

[Sh. Ratilal Kalidas Verma]

Viramgam, Bavla in Ahmedabad district in Madal district and in villages in Botadh, Palkipur, Gadhda and Umralla tehsils under Bhavnagar district. Ponds and wells have dried up. People are in very much distress regarding water. Both people and animals are living in a very precarious conditions due to scarcity of water. It is very necessary to provide water in these areas. Otherwise, in near future, people will be forced to leave the villages with their cattle.

So, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Water Resources to take necessary steps in this regard.

[English]

**(viii) Need to set up an Alumina Plant in North Coastal Andhra Pradesh.**

SHRI K. RAMAMOCHAN RAO (Bobbili): North Coastal Andhra comprising the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam is backward agriculturally and industrially, except Visakhapatnam city. This is the root cause of emergence of Naxal movement in Srikakulam and Visakhapatnam districts.

To develop this area and to contain unemployment problem, industrialisation is the only solution.

This area is abundant in bauxite ore. To utilise this ore an Alumina Plant can be established at S. Kota in Vizianagaram district which is surrounded by Tribal area.

As a matter of fact a proposal regarding the establishment of an Alumina Plant in this area is pending with the Government.

During 1978, a team comprising Soviet experts and officials of Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) visited this area and submitted a feasibility report and the State Government agreed to provide necessary land, water and electricity for this project.

I request the Government of India to establish an Alumina Plant at the earliest.

13.05 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)**  
**1990-91**

**Ministry of Water Resources**  
**and**  
**Ministry of Agriculture—CONTD.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I want to take the sense of the House. Already many Ministries could not be taken up. Today, along with Water Resources and Agriculture, the Ministry of Labour and Welfare are also listed. Now, is it the sense of the House that as soon as possible, we move over to Labour and Welfare and conclude the discussion on Agriculture and Water Resources as quickly as possible? Otherwise the two Ministries will be left out.

If you agree, then what I shall do is this. Speakers from Congress (I) who could not be present on the other day, I will call them and then call the Minister to give a reply, instead of calling the speakers from other parties. That will let us through and we can take up other Ministries today itself. It is because many speakers from each party have spoken.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Some of us have table many Cut Motions. They could not be moved. But they are very important. Some time will have to be given for that also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will tell you that from CPI, already three Members have spoken. According to the list, from each party a good number of speakers have spoken. If you do not permit what will happen is that the Ministry of Labour and Welfare will also come under the Guillotine. You can decide that way. It is upto the House to decide.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: For important issues, a few minutes will have to be spared.

MR. CHAIRMAN: A few minutes are seldom a few minutes and they go beyond a few hours.

But if you insist, there is no harm in that.  
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): I am sorry, Sir; we could not hear your suggestions properly.

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to take the sense of the House on this....

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonapat): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture is very important Ministry as it concern each and every countryman and people like us. Who have come fully prepared to take part in the discussion. We do not get an opportunity to speak, as we are back-benches.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are raising a problem of the back-benchers. It can be accommodated. It is a different matter. What I was suggesting was that already, many speakers from each party and segment have spoken on these two Ministries. So, if we can limit it to that, it will be better—except for my calling a few from the Congress(I) since they have not consumed their time. Then we can pass on, after the Minister's reply, to the three Ministries, viz. Labour and Welfare. That is what I was trying to take the sense of the House on, viz. whether they agree that not many more speakers from the different parties will be called; and that as soon as we can, we move to the other two Ministries.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we were given 15 hours for discussing the Demands for

Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources, out of which we have debated only for 10 hours. This is not proper. This is such an important department that the maximum number of members should be given opportunity to express their views. It is not proper to give opportunity to only Congress Party Members. The time allotted to this debate should be fully utilized. Discussions on other subjects should be taken up after that.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The problem is not about ten hours. The time left is only another two hours.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): It is 3 1/2 hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But where is the time? 1 hr. 26 minutes for Congress; 46 minutes for the Janata Dal and 18 minutes for the BJP. Where is the time? They do not adhere to their time. Do they?

[*Translation*]

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Sir, what you have said is reasonable, but some Members, who wanted to speak have been left out and we still have time with us. Let us take a decision to the effect that we can continue this discussion till 6'O clock, when Half an Hour discussion will be taken up. This would give opportunity to those Members who have been left out.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If that is the sense, it is all right, but this is the time allotted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ (Katihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is okay. Let the discussion be continued till 6'O Clock.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Some of the hon. Members may be called to speak

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes; that is what I am going to do. But before that, wanted to know the sense of the House.

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: By 6 p.m. it should be finished—including the reply and the vote.

PROF P J KURIEN (Mavelikara): I endorse the view expressed here, that there should be time for discussion on Labour and Welfare—especially Welfare That is also equally important So, my suggestion is this you have 3.30 hrs altogether Let each party take 50% of the time our party has 80 minutes, and we are prepared to be satisfied with 40 minutes If all other parties can cooperate like that we can end the discussion earlier, and start Labour and Welfare, which are also equally important

SHRI RAM NAIK My suggestion would be that the discussion on this Ministry's Demands should be completed by 6 p m Then we can start Labour after 6 p m We have been sitting on other days for a longer time So, we can discuss Labour for one hour today, and for the remaining time tomorrow We can work for one hour in excess today Guillotine is for tomorrow at 3 p m So we will get four hours, including one hour today

MR CHAIRMAN I do not think it is very practical But anyway, is this the sense of the House? It means that Labour and Welfare will be guillotined (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK You can do it, Sir, if you can (*Interruptions*)

MR CHAIRMAN I find it slightly difficult to do so. That time also includes the time for a reply by the hon Minister Otherwise, it is not possible to accommodate more hon members within the time left

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: You can divide it appropriately.

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: You can divide it appropriately.

MR. CHAIRMAN. It can be done only if the House agrees to that. Otherwise, it is not possible for me to do it.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Agreed.

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI TAKORE (Kapadwanj): Mr Chairman, Sir, I have not got the opportunity to speak even once. I would like to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. My Party has forwarded my name. Kindly allow me

MR CHAIRMAN. You were not present in the House when your name was called.

[Translation]

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI TAKORE: My name has been sent to-day only I have not gone one of the House

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN I do not know. Anyway, please sit down

Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev

SHRISONTOSH MOHANDEV (Tripura West) Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the demands for grants relating to the Ministries of Water Resources and Agriculture. I come from the north-eastern region, particularly Assam where the river Brahmaputra is known as a river of sorrow. Every year, not once out more than once, the floods cause havoc in Assam It damages hundreds and thousands of households It affects a number of villages. Thousands of acres of crops are always damaged.

We know that in the past the Govern-

ment of India had formed a Brahmaputra Floods Control Board. But, unfortunately this has not been activated in the manner in which it should have been done. Even now I do not know the latest position. The Minister will be able to say better about it. This Board does not have a full-time Chairman. Some-time back a Secretary was the Chairman of this Board. This Board was formed with an idea to prepare a Master Plan and to control flood havoc in the north-eastern region. What progress has been made in this respect? Have the full-time Chairman and its Members been appointed? How much funds have been allocated by the Government of India for this? What are your plans and programmes during the Eighth Five Year Plan? The economy of Assam is dependent mainly on agriculture industry and steel industry as also oil industries. Unfortunately, it affects largely all these industries. Even the tea garden areas are being subjected to soil erosion because of these floods. The situation of paddy fields goes to the extent that it becomes non-viable to have agriculture on those lands. Siltation to a certain height is to the advantage of the agriculturists; but siltation beyond a certain height becomes havoc for the agriculturists. Every year, the Government of India, is coming forward to help the Government of Assam, to give relief to the flood affected areas. If you consider the amount of money that has been spent on floods control from 1947 till today, you will see that the whole amount has not been utilised in a better way. If the whole amount had been utilised in a better way to harness this river not for the sorrow but for the happiness of the people living on the side of the river, then the problem of floods control would have been solved. So while the hon. Minister replies, I would like to know from him as to what is the plan of action of the Government of India to activate this Brahmaputra Flood Control Board, what are the projects that are going to be taken up and what are the projects that the Government is going to take up in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

In the area I come from, Cachar, Borak river is the cause of flood every year. There

was a project called the Tipaimukh Dam which was in the border of Manipur and Cachar. When I was the Minister of State for Home Affairs, I personally had several rounds with the Ministers of Water Resources and Agriculture and I was given a written assurance by the then Minister that in the Eighth Five Year Plan the Tipaimukh Dam will be started; not only that, it was decided that a token amount will be spent during the last year of the Seventh Five Year Plan to start the infrastructural work in that area. I had a personal discussion with the present Secretary of the Water Resources Department, on this issue, and I was assured that a study team was going in depth about that particular project and that the technical survey for the Tipaimukh dam is over, the report has come, and that the Water Resources Department is evaluating all the pros and cons of it and that the project will take shape in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the present position of the Tipaimukh project which is known as Barak Valley Dam?

From the point of view of agriculture it is good that the Government of India has come forward to help the cyclone affected areas of the Andhra and Tamil Nadu and others. But there was also some effect of the cyclone in Tripura and the Government of Tripura had sent a memorandum to the Government of India. Unfortunately, no action has been taken. I appreciate the situation that the havoc that has been caused in Andhra and Tamil Nadu and part of Orissa definitely is much more dangerous in nature than what has happened in Tripura. But when you take care of a particular area and neglect another area it becomes difficult for us to answer to the people as we are the elected representatives. We cannot answer them why some step is taken in certain parts of the country and why different action has been taken in other parts of the country. I would like to know what has been happening about the cyclone affected areas of Tripura because Tripura is contiguous to Bangladesh and as you know, certain parts of Bangladesh are wrecked by cyclone every year and it has got certain fall out in some areas of Tripura also.

[Sh. Santosh Mohan Dev]

The Government of India gives money for relief in the flood affected areas and there is a system to give money for the completely damaged houses, partly damaged houses and for the damage of crop and so on. In October 1989 a sum of Rs. 27.1 crores and in November Rs. 85.67 crores were given, making a total of Rs. 112.77 crores by the Agriculture Ministry to the Government of Assam, to help the flood affected areas of Assam. Unfortunately, the money has not been totally disbursed till today. I personally met the Deputy Prime Minister and appraised him about this, and he assured me that someone from the Ministry will be sent for monitoring it to see whether the money has been distributed. But the money has been diverted elsewhere. This is a very severe lapse on the part of the State Government. The Government will give the money for a particular purpose when a memorandum comes to the Government of India and the Government of India sends a team to visit those areas to have an in-depth study about the reality of the damage that has been done and the officers come and submit their report. On the basis of that report the money is given. But unfortunately when the money is given, the money is not spent properly. There should be a monitoring system.

Now, you are giving money to Andhra. While that is very good, it should also be seen whether the money has been for the purpose for which the money has been given or not. From my experience, every year, whether it is a Congress Government or a Non-Congress Government in Assam, crores of rupees are being spent by the Government of India. At the beginning, this money is spent for the ways and means and subsequently the Government of India reimburse the money. But, unfortunately the money is not spent for the purpose for which it is given. In the Revenue Manual of the Assam Government, there is a provision as to how much for the completely damaged house and how much for the half damaged house. I know, even the Government of India had gone beyond that. After seeing the depth of the

damage, the official team had recommended more. In Assam, at least, there are 5000 bridges, small culverts and these are not working at all because of the flood damage. The Assam Government cannot spend on this. Some money was given. When I was a Member from that area in 1984, I got sanction Rs. 69 lakhs for a bridge and the work of that bridge has now started in 1990. So long the Assam Government is sitting with this money. I am very happy that the Surface Transport Minister is here. Recently in the Bodo movement, one bridge had been blown away. It is the life-line of Assam. I am happy that the Ministry of Transport had taken immediate action by making a valley bridge. Mr. Unnikrishnanji, unfortunately the load restriction is so much that it cannot take the actual load and you are not allowing it rightly. But unfortunately it has become a source of corruption for Police and others there. Practically it should not carry more than four or five tonnes. But it is carrying seven or eight items in lieu of something. And this is what is happening now. This bridge will again collapse. So, I urge upon you to take immediate action on this matter. I know that you have asked personally the Assam Government to submit the Plan and the Estimate. I have been told that the Assam Government has not yet submitted it. They should be asked to submit it immediately, because the monsoon season is approaching soon. Assam is connected by a small corridor through rail and road. This Bodo Movement and the Movement in ADC area in Karbi Anglong and North Cachar is going on in a militant manner.

Now in Assam, there is an acute shortage of essential commodities because of the lack of communication by road and rail. The rail damage was also there. The movement of rail is there mostly in the day time and in the night time it has been restricted. So, I urge upon the Government to look into this particular problem.

In the discussion that we had with the Assam Government official and others, it was decided that before this Barak dam and the Tipaimukh dam are taken up, the Brah-

maputra Board can take positive steps in regard to the scheme which is known as upgradation of the drainage scheme in different Districts of Assam, including the Barak valley. The carrying capacity of the small rivers from the main river has gone down considerably because of the siltation that has taken place in the small rivers. It was decided that in order that the main river can give water in a proper manner, there should be drainage in the small rivers. That will be done by the Central Government through the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board. In this respect, certain areas in Barak valley, Now gong, Sibsagar and other areas were identified. But, unfortunately, till today no work has started. I would like to know the progress in work in this regard.

From the point of view of the Agriculture Ministry, in Tripura, 75 per cent of the population live in tribal areas and in ADC area. Last year a new type of cultivation has been started, which is mainly to dissuade the tribal people to do jhum cultivation. Jhum cultivation does a lot of damage to the forest. The erosion of the land is to the extent that it gives situation to the areas in small rivers. The Government of India took a policy decision that cultivation should be dissuaded in the whole North Eastern and it should be replaced by another cultivation. One of the processes was that we should start more horticulture and more Rabi crop production in the jhum areas, which does not erode the land and thereby we can give gainful occupation to the tribal people so that they do not feel hurt that jhum cultivation has been stopped and their source of living has been affected. As against that, the Government of India agreed to give subsidised foodgrains in tribal areas. I am glad that the present Government has again re-introduced it for Tripura, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and hill areas of Assam like Karbi-long and North Cachar Hills. This is a very welcome step. At the same time, unless special fund is provided for the cultivation of rabi crop and horticulture in the forest areas to give a gainful occupation to the people in hill areas, it is going to be counter-productive. You cannot stop jhum cultivation unless

you give alternative source of earning to the people in the villages. So I would like to know from the Agriculture Minister that about the alternative crop against jhum cultivation in north-eastern region, what is the plan and programme because jhum cultivation must be stopped? Unless it is stopped, it is going to create havoc in the hill areas of north-eastern region. The alternative arrangement of rabi crop as well as other varieties of crops which will not destroy the soil of the forest should be thought of. What is the plan and programme about this for this particular area?

As I said, time is short and I do not want to go into the general aspects. But I will specially request the Agriculture Minister to react about the alternative to jhum cultivation.

About the money which is being sent from here, I personally spoke to the Deputy Prime Minister and also spoke to the Secretary, Agriculture. I am not mingling any Government or any particular individual. What I say is that you are maligning money for a specific purpose and that money must not be diverted for other purposes. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps he has taken in this regard. If he cannot answer it now, I would request him to at least find out through his machinery whether the money which has been given to the Assam Government in the last three years has been properly utilised. If it is not, then for future, please give a guideline that it is properly utilised because it affects the image of the Central Government. We as Members of Parliament go and produce the letter or assurance from the Minister that this has been given. But on the ground people do not get it.

I again repeat for the benefit of the hon. Minister of Water Resources to let me know about Brahmaputra Flood Control Board and Taipamukh Dam.

Since the Minister of Surface Transport is here, I may bring to his notice that I have written several letters to him. He has acknowledged them. But the answer is still waiting. I am sure, he knows Assam very

[Sh. Sontosh Mohan Dev]

well because he has travelled all parts of Assam. I hope, he will also look into this problem because communication is a major problem. I have written to him about four or five bridges which were sanctioned by the previous Government. But now the progress is standstill. I urge upon him to take action in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI YUVRAJ (Katihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources presented here but I would like to submit that Agriculture is the ministry of our country. The common farmers, that is, the marginal farmers lead a life similar to that of the labourers. In this House and other forums, discussions take place regularly for increasing the support prices of agricultural produce. Whenever the support price increases only a handful of farmers are benefited but the prices increase in the market. The well known lionheart, Shri G K Bhowmick has said that the prices should be consolidated instead of giving remunerative prices. All the people who are benefited are prices one controlled. Hence, if we talk only of increasing the support prices of agricultural produce, it would not only lead to inflation but it would also increase the difficulties of the people. In Bihar, cultivable land is available in plenty, but it remains uncultivated, because means of irrigation are not available, because it is not possible to provide irrigation facilities without electricity. How much electricity do you provide to us? The supply is twenty percent less than what is needed and in the rural areas, the situation is even worse. In those areas, there is a shortage of 40 percent. Few cities get the benefit at the expense at the rural areas. Therefore, if we wish to develop our agriculture, it is necessary for us to improve the power situation in the country. Electricity should be made available to the farmers by not only increasing the generation of electricity through thermal power but also by exploiting the immense water re-

sources available in our innumerable rivers, by developing the necessary technology. Apart from agriculture, billions of rupees have been spent on flood control, but even today, no significant improvement is in sight. For this, money is provided not only by the Central Government but even loans with interest are taken from the world bank. Despite all this, we are unable to implement even a single programme and it is the farmers who are at the losing end. There is 300-400 kilometre long embankment along the river Maharashtra in our area that embankment was built in 1974 to control the floods, but so far no provision has been made for the outflow of excess water. Heavy floods cause there in 1987 during which there was sea surge and breaches at many places. As a result of which there were loss worth 1400 crore rupees in the Katihar district (of Bihar) alone. Thousands of cattle died and lakhs of people were rendered homeless. Despite the allocation of money by the lender and despite the construction of the embankments, the related work has not been completed due to the laxity by the focus of the officials of the irrigation department attached to the flood control embankments on the Maharashtra. This is the reason that the farmers are repeatedly demanding the construction of a culvert and a sluice gate at Sikkim Ghat. They have also repeatedly demanded for the construction of a sluice gate at the Boalmari dam, but it has fallen on deaf ears. Flood waters, not only from the Kosi and Mahananda rivers, but also from Nepal create havoc there, but the outlook of the Government department is so unscientific that it is difficult to explain it. There was a railway bridge in our area but even that has been closed for traffic. The Railways thought that they would be able to get rid of great difficulty if they close down that bridge. The farmers of North Bihar, especially those belonging to the Katihar district cut down the railway tracks and facilitated the outflow of the flood waters of Mahananda into the Ganga during the 1987 floods. Due to the outflow of water in this way, they were able to get relief. Ours is the most backward district in the entire state. It is situated at the borders of Bengal. Embankments are built in Katihar and Purnia

districts, but no provision for sluices gates are made thus it is matter of great regret that these embankments are of not beneficial to the farmers. The farmers in the countryside are also greatly affected by it as even they do not get any facility. The Government has not made any arrangement has not made any arrangement for this convenience. Earlier new soil was brought by the rivers, but now even that has stopped. The Government did not pay attention towards making provision for the outflow of water by constructing channels. The Government should have provided channels so as to provide relief to the farmers of that area by making available water in order to facilitate better irrigation of their fields. Even though fourteen years have passed since the construction of the embankments on the Mahananda, the farmers have not been able to derive any benefit from it, I would like to tell you that it is not just a question of these difficulties, but under the present economy and social structure a handful of people have emerged prosperous, and it is this class which is dominating the politics of the entire country, including Punjab. The entire administrative set up is under their domination. Therefore, I would like to submit to you. That unless radical changes are brought about in the economic, social and developmental process, all your efforts to raise industries and to increase production would not in any way benefit our suffering masses, who constitute fifty percent of our population. Therefore, our basic outlook should be that changes should be brought about in the economic process, so that its benefits may reach the people in rural areas, who get less wages. Due to the low wages and unemployment, people are migrating to Punjab, Delhi and Haryana. Due to the low wages prevalent in Bihar, the farmers there do not get enough labourers as a result of which they are facing immense difficulties and problems. On the other hand lakhs of labourers are working in the various industrial units in Delhi because they get better wages and thus are in a position to maintain these families. Though you, I would also like to submit that till now we have not been able to formulate an agricultural policy. So far, we have been able to constitute only

a committee. My request to you is that you should formulate an agriculture policy on the lines of the industrial policy. That is, if you want to give agriculture the status an industry, then you will have to change your outlook. With these words, I thank you.

