

[Shri Birbal]

Commission, but the Commission has kept the clearance pending for the last so many years. It is requested that clearance should be granted to these projects immediately, so that the farmers of the area could take advantage of these canals, and, besides removing their own poverty and backwardness, could help in increasing agricultural production in the country. On completion of these two canals, not only will 150 villages of District Ganganagar—which are in the grip of famine—benefit, but also people of Churu which is adjacent District would get employment.

I am sure you will issue orders to start work on these two canals immediately for which I have been continuously doing correspondence for the last 6 years in order to remove poverty and backwardness and provide relief to the famine stricken people of the area.

[English]

- (ii) Need to give publicity to cases of fraud in banks and to reveal the names of culprits and the nature of punishment given to them

SHRI D.N. REDDY (Cuddapah) : The Government has, as of late, been detecting the increasing number of irregularities involving crores of rupees in the nationalised banks often with the collusion of highly placed bank officers. The full particulars, the extent of amount involved, names of the different officials involved, and the result of detailed investigation and the action taken, are not often revealed in full; nor the public informed about the steps taken to prevent such frauds on banks. The Government should hereafter give publicity to such cases after investigation and declare the list of offenders and also punish the culprits in each case and make recoveries.

[Translation]

- (iii) Need to provide financial assistance to the farmers affected by hailstorm in Morena district of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Speaker Sir, 22 villages

of tehsil Ambah, 7 villages of Ketras and 3 villages of Sheopur tehsil in Morena District of Madhya Pradesh have been severely affected by hailstorm on 13.2.1986. The standing crops of wheat, mustard, gram barley etc. have been damaged. Keeping in view the difficulties of the farmers and workers, the Central Government should provide additional financial assistance and means of livelihood to them.

[English]

- (iv) Need to set up a research centre at Kasaragod in Kerala for conducting research on goat rearing

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Goat rearing can provide nutritious food for the poor masses with little cost and at the same time raise their economy. Different varieties of goats are found in our country. Research work is being done with regard to goat rearing. In Kerala's coast lines at a place called Tellicherry there is a special breed of goats called Tellicherry breed. Unique quality of this breed is that it provides plenty of milk with high nutritious value. If this breed can be developed further by setting up a research centre at some of the most backward areas like Kasaragod in Kerala, unused hilly areas can be made use of for goat rearing thereby creating employment potential among the villagers, in the far off villages.

[Translation]

- (v) Need for early completion of the ongoing lift-canal irrigation projects in the hilly regions of the country

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that there has been no progress in the hilly areas in respect of agriculture due to lack of irrigation facilities. Lift irrigation method is best suited for irrigation in such areas and, therefore, these schemes should be launched on priority basis. Beside, there is need to ensure timely completion of these schemes. The Narmada Lift Irrigation Project has been approved long back in 1978 but it is still pending. Due to this the estimated cost

of the project which was just Rs. 11 lakhs will now increase manifold. This will not only result in financial loss to the Government but also create obstacles in the development of the area.

I would, therefore, request the government to complete such Lift Irrigation Schemes immediately in the interest of the people and development of the country.

- (vi) Need to provide free railway passes and other amenities to all the freedom fighters in the country

SHRI K.N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : On November 19, 1985, the Hon. Prime Minister had declared at the All India Freedom Fighters' Conference at Allahabad that with effect from 1-12-85, free railway passes would be issued to all freedom fighters in the country.

But according to *Home Minister's* statement of 19th November 1985 in Lok Sabha, only those freedom fighters are eligible for free railway passes who get their pension from Central Revenue. Those getting pension from State Government have been deprived of this facility. Under this provision the *Satyagrahis* who participated in Goa Liberation Movement which was a national movement—have also been deprived of this facility.

I, therefore, request the Government to reconsider the matter and provide free railway passes and other amenities to all freedom fighters in the country.

[English]

- (vii) Need to grant relief to the victims of heavy snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir State

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I make a statement Under Rule 377.

That the people of Kashmir suffered untold miseries during the unprecedented snowfall in December, 1985 and January, 1986 is a confirmed fact and known to all. What is not known to the country-

men is that the victims have not received any relief so far. I presented a memorandum to the Hon. Home Minister in January, 1986 seeking Central Government's intervention in the matter and grant of relief to the victims. It was on the basis of my memorandum that the Government of India asked for facts from the State Government. Then the State Government responded and presented estimates of loss to the Central Government. Now that the Government of India have decided to grant relief, it must ensure that the relief goes to the deserving persons. Central Government should either distribute relief directly or appoint a Committee to supervise administrative machinery charged with the duty of distributing relief to victims.

12.23 hrs.

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the motion moved by Shri Eduardo Falcão and seconded by Shri Zainul Basher on the 25th February, 1986, namely :—

“That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms—

‘That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 20th February, 1986.’ ” ”

Shri Dinesh Goswami.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity of participating in this debate on the Motion of thanks on the Address by the President of India. It is with a sense of pride and happiness that, I am participating in the debate, I am happy because, it is after