

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please ask the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask the minister when there is something. When you give in writing, then I will ask him.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: 9 times, they have violated the ruling. You have said, when the House is in session, such announcements should not be made outside the House. But they are not respecting it.

MR. SPEAKER: Change article 356 and then, I will allow.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Call-attention. Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We are walking out.

12.11 1/2 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other hon. Members left the House.*

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao.

12.12 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[*English*]

**Reported Failure of Cotton Crop**

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO (Vijayawada): I call the attention of the

Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :-

"The reported failure of the cotton crop in certain parts of the country leading to suicide by some farmers and the steps taken by the Government to mitigate their suffering."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Cotton is basically a South-West monsoon based crop in most parts of the country. It is a well known fact that 1987-88 was a year of unprecedented drought and South West Monsoon has been erratic for the last 2-3 years in succession. As a result the area under cotton has declined from 80.57 lakh ha. during 1981-82 to about 59 lakh ha. in 1987-88.

Unfortunately in the past 2-3 years the incidence of pests and diseases, like, White-Fly, Heliothis and Fusarium Wilt has been increasing. The Scientists have been trying to evolve varieties resistant to these pests and diseases.

In Andhra Pradesh the incidence of White-Fly was very severe in the past 2-3 years. The severe incidence of Heliothis during 1987-88 caused partly by aberrant weather conditions in the cotton cultivation season and partly by indiscriminate use of pesticides by the farmers further aggravated the situation in Prakasam and Guntur districts. In Andhra Pradesh the drought conditions in the earlier stages of the season followed by recurrent cyclonic rains in the later stages of the cotton crop resulted in accentuated multiplication and spread of both White-Fly and Heliothis and steep decline in cotton production. In a few cases the crop was a total failure.

In Andhra Pradesh the cotton farmers, motivated by high prices for cotton in the

good years, are in the habit of making heavy investments especially on pesticides. It is a common practice with the farmers in Andhra Pradesh to raise crop loans through commercial banks by pledging their family jewellery.

In 1987-88 on account of wide-spread failure of the cotton crop some farmers in Prakasam and Guntur districts found that they cannot repay their loans to the commercial banks. The situation was further compounded by the fact that in the earlier years, the cost of cultivation had gone up and the anticipated returns from the cotton crop had been drastically reduced, thereby increasing the indebtedness of the farmers to the banks. The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that some cotton farmers in Prakasam district have committed suicide due to indebtedness from failure of the cotton crop and resultant psychological depression.

The State Government have reported that they have taken a number of steps to mitigate the sufferings of the cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh in 1987-88. They include, conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans with repayment spread over a period of three years commencing from January, 1989, deferring of payment of interest on converted loans, waiver of interest in excess of the principal amount, stoppage of auction of gold hypothecated as security to banks, and assistance to the affected farmers in starting subsidiary occupations, such as, dairying etc.

In order to avoid recurrence of such tragic incidents in future, a number of steps have been taken by the Government of India. They include, evolving cotton varieties which are tolerant to pests through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, introduction of crop diversification programmes, intensification of pest surveillance systems, introduction of Integrated Pest Manage-

ment, proper education of farmers in better use of pesticides, and intensification of quality control measures with regard to pesticides.

Government of India are alive to the situation created by the failure of cotton crop in certain parts of the country and have taken appropriate remedial action.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I first of all express heart-felt thanks on my own behalf as well as on behalf of the aggrieved cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh and other parts of our country, for allowing this Call Attention Motion which gives an opportunity to bring to the notice of the Government a very unprecedented situation that has arisen in Prakasam and Guntur districts.

In this connection, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that cotton growers of this country have played a very pivotal role. Earlier we used to import long and extra long staple cotton from other countries and we used to spend very huge foreign exchange for that. But, later on the cotton growers in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, along with other parts of our country, have taken up the cultivation of long staple cotton and extra long staple cotton in a very dynamic way and in a very big way. Due to their efforts, we have now reached a stage that we need not import cotton today and, in fact, we have now reached the envious position of exporting our long and extra long staple cotton to other parts of the world.

But unfortunately like a candle which gives light to the surroundings but itself will go on diminishing, the condition of the cotton grower also has reached such a stage at present.

The present cost of cultivation goes to around Rs. 3,500 and is going up to Rs.