[English]

SHRI LAETA UMBREY (Arunachal East): Sir, I know that there is time constraint. So I will simply submit the points. Firstly, Arunachal Pradesh has less than 5% of its total land which is plain, fertile and cultivable land area compared to its total land area. So, the people in the hills tend to settle in those areas for cultivation. But fortunately or unfortunately, we have very heavy rains in the State every year. The collected rain waters which flows into a number of small and big tributaries of Brahmaputra River wash away the crops and cultivable land every year. Hence, I would request the Government to look into the matter and take necessary immediate measures for preventing the floods. The State Government has taken a number of measures for preventing the floods every year, but due to inadequate source of funds, the State Government could not take any big step. So, the Central Government should provide sufficient funds for executing the schemes for flood protection. In 1988, we had a very major flood in Arunachal Pradesh where hundreds of people had lost their houses, hundreds of villages had been washed away and thousands of acres of cultivable land under cultivation were affected. We have asked for money from the Central Government for flood protection works, but the fund provided to Arunachal Pradesh was meagre and we could not even pay the amount which is due to be paid to the contractors. We could not take up the flood protection work properly due to death of fund. So, I hope the present Government will take appropriate steps in this regard.

Secondly, in support of the previous speaker, I would like to say that the Brahmaputra river flows through the entire Assam region. If you see the flow of the river in Upper Assam, you will be very much fright-

[Sh Laeta Umbrey]

ened because the water level in Brahmaputra is at much higher level than the main land. So, every year hundreds of acres of tea gardens are washed away. Therefore, major flood protection schemes are to be taken up all along the river Brahmaputra. The performance of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board is totally dissatisfactory not only in respect of its study on Brahmaputra but also in respect of its study on other tributaries.

Lastly, I would like to say that in Dibang Valley Dist of Arunachal Pradesh one of the very important medicinal herbs called coptic tita which is popularly known as mishmitta is found in plenty. In Seventies our people used to sell this in the plains of Assam collecting the same from the mountainous jungles which are found at a height of above 5000 ft but suddenly at the end of 70s the market went down. All the same time in those days our State Government had taken up a number of schemes to encourage the villagers to cultivate this medicinal herb. Now many farms have been developed in the area, but there is no market to sell these products and our people are getting very much discouraged. We are told that in those days these mishmitta herbs were exported to Japan. I do not know how the Japanese people used it but we are told that they have plenty of mishmitta from China at comparatively cheaper rate and they have stopped buying mishmitta from India. So, why can't we engage our Research Institute to study the use of these medicinal herbs in India itself and set up some medicinal factories in the State where they are available? Also, our Government should take up this matter with Japan if they were really exported to Japan earlier. So, I request the Government to take up this matter quite seriously and ensure so that the economic condition of those poor farmers are improved once again.

MR CHAIRMAN Shri Ramjilal Yadava

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) Sir, I am on a point of information. Is the BJP list of Members with you there?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is there.

SHRI RAM NAIK Normally, after Congress Party, we get our turn.

MR. CHAIRMAN It is left to the Chair. Let him speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL YADAVA (Alwar) Mr Chairman, Sir, India is an agricultural country. During the year 1940-41 when I was in college, I read in the book that

[English]

Indian agriculture is a gamble in monsoon.

[Translation]

Unfortunately that situation still exists even today.

To improve the situation and give boost to the agriculture the Government did not provide irrigation facility during the last 40 years. In fact more efforts are needed for it. Special efforts are needed to pump out the underground water. This will make our farmers prosperous. I would like to submit that water particularly in Rajasthan is available neither for drinking purposes nor for irrigation purposes. During the last 40 years no effort was made by the Government to solve this problem. Therefore I would like to request the Government to make special effort to dig exploratory tubewells on experimental basis and efforts should be made to pump out water even if it is found at 400 to 500 or even at 1000 feet deep below the ground and the farmers should be advised as to whether water is suitable for agriculture purposes or not, after carrying out necessary tests of the water. Since the State Government does not have necessary resources to do all this, I would like to request the Central Government to install such tubewells in Rajasthan. Since soil in Rajasthan is extremely sandy and there is a lot of loss of water in conveyance, it is, therefore, imperative to irrigate fields with the help of

sprinkle system or laying underground pipes to take water from one place to other place to avoid loss of water and ensure maximum utilisation of it.

Besides, we have noticed that every year water level is going down by 10 to 15 feet. Something should be done in this regard. My constituency Alwar borders Haryana, Across the border in Haryana there is a net work of canals, while there is no canal in my area. I would like to submit that Rajasthan is also one of the States of India, like Haryana. I would like to request that if it is not possible to release water for irrigation for Rajasthan from the canals in Haryana, at least raw water may be released to our area from those canals so that underground water level could be raised in our area. This would enable us to irrigate our fields through tubewells and wells

Again there is soil problem in districts like Alwar and Bharatpur. The soil there has become saline and contains soda ash. I have read in the annual report of the Ministry that in states like Haryana, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, a scheme has been started under which barren land has been made arable with special treatment method. I would like to request you to include Rajasthan also in this scheme so that people of Rajasthan are benefited.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Government has constructed many big dams. There is no scope of such dams in Rajasthan. But in my area, smaller dams can be constructed at a nominal cost of Rs. 2 to 4 lakhs. Such dams would be very useful for irrigation through canals as well as by pumping the sub-soil water. The Central Government should help Rajasthan Government in this regard.

Apart from it, efforts should be made to supply seeds in adequate quantity and in time to the farmers. I would like to say that the foodgrains of hybrid seeds are not so tasty as compared to the foodgrains of conventional seeds.

In my area there are two villages named

Jhakhrana and Gwala which were once famous for the quality seeds of millet throughout Rajasthan and Haryana from where people used to come here to purchase seeds of millet whose average yields was also very good. When Panchayat committees were first formed people prefer this seed. Now the people are becoming dependent on hybrid seeds which resulted in degradation in quality and taste. I would like to request the Government to revive this variety of seeds which is on the verge of extinction.

Now a days plants are catching new diseases. Of course, insecticides are provided by the Government for this but they have become ineffective. Seeds imported from other countries contain weeds which cause new diseases to plants. In order to remove the possibility of plants catching diseases due to weeds in imported seeds, imported seeds should be checked through quarantine method.

I would like to invite your attention towards one more problem of Rajasthan. The Central assistance to states is given under Gadgil formula drawn in 1968. According to this formula, central assistance to states is given as follows: 60% on the basis of population, 10% on the basis of per-capita income, 10% for major irrigation and power projects and 10% for special problems. But this provision was amended in 1971 and the funds provided for major irrigation and power projects was discontinued and the fund provided on the basis of per capita income was increased from 10% to 20%. Thus the poorer states like Rajasthan were put to loss because of peculiar geographical situation where 4% of the population of the country lives and whose area is 11% of the total area of the country. Government should give more assistance to Rajasthan. Unless Rajasthan is given central assistance in proportion to its area, it can not get fair share in the central assistance. Therefore if Government wants to make development in Rajasthan, weightage should be given to its area while giving central assistance. As per the revised formula, many big power and irrigation projects of Rajasthan which were undertaken in 1968

[Sh. Ramjilal Yadava]

with the help of central government became ineligible for central assistance as a result of which the state could not be benefited from the projects like Chambal, Rajasthan canal, Mahi project in which huge investment was made by the state government. Thus while in the first plan Rajasthan's share in central assistance was 6.8% while in sixth plan it got only 5%. Among 18 most poorer states, Rajasthan stands at 5 place. Rajasthan is not getting adequate central assistance. On the contrary, the state is mobilising resources with its own efforts. The state mobilised 9.8% resources with its own efforts in the First Five Year Plan. This figure increased to 69.9% in the Sixth plan. Despite all these, Rajasthan is not getting due share in the central assistance. That is why the state is suffering. I therefore, request that Rajasthan is specially considered for central assistance taking into account its vast area. Former Chief Minister Shri Joshi and Shri Mathur had also taken up this matter with the Central Government but their requests were not heeded to by the then Central Government. The present Chief Minister of the state Shri Bhairo Singh Shekhawat took up this matter with the central government immediately after taking charge of his office. He has requested the Government to revise the formula for giving central assistance. He has requested to give weightage to the area also. I, therefore, through you, request the Government to revise the Gadgil formula and give weightage to the area also.

Besides, efforts should be made to supplement the income of farmers from sources other than farming. For this farmers have been resorting to animal husbandry in my state. But they have been doing it with conventional method which is not economical. I, therefore, request that farmers should be provided cross breed animals so that they could supplement their income. More and more veterinary hospitals should be opened. In my area of Jhakranan, she-goats are famous for their high yield in whole of the country. For the last 3 or 4 years they are securing first or second position in all India

competition. They give us much as six to eight kilograms of milk daily. I urge upon the Government to conduct research on she-goats in our area and send this breed of she-goats to other parts of the country so that more and more people could be benefited.

In the end I would like to thank you for providing me opportunity to speak and listening my points carefully. Now I resume my seat.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: I would again appeal to you because BJP Members are not being called.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It does not mean they will never be called.

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH): Already a convention is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. This has to be arranged in a certain way which is not strictly on the conventional lines. Shri A.K. Roy will now speak.

SHRI A.K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr Chairman, while discussing agriculture, we are practically forgetting that fertiliser is also a part of the Agriculture Ministry which used to be previously a part of the Petroleum and Chemicals Ministry.

When I heard the speeches of many Members, none of them, at least those Members whom I could hear, dealt with the problem of fertiliser in our country.

You know that for agriculture, three things are most important. One, land management which means, land reforms and other things.

Secondly, water management. That means irrigation and other water conservation devices.

Lastly, the input management which means the proper selection and proper use

of fertiliser and also the correct quality of seeds to augment or to increase agricultural production. Whatever we may say till today, agriculture is the main base of our economy contributing to about 30 per cent of our national income. And this time we have produced about 175 million tonnes of foodgrains. And at the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan if we are to maintain our present degree of nutrition, we are to produce about 206 million tonnes of foodgrains and up to 2000 A.D. we are to produce 222 million tonnes of foodgrains. Wherefrom would that extra foodgrains come because we cannot expand our area under cultivation to that extent? We have already exhausted it. That means, we are to go in for intensive cultivation which means, increase in the agricultural input. And in that, fertilizer is the main thing. We know that one tonne of fertilizer nutrient can produce ten tonnes of foodgrains. That means, if we are to produce some 30 million tonnes of more foodgrains, we have to create a capacity for three million tonnes of nutrients. And three million tonnes of nutrient means an expenditure of more than Rs. 10,000 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

As we have seen and experts have calculated—I will take some time because this is the only subject which I have taken to deal with in the entire Budget—that today our capacity for nitrogenous fertilizer is about 8.1 million tonnes, and for phosphatic fertilizer, it is 2.7 million tonnes. If we total this up, it comes to 10.8 million tonnes. And of the on-going process, if something comes into production, then before entering the Eighth Five Year Plan, have 11.8 million tonnes of capacity for producing nutrients. But we will be needing a capacity of 16.5 million tonnes. That means, we are to put three to four million tonnes of additional capacity, which I have calculated earlier. Wherefrom would that capacity come? In which way, can we add that capacity? One way is to install new plants. That must be done. I am not objecting to that. Another way is, we must increase the capacity utilisation of each plant. We must rehabilitate our all the existing plants. I want to suggest that some action plan, some very

comprehensive plan is to be made by the new Ministry about making all those sick fertilizer units, ailing fertilizer units viable. And for that, I am like to stress on the Ministry about the two companies—one is FCI and the other is HFC—which are chronically ill children of fertilizer family. And this Ministry must come out with some comprehensive plan as to how to rehabilitate and how to make those plants run in a profitable basis. We have to go deep into all these aspects. Under HFC, there are factories like Durgapur, Baruni, Haldia and Namrup—I, II and III; And under FCI, there are factories like Sindri, Gorakhpur, Ramagundam and Talchar. They are all sick and all are running at losses.

But if we go into it we will find that it is not the fault of the workers. People always talk that there is no work culture and all that. But if we go deep into it, we will find that it is not the fault of the workers but certain design defects, certain mismatch in equipment that are contributing to all these losses.

I have already said earlier that if we spend some Rs. 600 crores in HFC that will make the entire company viable within a period of two years and we will be saved of chronic loss of some Rs. 200 crores per year.

Similarly we have to make timely investments in FCI units. For example, in Sindri the entire Ammonium Sulphate Plant is lying idle. This and the Ammonium Nitrate Plants other modifications require some Rs. 50 crores. They will put Sindri again into the list of profit making companies.

Similarly in Ramagundam this plant is now lying idle because of lack of thermal plant. Already a proposal has been given to give 40 MW captive power plant. If that is installed in time, the Ramagundam Plant will also come out of the loss making spree.

In Gorakhpur area there is the oldest plant. It was giving profits, it has already passed twenty years. Gorakhpur Plant needs definitely a thorough renovation and replace-

[Sh. A.K. Roy]

ment by a new plant so that it can also make profits. In this way if each plant is examined and proper action is taken we can revive all the fertilizer plants and put them to profit making spree.

We discussed Haldia many times. If we go into the details of Haldia you will find that the entire plant became obsolete because the Fuel Oil Plant did not work. Why? Because of lack of a proper oxygen compressor. It required a timely investment of Rs. 20 crores which was not done. So ammonia could not be produced and in the entire downstream the whole plant went out of operation and now it is lying idle. That is why a comprehensive proposal was given to the Ministry by PDIL that they have to invest Rs. 227 crores which will make their Ammonia Plant, Urea Plant and Methanol Plant operative and also run it on a profit basis.

The Nitro Phosphate zone requires some Rs. 100 crores. FEDO gave a proposal to them. If that is accepted, that also can run. But what is disturbing in fertilizer industry is that they take such a long time in taking correct decisions that ultimately when the plant becomes redundant then only they come out and start working. That is why my proposal is that you have to add some three to four million tonnes of nutrient to meet the food demands in the 8th Five Year Plan. Instead of spending all the money for new plants, kindly rehabilitate all your ailing plants because that would give handle for them to run it at the optimum capacity. At least FCI will give you five lakh tonnes of extra nitrogen which you are not getting because the capacity utilisation is 37% because of defects in your machines. HFC can give you another four lakh tonnes of fertilizer without spending anything. You are not getting that also because the capacity utilisation is 25%.

My concrete proposal is that instead of going in for a new project, if you expand the capacity of the old projects and of the ailing ingredients which are hampering its proper

capacity utilisation, that would be cheaper and easier way to it. If you want to start a new project, it may require land acquisition and it involves a lot of complications. You can do that also and I do not prevent you from doing that. In Sindri, Barauni, Durgapur and Haldia, land is there; infra-structure is there; machine is there; only thing is that it requires correction, it requires proper scrutiny; it requires proper accountability which must be entrusted.

I would also like to suggest this. We are having our own Research Organisations like PDIL—Plan and Development Division of India, now called as Project and Development Division of India—and FEDO. They have developed a lot of expertise; you trust them and you entrust each plant to one of the research institutions. If they fail, then you catch hold of them; you make them responsible for that and dismiss the senior officers, in case of any lapse. And you do not make them sub-contractors to those multi-nationals and foreign powers like Kellogg, Haldortopse and Toye. What you are getting from them? You are making use of your own experts, just as an appendage to those concerns. They are coming, making a thing and going; but after that it does not work. The you are not able to catch anybody; and you are in difficulties because one part is made by one company and another part is made by another company by which we could not fix the responsibility on anyone, as it happened in Ramagundam and in Haldia. That is why, my request is that firstly, you come out with a concrete proposal for rehabilitating all the sick units. Secondly, you entrust some plants to the research institution. Like PDIL, FEDO. You give them complete responsibility of rehabilitating them. They may seek the cooperation of Kellogg, they may seek the cooperation of Haldortopso, they may seek the cooperation of Toye, they may seek the cooperation of Lurgi, and they may seek the cooperation of whatever internationally famous firms that are available. But the responsibility will be their in this case. Selection of equipments, treating the equipments, alignment of equipment, installation, for all these the research institutions should be

made responsible. So, give them the right to do it.

Another thing I would like to say is this. You are going to install in the Eighth Five Year Plan, three Naptha-based plants. You should install one of the Naptha plants at Sindri itself, because Sindri plant is becoming old. I think, the proposal has come to you already. Similarly one Naptha plant should be installed at Gorakhpur, where the plant has become old, after serving for more than 20 years. Another Napth plant, if not installed, the present capacity—600 tonne per day—of both Durgapur and Barouni should be increased.

In this way, by spending less and utilising our own expertise, you can develop it. I believe in this because the development of fertiliser technology is within our reach. For that, we need not go to Holland or England or America or we need not have Italian connections. We are not to develop Italian connection. We can develop our own connection with our own experts and expertise: and consult our experts for this

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to conclude now.

SHRI A.K. ROY: I will conclude in just two minutes. I would like to give some suggestions. Sir

I do not subscribe to the theory that, always small is beautiful and the big is bad'. Even if it is not true in other cases, it is true at least in fertiliser. What raw material, the fertiliser plant need? It is Nitrogen which you can get from air; raw material of fertiliser is Sulphur; raw material of fertiliser is Phosphorus, raw material of fertiliser is Carbon. It is the energy, which you can get everywhere. That is why, you do not have to go in for 1350 tonne per day capacity plant. You have some sort of fascination to go for big plants only, you should start small plants with one lakh tonnes capacity per year. You start initially with small plants with a capacity of 50000 tonnes per year. That means, instead of a capacity of 1350 tonnes, you can

have 50 tonnes or 100 tonnes capacity per day. This way will help you in making progress. ICI has made an analysis that even small plants can be run effectively and energy consumption is actually the Achilles' heel of the entire fertiliser industry. Instead of having a big plant in one place, you can have small plants with a capacity of 50 or 100 tonnes per day in each agricultural zone. There are zones in various parts of North Bihar and North Bengal where facilities like transportation are not available. But you can set up mini fertilizer plants there with whatever raw material available in the atmosphere. There are problems as far as supply and transportation of fertilizers are concerned. If mini fertilizer plants are constituted in agricultural areas, then the problem of transportation humidity, absorption of moisture, etc. will not arise. You can be saved from all these technical problems. So, kindly see that mini fertilizer plants are set up. I would also like to state that side by side, bio-chemical industry should also be given adequate attention. You should try to develop bio-chemical fertilizers as chemical laboratories are there working in this field. This field can also be attracted. We can cultivate leguminous plants which have the capacity of fixing nitrogen from the atmosphere. Similar types of bio-chemical experiments should be made and some mini bio-chemical fertilizer plants in small scale, if possible in the rural sector also, should be set up. Lastly my concrete appeal to the hon. Minister is that he should call a meeting of all the concerned MPs where the sick units are located, alongwith other experts and discuss about the ailing fertilizer plants so that some suggestions or some concrete proposals may come up which can be implemented to make the fertilizer plants free from loss and become viable units.

