentary constituency have been adversely affected by pests, as a result of which the farmers of the area are very much concerned. I, therefore, request the Central as well as State Governments to declare the aforesaid areas as pest-infected immediately, to provide the farmers with pesticides at fair prices. And the Government should make arrangements for aerial spray of pesticides on war footing. I hope the Union Agriculture Ministry would take immediate steps in this regard.

[*English*]

(v) **Need for central assistance for construction of hill-highways in Idukki District of Kerala**

PROF P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Idukki in Kerala is one of the most undeveloped districts in the country. Perhaps this is one of the few districts where there is no industry worth the name.

Idukki is a hill district where much of the cash crops of Kerala namely cardamom, ginger, pepper, rubber etc. are grown. Thus this district contributes enormously to the foreign exchange earnings of the country. The idea behind formation of this district was to ensure the development of the hilly region of Kerala. But no significant development has taken place there.

One of the reasons for its backwardness is lack of roads. A major chunk of Idukki district such as Devikulam, Peerumedu, Udumbumchola etc. is in the high ranges of the Western ghats. In the absence of roads, effective communication is absolutely impossible and this has hampered trade and other activities. This area is inhabited by settlers and plantation labour, whose hard work has made it possible for the country to earn valuable foreign exchange. For the development of this district, construction of a hill highway is very essential. This hill-highway can connect all the important cash-crop growing areas in the district.

But the financial condition of the State is not such as would enable it to undertake such a costly project. Therefore, I would request the Centre to allot sufficient funds

so that this hill-highway could be constructed at the earliest.

12.24 hrs,

[Shri Sharad Dighe *in the Chair*]

(vi) **Need for changing rules so that loan can be given to various States including West Bengal for providing tubewells**

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : It is well known that States in the Eastern region, including West Bengal, are not yet developed in irrigation facilities as are necessary. Apart from big irrigation projects they also have to depend on the underground water resources in a big way.

For extending the network of deep and shallow tubewells the West Bengal Government applied for a loan of Rs. 10 crores from the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The West Bengal Government also pointed out that the same tubewells can be very well used for pure drinking water as well.

Unfortunately the LIC refused on the ground that they can give loan only for drinking water projects.

I draw the notice of the Finance Minister to this matter. Since the L.I.C. has substantial resources at its command and this is a problem of national importance, I urge that if necessary the rules be changed so that loan can be given to various State Governments, including that of West Bengal, for such projects as would meet both irrigation and drinking water requirements which are of prime importance for developing agricultural production.

I urge the Finance Minister to examine this question and help the West Bengal Government to get this loan of Rs. 10 crores.

(vii) **Relief for cyclone-hit areas of Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI P. PENCHA- LAIAH (Nellore) :

The hurricane that developed in the Bay of Bengal on 12-11-1984 crossed the Nellore Coast and caused extensive loss of life and damage to property in Nellore, Chittore and Prakasam districts. A total sum of Rs. 18 crores has been sanctioned and spent by the State Government under different items of relief. A detailed Memorandum has been submitted to Government of India seeking an assistance of Rs. 115.86 crores, for undertaking relief measures. A Central Study Team has already visited the cyclone affected districts and assessed the severity of the situation. The Government of India have sanctioned ways and means advance of only Rs. 17.00 crores for undertaking the immediate relief operations. The final assistance from Government of India is yet to be received.

Hence, I request the Government of India to sanction the amount of Rs. 115.86 crores immediately and rescue the people of cyclone-stricken areas in Andhra Pradesh.

12.27 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we resume discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Mr. Brahma Dutt may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA DUTT (Tehri Garhwal) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Motion of Thanks.

In his brief but meaningful Address the President at the outset has referred to those shocking happenings in the country during the last months of the preceding year. I am pointing towards the brutal and deceitful murder of our former Prime Minister. The Indian National Congress, its leader and its workers and the people of India deserve praise for the manner in which they faced these circumstances and challenges. The

appreciation of the wisdom of the people of India by the President is quite appropriate. People had thought that it would be difficult to control the situation which arose after the assassination of Smt. Indira Gandhi, but all such misgivings proved to be wrong. Our new leader was elected unanimously and Shri Rajiv Gandhi while expressing his faith in democracy held the elections earlier than scheduled, belying the expectations of those who had thought that elections would not be held so soon. And it was an unprecedented election in that the people rose above regionalism, casteism and petty issues and voted for national issues and for a strong government in view of the unity and integrity of the country. The people of our country knew that for the administration of such a big country, which has a number of Provinces, a number of languages and religions, such a party is needed to be in power which is a national Party and that a party which is a regional party or a party based on caste or religion is not going to serve any purpose. They knew that regional leaders or leaders of small groups could not administer this country. So, they thought there should be a national leader with massive mandate. The electorate of our country also knew that a national programme should be framed for the administration of this country, because the smaller programmes prepared for a particular area or for a particular group were not going to serve any purpose.

So, the views expressed by the President about the Indian electorate are quite appropriate.

The President has referred to the achievements made in our economy. At the outset he has thanked farmers and praised them for increasing agricultural production. In this connection the hon. member who spoke before me has said a wonderful thing. He said that our increased agricultural production could be attributed to the timely onset of monsoon. I agree that monsoon is a major factor in the increased agricultural production, but monsoon is not the only factor. All the necessary inputs required by farmers had also to be made available to them. If we look at the history of the past few years we shall find that agricultural production