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

5,000/-. The present situation is the cumulative effect of the circumstances that existed for the last four years.

For the last three years, there was drought and in 1984-85 and 1985-86, there was very high prevalence of white fly pest in some districts of Andhra Pradesh. The pest also infested in some districts like Raichur and Bellary of Karnataka. Due to the pests, the yield has gone down considerably. In 1986-87 also which is a drought year again, the area itself was reduced and the per acre yields have dropped down to 5 to 6 quintals. Because of this, the farmers could not get back the investment they have made on cotton. The bank loans could not be discharged completely and the debt burden was increasing. In the present crop season i.e. 1987-88, actually the farmers have taken up sowing this crop in a little big way. But last year, some of them were disgusted with the earlier year's bitter experience of drought and white fly. They have reduced the area. But last year, in the later stages, the farmers got a good price. So, they hoped that a good crop could be obtained this year also and they could get a good return; they could discharge the bank dues. They have invested in a big way. But, unfortunately, the nature was not kind enough. In the months of August-September, there were no rains at all. That period was a quite disgusting period. Again, in the month of October-November, there were three successive cyclones in the coastal areas, especially in the parts of the cotton-belt in Guntur and Prakasam Districts which measured an area of 2000 sq. kms. and which are located within 30 kms from the coastal line i.e. sea-shore. These areas are the worst-suffering areas because of the three successive cyclones. These three successive cyclones have damaged this area. The damage has been caused not only due to cyclones. There were continuous rainfall also. In the month of October alone, there was rainfall on 12 days, there was

rainfall on six days. The total rainfall that has received by the Prakasam District, for example, was 326 mm in the month of October and 225 mm in the month of November. Due to this adverse condition created by the nature, the farmers were compelled to give more spraying involving additional expenditure. The hon. Minister, in his statement just now, mentioned of a little indiscriminate use of pesticides by the farmers. It was, to some extent, true in the earlier years. But this year, the farmers were quite well aware of the side-effects and the adverse effects of higher doses of application of *Pyrethroids*. They have learnt some lesson now. So, by this lesson, they did not want to apply higher doses of pesticides. But the nature made them to apply more and to spray more. They were compelled to spend more money in giving more spraying. Apart from the bank loans raised because of badly affected crops during that period, the outstanding debt is there. They were not able to repay the loans. They are not able to raise fresh loans also because of this earlier loan burden, becoming defaulters. In order to tackle the situation, many of them have pledged their gold ornaments including the *Manglasutras* of their wives. The *Manglasutra* is considered as a very very auspicious item by every Hindu lady. But they have pledged their gold ornaments in the banks for taking fresh loans. Even, this was also not sufficient because of the frequent rainfall. Sensing the situation and the plight of the farmers, the District Collector immediately discussed this matter with the bankers and the bankers, in turn, also agreed to give additional Rs. 500 per acre to meet the situation, to purchase the pesticides and apply the pesticides to prevent further damage to the crops. But in spite of this massive investment, the nature was not kind enough. There were droughts in some months; there were the three successive cyclones and also the frequent rainfalls. Due to this, the *pests*, *Heliothis* and white fly could not be controlled. The situation was uncontrollable. You have yourself agreed in

your statement that in a few cases the crop was a total failure. It was a fact. In thousands of hectares of lands, the yield was nil. They were uprooted in most cases. Even in the other areas, the yield was one or two quintals per acre. Sir, the hon. Minister knows the plight of the farmers very well. He was the former Chief Minister of Haryana for quite a long time. He would realise what will be the difficulties of the cotton growers. Now, this is the situation. This is the last straw on the camel's back. Added to the previous debt burden, this year also the situation has reached such a proportion that the farmers have lost all their hopes. Meanwhile, bankers have been insisting for repayment. In many cases, they have advertised in papers also that if the loans are overdue and if they do not discharge their loans, their gold ornaments will be auctioned. And the farmer, more than anything else, will give more weight to the social status among his own villagers. When these notices were published in the papers and when he received the notices, he was so upset that in some cases some farmers committed suicide. In all 24 farmers committed suicide out of which five were women. That is the plight of our country. Women also go to the field and they work in the agricultural operations. Actually this situation is unprecedented. We do not know about earlier instances. We are young people. Professor Ranga, who is the senior most veteran kisan leader may be knowing some similar instances which compelled Rajaji to bring in a Debt Relief Act in those days. May be, we are not quite aware of those circumstances. But after we learnt that, we have been in politics, we have not come across any such instance where so many farmers committed suicide being unable to bear the debt burden, for being unable to pay back loans which they had taken from the banks. This has happened in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh. I would like to bring to your kind notice that some such instances — in a small scale — have taken place in some places in