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me opportunity to speak on the Demands for Agriculture and Water Resources Ministries. I have given several cut-Motions on the two subjects. The Eighth Plan is about to be started very soon.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not challenging your ruling but I would like to know as to then my turn will come to speak (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is in my mind. When I am not on the Chair, I will satisfy you.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North). Sir, we are not asking you for any explanation..... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not giving you any explanation. When I am not on the Chair, you ask me

Please continue

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL We are entering into the Eighth Plan and the Government is to formulate an Agricultural Policy very soon. I would like to know certain things in this regard.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK May I point out that there is no quorum in the House.

MR CHAIRMAN. The bell is being rung Now, there is quorum The hon Member may continue

[Translation]

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL The Agriculture Policy should be formulated very shortly. Agriculture and Water are closely related to each other because irrigation cannot be done without water As a matter of fact, Water Resources Ministry is another name of Irrigation Ministry There is provision of marketing of agricultural produce such as rice and wheat etc I would like to request that arrangements should be made for marketing, godowns and warehousing facilities for perishable goods also. The warehouses and godowns are being con-

structed but not on scientific lines. Thus, these should be constructed on scientific line. As regards Agricultural Science Centre, the previous Government gave an assurance that Agricultural Science Centres would be set up in each district but they have not been set up so far. I, therefore, request that Agricultural Science Centre be set up in each district. An accord has been made for sharing the water of Krishna and Godavari rivers among Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The award is valid upto 2000 A.D. I request that the Chief Ministers of all the three states should sit together and evolve a permanent solution so that no such dispute again crops up in future. At present, an amount of Rs. 40 thousand is incurred on irrigation of one hectare by the Government. I would like to submit that expenditure to be incurred on construction of dams and canals should be borne by the Central Government Today, farmers have to make arrangements for irrigation to their land themselves and with own resources, even by mortgaging their belongings. Thus they are contributing to the development of the country The farmers should be given subsidy to the tune of 40 thousand rupees. Besides, I would also request to reduce the input cost of agricultural production as also inputs should be made available to them at an interest of four per cent. I would further request that the amount of Rs. 40 thousand at present being spent by the government from its exchequer on irrigation of one hectare of land should be given to the farmers for this purpose and the expenditure to be incurred beyond this amount of forty thousand should be borne by the farmer. The Government should make arrangements to provide water for irrigational purposes in the desert, drought prone and scarcity areas. The Egyptian system of drift irrigational purposes in the desert, drought prone and scarcity areas. The Egyptian system of drift irrigation should be adopted for the Parwara Canal in our area. Rajasthan is a desert area Maharashtra and Telangana area in Andhra Pradesh are also facing acute water crisis. In order to proper utilization of water, schemes should be formulated. As such, there should be some proper linkage for land and

water use. By the Eighth Five Year Plan or by 2000 A.D., if the production of food grains is to be taken to the level of 232 lakhs M.T.S. and more, apart from drift irrigation, water management technology and water use technology will have to be adopted. I have given cut motion also on this subject. The British Government had constructed a canal in Maharashtra under protective irrigation. Due to drought condition, more and more water is needed and agriculture production is decreasing. As such, I urge upon the Government to construct a canal on Egyptian pattern so that drift irrigation could be made possible. In India, only 3-4 canals are constructed on this pattern. The Government of India should provide financial assistance in drought prone areas, otherwise, farmers who are already debt ridden will not be able to do it with their own resources. You have promised to waive loans upto Rs. 10,000 of the farmers. Farmer have to take a loan of Rs. 50,000 to Rs. one lakh to bore a tubewell or to dig a well in drought area. If they manage to do it through taking loans, they are not in a position to repay the loan and thus their entire properties are attached in recovery of loans. So I want to say that in certain circumstances, for example in natural calamities, if these loans are not repaid, farmers properties should not be attached. As your Government is termed as the Government of farmer, I expect that you will not attach the utensils, land diesel engine or electric motor pump etc. of the farmer because compound interest is charged on the loan given to the farmer. That is why his condition has deteriorated and he has become defaulter. As such, I want what compound interest should not be charged on the loan given to the farmer for land development purposes and it should be given in the form of term loan. Simple interest at the rate of four per cent should be charged on it. I want to assure the Government that in case compound interest is not charge, banks will be in a position to recover loans very easily but compound interest is posing a great problem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with these words, I thank you for having given me time to speak.

I expect from the Government that they will ensure that the belongings of the farmer are not attached and that in the drought prone areas, the Government will be bear the expenditure on construction of one or two canals for drift irrigation purposes. This is my demand.

DR. KHUSHAL PARASRAM BOPCHE (Bhandara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Demand for Grant of Water Resources and Agriculture Ministries are being discussed and as I rise to speak for the first time on it, I hope that you will kindly give me some extra time.

3-4 days ago from now, a discussion was initiated in the newspapers and it would be appropriate if I start with the Department of Agriculture. There are some apprehensions in the minds of the people with regard to the policy of the loan waiver of the new Government and as such it is necessary to remove the doubt by clarifying the position. People in the urban areas have some grudge in this regard. They feel that the government is doing everything for the farmers only and people belonging to other professions are being ignored as if they are not the citizens of this country and the Government is doing nothing for them. I would like to submit that waiving of loans is a dire necessity. Has there been any instance in this country wherein even petty traders who spent an amount of Rs. 500 or for that matter an employee whose salary is Rs. 500 will ever accept Rs. 400. If the production cost of a product comes to 90 paise has it ever been sold for 80 paise? After all it is sold after adding adequate profit over the production cost and in this way, the whole trade goes on. In this country, the only group of citizens to whom the Government has paid 70 paise for the produce whose production cost was 90 paise was the group of farmer and even in this system, the farmers whose prime job was farming was rushed on account of this policy.

A discussion has been initiated through the newspapers that in case farming is not a profitable profession in this country, why people adopt farming as their profession?

[Dr. Khushal Parasram Bopche]

Through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that if you go to the interior of the villages these days, you will find that the people belonging to higher class do resort to farming not because they earn something from it but they do so in order to conceal their black money so that they can show it as if it has been earned through farming. People want to transform their black money into white under the guise of farming. There are no two opinions in this regard that basically the farmer depending solely on farming is gradually trailing behind. In this context, I would like to quote an example of Maharashtra as I am not having knowledge of the entire country. In Maharashtra, farmers are given loans through cooperatives but at the time of giving loan, 5 to 10 per cent of the amount are deducted from the total amount and deposited in that particular bank. For example, if a farmer is given a loan of Rs. 1000, he receives Rs. 900 in hand and the balance amount of Rs. 100 is deducted and deposited in the bank. But at the time of repayment, he has to return Rs. 1000 and also pay interest on the total amount whereas he was at no stage given Rs. 100. Around Rs. 750 crores of the farmers are kept in the District Central Cooperative banks or in the land development banks. If the interest on the said amount is calculated, it comes to Rs. 1500 crores and this amount will never be returned to any of the farmers and at the same time, it will not benefit him in any manner in the long run also.

An amount of Rs. 5 deposited in a bank becomes double after a period of 6 years. But the farmers are no way benefited from their money amounting to Rs. 750 crores lying deposited in the banks. As such the Government is not going to do any favour to the farmers by its loan waiver announcement. It is their fundamental right. Through you, I would like to tell the government that it will be a mistake on the part of the government if it claims that loan waiver scheme is a favour to the farmers.

If we see the condition of the farmer,

review the various facilities being provided to him and other facilities made available for agriculture purposes, we will come to know that so far we have been able to provide irrigation facilities to a very small percentage of land in the country. In the whole country assured irrigation facilities are available hardly to 12 per cent of land, out of this, the wells and ponds account for 6 per cent. It means that the Government has so far provided irrigational facilities to only 6 per cent of land. While it has not been possible on our part to provide full irrigation facilities, how can we think of uplifting the farmers. If electricity supply is interrupted for even one minute in the city, people make a lot of hue and cry, but in villages, supply of electricity remains suspended for 2-3 days together. Due to this, sometimes the farmers finds himself helpless to save this crops. But nobody has paid attention to it. I feel that supply of electricity to rural areas should be the first and foremost duty of the Government. Not only that transporting facilities are not adequate in the villages. In some places roads have not been constructed to the required number and at some places, other facilities are not available. Apart from this, it is also necessary to effect suitable amendments in the Forest (Conservation) Act. I should not be misunderstood that I am opposed to preservation of environment. It is very essential to safeguard the environment. But it cannot be tolerated that on the pretext of environment, the development and progress of work in the backward areas of the country should be stalled. I would cite the case of Maharashtra to you. A major part of Maharashtra, particularly, the vast areas of Vidarbha region could not be developed due to the existence of reserved forests on a vast tract of land. Though abundant water flows through the area, it goes waste. It cannot be preserved. A number of projects in the region either lie incomplete for want of clearance from the forest department or have been held up under some other provisions of the Act. About 90 per cent projects of the Vidarbha region re-affected by the above problem—and due to operation of Forest Conservation Act, the farmers cannot enjoy the facilities of water from these projects. For

example, I would like to draw your attention to Umarjari Project in Bhandara district, 90 per cent work of which has since been completed. This project constructed at a cost of Rs. 1.12 crores is lying useless as it attracts the provision of Forest Conservation Act. The farmers are getting little benefit from this project. It is not only the lone case, but there are as many as 132 such projects in Bhandara district alone. Even now, we give much stress on forest conservation. But without preservation of water conservation of forest becomes meaningless. Man needs water first. Otherwise, it will be a kind of mummification of the country. As such, in order to provide all facilities, the agriculture policy should be evolved in such a way that the real benefits reach the villages. It is nice that the Government has decided to spend 50% of resources on agriculture. But as long as these projects are not completed, the villagers cannot receive the full benefits of this provision. There are reserved forest on 40 per cent land in the districts of Bhandara, Chandrapur Garchiroli. The hon. Minister of State for environment and forests, Shrimati Maneka Gandhi says that forests are necessary on 33 per cent of land. Then why clearance is not being given to projects in these districts? It is not known as to how Jurapi forest came in the way? The forests which were earmarked as grazing areas during the period of kings still come under the Revenue Department. If these forests are transferred to Forest Department, we will not be required to seek aid from others for these projects and all these projects will be completed automatically. I would, therefore, like to request you to initiate action to transfer these forests to the Forest Department.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though various laws have been enacted to remove unemployment but mere enactment of laws would not serve any purpose. It is also not possible on the part of the Government to provide jobs to each and every person. It is, therefore, necessary today that the flow of people from villages to cities should be checked. The villages should be made self-reliant. Out of the total population, 80 per cent population lives in 5.76 lakh villages. Migration of village

people to cities continues unabated. This flow must be checked. Otherwise, they will migrate to cities and cause more problems for the Government.

14.42 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKEHRJEE *in the Chair*]

Madam, Chairman, it is very necessary to check the flow of people from village to the cities. For that, it is necessary to make the villages self-reliant. For self-reliance of the villages, agriculture should be made self-reliant. Agriculture can be made self-reliant when adequate provisions of electricity and water are made. When these facilities can be made, flow of people from rural areas to cities could be checked.

Madam Chairman, during the course of discussion, it was brought to the notice of the august House that farm workers working in agriculture fields have also started coming to cities in search of jobs. They are no way at fault for this. Since they get less wages in the villages and more in the cities, they come to cities. Why do they get less wages in the villages. It is because the farmers in the villages are poor. They cannot be provided modern equipments for their agriculture. That is why they give less wages. If people continue to migrate to cities in this way, whatever balanced Budget, the Government might make, there will be problems both in the villages and in the cities and there will be disorders at both the places.

Madam Chairman, I have already placed before you problems pertaining to electricity, water and environment. Now, I would like to say something about fertilizers. The prices of foodgrains hardly increase by Rs. 4-5 a quintal in a season whereas the prices of fertilizers increase manifold during the same period. A bag full of fertilizer costs Rs. 50. But due to artificial shortage caused during the season, the price of the same bag shoots upto Rs. 80. In this way, the farmers are being put to hardships. As such, there should be reasonable increase in the prices of fertil-

[Dr. Khushal Parasram Bopche]

izers. Due care should be taken in this regard.

Madam Chairman, though fruit is produced in abundant quantities in our country, the processing work is not done with that promptitude. It is therefore, necessary to develop the fruit processing industry. In order to have more cash crops grown by the farmers, adequate processing arrangements must be made. Due to shortage of processing units, the processing work costs more. As a result, the consumers will have to pay more price for the processed fruit products. Apart from that the farmers also suffer losses due to sickness in marketing. The Government should take this aspect into account. Similarly, fishery could be developed well in Maharashtra. Today, there is a need to encourage the farmers to undertake fishery. In Maharashtra, people are very fond of fishregard in potatete water. If the Government could make some arrangements for fishery, it will provide a source of good engagement for the farmers. There are some areas where no cultivation could be done. Canals also can be dug on this land. The quality of land in our country changes after every few kilometres—due to geographical factors. If tube-wells could be installed in this type of land with 50 percent subsidy, the farmers will definitely benefited. This will help the farmers in getting assured irrigation for the land through which canals cannot be taken. Through you, I am making all these points to the Government. I am hopeful that my points will definitely be considered. I would like to thank you for providing me a little more time with this, I conclude.

SHRIKIRPAL SINGH (Amritsar): I would like to lay more emphasis on the situation that continues in Punjab regarding distribution of water. So far as our country is concerned, all the water resources available in the country were not mobilised. Instead, the rulers in India created inter-state disputes and the whole water was wasted as it flowed unutilised. Till today no decision has been arrived at regarding utilisation of water. So

far as the question of Punjab in concerned, I would like to say a few words about it. The first thing is that people should get good quality fertilizer and insecticides on subsidies rates. Secondly, at least 30 sugar mills should be set up in Punjab. Thirdly keeping in view in injustice done to Punjab so far in regard to distribution of water, the principle of riparian rights' which is accepted the world over should be made applicable in the matter of distribution of water. More subsidy should be provided for cultivation of oil seeds and pulses and poultry farming as also for imparting training to the farmers in technical know-how. So far as the distribution of water is concerned, it is a dispute which is directly connected with the Punjab problem or we can say that it is a major issue but I would like to point out that a lot of injustice has been done in this matter. Punjab deserves to be allotted a major share in the agro-based industries. So far as fruits and vegetables are concerned their growers too should be given a reasonable price for their produce. I have stated earlier that the number of sugar mills should be increased to 30 in the State of Punjab at the earliest. At present this number is less than even 15. The construction work of Kanoi Canal was started very late and it is nowhere near completion. Since there is an acute problem of drinking water, efforts should be made to solve this problem. So far as the water resources in Punjab are concerned, I do have the figures relating to ground water resources and irrigated area. The Ministry is well aware of them and I do not want to take the time of the House to present these figures.

I would like to tell the Government that the number of tubewells in Punjab has increased so much that more than half of the crops depend on tubewells. Due to this, the ground water level has gone very down and the hand pumps are becoming useless. The other type of machines which can be used for this purpose are beyond the reach of farmers. Water resources are depleting. The result would be that the land of Punjab will be converted into a desert. I have with me the complete figures relating to share of water that was allotted to Punjab at the time of

partition as well as at the time of division of Punjab when a new State Haryana was carved out but I do not want to go into these figures. The base that was accepted in respect of sharing of waters between Punjab and Haryana has not been followed. The State of Punjab was provided two irrigation systems—Sarhind Canal and Yamuna Canal. When decision was taken regarding sharing of water between Punjab and Haryana, the water of Yamuna canal was not distributed and the rest of the water was distributed among them. The people of Punjab filed a suit in the Supreme Court about the distribution of water, praying that since the people of Punjab did not get their due share, justice should be done to them in the matter of distribution of water. That case was withdrawn by the Chief Minister of Punjab at the instance of the Central Government or at the instance of the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, if I may say so, and accepted Centre's mediation in the matter. The decision taken by them was very harmful for the people of Punjab and in due course of time this dispute got linked with the Punjab problem.

"Har Charagar ko Charagar se gurej tha.

Varna Hamen jo dukh the koi ladawa na the."

It was accepted in the Rajiv Longowal Accord that sharing of water between the States of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana will continue in the ratio as existed in July 1985, but the remaining water will be distributed. The Commissions which were set up in connection with sharing of waters and similar other issues, have strange stories of their own. The people of the whole country were surprised that they did not work on the subject assigned to them. It is very wrong on the part of any judge to do so.

So far as the question of supply of irrigation water to Punjab is concerned, the major problem facing the state is that it has only 1.6 per cent of the total cultivable land in the country, yet it is producing 55 per cent of total foodgrains. The remaining land in Punjab

is not irrigated due to shortage of water as its sources of water are being snatched. If these sources of water are allowed to be utilised by the State, famine can never hit our country. The facilities which should be provided to them are not being given to them. On the contrary the resources provided to them by the nature are being snatched away from them. Thus injustice is being done to them. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister in this House that this issue is pending since long. Nothing has been done in this matter. Whosoever came forward to solve this tangle, complicated it further. There is no such disease which is incurable. But instead of solving this issue, they politicalised it and complicated it further. Every time they behaved in a manner as if Punjab was a country outside India and if water was made available to Punjab it would be going out of our country. They felt as if Punjab would no longer remain part of India if additional rights were given to them. I know those people who are laying emphasis on the unity and integrity of the country to whatever party they belong. It is they who had first of all raised the issue of Punjabi and said that it was not their language. They said that only those people lived in Punjab whose mother tongue was Punjabi. This resulted in a dispute. It was assumed that the water given to Punjab would go to the houses of Sikhs and that it would not go to the Hindus. Such mentality gave a big jolt to basic values and basic structure, as every decision on the issue was taken with a biased view. I would like to say that so far as the water resources are concerned, the Government should pay attention to the fact that most of the farmers have installed their own tubewells by spending a large amount as cost of tubewells. Apart from that they pay for the electricity consumed. At present one third of the total tubewells installed in Punjab are operating with diesel. This time the Government have increased the price of diesel, I had made a request in my first speech on Punjab Budget that the rate of diesel which is used for various agricultural operations and for running tubewells, threshers and tractors etc. should not be increased, rather subsidy should be given on it. The issue of drought in

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the country is raised in the House. The Hon. Members from Madhya Pradesh as well as other states talk of drought and scarcity of water of their respective States. When the nature has bestowed a state with such resources that it can produce 55 per cent of country's total foodgrains production in just 1.6 per cent of the total area, why the Government should not make efforts to provide irrigation facilities to rest of its land to solve this problem on a permanent basis. If this is done the people of Punjab will feel proud and they will not nurse a feeling of discrimination.

Besides traditional crops the farmer of Punjab should be provided more facilities for raising cash crops, because they have proved by their hard work that they have a capacity to accomplish such a big task.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirpal Singh, please do not take it ill. Your time is over.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Their problems should be solved....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Am I speaking about an unnecessary issue?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking about a very important issue. But there are also other members to speak.

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: There are also such members in the House who are not taking permission from the Chairperson. 10 members from this side and 20 from that side stand up and start speaking, whether anyone listens listens to them or not. They take pride in creating such a situation. Many seasoned and respectable Members are present in the House. They seldom respect the orders of the Chair, but you are very particular in pointing out this thing to me. If you want I will sit down. I would not mind.

I would like to make only two points and I want them to be recorded in the proceed-

ings, of the House. You think that I am snatching away anybody's right to speak. I would conclude by saying that injustice has been done to the people of Punjab in the matter of distribution of water which was even to them by nature. If the present Government is honest, due share should be given to them, and if the Government fails to do justice to them, then their name too will be added to the list of dishonest men. I sincerely wish that their name should not be included in that list and they would do justice to the people of Punjab. This justice will be in the interest of the common man, the country and the world as a whole. It will also be helpful in providing foodgrains to the people of our country.

