

[Sh. Ram Pujan Patel]

attention of the Government towards a most important matter. Though ours is an agricultural country but it is a matter of regret that at the time of harvesting, the prices of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables come down and when the same agricultural commodities reach the hands of traders for sale, their prices go sky-high. Now, when the potato crop is being harvested, the price of potato has gone so down that the farmers are incurring losses. In cold storage traders potatoes are being kept and not that of the farmers. The support price of wheat was fixed by the Government at Rs. 164 per quintal and at this rate, wheat was purchased at all procuring centres, but today the price of wheat is more than Rs. 260 per quintal. Similarly, after procurement of potatoes from the farmers is over, it is sold at a rate of Rs. 200 per quintal in the months of August, September and October.

Therefore, I request the Government that keeping in view the interest of the farmers and in order to see that the farmers get reasonable price for potatoes, reservation should be provided to the farmers for cold storage. Railway wagons should also be made available to them. Besides, the support price of potatoes should immediately be announced to ensure proper return to the farmers and to save them from any disappointment in this regard so that they are able to progress. It will be possible only when they get remunerative prices for their produce.

- (ii) **Need to review the orders regarding exclusion of certain works from the purview of NREP/RLEGP**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have launched two important programmes namely, the NREP and the RIEGP in rural areas. As per new guidelines issued under these programmes many public construc-

tion works like Ayurvedic dispensary, houses for Teachers, buildings for dairy cooperative societies, buildings for primary health centres, construction of additional rooms for higher secondary and middle schools, chaupals, Panchayat Ghar, etc. in rural areas cannot be taken up now.

Under these programmes, the works relating to the primary school buildings, irrigation schemes and tree plantation etc. can only be taken up as a result of which the scope for taking up the construction of many public utility works has become limited.

Therefore, I request the Government to reconsider the whole issue *de novo* and bring the above mentioned construction works under the purview of the NREP and RLEGP so that the poor families in rural areas could get employment opportunities and rural development resources could also increase.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to mitigate the sad plight of textile workers**

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): In order to draw the attention of the Government to the situation in Textile industry of our country and plight of its workers particularly the growing unemployment and the sickness in composite Mills, the textile workers all over the country are staging demonstration near Parliament today, 7 March, 1988 under the INTUC-led Textile Federation. I urge upon the Government to take note of the demonstration and consider their representation and adopt the following measures in order to give reliefs to textile workers and to arrest growing unemployment in textile industry.

- (i) **Prices of cotton and other raw materials should be checked and regular supply with stabil-**