Karnataka also. Some cotton growers who went to Karnataka and cultivated the land taken on lease by putting all their investments are facing the same problem because of prevalence of white fly. My submission to the Government is not to view this as a problem of Prakasam and Guntur districts only. Today it has happened in our area and to some extent, in Karnataka. There is no wonder, if some day, it happens in some other parts of the country. This is not only the problem of cotton growers of Prakasam and Guntur districts but this is our national problem. Today our Government is getting nearly Rs. 1700 crores of foreign exchange by export of textiles and garments to other countries. We are having ambitious plans. We have to double the target and we want to have a three-fold increase in the target. For that we have to see that the cotton production is there. It is the duty of the Government to examine this issue from all angles.

Sir, this Heliothis which was there on the cotton crop, it will not only damage the cotton crop but it is a great danger to Red Gram as well as to Bengal Gram. Therefore, I suggest that some immediate measures should be taken by the Government. I do not want to take much time as in one of the supplementaries, I appealed to the Minister and I again appeal to him that the Government should examine, consider, and sanction the proposal from our Regional Agricultural Research Station at Lam under AP Agricultural University for management of Heliothis at an estimated cost of about Rs. 30 lakhs or so. I request the Government to sanction the scheme. In the first instance, it will evolve Heliothis resistant cotton varieties. To some extent, it has helped in developing white fly resistant varieties. The Government should encourage research effort and sanction that scheme.

My another suggestion to the Government is that to ban the use of synthetic Pyrethroids at least in the State of Andhra

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

Pradesh temporarily for the period of two years so that the adverse effects that have been observed today will be nullified and fresh beginning will be made after this two year period.

My suggestion to the Government is that just as, statutory warning of cigarette smoking is injurious to health, is printed on every cigarette packet, why should not the Government direct the manufacturers of the synthetic Pyrethroids to put a statutory warning on the containers that the excessive usage will lead to serious adverse impacts and effects which will result in lower production and ultimately financial loss. That type of statutory warning should be there. Because in the field of agriculture extension, people are there in very large number; but they are not doing commendable work. Because of that it is so happening that the technology is not transferred to the village farmer at the very grassroot levels. Nothing wrong is there and no heavens will fall if manufacturers put such a statutory warning.

My another suggestion is to bring amendments to the Insecticides Act, incorporating stringent measures for sale of sub-standard pesticides and insecticides and issue of a control order to the States. Not that there is no Act now; it is there, but because of certain deficiencies in that, stringent action could not be taken on the erring trader. It is true that sometimes the quality is found defective and the registration is cancelled, but again his son will start in the same shop also. So, some stringent measures should be provided.

So issue a control order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act to permit the District Collector to take very strong action and to confiscate goods under section 6(A) of EC Act. Then only they will have a fear psychosis that if they misbehave, and try to sell adulterated chemicals and insecti-

cides, their stocks will be seized. That type of action should be taken and a control order should be issued by the Government.

The manufacturer also must be taken to task. At present as per the present Act provisions, only the retailer, the dealer is held responsible. But there are multinational big people and they are not taken to task. Let the manufacturer also be taken to task and accordingly suitable amendments should be brought forward.

The quality testing procedure also needs some changes. Because the moment the sample is collected and sent to the testing laboratory, the information is leaked out and some persons go there and manage to get good reports. Just like examination answer sheets are sent to different places by codifying and decodifying system at a very high level, this procedure also should be changed to see that a high level officer with integrity should send them with a codifying and decodifying system, so that it will create some atmosphere that we should not misbehave and wag our tails because we will be taken to task. That type of atmosphere should prevail not only in our State; but in other States also to ensure better quality pesticides supply to the farmers. I hope the Government will take necessary steps in the direction.