With these words I thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the time has been fixed by the House. It has been extended by the House. The Chair is bound by that. A long list of Speakers is there. If I request any hon. member not to take long time, that is your own will and not mine. Kindly cooperate without any rancour in mind.

Now I call upon Shri Dasai Chowdhary to speak. After that, the Minister of State in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in the Ministry of Agriculture Shri Nitish Kumar will intervene.

[Translation]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that if there is a class which is backward even after 42 years of independence, it is that of farmers. The condition of the farmer is deteriorating day by day, the main cause of which is wrong policies and wrong intentions of the government. I want to point out that seeds corporations of the Central and State governments do not have the production capacity to meet the requirement of farmers, as a result the corporations have to purchase sub-standard seeds produced by private agencies. The seed so procured is provided to farmers and the farmers lose entire crop. For ex-

ample, I want to tell you that the Chairman of the Vishkoman I do not want to mention his name—was the known mafia of co-operatives. The Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar and Shri Upendra Nath Verma know that sub-standard seed was purchased from Vishkoman throughout the country and the same seed was supplied to the farmers during 1984-85. When farmers sowed it there was no production of wheat and they lost entire crop, I want to say that officials of the Seeds Corporations and Vishkoman should be punished. The politicians who are appointed as Chairmen of these corporations should also be penalised for accepting sub-standard seed. Only then the farmers will be benefited.

I want to tell you that whether there is drought, flood or any other natural calamity, it is the farmer who suffers. The Crop Insurance Scheme is there. But have the Government given compensation under Crop Insurance Scheme for losses incurred by the farmers due to floods, drought and natural calamities in the country? Lakhs of farmers had suffered heavy losses due to severe earthquake and floods in Bihar particularly in Ghanshyampur, Viral, Kachashwar Sthal, Rosera, Baheri, Sindia, Hassanpur Daon, Barinnagar blocks of the Darbhanga and Samastipur districts in 1987. Have the farmers of these blocks been given compensation under the Crop Insurance Scheme till now? The farmer of these regions have not been given compensation for the losses incurred by them. No loans have been provided to them. Therefore, I want to say that laws are enacted by every Government. The Congress Government also enacted laws for the welfare of farmers, the present Government also wants to do something for them but unless the people involved in their implementation are honest the benefits which the Government wants to extend to the farmers will not reach them. The Government provide loans to the poor, to the farmers under I.R.D.P. and many other schemes. I do not want to say about other States, but in Bihar where the loans are provided to the farmers even 50 per cent of them do not reach the farmers. The money remains in

banks and some officials swallow that money by way of bribe. As an hon. member was saying, the funds allocated for the farmers do not reach them. Therefore, I want to implore upon our National Front Government which has made promises in its manifesto to the people, and our hon. Prime Minister also talks of the value based politics, that if the programmes formulated for the upliftment of the farmers, for their benefits and development are implemented in the interests of the farmers in the country, then no class will face problems, no class will have any type of problems.

Madam Chairperson Darjina Phuiam Dam on the Kosi river was approved by Janata Party Government in 1977 and Bihar Government had started construction work on it. But when Congress Government came in to power in 1980, work on partially completed dam was abandoned. Half of this dam is still lying incomplete as a result of which nearby villages are submerged by floods and lakhs of people are rendered homeless and the people have to be shifted to some other places. I want to submit to the Government that the Darjina Phuiam Dam which was sanctioned in 1977, should be completed at the earliest. We had also made a request to our State Minister, Shri Kotadia in this regard. I have also raised this issue in this House many times. Therefore, I request that efforts should be made for the completion of this dam.

I also want to say that the officials charged with the responsibility of formulating schemes in the interests of the and for the development and upliftment of farmers are ignorant of the difficulties faced by the farmers. Therefore, at the time of formulating such schemes and programmes information should be collected from the representative of farmers and they should also be represented in the plan formulating committees so that the benefit of such schemes really percolates down to farmers.

There is a serious problem of drainage in North Bihar. Hon. Nitish Kumarji and Vermaji know about it. Some Schemes were

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sent for approval by the Government of Bihar in this regard but Congress Government here did not approve them. As a result, the people of North Bihar are suffering. No scheme in connection with drainage system has been approved so far by the Centre. It is my submission to the Government that the drainage schemes which were sent by the government of Bihar should be considered and approved so that people of Bihar can get relief.

In the last, I want to say that Bihar experienced severe hailstorm and snowfall on 29th March and Dharbhanga, Mujaffarpur, Samastipur and Varshali districts were badly affected, but no assistance has been provided to the people of Bihar. I demand that a team to assess the losses should be sent there and compensation paid to the farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

With these words I express my gratitude to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonepat): Madam, please give me a few minutes to speak, I want to put forth my views.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister will reply later, let the Minister of State speak first.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Are you calling the members according to the order of the list of the speakers given to you by the parties or the order is being changed. We have been waiting for our turn, our turn is not coming due to change in the order of the list.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the prerogative of the Chair, privilege of the Chair. But for your information all that I can say is that what I have been advised by the speaker and the previous Chairman I am going accordingly. For the information of the hon. Member, let me read out the concerned rule:

"The Speaker shall not be bound by the list or order in which names have been given by parties or groups or individuals directly. The list shall be for his guidance only and it shall also be always open to him to make change wherever necessary in order that debates are regulated in accordance with the general principles laid down by Speaker from time to time."

[Translation]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: We are not challenging your prerogative. You are in the Chair, we will obey your orders, but there is an issue which I want to raise before the hon. Minister replies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already told you that Shri Nitish Kumar will intervene in the debate and after that you will be allowed to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am trying to give time to all those who want to speak. Please finish your speech within time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Madam Chairperson, First of all, I want to express regret for my absence during the proceedings of the House for the whole week, I could not listen the views of the Hon. Members. I was in Patna due to high fever for the whole week. After returning, I got opportunity to speak on the supplementary demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I want to thank you for this. About 76 per cent of our population still depends on agriculture in the country and its total contribution in indigenous production is about 40 per cent. The agricultural sector has to respond to absorption of our large manpower. This is the reason that poverty still haunts rural areas and there is great economic disparity

between urban and rural areas. The policy of the National Front Government is to develop the rural areas and agriculture. Therefore, it was announced that half of the Budget outlay would be earmarked for these sectors. According to the announcement allocations have been made and 49 per cent of the total Budget outlay is being spent on these sectors. Since Independence, we have made progress in the field of agriculture. It is a fact that we have not made the desired progress because agriculture was not given due importance in earlier plans. But agriculture is being given priority in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The monsoon was not good in 1989-90 in comparison to 1988-89, but even then it was quite sufficient in 1989-90. The growth rate of agricultural production is quite satisfactory in comparison to the year 1950-51. Though monsoon in 1989-90 was not very good, the production of foodgrains has been of the order of 173 M.T. as compared to 170.2 M.T. in 1988-89. It is estimated that 110 lakh of cotton bales, 210 M.T. of sugarcane is likely to be produced. Our target for the year 1990-91 for foodgrains production is 176.5 M.T., for oil seeds it is 17.5 M.T., for sugarcane, it is 220 M.T., and for cotton, our target is 105 lakh bales and for Jute it is 90 lakh bales. We hope that not only we will achieve the target, but we are also likely to cross it due to our agriculture policy. We will make more progress in the field of agriculture—in the Eighth Five Year Plan. Madam Chairperson, several Members have referred to many issues. Just now the hon. Member Shri Dasai Chowdhary had spoken about seeds. I would like to tell the august House that National Seed Project phase-III is going to start with the help of the World Bank. It would improve the functioning of the National and State level Seed Corporations and such Corporations would be developed. The Private Sector will also get certified seeds. The seeds of good quality will be developed which would naturally increase the production.

The second point raised by Shri Dasai Chowdhary was about crop insurance. Action is taken on the claims submitted in this regard and loanee farmers are covered under

this scheme. This scheme will continue in 1990-91 also. At present, there are some difficulties in including non-loanee farmers in this scheme, because sufficient funds and other administrative measures are required for this purpose. Under the present circumstances, it appears to be impossible. Provision is being made for loanee farmers under Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme in 1990-91. I would like to tell you that the claims of Rs. 580 crores have been cleared so far under the Crop Insurance Scheme whereas only Rs. 87 crore have been received as premium. It is true that there was a devastating flood in Bihar in 1987. The people did not get help due to various reasons. There is no time to go in details about it. I personally know that all claims have not been settled. Questions have been raised in this regard in Bihar also.

Madam Chairperson, loan waiver scheme is being implemented according to the manifesto of the National Front. The House is aware that the hon. Minister of Finance had mentioned in his Budget speech that all loans upto Rs. 10,000 of Commercial Banks or Regional Rural Banks will be waived. The State Governments have been asked to formulate loan relief schemes for writing off loans taken from the State Cooperative Banks and the Central Government will also provide requisite help. The Government is committed to fulfil the promises made by it.

Madam Chairperson, the issue of natural calamities has been discussed several times. It has been stated that affected people do not get the help. Seminars were held from time to time. There has not been any uniform policy to provide equal help to each State. Recently, the Hon. Prime Minister announced that separate calamity relief fund will be set up for each State. For this fund, 25 per cent share will be provided by the State Governments and 75 per cent by the Central Government. You must be knowing that recently the cyclone hit state of Andhra Pradesh and many other States have been sanctioned Rs. 32 crores from this proposal fund, which has almost been constituted and details of

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which have almost been finalised. Similarly a hailstorm occurred in Bihar, the Deputy Prime Minister and Central team had visited that State and I was also present there. The State Government wanted to provide immediate relief. Therefore, assistance was sought from the central Government. An amount of Rs. 54 lakhs has been provided to the Bihar Government from this fund. I want to tell the hon. Members that even though it is a state subject and the State Governments themselves formulate relief codes for calamities, and provide relief to the affected people, but setting up of a calamity relief fund is a revolutionary step.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to draw the attention of the house to the fact that this Government is conscious to the need of making the Co-operative institutions strong and dynamic. The cooperative institutions have made commendable contribution for strengthening the economy of rural areas in various states. The Planning Commission has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Choudhry Brahm Prakash to strengthen these institutions and to make them more effective and dynamic. The government is taking all these steps to fulfil its promises. A demand has been raised several times that agriculture should be treated at par with industry. A Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh to look into the need for treating agriculture as an industry, to determine the nature of agriculture products to be reported as also the policy regarding their exports and the targets for export. The interim report of this Committee will also be submitted shortly. A Standing Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of popular farmer leader Shri Sharad Joshi to give practical and policy related suggestions in the matters of development of agriculture. The Committee gives suggestions on the matters referred to it from time to time regarding the policy and implementation. The Department of Agriculture is working as the Ministry of Farmers Welfare, whether it is a question of remunerative

prices; to provide inputs like seeds and fertilizers of good quality to the farmers, to provide better facilities or to protect farmers from the exploitation by middlemen, higher support prices have been announced in this regard. This year the rate of support prices have been increased for every agricultural item. The entire House knows that the support price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 215 per quintal. Similarly the support prices of other items have also been increased. This Government is conscious to provide benefits and relief to the farmers through every scheme. On the one side various agencies are working in the market on the basis of support prices to protect the farmers from the exploitation of middlemen and to provide them relief and another side the Government intervenes in the market. Recently the government intervened in the matter of onion.

Madam Chairperson, the House is aware that the Central Government and the State governments have to bear the loss equally, but the Government of Maharashtra has refused to bear that loss. The Central Government has intervened in the matter of onion. Various Programmes are being implemented to provide relief to the farmers and we want to run them more effectively.

A lot of progress is likely to be made in the field of milk production under the Operation Flood Programme. The Operation Flood Programme Phase-III is going to start shortly. The 60 percent population of the country will be covered under this scheme. There is a provision of Rs. 1342.55 crore in the Eighth Five Year Plan under this scheme as against Rs. 603.41 crore during the Seventh Five Year Plan. In this way we will make a lot of progress in the field of dairy. We have made so much progress in the field of dairy products that we have asked the European Economic Community to give us help in cash and not in the terms of dairy products. We are making notable progress in this field. Keeping in view the requirements of Delhi the Government has proposed to open third dairy of the capacity of four lakh litres per day in Delhi. The Government wants to protect the interests of both—the producers and

consumers.

The contribution of research work of the I.C.A.R. for progress made in the field of agriculture is very laudable. So much of development was not possible without its contribution. The research is going on round-the-clock in the fields of food grains, oil seeds, fishing and dairy development.

I am very happy to announce that about 100 improved varieties of seeds have been successfully developed. About 35,000 quintal breeder seeds have been produced. These are the achievements of the I.C.A.R. Various steps are being taken to put technology into the practice and about 300 centres are doing research in 104 districts for providing help to the farmers. Various programmes like lab to land are running for providing up-to-date information to the farmer so that they can use advanced technology for agricultural production. The Agriculture Commission has recommended that agricultural Science centres should be opened in each district by the year 2000 AD and the steps are being taken in this direction. Priority is being given to rain fed areas for increasing production and productivity in those areas. The Plan outlay for development programmes under this sector is being substantially increased. There is a provision of Rs. 80.25 crore for the year 1990-91 whereas it was only Rs. 19 crore in the year 1989-90. There is more scope in plantation of fruit trees for the small farmers who can not earn profit by producing food grains and publicity is being given to this fact so that they can lead a better life. The contribution of the I.C.A.R., whether it is a question of good quality seeds or other fields is very commendable. I would like to appeal to the hon. Members in this regard that India is predominantly an agricultural country having various types of climate, land and caste land. There is a scheme to plant trees on 70 lakh hectare of land under the Waste Land Mission. It will help in the production of fodder and fire wood will also be available which would result in energy. All these schemes are being run by the Department of Agriculture for improving the economic conditions of the farmers and

production can be increased. The 76 per cent population of our country are dependent on the agriculture. If agricultural production will increase the economic condition of 76 per cent of our people will improve. Their purchasing power will also increase which would result in more demand and more production and job opportunities on a large scale will be created.

Therefore, the agricultural policy adopted by the National Front under the dynamic leadership of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh and Ch. Devi Lal will prove beneficial to the farmers of the country and it would lead to agricultural development. With these words, I would request the hon. Members to withdraw their cut motions moved in regard to various issues and after the hon. Minister of State gives reply they should unanimously support the demands for grants.

**SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD (Arrah):** People have been waiting to get loans, but he is not making any mention in this regard. Agricultural land is there but no provision has been made for the de-centralisation and improvement of land programmes. About 10-acre land possessed by a few people is being wasted by not utilising it for cultivation purposes.

**SHRI NITISH KUMAR:** Vermaji will speak

[English]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** The Minister will reply and after that you can seek clarification, if need be.

**SHRI N. SUNDARAJ (Pudukkottai):** Madan Chairman, I would like to support the cut motions presented by my Party Members regarding Water Resources and Agriculture. As regards disputes, there are water disputes between the States throughout the country. Here, most of the Members spoke on the disputes between two States pertaining to water. These disputes have been there for the last 43 years, but we were not able to take any decision. It is high time that

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we do something to settle the disputes between the States. For this, we can either go in for Water Commission or Water Grid. Only then you will be able to settle the whole matter of disputes throughout the States in the country.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, we are having water dispute with Karnataka for the past 20-25 years. Till 1971-72, the total water utilised by both the States was 560 TMC. We had at Mettur Dam, the quantum of 380 TMC till 1972-72. Today we are prepared to forego 100 TMC and we will be satisfied with getting 280 TMC but that is not possible since Karnataka is not able to release that quantum. till 1971-72, Karnataka was using only 177 TMC. Now it demands 414 TMC. This is round about 2 1/2 times more than what they had used till 1971-72. The riparian right of the delta Government should be recognised as it is recognised throughout the world as far as water right is concerned. The demand of Tamil Nadu should be considered in the light of agriculturist who are having their farms there and utilising this water for irrigation throughout centuries. I am thankful to the Supreme Court for having taken this decision to send this matter to the Tribunal. But as far as Government is concerned, I understand that it is a weak government. Since the Prime Minister being represented by both the States—Karnataka and Tamil Nadu—he is not able to give direction or take a decision in this regard. He has simply said that the court will decide. This is not a way in which the Prime Minister of the country should deal with this matter. It is because he is afraid of antagonising some State or some people. But at the same time, Madam Chairperson, I would like the Karnataka Government to desist from going for the review petition in the Supreme Court on the verdict given by the Supreme Court for sending this matter to the Tribunal because it is a matter which could be settled as early as possible. I would request the Government to desist from going for the review petition in the Supreme Court on the verdict given by the Supreme Court

for sending this matter to the Tribunal because it is a matter which could be settled as early as possible. I would request the Government to appoint a Tribunal immediately and to see that this matter is settled within six months so that the agriculturists in Tamil Nadu are not affected henceforth.

As far as agriculture is concerned, the Minister has accepted that 76 per cent of the total population of India lives in rural areas and it is so. It is the backbone of the Indian economy. As the Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister has stated earlier, nearly 374 members of Parliament are elected from rural areas and they have the agricultural background. It is because the population lives in the rural areas. It is not a feather on a cap of the Government to have 374 Members of Parliament coming from agricultural background but it is the state of affairs in this country. Most of the people live in the rural areas and they send their representatives to parliament.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will request you to be brief. The total time is very little.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: As a father, I am the competent person to name my child. But as a farmer, I am not able to fix the price of my product. That is the pathetic condition here. An industrialist who is able to produce Colgate tooth-powder and tooth-paste can put whatever price he may like. But a man producing rice or wheat or banana or any fruit, is not able to put a price on that. He has no discretion. The Government is more concerned with the consumers rather than with producers. We want to help those people who live in the towns, in the metropolitan cities but we do not care for the people who produce and at the same time who have no clothes and who have only one or two square meals a day and who lead a rotten way of living.

The Deputy Prime Minister is saying that there are 374 Members of Parliament from agriculture sector. What is the use of having 400 Members from agriculture background coming here? They are not able to do

justice to the people living in the rural areas. This year 50% of the total budget is allocated to the agriculture sector. We are only doing what we have already done. We have already allotted 50% in the Budget. We are implementing it. But there is no difference. There is no pride in saying that they have allocated 50% of the total budgetary provisions.

As far as fertiliser is concerned, subsidy does not help the rural agriculturist. It is being manipulated by the big factories, by the middlemen and those people who sell the fertiliser to the agriculturists.

Subsidy should reach the agriculturists themselves. Only then they will be helped.

As far as the programmes in the Agriculture Department are concerned, our respected Shri Rajiv Gandhi, when he was the Prime Minister said that only 20% of the total allotment reaches the population direct to whom it has been made. 80% of the allocation is swindled or pilfered by the middlemen or by the officers. Shri Rajiv Gandhi also said that when the Government wants to spend one rupee on a rural labourer, the Government, to have an administrative machinery like IAS Officers, Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars, and all those officials, will have to spend Rs. 5/-, to have the administrative set up. On one rupee, the Government has again to spend Rs. 5/- This is the pathetic condition of this Government hierarchy today, the Government set up today and the Government way of doing things today. This should be changed. There is no point in saying that 374 Members of Parliament are from the agriculture sector.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This should be your last point.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: I would like to make some more points

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can make those points on another day. This is not the last day.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: We have 374 Members from agricultural society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can speak only for two minutes more.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: I am the last member to speak. As far agricultural policy is concerned, it should be based on the State policy. Every State should have its own policy. Only then it can be coordinated with the Centre. The Centre should not adopt policy in Delhi and see that it is implemented in a remote village in Tamil Nadu, Bihar and Rajasthan. That is not going to improve the status of the agriculturist. It should be implemented only from the lower level.

We should see to the needs of the local population. Wheat is grown in Punjab, rice in Tamil Nadu, sugarcane in Maharashtra. Different products are produced in different States and that should be coordinated by the Centre and the Centre should not have a policy of its own as far as agriculture is concerned.

