

the farmers to irrigate their lands and it is very difficult for to get full benefits of their labour although the lands are very fertile and the farmers could get three crops if adequate irrigation facilities are provided there. There could be a green revolution and a major increase in food-grains production by which the farmers, State and Central Government and other people will be benefited. Moreover, the Central Government has also financed the digging of tube-wells in that area for providing irrigation facilities but they too are not providing sufficient water for irrigating the fields in that area. It is, therefore, requested that the Planning Commission be advised to provide more funds for digging wells and also provide for lift irrigation form defence channel.

It is, therefore, requested that Government should take appropriate steps to provide adequate irrigation facilities to those areas.

- (ix) Demand for constituting a Pepper Board on the pattern of the Cardamom Board

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki): Pepper is the most important foreign exchange earner among the spices and it accounts for 50% of the total export earnings from spices. But; due to the absence of perspective planning and proper appreciation of the problems, being faced by the growers, pepper growers are suffering.

The severe drought in 1983 had destroyed large areas of Pepper cultivation in Kerala. More than 80% of the growers of Pepper in Kerala are small growers and it is they who suffered most by the drought. The crippling effect of the drought continues and the growers are in distress.

The Pepper growers had taken huge loans and today they are not able to repay these loans. The authorities have not moved in so far to help them. Therefore, I demand that a Moratorium on the repayment of loans be declared immediately.

Similarly, Government should give them subsidy on interest as it is beyond the capacity of the growers to pay the heavy interests.

Pepper plants are affected by a disease called Footrot. According to an estimate, 40% of the crop was destroyed during 1980-81 due to this disease. This necessitates the urgent need for accelerated research work in this field and finding of remedial measures.

These and similar problems can be effectively dealt with only by the creation of an autonomous body. Demand has been raised for the constitution of such a body. It may be recalled that India's Share in the world Pepper Trade has gone down from 80% in 1947 to 21% now. This must create the necessary awareness among the authorities about the need for more attention being paid to Pepper.

I would therefore request the Government to set up a Pepper Board on the pattern of the Cardamom Board and save this most important spice from distress.

- (x) Need to replace the Low Power Television Transmitter at Kurseong with a High Power T.V. Transmitter

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): There was a long-standing demand for the setting up of a High Power TV transmitter at Kurseong for expansion of TV coverage in the North Bengal districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and Darjeeling.

A month ago, a Low Power TV Relay Centre was set up at Kurseong, although an assurance was given on the Floor of this august House, that a High Power TV transmitter of 10 K.W. would be set up at Kurseong to enable the people of the border areas near Bangladesh to see the Indian telecasts instead of Bangladesh, keeping the national point of view; and this is a must. But, due to this Low Power TV transmitter and also the relaying of the programmes on the same channels both from Kurseong (India) and Rangpur (Bangladesh) nothing is visible except a ray of light or

mixed programmes. For example, Ravi Shastri is shown batting in Melbourne and simultaneously, within a second, a Bangladeshi girl is seen singing. It creates confusion and it also appears that the TV is joking? Under these circumstances, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting about these facts for immediate improvement of the Door-darshan and also make the following suggestions for his consideration :

- (a) The existing Kurseong Television Relay Centre be immediately replaced by a High Power TV transmitter.
- (b) Kurseong Television Relay Centre should relay programmes at different channels so as to avoid confusion of programmes.
- (c) A provision should be made to show Calcutta telecasts through Kurseong TV Relay Centre and for Programme Production facilities at Kurseong; and
- (d) Another TV transmitter may be set up at Cooch Behar for expansion of TV coverage in the extreme broder areas of Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar Districts of North Bengal.

12.50 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET 1985-86  
 GENERAL DISCUSSION  
 AND  
 SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS  
 FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),  
 1984-85

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now we take up items Nos. 12 and 13 together Shri Vadde Sobhanedreeswara Rao has given notice of three Cut Motions to the Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) but he is not here.

Motion Moved :

“That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1985 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof :

Demand Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25, 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 68, 69, 71, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 82, 83, 85, 86, 88, 89, 91, 96, 100, 101, 104, 105, 108 and 109.”