

earnestly implore the Central Government to extend financial and technical aid to this project.

(v) Measures needed to lift the heavy stocks of foodgrains accumulated in Punjab

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : The Food Corporation of India is the most important organisation engaged in procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the country. Food Corporation of India procures foodgrains in all the States of the country including Punjab. But it is a matter of great regret that foodgrains purchased by FCI and agencies of Punjab Government are lying in godown and in many cases have not been lifted by FCI for the last four years. This piling up of stocks has resulted in the problem of storage and the new crop of Punjab farmers is not purchased for months after its arrival in market. According to the FCI report the stock of foodgrains purchased in other States is lifted by it within 48 hours. Punjab contributes 65% to the foodgrain pool of the country, but it is painful to say that foodgrain stocks have become a headache for Punjab.

The total storage capacity of Punjab State including Markfed, CWC, FCI and Punjab Warehousing Corporation is 121.74 lakh tonnes but the quantity of procured foodgrains is much more compared to the storage capacity. In the last year alone the procurement was 166.64 lakh tonnes and 1/3 of this is lying in open. Due to un-availability of sources of lifting, only 60 to 70 lakh tonnes could be sent to other States. 30 to 40 lakh tonnes of stocks get accumulated in addition to the previous year's stocks every year. More railway tracks may be laid in Punjab as long term arrangement. As short term measure FCI should utilise and mobilise all its lifting resources at war footing, to help the Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab farmers in the sale of their produce and relieve Punjab of the burden of storage. Although FCI is not lifting the stocks of foodgrains, Punjab is made to pay Rs. 20 crores every year as damages for foodgrains which get damaged while lying in godowns both open and covered.

(vi) Telephone system in Calcutta

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, the telephone system in Calcutta, if not in the whole of the State of West Bengal has virtually completely broken down and has brought the normal and particularly the commercial life almost to a standstill. Hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, Government offices, public institutions and other essential services cannot function properly due to the near non-functioning of the telephone system, STD connection from Calcutta has become a hoax. Bolpur town, the seat of Vishwabhārati University and tourist centre of international importance remains almost inaccessible from Calcutta on telephone—either STD or Trunk line. On various occasions in the past assurances for proper running of Calcutta telephones were given by the Ministers/Department but no action has been taken. People of Calcutta have frequently in the past expressed quite demonstratively their annoyance and resentment for collapse of the system.

I call upon the Government to take all necessary action on war footing to bring some semblance of normalcy in the working of Calcutta telephones.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to expedite the setting up of Fertilizer factories in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur Aonla and Badaun

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under rule 377, I would like to submit following matter in this august House through your good offices. The demand of fertilizer is increasing day by day in different parts of the country. In view of this increasing demand, Government is proposing to set up more fertilizer plants. And in this context, Government has decided to set up four fertilizer plants in Uttar Pradesh i.e. in Jagdishpur, Shahjahanpur, Aonla and Badaun, but I have come to know that the Arabian company which had to invest funds in Jagdishpur plant, has been declared financially incapable. For Shahjahanpur plant, at first the work was assigned to D.C.M., but later on the work was assigned to Shri Swaraj Paul, a British

[Shri Madan Pandey]

Industrialist of Indian origin, but he also backed out. Aonla and Badaun plants are being set up by IFFCO and Tatas respectively. But final decision has not yet been taken for laying gas pipe line from Bombay High to the Plants, and therefore, progress of the work regarding setting up of Plants is very tardy. So it is uncertain as to when these four Plants will start their production. In Gorakhpur Plant, due to the obsolete machinery, production has gone down considerably. Therefore, if setting up of new proposed Plants is further delayed and machinery of Gorakhpur Plant is not replaced, the whole state will have to face the acute shortage of fertilizers.

Therefore, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Union Minister of Fertilizers towards this problem and request him that in view of the increasing demand of fertilizers in Uttar Pradesh, a plan of Rs. 30 crores, which is under consideration of the Centre, for replacement of obsolete machinery of Gorakhpur Plant and plan to set up above mentioned four plants should be immediately implemented, so that in future, state may not face shortage of fertilizers.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(viii) Need to direct State Governments to adopt measures for welfare of farmers

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under rule 377 :—

“Continuous drought and burden of debts—Due to this financial problem, a cultured and popular farmer committed suicide alongwith his all family members”.

Shri Sahebrao, a cultured and popular farmer, of Chilgawahan village, in Yawatmal district in Vidarbha, a thirty five years old youngman, has committed suicide alongwith his wife and four daughters after getting fed up due to continuous drought and burden of debts. He remained village Sarpanch and social worker for many years and commended respect. It is

true that in spite of the utmost need for irrigation purpose electricity connections of his field as well as of his house were disconnected for the recovery of dues. There are limited sources of irrigation in Vidharbha. In Yawatmal and other hill regions, agricultural yield is also low. Alongwith Vidharbha, many other parts of the Maharashtra have also been greatly affected by hailstorm and drought.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government that after ceiling of land and due to family division, there has been fragmentation of land into small pieces of land. It has become difficult for them to make both ends meet with such a small piece of land. Therefore, it is necessary to provide service at least to one member of such agriculturist family. It is also necessary in this agriculture-oriented country to start Crop Insurance Scheme to provide protection to the farmers. There should not be any Power cut during harvesting seasons. Central Government should direct the State Governments to check exploitation of the farmers and it should give full aid to the states facing drought.

[English]

(ix) Construction of a Railway over-bridge near Alwar Railway Station

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : Alwar (Rajasthan) is on the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre-gauge railway line. It is one of the important Railway stations on that line. It would be a railway junction station as soon as Mathura-Alwar broad-gauge railway line construction project is completed. Alwar city is located on the western side of the railway track while old industrial area and Matsya Industrial Area Alwar are located on the eastern side of the railway line. Jaipur-Delhi via Alwar road route crosses over the railway track near railway station, Alwar. Alwar-Delhi and Delhi-Alwar road route traffic has to cross over the railway track through a line crossing gate near railway station, Alwar. Road route traffic has to keep waiting long on both the ends of railway level crossing because of frequent movement of passenger and goods trains. Congestion of traffic causes