As far as Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is concerned, I am thankful to the then Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for implementing the scheme whereby the Panchayats are directly able to decide about what are the executive things like building schools, panchayats, making river beds etc. and implement it to the satisfaction of the local people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: It will just take one minute. As far as waiving of loans is concerned, I am sorry for it and I ask the Government not to play gimmicks with the lives of farmers of this country. Just by saying about it in their manifesto that they will be able to waive loans up to Rs. 10,000 will not do. They have allocated only Rs. 1,000 crores for this whereas Rs. 24 crores is needed for waiving of this loan as far as agriculture is concerned. And moreover, States have been asked to identify the agriculturists as far as crop loans are concerned which will be reimbursed by the Centre to the States. When

[Sh. N. Sundararaj]

are you going to do it? How many years are you going to take to implement the scheme? The States are not going to implement the scheme because they fear that the burden will be more on them. I request the Government not to play gimmicks on this issue and kindly issue a White Paper on this waiving of loans to agriculturists. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. This is the last thing.

SHRI N. SUNDARARAJ: As far as this Government is concerned, they should have a clear cut policy as far as agriculture is concerned. Just by saying that we have 370 and odd elected Members in this House with the agricultural background is not going to satisfy 74 per cent of the total population of this country. This Government can do something only by implementing schemes which are true to the nature, true to the people, true to the agriculturists. Just by ordering things from Delhi Secretariat, it will not carry any good. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, let me state the position so that everybody can cooperate. This Grant is to conclude by 6 O' clock. Ministers for Water Resources and Agriculture are to speak, and they have their time. They want to begin at 4.30 P.M. one after the other. There are 20 speakers. We have to conclude before 4.30 P.M. Therefore, I will call as many speakers as possible within this time and I request everybody to stick to five minutes and cooperate with me because this is the only way in which we can give the maximum time to the maximum number of Members.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOJA (Anantnag): Why don't you reduce it to two and a half minutes? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the Chair's prerogative. I am trying to do my level best to accommodate as many Members as pos-

sible. That is why, I am requesting the Members to stick to five minutes.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): I have no objection to your fixing anything. But I think, it is my duty to bring to the notice of the House that it was decided around 2 O' clock today and we would complete the Demands of Water Resources and Agriculture and then we would take up Demands of Labour and Welfare and tomorrow we would have guillotine. I would like just to go on record and say that then this guillotine will have to be postponed because you are reducing the time of the Demands on Labour and Welfare which will also not be fair. I am not objecting to your decision to conclude this Demand by 6 O' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As I understand, guillotine is fixed for 3 O' clock tomorrow.

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: That is what I am saying. If this Demand is going to pull on, then our request is that guillotine should be delayed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is upto the Government to see; you can take it up with them. I also agree that Labour and Welfare are very important grants and they should get more time. This is my personal observation.

Let us now proceed. Shri Kapil Dev Shastri.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonapat): The Ministry of Agriculture is the most important Ministry in the country and about 75 per cent of the total population is dependent on it. It had been promised in our election manifesto that the debt up to ten thousand rupees will be waived. As per my assessment not a single penny will be waived. I have made a detailed assessment of the matter. October 2, 1987 has been fixed as the back date. The Co-operative Banks have launched a campaign to haul up defaulter farmers and they are detained in the Banks

for about 10 days. The farmers were supposed to return the debt by October 2, 1987. They had to return the debt by January 31 or February 28, otherwise they were to be treated as defaulters. So far as I think not a single penny of the farmers will be waived off. The Government will have to modify their policy. Without imposing any condition, the persons who drew loans up till November, 26, 1989 should be included in the category and their loans should be waived off. I would like to give a proposal to the Government. Chowdhary Chhoturam got a law enacted according to which it was decided that if the interest exceeded the principle amount, the debt will be written off. All the assets of the farmer including his pair of bullocks, his tractor, land-crops, cattle, house, foodgrains and fodder for six months cannot cover the debt that he has to repay. The Government will have to think about all this. In order to uplift the farmers in the country, their debts will have to be waived off. The Government have earmarked about ten thousand crore rupees for agriculture. I have got the complete details. About twenty families in the country possess property worth Rs. 27,167 crores. They earn Rs. 10,000 crores as net profit. This is the situation prevailing in the country. On one side, there are 20 wealthy families while on the other innocent common masses lead miserable life in metropolitan cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. Our crops rot on the roads because Food Corporation of India is nothing more than a resort of corruption. Unless the concerned officials get their palms greased foodgrains cannot be sold.

I would also like to repeat what Sardar Kirpal Singh submitted. I would conclude after making submission in regard to water. An agreement with Pakistan was signed in 1955-56 in regard to the water of Sutlej, Beas and Ravi. Punjab does not object to the flowing of extra water to Pakistan but they are not ready to supply it to Haryana and Rajasthan. I have got copies of agreements. My submission to the Government is that the target period for the completion of Sutlej-Yamuna link canal should be constructed before the elections are held so that

Haryana may get water. About Rs. 385 crores have been sanctioned for this purpose.

AN HON. MEMBER: Which elections you taking of?

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI: I am referring to the elections proposed to be held in November in Punjab. 80 per cent work of the canal has been completed. In Centre, our Government rules and in Punjab President rule has been imposed. 20 per cent work is still left. It is being said that the entire work will be completed by December, 31, 1990. From 1984 till today, the target date has been changed time and again. My submission to you is that target date should be pre-boned to Oct. 31, 1990 and the canal should be complete by that period.

That is all. I had to say. I am thankful to you for giving me five minutes to speak.

SHRI LOKENDRA SINGH (Damoh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, people are running from rural areas to urban areas. Employment opportunities are not available in rural areas, and there is no development. All this happened because the Congress Government did not follow a good agricultural policy. We should give the same status to agriculture as to industry and our policy should be formulated on the basis of irrigation schemes. We should have a policy for electricity generation. In Punjab today 60 per cent area is irrigated whereas in Madhya Pradesh, only 20 per cent area is irrigated. In some areas like Panna, Damoh, Satna, 3 per cent irrigated land has been given by the Government. Unless the entire land is irrigated land the country cannot make progress. In Punjab, the irrigated land being 60 per cent, it produces more wheat. If the similar situation is created in Madhya Pradesh, it can produce considerable quantity of soyabean and oilseeds besides wheat. It would help in reducing the prices of edible oils which are rising high currently in the country. It is my submission that irrigation should be equal in all areas and at all places. Unless this situation is created prices of edible oils cannot come down. Irrigation can take place only

[Sh. Lokendra Singh]

when lift irrigation is there, small dams are constructed, tubewells are installed. These neither cover much area nor much money nor the forest area is submerged under it. Only a pump is installed there and the land is irrigated by supplying power to it. My submission is that the Government should take initiative in Madhya Pradesh so that water of canals that is being wasted there can be tapped and irrigation can be done without dams. In Madhya Pradesh, the land of a number of small dams is still in the possession of Harijans. Some dams cover about 10 acres of forest land but they are not given clearance by the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Forest and Environment. The Government owns the responsibility to bear 90 per cent expenditure. In view of the failure of these schemes, I would urge to implement this at the earliest

Rural areas face acute problem of power supply. If power supply in rural areas is as good as that in urban areas, there will be no need to give incentives. 10 per cent production of food-grains will automatically increase. Maximum power should be supplied for irrigation purposes. Unless agriculture is given the status of industry, development will not take place. My submission is that the good farmers who are efficient should be given ample opportunities for cultivation and they should be exempted from Land Ceiling Act. I am not talking of big farmers. They will be the first to sell their loans as soon as the status of industry is given to agriculture. The farmer who shows his efficiency will have to be given wages as per the Labour Act and in this way, efficient farmers will be benefited. I submit to you that a small exemption should be given to such farmers as per Land Ceiling Act.

Today, agricultural forestry has become essential. Population explosion in India has affected forests so much that not even 10 per cent of the total area remain covered under forests. My submission to you is that social forestry and agricultural forestry should also be exempted under Land Ceiling Act. Poul-

try farming fish farming and vegetable farming will be done in a quite intensive way because this work will be accomplished by small farmers as it requires intensive labour and when there would be intensive labour, educated unemployed people and labour class would get more opportunities to make progress in rural areas. In order to encourage horticulture, the Government should encourage road side plantation and lend the land of destroyed forests and rivers on lease. Then 50 per cent profit should go to the Government and 45 per cent should be given to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think this is your last point.

SHRI LOKENDRA SINGH: My only submission to you is that attention should be paid to these things. The Congress Government had distributed considerable land to grow fruit trees, and the matter should be investigated. If fruit trees, have not been grown, the land should be got back and given to someone else so that the aim is fulfilled.

Till now cultivation of aromatic plants and medicinal plants has been negligible in our country.

16.00 hrs.

More capital is needed for it. Due to this reason, the farmers cannot cultivate them in small fields. The aromatic plants for menthol and scents, which are imported, can be produced here also. There is a great demand of Indian herbs in the foreign countries. We should promote large scale cultivation of herbs in our country, which will open more avenues for export and import.

The solar energy is not being used for agricultural purposes. Subsidies are not being given to the big farmers for setting up a gas plant. Until they are given the subsidies, the animal dung cannot be fully utilised. As in the oil refineries, the gas is not being utilised, here also, the gas will not be utilised. With those words, I conclude.

**SHRIDHARAMPAL SHARMA** (Udhampur): Madam Chairman, more than 85 per cent of the population of this country depends on agriculture. It is ironical that only small scale sector is provided subsidy. Not only this, they are exempted from sales-tax for first five years. Agriculture should also be declared as an industry.

During the Congress regime the country was divided into 15 zones and developmental schemes were prepared according to the climatic conditions of every zone. You are aware that in 1988, there was acute drought in the country. But due to our well-planned agricultural policy, not a single person starved to death in the country. In 1989-90, the foodgrain target was of 170 million tonnes and we achieved it. Besides this, a Land Estate Act was formulated under the leadership of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, under which the size of the land holdings of the big landowners was restricted to 182 kanals. The most important thing is that the Government acquired the surplus land without any compensation. In 1976, Agrarian Reforms Act was framed, according to which any landowner could keep only 100 standardised kanals of land. No one could own more than this and only the tiller were given the land. In other parts of the country, whether it is Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh, Ceiling Acts were framed, but they were misutilised. There are thousand acres of Kulaks in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. Every other day, there are cases of killing landless labourers, their hutments are burnt and they are not even paid the compensation. Those who work on the fields of big landowners are not given the full compensation and are exploited. The co-operative sector should be strengthened for promoting agriculture, so that quality seeds and fertilizers are made available to the farmers and besides, the major and medium irrigation schemes can also be promoted. I have no hesitation in saying that there is only 20 per cent irrigated land in Jammu-Kashmir and the rest 80 per cent depends upon the monsoons. Several times, we had to ask the centre for foodgrains. There is very little production in Kandi and hill areas. Under this plan, more funds should

be allotted to the Government of Jammu-Kashmir, so that they can start and complete medium and major irrigation projects.

Same is true of horticulture also. The production of fruits like apple, pear etc. is near about 5 lakh tonnes. But the whole production perishes. I would like to demand that as a Pepsi Cola project has been approved in Punjab, the same may be approved for Kashmir also. A survey had also been conducted there in this regard. There is lot of scope and the farmers will be benefited a lot from it. The Centre should formulate a scheme in this regard. The subsidy provided for transport has also been stopped. As a result the fruit rots there. So they should be provided with transport subsidy, so that they can transport their produce and can earn their livelihood also. The land records in Kashmir are up-to-date. The number of large holdings are decreasing in the country. Therefore, an Act should be framed which will increase the number of large holdings in the country and there can be more production. There will be more production, if the land holdings are large and quality seeds and fertilizers are used.

The Gobar Gas Plant Scheme has proved to be very effective. It has been started in the rural areas of Kashmir also. It is a very good scheme. It should be extended to more areas, because it will benefit the farmers a lot.

The present Government makes a lot of promises to the farmers. But, what is actually happening is that there is increase in prices of tractor tyres, and diesel. This has thrown extra burden on the farmers. But in comparison to this, the support price for their produce has only been increased to Rs. 30/- per quintal. This is very less. Before the elections and in the election manifesto also, it was promised that the loans upto Rs. 10,000 of the farmers will be waived. The Reserve Bank had asked for Rs. 14,000 crore to meet this expense. But Shri Madhu Dandavate has made an allocation of Rs. 2800 crore only. Now, it is being said that 50 per cent of the amount waived, will be met by the State

[Sh. Dharam Pal Sharma]

Governments and the rest 50 per cent will be provided by the Centre. Earlier, it was not like this. First, the Government misled them by making false promises and won their votes. Now by increasing the prices of tyre and diesel, they have increased the cost of production also.

Earlier, the prices of produce used to be fixed even before the sowing of the crop, but this time, the prices were fixed after the crops were harvested and were transported to the markets. This Government is always harping upon the measures that have been taken for the welfare of farmers but it is not so in actual practice

"Guffar ke gazi buyn to gaye, lekin  
kirdar ke gazi bun na sake "

Whether it is the issue of fixing prices for their produce, or waiving of loans, nothing has been done in actual practice

[English]

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): I would like to emphasise only for a few minutes the policy being followed with regard to Floods, drought and power generation—I mean hydel power. Ever since Independence, a very wrong policy has been followed with regard to flood control, particularly in North Bihar. The entire policy has failed. Embankments on both sides of the river have caused growingly more and more drought and flood. Whenever there is heavy rain, the embankment cannot contain the entire water as a result water spread out on both sides of the embankment and everything is submerged. If there is less water, rivers take water to sea as a result no water is left for irrigation purposes. So, I would say that this policy should be given up. The only advantage that one can draw from this policy is that some politicians or some contractors and some officers and engineers can loot the people at the cost of the national exchequer. Kamla, Kosi, Bagmati and Mahananda are fluctuating rivers. They bring silt from the

Himalayas because of which very often they are changing their course. They bring in mud with them and as a result block their own route because of which they have to change their course. Therefore, this policy should be given up.

In 1981 for the construction of multi purpose high dam at Bada Kshetra over river Kosi the Government of India had sent a report to HMG Nepal. But that is still pending there. Now, we have a viable climate. I wish the Government of India must pursue it with the Government of Nepal. It is in the interest of both the countries because the people of Nepal are also suffering

Secondly, Madam, I would like to say that ever since the new Government has come in power, during the Question Hour we do not get specific answers. They are all evasive answers. I would request the Minister of Water Resources to streamline his Ministry from it so that the officers do some home work. I have records with me. I cannot supply the Minister, the records. The answers are being evaded. Some times, even known facts are being denied there.

I want to emphasise something regarding agriculture. Self-cultivating tenancy for our country has become the need of the hour. Absentee ownership is growing. Particularly, the owners, who are far away from the places where their lands are there, there the lands are not being cultivated

So, the basic with regard to land should be studied and the State Governments should be geared up to implement those policies, i.e. regarding amendment of the existing laws and enforcement machinery, etc. The Revenue Ministers of the whole country sat in this regard in 1985, 1986 and also in 1987. I think, they will go a long way in streamlining the land reforms

Now, I would like particularly to emphasise on the question of power generation. There have been long delays in the construction of Tehri Garhwal (Narmada Sagar) Project, Pancheshwar Dam and Karnal Dam

of Uttar Pradesh, which was finalised after a comprise with the Government of Nepal. I believe, due to our fault, the Karnali and Panchewar Projects had been delayed. It is because of the official resistance and neglect and also I think because of indifference treatment to Nepal that we and also Nepal are suffering. So, such things have got to be expedited. In Bihar, Koel Project had been delayed for long to the detriment of the tribal people of Chotta Nagpur and because of that, they have been suffering.

So, for the present, the Government should gear up its machinery and also the policy.

Regarding rise in prices of agricultural goods, I would like to say this. Only one side of the agriculture price adds to inflation. More help should be provided to the peasants by way of cheaper electricity, cheaper water, cheaper fertilizers etc. That will be more helpful than increase or rise in prices. Otherwise, it will create a chain reaction

So, if we want to subsidise everything, every input for agriculture, then we have to contain inflation also.

With these few words I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN Now, I will call three Members more S/Shri Bal Gopal Mishra, P L Handoo and Chhedi Paswan. But all of you have to stick to five minutes/each only.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Madam Chairperson, this subject concerns, 75 per cent people of the country. But unfortunately the time given to this subject shows—this Government and also the previous Government for the last forty years they are concerned about this community.

Agriculturists are a forgotten community in this country. They are being remembered only once in five years. Only during elections, people talk of agriculture and agricul-

ture and agriculturists. They make a very long list of promises and after the election is over, once the persons have occupied the chair, they forget all their commitments and also all their promises. It is because of the fact that this community is not organised. This is a disorganised community. This community does not know how to fight for its rights. This community does not have the strength to ask its friends to put down their plough as the trade union worker puts down his tool or the Army Jawan puts down his gun or the policeman puts down his rifle because they cannot simply afford to put down their plough. For the last forty years, this Government have been taking advantage of this situation and have been the exploiters of this community.

Due to shortage of time, I would like to touch only the land ceilings. One thing I would like to tell regarding land ceiling before I conclude. You are talking about land ceilings. You have to achieve a lot of things. In Punjab, you have given 18 standard acres and in Orissa you are giving only 10 standard acres. What is the result? Do you compare the land of Punjab with the land of Orissa? The pity, I think, is that we have been talking of the Left, but have always kept ourselves on the Right, for the last 40 years. That is why the result is that the assets of the 20 or 27 big Houses have increased from Rs. 2,000 crores to Rs. 27,000 crores.

Madam, regarding ceiling people are very much sincere. Why don't you bring in a ceiling on incomes? Why don't you bring in a ceiling on property? Do you think that the agriculturists and the farming community have committed a crime by taking to agriculture as their profession? If in a single profession somebody can earn any amount—and the sky is the limit for his income—what is the harm if somebody makes some money out of agriculture?

AN HON. MEMBER: What is your definition of a farmer?

**SHRIBALGOPAL MISHRA:** The farmer is a person who cultivates himself. (*Interruptions*)

You are talking of pensions. You are giving pension to everybody. In 1975, Mrs Indira Gandhi started a *namak haraam jagri* called pension for MLAs and MPs, because those sections were the vocal sections of the society. Though they fight against injustice in the society, just to gag them, Mrs Indira Gandhi started this scheme. We had expected that the Janata Government would stop it. But unfortunately they did do it. But a farmer, a landless labourer who toils in the land does not get any pension whatsoever. What is the sort of social justice that you are giving? What has the Central Government been doing for the last 40 years?

Today, I am afraid this Government is also going to bring in a Bill to give pension to MPs—even to a person who will be an MP even for one day. But I am asking you one question: An agricultural labourer, who is a landless labourer, when he becomes old, how much pension does he get?

There was a talk about subsidies also. We are giving Rs. 6,000 crores as subsidy every year. How long can we afford to give this?

I think I have consumed my time. I do not want to go on. Thank you very much.

**SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO** (Anantnag): I do not want to waste time. The first observation that I want to make is that Kashmir is in the news these days because of terrorism or subversion. I am making an effort to make a submission to indicate that Kashmir is much more than terrorism and subversion. And in that regard, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of Water Resources to the fact that in Kashmir, the problem of agriculture and water resources needs special mention.

In that regard, I must say with regret the total silence maintained by the Ministry of

Agriculture in respect of the kidnapping of the learned professor of the Agriculture University, Prof. Ganjoo—who was kidnapped on Saturday last, and found dead three days after, I would not have even expressed this regret, but for one fact, viz. that his wife, along with Prof. Ganjoo, was kidnapped. Today is the tenth day of that lady being kidnapped, and nobody in the Agriculture Ministry is even conducting a search for her.

I am coming today from Srinagar. I was yesterday in the Sopore town from where the husband and wife were kidnapped. The husband was found three days after kidnapping. The wife is still to be found; and how sad it is to reflect and say that the State Government does not even have a clue. Some feeling is there, that she has been killed and thrown into the river, and the body might have flowed down to Pakistan. The way Shri Upendra as Minister of Information and Broadcasting behaved when Mr. Lassa Koul died—I wish that would be an example for the Ministry of Agriculture as well.

At least they should have gone to Jammu, to look up the two children left by this couple. One was the professor who had returned recently after getting the highest degree from Russia, and was setting up a plant which he had procured from Russia; and within four days of having put it up he was killed. His wife was a head-mistress with the highest degree in Education; and today is the eleventh day of her disappearance. Nobody knows what has happened to her.

Now the second point, about agriculture itself. I would like the Agriculture Minister to take notice, and if he has time, if he goes to Kashmir, he will understand the problem of irrigation in Kashmir. For 40% of the land there, there is assured irrigation; for 60% there is no assured irrigation. Eight canal projects are in hand there. All the eight are starving, for want of funds.

I would name eight projects of my constituency, Anantnag, where these things are happening these days. If the Minister of Irrigation has got time, he should go there

and see the things over there for himself. We will come to know how things have been allowed to go in respect of irrigation—This is directly connected with Kashmir and the floods protection scheme; how things have developed there. He can go over there after two weeks or three weeks and see how they are languishing. He will find that these are in hand for the last more than seven years and not yet completed. They are as follows:

1. Rajanbi
2. Rajal:
3. Dudar:
4. Kastigarh:
5. Lower Jhelum:
6. Kuel:
7. Tral: and
8. Rajpura

If you have a look at these eight irrigation canals, you will find that they are nearing completion but not yet operational. Then you try to put a question to yourself as well as to the authorities of the State Government regarding them. What is it that is happening to them?

I would again remind you that you were kind enough at a particular stage of our history to grant to one district in the State out of 14 districts the status of a drought prone area, and started digging a canal known as "Shiva Canal": kindly note the name was "Shiva Canal". You spent Rs. 2.50 crores on it. In spite of this, for the last 10 years, it does not have a drop of water flowing through this canal. Kindly go there and have a look at it. It was constructed in a drought prone area of Dora District. Then you ask the State Government what is going to happen to our irrigation system.

About agriculture, there is a difference between our sowing pattern and the sowing

pattern in the rest of the country due to the geographical seasons. We face some difficulty particularly in maize cultivation. The difficulty is with regard to seeds cultivation. Kindly help our State Government to gain self-sufficiency in seeds cultivation and seeds preservation.

There is a need for developing man-land relationship in the country. I insisted on it during the debate on the President's Address. I insist on it today again. If you really want Indian agriculture to prosper, to become more scientific, to become more egalitarian, to bring about social justice, you have to do a re-thinking about the development of total man-land relationship in the country. If it changes, then you have to take care of land revenue records prepared since Mughals's time and see the conditions today. If you go through the latest resolution passed in the Conference of the Revenue Ministers 1 1/2 years ago and implement 20 per cent of the resolution, if not 100 per cent, and see that we preserve these records in all the States and bring them upto date, it will help us a lot; it will help us if we use a valuable high technology guides or the present technology development so that we can bring upto date our revenue records correctly and preserve them.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram):  
Madam Chairman, I will not take much time. I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Irrigation and Agriculture. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards Bihar. The Government has always adopted a callous attitude towards Bihar. This has created regional imbalance and there is constant increase in the number of poor and unemployed. In 1950, Bihar occupied fourth position in the country in so far as per capita income was concerned. In 1970, it was at the 11th place, in 1980, it was at the 16th place and by the time 7th Five Year Plan was implemented, it was in the 18th place. The target of the Central Government is to reduce the number of people living below the poverty line upto 10

[Sh. Chhedi Paswan]

per cent by 1995. Before the implementation of the 6th plan in Bihar, the number of such people was 57.50 per cent and there was no change till the beginning of Seventh Plan.

Madam Chairman, by 1990, the number of unemployed in Bihar reached to 20 lakhs. I would like to request the Government, through you, that attention should be paid on the planned development of Bihar and while formulating the Eighth Five-Year Plan, radical changes should be made in the callous policies towards Bihar, so that we can get our due. Following projects should be immediately sanctioned for the development of Bihar and adequate funds should be allocated in the 8th Five Year Plan in this regard. Total cultivable land in Bihar is 117 lakh hectares. The major, medium and minor irrigation projects have a potential of irrigating 124 lakh hectares of land. 65 lakh hectare of land can be irrigated through major and medium irrigation projects and 58 lakh hectare of land can be irrigated through minor irrigation projects. But the picture at present is very dismal. So far we have been able to tap less than 40 per cent of irrigation potential. In Bihar, the per centage is even less than that. The position in regard to new irrigation projects is even more disappointing. Old irrigation schemes have lost their utility in the absence of proper maintenance and supervision. For example, Sone River Project is quite old and irrigates 23 lakh acres of land in 6 districts. One crore people are dependent on it for their livelihood. This well planned irrigation project is losing its utility in the absence of proper maintenance. In 1983, we had requested the World Bank to give aid for the Modernisation of this project but because of paucity of funds, this project is still pending. I would like to request the Central Government to take necessary steps for arranging the funds. The project of Kakkan Dam is also lying pending in our State. This dam can work as a reservoir for the water of River Sone and 430 Mws of electricity can also be generated through it. So I would request that this project should be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. There is an

acute problem of water logging in 1063 square kilometer area in Patna, Nalanda and Mongher districts of Bihar.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever you want to say, please give it in writing.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN: I am concluding. Through you, I would like to submit to the Government that in my constituency, the foundation stone for Durgavati Reservoir Project was laid in 1986 and its estimated expenditure was Rs. 25 to Rs. 30 crore. But, Rs. 67 crores has already been spent on it till now and the reservoir is yet not complete. So I would like to request the Government that rehabilitation schemes should be started for these displaced people and Durgavati Reservoir Project, on which lot of funds have been spent, should be immediately completed and the Centre should intervene in the matter.

MR CHAIRMAN: Shri Jagannath Singh, please conclude in two minutes. Shrimati Bimal Kaur, you also conclude in two minutes.

SHRI JAGANNATH SINGH (Sidhi): Madhya Pradesh is one of the most agriculturally backward state of the country. Although it abounds in natural resources, there is a wide network of rivers and canals in the State yet much progress has not been made in the field of agriculture. The rivers have not been harnessed properly. Unless irrigation facilities are extended, it is not possible to make much progress in this field. Therefore area under irrigation should be augmented. More irrigation facilities can be provided by sinking more tubewells, through lift irrigation schemes, and by constructing small dams and embankments etc. May minor irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh, covering two and a half to three hectares tract of forest land, prone to submergence, are pending with the Central Government for approval. The Government has already spent more than half of the amount on these projects, but the work is still pending due to the non-availability of funds from the Central Government. Under the circumstance, it is essential

to make some amendments in the Forest Conservation Act, so as to facilitate the easy approval of the minor projects. The river Sone passes through my constituency Sidhi. Ban Sagar project was taken up some time back but it could not be completed due to paucity of funds. The Government should allocate adequate funds, so that this project could be completed and irrigation facilities extended. Similarly, the previous Government had formulated an irrigation scheme whereby a dam was to be built at Deosil in Lor Durga in Uttar Pradesh, but of about 35 or 36 villages of that area and 150 villages of the Sidhi district were submerged, had this project been undertaken Building of big dams give rise to many problems such as submergence of vast areas etc Therefore the Government should think in terms of constructing small dams instead of big ones for agricultural purposes

Madam Chairperson, I would like to submit a few words about agricultural loans. Loans of farmers upto Rs 10,000 should be waived, but loans exceeding this amount should be recovered from all the farmers irrespective of the fact whether they are small, medium or big About 1.25 crore people of Madhya Pradesh live in areas covered by forests and these areas are predominantly inhabited by adivasis These adivasis have been living there for the last 30-40 years and these forest lands are occupied by the Adivasis, but they do not have any ownership rights over that land because of the Forest Conservation Act Unless the deed of land is given to them, their economic condition cannot be ameliorated Therefore, I urge the Government to give it a serious thought and speed up the process of developing these forest tracts so that the rough and rugged land could be irrigated by constructing small dams and the adivasis benefited from it Therefore, I once again urge the Government to give a serious thought to it Due to the paucity of time, I now conclude

\*SHRIMATI BIMAL KAUR KHALSA (Ropar): The Government had earlier said

that it would waive loans of the farmers upto ten thousand rupees, but it is a matter of great regret that not even a single paisa loan of any farmer has been waived so far. Three meetings of the Bhartiya Kisan Union have been held; a joint meeting of the Bharatiya Kisan Union and Ex-Servicemen also took place in Delhi, on 31 December. The Hon'ble Prime Minister attended that meeting and he gave an assurance that the loans of the farmers would be waived Later in an another meeting held on 28 January the Prime Minister reiterated the assurance. In the month of January, the Bhartiya Kisan Union also organised a rally in Chandigarh and both the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister attended that rally At that rally also, an assurance was given to the effect that loans to the extent of Rupees 10,000 would be waived Farmers, whether they be big or small should benefit from this loan waiver scheme. The displaced Jhuggi-Jhopri dwellers of Uttar Pradesh have been provided with one or two room dwelling units. They are very poor people overburdened with debts, hence their loans should also be waived along with that of the farmer As far as the distribution of water is concerned, according to the Riparian Law, the states, through which rivers or seas flow have a right over them. Those states, which are not touched by rivers or seas, do not have any right over them During the recent spate of floods in Punjab, the State suffered immense loss. It had to suffer the loss of crops, cattle wealth and precious human life, but when it comes to deriving the benefits of that water, Rajasthan and Haryana are the beneficiaries. When Morarji Desai's Government was in power, Shri Desai said that this water dispute would be decided by the Supreme Court, in accordance with the Riparian Law. Later on, in 1980, when the Indira Gandhi Government assumed office, the case was withdrawn from the Supreme Court, because she knew it well that the decision of the Supreme Court will go in favour of Punjab and it would go against the interests of Haryana. Due to this reason, the case was withdrawn from the Supreme Court. Now, I urge upon the Gov-

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

[Shrimati Bimal Kaur Khalsa]

ernment to get this water dispute settled, through the Supreme Court in accordance with the Riparian Law

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bimalji, now conclude within one minute.....

\*SHRIMATIBIMAL KAUR KHALSA: As regards the SYL (Sutlej), Yamuna link Canal) I would like to say that Haryana has no right over the waters of the SYL canal. Therefore, the people of Punjab including me do not want Haryana to get even a drop of water from the SYL canal. As per the Price Index of 1987, there has been a sharp increase in the prices of the articles of daily use, but the prices of cereals have fallen. Therefore, a balance between the price index and the prices of cereals should be maintained.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Bimalji, please, your time is over. Now the Minister will reply

\*SHRIMATIBIMAL KAUR KHALSA: As far as ex-servicemen are concerned, I urge that policy of 'one rank, one pension' should be followed, irrespective of the year of their retirement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) Madam, I am happy to note that about 55-56 Members took part in the debate on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Agriculture. Many suggestions were also put before the House particularly regarding water resources. Though many Members did not make any reference to the irrigation sector or the Water resources sector, but all told, it seems that we had the longest discussions on these subjects. This discussion went on for fifteen hours. Originally, four hours were fixed for discussion on Demands for Grants for Ministry, but later on the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture was also clubbed and time was extended with a view to pro-

vide opportunity to the maximum number of Members to express their opinion. I have noted down all the suggestions put before the House. Some complaints were made against my department, I have noted them down also. In view of these suggestions and grievances, I will try to explain the position in my reply. Madam, while looking at the previous figures, I feel that the irrigation sector has not been given due importance. We consider agriculture as our life line because about 80 per cent of our population earns its livelihood through agriculture either directly or indirectly. If agriculture is our lifeline, then water resource is the backbone of agriculture. The development of agriculture is impossible without irrigation facilities. We have to bear this simple fact in mind and have to work accordingly. As far as irrigation facilities are concerned, it has been neglected right from the first Five Year Plan in which 18.7% of the total budget was provided for it. From second Five Year Plan the declining trend began and it slid down to 11.2% in the Second Plan and 10.64% in the Third Plan. In the Fourth Plan, the situation improved a bit and 11.1% was provided but in the Fifth Plan, it was reduced to 8.1%. In the Sixth Plan, it was raised slightly and 11.3% was allotted for it. And in the Seventh Five Year Plan, it has been provided with 8.9% of the total budget.

As a result, the employment generation in rural sector was not as much as it should have been and exodus of the people from villages to the cities began. The people started living in jhuggis.

[English]

People were wandering in search of food.

[Translation]

Unless the irrigation sector is given an impetus, there can be no prosperity in the country. The states like Haryana and Punjab have made the country self-sufficient in food grains because maximum irrigated area of the

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

country lies in these two states.

[English]

16.41 hrs.

[SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE in  
the Chair]

Percentage wise we will see that due weightage is given to agriculture.

[Translation]

Had adequate attention been paid in the first four five year plans, we would not have faced the shortfall of 12 lakh tonnes of edible oil beside shortage of oilseeds, sugar and pulses and the consequent price rise. We face these problems due to shortfall in agricultural production. Though we have enough foodgrains, we face scarcity of other essential commodities. If irrigation facilities were provided by utilising the river-water which waste fully flows into the seas, we would have been in a much better position and there would not have been any shortage of agricultural commodities. It seems that the people who were associated with this work did not hail from villages and had no first hand knowledge of agriculture and irrigation. They were all intellectuals who planned for the villages while sitting in cities. They could not understand our rural economy and no one paid attention to it. Although irrigation sector needed full weightage yet it was neglected. The result is that we have been able to provide irrigation facilities to just 31% of the total area in all these 42 year. We must make up for this shortage of irrigation facilities. For this we will have to give greater emphasis on irrigation projects so as to bring more areas under irrigation.

However, the final document of the 8th Plan is not yet ready and hence I shall not go into statistics.

[English]

And you will see that irrigation sector is given due weightage.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the earlier impression about India was that the country has enough water. As a result of it, the proper planning and management of water resources was not attempted. Today 70% of our population lives in rural areas.

[English]

I am coming from an area which is always under drought.

[Translation]

It lacks even drinking water.

[English]

A woman with an empty pot on her head wandering for water for miles and miles.

[Translation]

Why and how did it happen? Who is responsible for it? We have to think over it. It is so because no attention was paid to it. There are many countries in the world where the availability of water per capita is much higher than in India, e.g. US: 6200 cubic metre per head, Japan: 6500 and Russia: 17,536 cubic metre per head.

[English]

While in India it is just 3100 including floor

Mr. Chairman, Sir, by the end of the 7th plan, a total of Rs. 43155 crores have been spent under plan and non-plan expenditure. We hope that in the Eighth Plan.....

[English]

I will try to justify it. I have proposed accordingly.

[Translation]

Therefore the funds provided for it in the 8th Plan are many times more than those provided in the 7th Plan.

[Sh Manubhai Kotadia]

water of Ganga and Brahmaputra which is impossible to harness

[*Translation*]

This reveals that there is nothing like abundance of water. It should have been utilised well, but it was not done. Now that we are at the helm of affairs

[*English*]

We will see that it is done

[*Translation*]

We are unable to face just one drought even after 42 years. What does this indicate? Let us look at the plight of those who are called big farmers. When drought hits a village, sisters and daughters of even those farmers who own 20-25 hectares of land have to go to the site of relief work and toil there. They cannot face even one drought and have to sell even their cows and buffaloes. There is a proposal to waive the loans of farmers. I would like to ask as to what is the root cause of their indebtedness.

[*English*]

It was because of the faulty policy

[*Translation*]

They were given neither insurance facility nor water for their crops and hence they did not get reasonable prices for their crops. Whenever there was a good crop, he was forced for distress sale and when there was a drought, his fertilizer as well as the seed went waste. As a result, the loan amount went on increasing. Since the Government's policy was faulty, therefore, the decision to waive the loan is justified. I would like to say that there are a number of industries whose loans have turned into bad debts.

[*English*]

Crores of rupees have been invested in the

name of industrial development.

[*Translation*]

Presently many industries are sick and the money invested has been rendered useless. Who bothers to realise such loans? The loans were given by banks and the money went waste as the unit became sick. Whose money is it? It is the money of the banks and, therefore, of the Government. Therefore, the loans of farmers should be waived.

[*English*]

And we are committed for that

[*Translation*]

However the modalities can be explained by concerned Minister only. This loan waiving has to be done as a compensation to the farmers for non-availability of water for irrigation.

AN HON MEMBER: Would you waive the loans of cooperative sector too?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Only the concerned minister can tell about that. I have received many complaints about drinking water.

[*English*]

I am also worried

[*Translation*]

As far as the responsibility to provide drinking water is concerned

[*English*]

Particularly so far as rural sector is concerned, the Minister looking after the rural development will reply

[*Translation*]

I also realise that it is very difficult to provide drinking water as there is very little water left 20 years earlier the level of under ground

water was 50-60 feet below the surface, now a days one does not strike water even after sinking bore wells as deep as 300-400 feet. The existing bore wells do not have recharging facilities and the small ponds have not been well constructed.

[English]

On paper, it is shown that potential is created but in fact there is no potential.

[Translation]

I admit that mistakes have been committed in the past which have resulted in the scarcity of drinking water. I am grateful to Rajmata for her valuable suggestions. I was impressed by her speech about rural areas. Other Members also have rendered their valuable suggestions but those given by Rajmata are particularly very good.

It is true that irrigation is a state subject. The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution mentions clearly that it is a State subject and the Centre's role is...

[English]

"to provide the guidance for external assistance and monitoring...."

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Arbitration and conciliation also.

[Translation]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: The total allocation provided in the Seventh Plan was Rs. 17,000 crores and in addition to that a provision of Central assistance of Rs. 884 crores was also there. Of this, 70 per cent was to be passed on to the States. Its objective was to provide funds for Command Area Development, Minor Irrigation, SYL Canal and Rajasthan Canal. The Central sector has not got enough money to allot the desired amount to the States. Many hon. Members have requested to enhance the financial assistance to the States as much as possible. The amount which is given to States.

[English]

It is in the form of grant. It cannot be tied with any sector or any scheme or project.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): What about the rivers adjoining border areas? Would it fall under the State Subject or some other subject?

[English]

SHRIMANUBHAI KOTADIA: I will come to that point later.

[Translation]

It may well be advised that it should be included in central sector. But it would surely involve the distribution of power.

[English]

We are not for Central legislation. We are for decentralisation of power.

[Translation]

It would involve the States as well. There are MLAs in our State Assemblies, they should be requested to raise this issue in Assemblies. The Centre would willingly do all that is considered needful. I will discuss the issue with Chief Ministers also.

[English]

During my visit to the States, I will have discussion with the concerned chief ministers, particularly the Chief Minister of West Bengal and Assam.

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: Rajasthan should also be included in it (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I would like to do it for all. Wherever the big rivers are there would talk to the concerned Chief

[Sh. Manubhai Kotadia]

Ministers (*Interruptions*)

Bihar alone has 26% of the total flood prone area. The State is hit by floods every year and massive devastation is caused.

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): I want to clarify the matter. We hail from a flood affected area and thus suffer a lot. This area is affected by floods for three months and by drought for the rest of the nine months and thereby we are adversely affected by both the calamities

SHRI SAYEED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): In this connection I have to say that Bihar is a flood hit State and later on the flood water flows to Bengal also

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: There is only one solution to this problem is that the talks we had with Nepal in this regard should yield some fruitful solution

[*English*]

Unless we construct big dams near Nepal there is no solution

[*Translation*]

That is the only solution. As such, after having assumed the charge of this Ministry I have written a letter in this regard on the 16th of March but my problem is.

[*English*]

I have to deal through the Ministry of External Affairs. The Ministry of External Affairs has already taken this up

[*Translation*]

I will talk to the Ministry of External Affairs also and will request them to find a solution to this problem because river Ganga is in spate every year and the rivers flowing from Bihar are causing havoc. Mr. Jha has said that devastating floods occur but it is not so.

[*English*]

After Deepavali they are facing a drought situation.

[*Translation*]

I expect that a solution to this problem will certainly be found and I shall make my best efforts to find a solution.

[*English*]

Now in recent days

[*Translation*]

Our relations with Nepal are improving fast and it is hoped that there will improve further. Thus I can say that it may be done because Nepal is also in need of it. If a big dam is constructed in the territory of Nepal, 35 Meghawatts of power can be generated which is approximately 35 percent of the total requirement of India and once this power is generated it will help that country to prosper further and we will get water. It will also help in flood control and will provide water for irrigational purpose to Bihar, U.P. and will fulfil the demands put forth by Rajasthan but how can this be done and when can it be done

[*English*]

It is very difficult for me to say anything at this stage. Rajasthan has made this demand.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: An agreement has been reached twelve years ago with Nepal in Panchreshwar and Girava.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): You should take steps to provide water to Rajasthan. We are not getting water, we are in great distress.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: All right.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL (Morena): The land of Madhya Pradesh will turn rugged and barren owing to scarcity of water. As

such what plan are you making in this direction?

[English]

SHRIMANUBHAIKOTADIA: The main constraints in irrigation or providing much of the irrigation facilities is lack of funds.

[Translation]

There is no fund, I have given a suggestion.

[English]

for setting up of a corporation which can finance these nationally important projects.

[Translation]

I am coming to the point of discussion. A proposal is under consideration to set up a corporation so that funds can be made available through it to the projects of national importance whether it is Ganga or Narmada or Brahmaputra or Tista and

[English]

It is under the active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

The agricultural sector can get funds through NABARD even today.

[English]

IDBI is for financing industrial sector. There is no financial institution which can finance this irrigation sector. I have proposed it. and I am intending to set up this if it is agreed. (Interruptions)

SHRIP.R.KUMARAMANGALAM: Why did you not refer the Cauvery issue to the Tribunal.

[Translation]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I am

coming to it. I will cover everything. As regards finance and resources in the matter of creating irrigation potential, foreign loans and assistance are also received.

[English]

At present mainly we are getting from World Bank and we are getting very good cooperation from the World Bank.

[Translation]

Many Hon. Members have declared water as a national property and have demanded its nationalisation. This is true and it has been mentioned in the National Water Policy but the important thing is whether the States will agree to it. Nobody is going to give up his claim.

[English]

Since when I have taken charge of the Ministry of Water Resources, formally and informally I have started dialogues with the concerned

State Governments for resolving inter-State disputes like Cauvery water dispute. Including Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Gujarat and Rajasthan nobody is prepared to sacrifice anything. Now the Supreme Court has ordered to set up a tribunal. So, I will not say anything about that because it will be prejudicial.

[Translation]

I will not say anything regarding the Cauvery issue.

[English]

So far as the Water Grid is concerned, there are two proposals, one made by Mr. K. L. Rao and another by Capt. Dastur for inter-State linking of major rivers like Ganga and Cauvery and transferring water for irrigation and other purposes. These were considered by the Government and found technically unsound.

[Sh. Manubhai Kotadia]

[Translation]

[Translation]

Nobody is going to give up his share of water. Everyone knows the important of water. As regards nationalisation of water, it is to be seen as to whether the State Governments are agreeable to it. Thereafter, I shall initiate a dialogue on this topic.

As far as the development of Himalayan rivers is concerned, it is very difficult to make any progress in this direction unless we come to an agreement or understanding with Nepal or Bangladesh.

[English]

[English]

For these two proposals, the Ministry of Water Resources has formulated a national perspective for water resources development which comprises of two components, namely Himalayan river development and peninsular river development

The National Water Development Agency was set up to give concrete shape to the peninsular river development of the national perspective for water resources development

[Translation]

[Translation]

A suggestion has been given that the water of the Ganga should be diverted to this region. In order to implement this, the water is to be lifted to a height of 16 00 mts. and for carrying out this work 7000 Megawatt of power will be required. For this funds will be required and it will be difficult to arrange for it. I have studied this issue to some extent. Thus we are not going to give it up.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI I would like to ask the Hon. Minister as to whether he has a time bound programme or some action plan in this regard

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA I am coming to that. I shall not leave anything. I shall come to action plan also. Only those people who have nothing to do with the Agricultural Department oppose the construction of big dams. Some people talk of rehabilitation. There are some who talk about the issue of caste benefit ratio. Those people are not aware of the situation in rural sector.

[English]

[English]

Peninsular river development comprises four parts -

They do not know how the farmer is depending on the rainfed agriculture.

- (i) Inter-linking of Mahanadhi, Godavari, Krishna Pennar and Cauvery.
- (ii) Inter-linking of west-flowing rivers north of Bombay and South of Tapti
- (iii) Inter-linking of Ken with Chambal, and
- (iv) diversion of the water of Sone and the west-flowing rivers of Kerala to the east

[Translation]

They are not aware of it. Irrigation facilities will be provided in 18 lakh 67 thousand hectares of land through Narmada Sagar, Sardar Sarovar. 1450 Mega Watt of power will be generated thereby. Some forest land will be acquired, but it has been decided to double the forest land there. In place of unplanned and rainfed forests, there will be planned forests and during the next 6 years 18 lakh hectares of land will be brought under greenery. It will improve the environ-

ment and farmers will get water. At present only firewood is available in jungles, but in future various types of fruit trees like mango, banana, etc. will be grown there.

As regards rehabilitation, I agree with you that rehabilitation should be in proper manner.

[English]

Those who are sacrificing for the projects should not be troubled. They should be given importance in respect of their rehabilitation.

[Translation]

People living in the submerged areas will be rehabilitated. Our aim is to improve their living conditions. This scheme will be implemented. No compromise can be made in this respect. Whether it is in Gujarat or in any other place for that matter. (Interruptions)

As regards allotment of land to farmers, it has been decided to allot two acres of land in Command area to a farmer who has one acre of land in his possession.

[English]

If in a family there are three brothers—every major son is treated as separate unit.

[Translation]

We will allot land in such a manner that they will get more than what they are getting at present. I went to the site on the 29th. I had visited the village also. I observed that some people have 2 1/2 acres of land and some have a little more than this. Some have three children and their land is inadequate and dry.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI:  
When will this work be completed?

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL: You said the people who were displaced have been re-settled there. Did the hon. Minister personally visit the oustees to find out whether they were satisfied there? Did he visit the site in Rajasthan where the people displaced from Pong Dam area in Himachal Pradesh have been rehabilitated? (Interruptions)

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: The schemes which were launched at that time should be implemented. I agree to that (Interruptions)

[English]

Let me finish my reply. I am talking about minor irrigation. That will be looked into. I will instruct my officers to visit and ask the concerned State Governments. The Scheme must be implemented.

[Translation]

As far as the ground water resources are concerned, I have already said that it is the responsibility of the States, However, the Central Ground Water Board is assisting the State Boards.

[English]

Central Ground Water Board is assisting the State Government in supplementing information on plan and drawal of water from underground. We are trying our best. No doubt it is a State subject.

[Translation]

Minor irrigation is a State subject. It does not come under central list, but these are good projects. These projects can be completed within a hour span of one or two years and its benefits become available very soon. We must undertake minor irrigation projects wherever and in whatever number it is possible. In fact, we are doing the same. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us follow the pro-

cedure. Let the hon. Minister continue. Then we shall see.

[Translation]

Several of the hon. Members made a point for sprinklers and lift irrigation. An action plan has since been drawn for this purpose, but it has not yet been approved. Most probably, it will be approved soon. As per the plan prospects sprinklers and lift irrigation facilities will be provided to 8 lakh hectares of land during the Eighth Plan. We are hopeful that it will be done

Many hon. Members pointed out about under utilisation of irrigation potential. There are also some hurdles in it. It is a fact that it is not possible to make full utilisation of the potential. But one thing I have noticed is that at the time of formulation of the plan over-reporting was done. When they send the proposal, they also prepare the plans. In many cases, second system is not completed. Suppose that the dam is completed today but canal work is not completed for the next 5 years. The second drawback is that of non-maintenance of the system. The system is not being maintained fully, as a result of which full benefits cannot be availed of. The development work of the command area is not being done as effectively as it ought to be. We will do our best to see that irrigation potential is utilised to the maximum extent. Out of the total agricultural potential, we are utilising 84 per cent and we shall make every effort to utilise the remaining 16 per cent

References were also made to the delay in project completion. Several of the hon. Members endorsed this view. The State Governments do not take up as much work as they ought to take up in proportion to resources available with them. New projects are being started without planning, which results in delay in completion. A number of Schemes are undergoing like this for the last 10-15-20 years. Against the requirement of Rs. 50 crores in a particular year, only Rs. 5 crores are being allocated. We have since rejected further proposals from the States and issued directions to them that they should

first complete the on going schemes and not to take up new schemes till those in hand are completed. (Interruptions)

The projects should be completed within a definite time-frame. As on date, a number of projects are lying incomplete for the last 15-20 years. We have issued strict directions to States to complete these schemes during the 8th plan period.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Please say something about the Sutlej-Yamuna link canal.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: The Sutlej-Yamuna link canal is under construction. I shall come to that later

There was a query about the clearance of the projects. I reply to that I have already said,

[English]

Not more than 14 months for major irrigation projects and not more than ten months for minor irrigation projects.

[Translation]

This will be the maximum time limit. We have since issued directions in this regard and also told them that whenever they feel it necessary they can depute their officers to Delhi. Similarly, if necessary, a team could also be sent from the Centre to the States. In this way queries, if any, could be sorted out by sitting across the table. Generally, much time is wasted in resolving queries and in unnecessary correspondence. Now that would not happen and there will be no delay in getting the projects cleared

Shri Santosh Mohan Dev made a point about the Tipaimukh project.

[English]

For this Project, agreement among Mizoram, Manipur and Assam is required. Special studies are going on so that project

could be techno-economically sanctioned.

[Translation]

Thus, the issue is still lingering. Something in this regard could be done only after this action is over. Similarly, Shri Santosh Mohan Dev pointed out that there is no Chairman in the Brahmaputra Board. I would like to tell him that now a Chairman has been appointed.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV (Tripura West): Who is he?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: You are asking about it today only. Had you asked me yesterday, I would have given you his name. It is not possible to give the name at such a short notice.

[Translation]

There was a point about the anti sea-erosion.

[English]

Beach Erosion Board is in existence and all the concerned States are its members.

[Translation]

An hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh had made this suggestion, but it is the duty of the State Governments to take action about anti sea-erosion. It comes under their jurisdiction.

Similarly, a point was raised about the Upper Sikri Projects. It is pending with the Ministry of Forest and Environment. There was also a reference to forest land in this regard, but forest land does not come under my jurisdiction. (Interruptions)

Earlier, the State Governments enjoyed this power, but after the Forest Conservation Act came into being in 1980, it ceased to be a State subject. The Ministry of Forest and Environment should consider this subject. I

can say this much that as compared to forest land that is likely to be submerged, or trees likely to be cut, many more trees would grow to offset the loss.

Suggestions made about system improvement of canal lining were also taken into consideration. It is hoped that with the improvement in the system, there will be an increase of at least 8 lakh million hectares of land during a period of 5 years.

There was a point about the Indira Gandhi Canal. It is being financed by the Central Government.

[English]

We would like to see that it is completed as early as possible. Its functioning part is lying with the State Government.

[Translation]

I would like to request the hon. Member to make a request to the State Government so that the work could be completed at the earliest.

AN HON. MEMBER: The matter relating to control of its head works has been decided over the years and you have all along been writing about that. But the management of this canal should be with the Bhakra Beas Management Board and not with the Government of Punjab as is the case at present. Though the share of water to be given to Rajasthan has been decided, yet it is not getting its due share. What are you going to do in this regard?

[English]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Let us meet all the M.Ps. concerned.

[Translation]

A complaint about Bihar was received here. I have since told about 54 M.Ps. from the Lok Sabha and 22 M. Ps. from the Rajya Sabha.

[Sh. Manubhai Kotadia]

[English]

[English]

On 16th I have invited them and we are holding a meeting wherein we are thoroughly discussing all this.

[Translation]

[Translation]

I shall also invite the hon. Members from Rajasthan.

[English]

[English]

We will discuss and finalise. I will try to resolve it. I don't say that I will resolve it; but I will try to resolve it.

[Translation]

[Translation]

There have been some complaints about the Ganga Flood Control Commission. Only the flood control scheme comes under the above Commission and its role is to supplement the State functions. It is not an executive body like the C.W.C.

[English]

[English]

The formation of all these schemes etc. is meant for supplementing the State functions.

[Translation]

[Translation]

There was a reference to Farakka also. Shri Amar Roypradhan made a point in this regard. I would not like to say much in this regard, but I will say this much that we have tried to supply more water this year than the water supplied during the earlier years.

[English]

[English]

Last year it has gone down upto 26000 cusecs.

The Government of West Bengal has already proposed that they should get 50% aid.

[Translation]

[Translation]

This year, on no occasion, the water supplied was less than 30,000 cusecs.

It is difficult because there are no funds. There is no money with the Central Government. (Interruptions) Even then, I shall discuss your suggestion with the concerned Ministry and the Planning Commission and I shall permit the amount whatever is sanctioned from here. (Interruptions) So far as Bansagar Project is concerned, I would like to tell Mr. Shastri that work in the project is in progress. This project is going to be sliced by

Thank God, God has helped us and we are trying to manage it.

75 per cent, but work on the project is still in progress.

[English]

It is with the State Government. The State Government has to implement it; they are trying their best. But they are also facing the financial constraint.

[Translation]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): I would like to request you to get it completed within three years.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I will take up this issue with the State Government. I had spoken to the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh about it. Therefore, I will tell you, whatever is possible....(Interruptions)

SHRIK. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): You have planned it very well but it is related to Assam alone. You have ignored Himachal Pradesh, which is a hilly area. What are you doing about lift irrigation schemes there?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We are reviewing the schemes in Himachal Pradesh.

[English]

I have tried to satisfy the hon. Members and I have tried to cover almost all the points, which are raised by the hon. Members.

[Translation]

I know that there are several members who still want to participate in the discussion, but due to paucity of time could not get an opportunity to speak. I request those members that if they have any suggestions.

[English]

If they write to me, definitely it will be attended to as it is suggested here, in the House, and I will give the same treatment.

[Translation]

I urge the hon. Members who have put their Cut Motions to withdraw them and support and pass the Demand for Grants regarding the Ministry of Water Resources.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has said that he has covered almost all the points. The crucial word is 'almost'. The water resource is very limited, which he has indicated. But the subject is unlimited as everyone knows. Therefore the discussion can continue indefinitely. So, as the Minister suggested, the residual points after it has been almost covered-should be addressed to him and he will reply to them. There is absolutely no time for further questioning. We have so many other things to take up. I will now come to the voting.

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDER SINGH (Mahendragarh): Sir, he has not dealt with the important point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are an Ex-Minister, You know how important points are dealt with.

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: I want some information and assurance from him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to get some information, the easiest thing is to write to him. If the Minister is willing now, then it is okay.

[Translation]

RAO BIRENDER SINGH: The Satluj Yamuna Link Canal Project was to be completed in 1983, The dead line fixed for this

[Rao Birender Singh]

project has been extended six times and all the expenses have to be borne by the Central Government. Project estimate has been raised from Rs. 176 crores to Rs. 548 crores. Can the Hon'ble Minister give an assurance about the dead line that has been fixed for completion of this project and when this project would be completed and whether this project would benefit some or all the amount spent on this project would be wasted?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: The work on this project is going on very well. I hope that it will be completed by February 1991. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will not allow any more clarifications.

I shall now put the Cut Motion Nos. 85 and 86 moved by Shri Palai K. M. Mathew in respect of the Demands for Grants of the

Ministry of Water Resources to the vote of the House.

*Cut Motions Nos. 85 and 86 were put and negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Demands for Grants regarding the Ministry of Water Resources to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges ending the 31st day of March, 1991, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 78, relating to the Ministry of Water Resources."

*The motion was adopted*

## Demands for grants in rest of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1990-91 voted by Lok Sabha

No. and name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account, voted by the House on 28th March, 1990		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
78. Ministry of Water Resources	66,36,00,000	4,55,00,000	199,06,00,000	13,65,00,000

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Before I call upon the Minister of Agriculture to reply, I would like to call upon Mr. Kumaramangalam to make his point.

**SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM:** Mr. Chairman Sir, originally as per schedule, these two Demands for Grants for the two Ministries were supposed to be put to the vote of the House around 2 PM. Now, it has changed and it has become 6 PM nearly for these two Demands for Grants to be passed. By the time, I think, the day will be over when they will be passed. Therefore, my request to this House, through you Chairman Sir, is that the Demands may be guillotined day after tomorrow at 3 PM instead of tomorrow so that we can have atleast five to six hours debate on Demands for Grants regarding the Ministry of Labour and Ministry of Welfare.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Would the leaders of any party or others would like to make any comment on this point?

*(Interruptions)*

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** We agree to this point.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** So, the guillotine will not take place tomorrow. It will take place day after tomorrow. The Minister may clarify as to whether the time will be 3 PM or not.

*(Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK):** So far as the time is concerned, the Business Advisory Committee will decide tomorrow.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** So, the exact time of the guillotine will be decided by the BAC tomorrow. Now, the Minister for Agriculture may reply. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to one point, namely, Half-an-hour Discussion is scheduled to be taken up

by the House at 6 PM. So, you try to be brief and complete before 6 PM.

*[ Translation ]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):** Sir, I was listening very carefully to the suggestions given by the hon. Members, particularly because I am a new member of the Lok Sabha and I had a great desire to listen to the speeches of the experienced members of Lok Sabha, former Ministers of Lok Sabha, who were previously in the Government and now have been elected as members of the Lok Sabha. I was also very much eager to listen to the views of young members of the Lok Sabha and during the discussion I paid full attention to them. I think that whenever the Government changed at the Centre, the new Government in power, has all the merits and demerits of the previous Government before them. It is the responsibility of the new Government to carry on the good deeds of the previous Government. Besides, the new Government also pays its attention the demerits, raw backs in the modus operandi of the previous Government and the tries to improve upon it. All the experienced Members have given their suggestions in the House and criticised the Government. It is true that criticism is not done only for the sake criticism, criticism is done to make suggestion, criticism is done to create anything, criticism is done to make progress in appropriate manner, and it gives strength to the Government. The criticism made and the suggestions made by the hon. Members during the discussion held on the Ministry of Agriculture has benefited me a lot. I hope that I will be benefited by the suggestions made by the Members in future also. The Members of the opposition were saying that a lot of progress had been made in the field of agriculture, during their regime. I think that if not lot of progress but there has been some progress positively in this field and we should not hesitate to accept it. Soon after Independence, the production of foodgrains in the country was 5 crore 50 lakh

tonnes but last year i. e. during 1989-90 our production has been gone upto 17 crore 30 lakhs tonnes. It is not an ordinary achievement and I would give this assurance that we would make further progress in the field of agricultural production in the country, in future also. During the discussion several Members pointed out that China has made a lot of progress in this matter and that too in a short span of time. In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that China imported one crore 58 lakh tonnes foodgrains during 1987, while India imported only 46,000 tonnes foodgrains from foreign countries. Even today, China is importing foodgrains from other countries. About the figures that we have got in this regard, we consider rice as a foodgrain they consider paddy as a foodgrain. We do not include the production of and potato sweet-potata as foodgrains but in China all these are included in the foodgrains. That is what I want to say. So there is no need to feel sorry in this regard. But, it is necessary to learn a lesson from their achievements. The most intricate issue before us about agriculture is which even Shri Rai referred in his speech, that the population of India is much more than the area. In Russia and America, population is less than their area. In India, we have 32 lakh square K. Ms land, in America the land is 94 lakh Square K. Ms and in Russia there is 224 lakh Square K. Ms of land. The population of our country is 80 crore 50 lakh, the population of America is 25 crore and in that of Russia is 29 crores. You should understand this basic difference. You already know this difference that population is more than area in our country. In those countries population is less than their area. Manual skill is cheaper than machines in our country and in those countries machine is cheaper than the manual skill. So you see what is the problem before us. We have to see how best we can utilise our land so that we can feed our entire population. All of you also know the India is a agricultural country and 67.1 percent people of our country depend on agriculture. In America, 2.5 percent people depend on agriculture and in Russia 14 percent people depends on agriculture. In the countries,

where less people depend on agriculture, they produce so much that they eat themselves and also export it. In our country, where more people are engaged in agriculture, we can not produce even to meet our requirement. It is a matter of concern that being an agricultural country, even today our country depends on other countries for pulses, oilseeds and sugar, and we have to beg from other countries—for pulses, oilseeds or sugar and sometimes we have to import rice and wheat also, though we import rice and wheat very rarely. Therefore, our Government have now decided to make efforts to become self-reliant in next five years in respect of the items which are not sufficient to meet our requirement so as to avoid dependence on others for these items. The government have decided to spend Rs. 24 crores for producing pulses and Rs. 54 crores for oil seeds in the year 1990-91. Besides, we have also decided to spend Rs. 80 crores 50 lakhs in respect of dry and rain fed farming whereas in 1989-90 only Rs. 19 crores were spent on it. Similarly, the previous Government had spent Rs. 63.2 crores in 1989-90 to boost the rice production whereas we have decided to spend Rs. 87 crores in 1990-91 for the same. Similarly we want to encourage other things such as horticulture, dairy etc. So far as agricultural production is concerned, it is true that farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce and sometime do not get even production cost of their produce. I belong to a village and have been connected with agriculture for the last 40-45 years, I know that sugarcane crop is burnt in the field itself due to extreme fall in the price. Under such circumstances, farmers prefer to burn their crop rather than harvesting and selling it in market which is unprofitable to them. Similarly they suffer losses in vegetables. Many time I asked farmers as to why they were not harvesting and selling their vegetables. They replied that they do not get back even transportation charges of the vegetables. As a result of it, farmers do not get even production cost of their produce and they suffer losses. The Government have paid attention towards it and have said that the farmer should atleast be paid that much price of

[Sh. Upendra Nath Verma]

their produce which may avoid loss to him. The entire agricultural produce has not yet been taken into consideration. It is under consideration and different committees have been constituted for this purpose. But in respect of certain items, we have taken decision such as—in case of wheat, we have decided to increase the support price by Rs. 15 which means an increase of Rs. 32 per quintal from the last years procurement price. Similarly we have decided to increase the procurement price of mustard by Rs. 65 per quintal. Earlier the price of coconut was Rs. 1500 per quintal which has now been increased to Rs. 1600 per quintal. I would like to say that the steps taken by the Government point towards the direction in which it wants to go ahead and in this regard we seek your assistance and cooperation. When harvesting season starts, the price of agricultural products go down and as soon as the farmer sells his produce, the prices go up again. The farmers do not get benefit. He has to sell his produce at a cheap rate for marriage ceremony, repayment of loan etc. I have seen in Bihar particularly in Purniya and Katihar that even standing crop of paddy is sold by the farmers. In this way the farmers suffer losses. The Government have taken steps in this direction and have increased the procurement prices of certain items which will definitely benefit the farmers and they will be able to produce more.

There are many hurdles in the way of farmers. Just now it has been stated that water is essential for agriculture and without that nothing can be grown. In our country, 70 percent farmers have not been provided with irrigation facility and they have to depend on rain. Even today, in many parts of the country, God Inder is worshipped for rain but that is also of no use. In this scientific age, when man is landing on moon and many wonderful inventions of science are taking place, our land and human beings are crying for water. We could not provide drinking water during the last 40-42 years of independence. We, all have to think over it as to why we could not

do it. Only then some solution to the problem would come out.

I was telling that the prices of certain commodities have increased. We have fixed the support prices of certain commodities. Whenever prices of any commodity starts falling, the Government will procure that commodity so that the farmers do not incur losses. The entire expenditure will be borne by the Government. We have taken one more step and that is intervention in market in case of potatos, onion and grapes. Their prices go very down. The loss in regard to these crops will be borne on 50-50 basis by the Central Government and the State Government. Grapes are being produced in Punjab and Haryana. Our hon. Member, Shri Bhajan Lal has full knowledge and experience of these things. Its price go down to Rs. 2 or Rs. 2.50 per kg. which causes anxiety among the growers and they repent as to why they had grown it. They do not get encouragement. Our Government have said that under such circumstances we shall intervene in the market. I do not say that we have solved all the problems or we are giving remunerative prices to the farmers but we are determined to do so. For that purpose, we need your assistance and cooperation so that we may go ahead in this direction. We want that even one farmer in this country should not say that he is not getting remunerative prices of his produce.

17.53 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shortage of water and power is also adversely affecting the farmers. Just now an hon. Member has said that electricity is provided for 4-5 hours only. I think that power supply for 4-5 hours is not adequate. In Bihar, not to say of weeks and days, farmers are not getting power supply for two hours in a month and some are not getting even that. They continue to wait for electric supply. Farmers and labourers continue to sit near the pump waiting for electricity and the crops are dried up. That is why the Government

have decided in favour of crop insurance. This decision was taken earlier. We have already paid many times of the amount we have received in the form of insurance money and we will continue to do so. I would like to say particularly to Shri Bhajan Lal that whatever they have done in this regard, we shall continue with that and whatever remains to be done, will be done by us.

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Sir, I would like to know about the apples. You have told about the support prices of grapes and other commodities. In Himachal Pradesh, there is problem of apples. Will the Government reconsider the support price of apple?

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Sir I would like to know from the Minister that in case the Government procures the grapes, what would be its utility. You can keep apples in cold storage for two months but grapes cannot be kept there for more than 4-6 days. You will destroy the country.... (Interruptions) The hon. Minister will never admit the fact of selling wine.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: If grapes become cheap, they are sold immediately. If it is purchased at Rs. 2.50 it can be sold easily at Rs. 5 per kg. because at present it is being sold at the rate of Rs. 14/- There is no problem of selling it and even if there is any problem in it even then Government have to do it to encourage the farmers. Just now the hon. Member from Himachal Pradesh has rightly pointed out about apples. We have discussed about it and talked to the officers also. Himachal Pradesh is known as an Apple State. We are thinking over it also but till now no final decision has been in this regard. I have said it at the outset that it is our beginning.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): As far as crop insurance is concerned it used to be there upto Mandals. Has it been extended right upto the villages?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir it is still the same as earlier.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: I have already told that the earlier scheme is being continued and we shall continue with that. If any improvement in the scheme is required, we shall think over that but we consider it a useful scheme and that is why we are continuing with it.

DR. KHUSHAL PARASRAM BOPCHE (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that they would continue the existing crop insurance scheme. But that is a defective scheme because it does not provide insurance of the crop but merely covers the amount of loan. In that case also, the crop average of three years is calculated and then insurance amount on loan is paid. The insurance company does not say that it would pay the insurance amount only when a person dies thrice. The existing insurance scheme is very defective and requires to be changed completely and the Government have to pay full compensation to the farmers.

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: I have already said that if some improvements are required in it we shall do that also. It was also pointed out that there is shortage of fertilizer. It is right because many fertilizer plants are lying closed and many plants are running in loss. Just now an hon. Member said that Government should take over these plants and should run them. It is right but I would like to tell him that we have received reports about three plants and we are thinking of renovating them. We are considering that report. During Eighth Five Year Plan we shall renovate only these three plants. We shall not take any other plant for renovation except these three.

Shri Bhajan Lal has said one thing that

[Sh Upendra Nath Verma]

the Government have not made any allocation for National Rural Employment Programme and Rural Landless Guarantee Programme. It is true that I have not done it. When Shri Bhajan Lal was the Agriculture Minister, he had merged both the programmes into Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. I would like to say that whatever he has done, I am continuing that only if you are forgetting that now, how are we at fault. You have yourself merged both the programmes. I would also like to say about Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (Interruptions) It has appeared in the newspapers about the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana that only 50 per cent of the target has been achieved but it is not true. Under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana 85 per cent of the amount has been spent and 93 per cent achievement is there. Reports from many states are still awaited. I also would like to say that there is an increased of 10 per cent is mandays. So far as the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is concerned, no major change has been made in it. There are two-three minor changes in it. Earlier funds were sent directly to the districts whereas now they are sent through State Governments. We cannot ignore the State Governments. Secondly, earlier under this scheme money spent on labour and material was at the ratio of 50:50 and now we have made slight change in it. We have now decided to spend 60 per cent on labour and 40 per cent on material. These are the minor change which we have made in it. We shall increase it further. We shall go ahead in this direction. We are also thinking about Rural Employment Guarantee Programme and shall reintroduce it in 1990-91 itself. But it cannot be implemented all over the country because it needs a large sum of money. We want to implement it at selected places such as in drought affected areas where people are facing employment problem. We want to do it in consultation with State Governments as Adarsh Gramin Yojana is going on in Maharashtra. Employment Guarantee Scheme is in existence. On similar pattern we want to introduce such scheme in some selected districts in the entire country. (Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The unemployment position in Rajasthan is worst and .....(Interruptions)

SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA: I want to tell you that the problem of drinking water is also very critical. There are about more than 6000-7000 problem villages in the country where water is neither available under the land nor it is available within a radius of 1 K.M. We want to solve the problem of such problem villages within two years. We want that even partially drinking water may reach in every village. It is our aim.

A lot of discussion took place here about inequality and disparity. It is true that disparity is prevailing in all over the country but what is the use of giving figures. Our colleagues and friends sitting here know very well about it. There is great disparity in the matter pertaining to drinking water. In Delhi, 240 litres of water is available per capita per day, whereas in villages only 10-15 litres of water is available and in certain villages even that much is not available. We are trying to reduce this disparity. It is my humble request to all the hon. Members that they may cooperate with us and help us and kindly withdraw their cut motion in this regard. We will always consider the suggestions of the Hon. Members and will take advantage of them.

In the end, I would like to say that there is less land in comparison to the population in our country. We want that there should be surplus production of foodgrains in our country so that it can enter the international market.

With these works, I would request that these demands may kindly be accepted.

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem) Sir, the hon. Minister while replying had mentioned about the problem that all agriculturists have with regard to water for irrigation purposes. They have also another problem, which, I think he should have referred to, but he did not with sufficient ser-

ousness. Irrigation is a very far-off dream. What about the drinking water? In fact, in my District, they not only have the problem of irrigation water, which, of course, has become dearer than gold, but the problem today is that there is not even drinking water. Under the Mini Mission for drinking water, Rs. 7 crores was allotted. But only Rs. 1.30 crores has reached the Salem District. I request you to look into it. I had mentioned about this while I was speaking. I would like to know your reaction.

Secondly, I understand that Mr. Devi Lalji, when he went to China, appreciated the small tractor-one engine 12 HP tractor, etc. for the small folding. Is the Minister aware that in India, the designs of small tractor have been pending for manufacturing for over twenty years? You go to China and appreciate it. Why do you not try and find out whether it is developed in India? And if you really appreciate it, why not give these small entrepreneurs an opportunity to manufacture it?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): I have to ask only two clarifications. The first one has been asked by my friend Shri Kumaramangalam, about the small tractors. Mr. Devi Lal went to China and appreciated the small tractor of 12 HP. It is a fact that the small tractors have already been manufactured in our country also. It was manufactured in Calcutta. It has to be tested. It has already been in existence in India. So, I would like to know from the Minister, whether he will consider this tractor, which is indigenously manufactured and to be tested.

Secondly, more than one Member here mentioned about the support price of coconut, which you did not mention anything about in your reply. Coconut is grown in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh-almost in all the coastal States. The support price is very low. Some Members have mentioned about that also. The support price, which you have declared, is very low. The price is not remunerative and the farmers are giving it at a throw-away price. There is a demand for increasing the

support price. I want to know your reaction on this also...*(Interruptions)*

18.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABUBHAI MEGHJI SHAH (Kutch): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that the products like onion, grapes and potato, prices of which go down, are purchased through market intervention. As regards market intervention in the matter of edible oils, oilseeds have not been purchased directly from farmers. Kindly clear the policy of the Government in this regard and tell us as to whether oilseed, and oilseed products will be purchased directly from the farmers.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: It is reported in the news papers almost daily that spurious pesticides are sold in abundance. Secondly, spurious and sub-standard seeds are available in abundance. Secondly, spurious and sub-standard seeds are available in abundance in the whole country as a result to which farmers are suffering a lot. Hon. Minister should clarify as to whether Government is considering to enact a new law to make provision of stringent punishment to those who are selling spurious medicines and sub-standard seeds in the country.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I belong to Ahmedabad district. Besides drought, salinity of soil affects the agriculture in this area as a result of which seeds sown by the farmers get rotten. Crop Insurance Scheme has been implemented for a few crops in that area. It is my submission that keeping in view the situation there all the crops should be brought under Crop Insurance Scheme.

Farmers get some compensation under Crop Insurance Scheme. If a poor labourer who sows the crops, dies as a result of biting by poisonous insects or dies while sprinkling poisonous pesticides, there is no such provi-

[Sh. Ratilal Kalidas Verma]

sion for giving compensation to him. It is my submission that Crop Insurance Scheme should also be implemented in respect thereof.

SHRI KAPIL DEV SHASTRI (Sonapat): Deputy Speaker, Sir, 104 year old Act of 1887 is de force in Haryana-Punjab. Under articles 67-68-69 of this Act lands are acquired. These are acquired in lieu of non-payment of loans by the farmers. According to rules, lands should not be auctioned and acquired against the loans of the farmers. Talks are going on about waiving off loans of the farmers. Talks are going on about waiving off loans upto Rs. 10,000 but if it is made effective from 2nd October, 1987, farmers will not get any benefit what to talk of Rs. 10,000. What is Governments proposal in this regard?

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Hon. Minister for discussing the issues like irrigation schemes and drinking water. While discussing the issues hon. Minister talked about the distance of one mile. It is my submission in this regard that a distance of one mile is a great distance in hilly areas because of height. Whether hon. Minister will get conducted any survey about Himachal Pradesh so that irrigation facilities can be provided in hilly areas? Will hon. Minister be able to State as to whether any lift irrigation scheme will also be considered or not?

Similarly, hon. Minister talked about the support prices for all the products. Support prices are being provided for the grapes and coconut, but support prices are not being provided to apple growers in Himachal Pradesh and other areas. I want to submit to hon. Minister in his regard whether Government is considering to provide support prices for grapes and other fruits like plums.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): I want to ask two questions from hon Minister. Firstly, compensation which is granted for the crops spoiled due to hailstorm, is only for

namesake, it has not been increased for years together. I think it is same for the last 30-40 years. Whether there is any proposal to increase this amount or not? Secondly, while mentioning the name of ex-Minister of Congress Party, Hon. Minister has said that we will go ahead with the works initiated by him. the hon. Minister should clarify as to whether corruption will also be allowed to increase because this statement of the hon. Minister has arisen an apprehension in our minds.

[English]

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): I wish to express my appreciation of the fine gesture shown by this Government by entrusting agriculture to the second most important Minister in the Cabinet i.e. Deputy Prime Minister. I have expressed this earlier. Now I want to make it definite today. I would have been happier if he could have been present today. Unfortunately, he seems to be still unwell. I would like to express on behalf of my colleagues, our good wishes for his speedy recovery so that he would be able to give effective leadership to all his colleagues in the Ministry, more especially in the Government. I would like my hon. friends, the Minister concerned to consider just one point that this crop insurance should be extended to all the growers, whatever crops they may take up, and not merely to those who borrow money from cooperative societies, and also on the basis of village at least, not as it is now in Maharashtra, that is, only on the basis of a Mandal or half a Mandal.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRISAN YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr, Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has delivered very good speech in connection with agriculture. But he has not said a single word about the main problem. I would like to point out that the tillers are without land. Only 10 per cent farmers are having sufficient land for agriculture, Whether Government propose to bring land reforms and acquire land from those people who do not cultivate it themselves? As far as I know

barren land is double then agriculture land. Whether there is any scheme to provide land to the agriculturists? If lands are not provided to the farmers under the co-operative system, I believe development of agriculture is not possible. Nothing has been said by the hon. Minister in this regard. Please say some thing about it.

**SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL** (Rajgarh): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister towards a basic problem. Due to continuous division of agriculture land, agriculture has been becoming un-economic for the past few years. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to whether Government has any scheme under which agriculture can be made profitable instead of its being un-economic.

**SHRI JORAWAR RAM** (Palamau): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been erratic power supply in Bihar for the past 3-4 years and power is made available for very little time. I would like know as to what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You cannot say like this.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, earlier I had mentioned about Crop Insurance Scheme. My colleagues had clarified in this regard that at present this scheme is applicable to only those who have taken loans. Mr. Kumaramangalam raised a question, to which he will get a reply very soon may be today itself. We have already released whatever has been demanded by you but the problem is that the State Government has not furnished the details of what has been provided to it earlier. Details have not been received from many States. That is why problems are coming.

So far as problem of drinking water is

concerned, we are taking expeditious action in this regard. If any hon. Member comes across any problem, he may please write to me and I will take immediate action. Another hon. Member has said that the tillers are landless. The owners of land are those people who think it a sin to touch the plough. The slogan of 'Land to the Tiller' is in vogue since the time of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, but nothing can be said confidently as to what extent we have achieved success in it. But it is clear that success is for from it. Only some awareness can be seen in this regard. The slogan of 'land to tiller' is correct but what is the use of a look for an illiterate man. It is absolutely true that if land is allotted to the labourers who have got the capacity to cultivate it, production can increase many fold. But we have to take steps in this regard. It is clear that our aim is not only to increase production but to give social justice also. In this regard we can achieve success by giving social justice as well as by increasing production. In the end, I would like to submit that I am grateful to the Hon. Members for the suggestions made by them and I would also like to say that their suggestions are always welcome and I would certainly give reply to them.

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue, Contingent and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1991, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 5 relating to Ministry of Agriculture."

*The motion was adopted.*

## DEMANDS FOR GRANTS IN RESPECT OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE 1990-91 VOTED BY LOK SABHA.

No. and name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account, voted by the House on 28th March, 1990		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
	2	3	4	5
<b>MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE</b>				
1. Agriculture	376,74,00,000	3,11,00,000	1130,21,00,000	9,33,00,000
2. Other Services of Department of Agriculture & Cooperation	96,22,00,000	47,63,00,000	288,68,00,000	142,90,00,000
3. Department of Research and Education	81,75,00,000	—	245,25,00,000	—
4. Department of				

No. and name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account, voted by the House on 28th March, 1990		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	5
Rural Development	1898,45,00,000	7,00,000	1244,16,00,000	23,00,000
5. Department of Fertilizers.	1320,78,00,000	33,86,00,000	3962,34,00,000	101,58,00,000