There are some pesticides like Danitol, Trisophos which can effectively tackle Heliothis and whitefly. My information is that now they are being used in America. In America usually the citizens' interests are quite well taken care of. If they are proved to be not so dangerous to human lives, I think the Government need not have any objection. Let this factor be examined and a decision be taken by the Government to import these things.

There is another important aspect in Para 2 of Page 2 of the Hon. Minister's

statement regarding the conversion of short term loans into medium term loans and deferring of payment of interest of converted loans. I will not repeat all these things. Our State Government has taken steps and we are very happy that the Central Government is also of the same view in this regard. But my submission is the Governments have converted the short term loans into medium term loans; where is his capacity to repay the loan? It is exhausted fully. This is a peculiar situation.

I will narrate only one experience. After this has been admitted, I went to one village — Epangaluru — in which nearly five people have died.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be brief and now put your questions.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: I am only narrating one example. One lady Smt. Bachina Anjanma aged 25 years and a mother of two children committed suicide. She had sold her gold ornaments earlier and pledged gold ornaments of her husband's sister's gold ornaments which could not be taken back because of the failure of the crops. What I am trying to say is that the capacity of the farmer is completely lost. So I would request the Government to write off the outstanding loans of the cotton growers in these two districts. This is a special circumstance. There was a special circumstance earlier also which necessitated for bringing in the then Madras Agricultural Debt Relief Act by Rajaji. This is a similar circumstance which Government should consider and write off the loans — both principle as well as interest — due from the cotton growers in these two districts.

The Government must also direct the banks to charge only simple interest because the loans to farmers are quite secured under Usurious Loans Amendment Act 1936. In spite of that the banks are collecting

compound interest instead of simple interest. So Government should give clear instructions that banks should not charge compound interest but only simple interest should be charged on loans taken from the banks.

Further like Tea Board, Coffee Board and Tobacco Board it is high time that Government should set-up a Cotton Board. There is Cotton Advisory Committee but it has no statutory powers. Just on the lines of these Boards a cotton board should be set-up to regulate properly the growth and development of this crop.

Cotton crop should be brought under the purview of crop insurance scheme. In the Question Hour you had said that the matter is under consideration. We are very happy to know but you should not take much time. Secondly Government should not only bring cotton under the crop insurance scheme but also revenue village should be taken as a unit. We have earlier bitter experience in the Godavari belt when paddy worth hundreds of crores of rupees got damaged but the compensation amount has not been received till today. Much delay has taken place. We are happy that Government is now considering to treat revenue village as unit for defined area.

A revolving fund should be set-up to take care of such circumstances. When this type of peculiar circumstances do happen in some parts of the country let revolving fund come to the rescue and something is done from that revolving fund. As regards the loans that were taken from the banks the same should be treated as a special case and do not allow the Banking Regulation Act come in the way. This is a special case. If you inquire into and know in-depth the problem you will also agree to my suggestion. So I request the Government to agree to the proposal to waive-off the loans outstanding from the cotton growers.

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

After all, the Government is writing off nearly Rs. 100-50 crores worth of debts from the industrialists. In many cases, those industrial managements, the bank fellows and the people from the financial institutions are colluding. Even when the Members of this august House seek some information, it will not be allowed by our Secretariat saying that under such-and-such rule, it will not be permitted. That is the situation. In such circumstances, why should not the Government be good enough? The Prime Minister, while speaking on the budget, said that we will not accept the demands of the farmers if they are 'Unjustified', he told. But this is quite justified and reasonable one. Let this Government prove its sincerity in its words to really help the farmers who are in the most distressing conditions. I request the Government to write off the loans outstanding from the cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur districts.

I thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the points made by the hon. Member Shri Rao carry much weight and the Government is equally concerned about and sympathetic towards the farmers. Sir, you know that farmers are the backbone of our country and we do everything possible for them and the "Government of India always try to help them in every way. If I quote the figures, it will be found all the inputs or raw materials like fertilizers, electricity, water and loans from banks are given to the farmers on subsidised rates. After taking into account the entire cost of all the inputs and other things, the Government fixes prices so that it can give the farmer remunerative prices.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a fact that

we used to import not only cotton but also foodgrains from outside. But for the hard work done by our farmers, today we are not only self-dependent but are also capable of exporting foodgrains to other countries. The farmer has thus made a lot of contribution in this regard. But had the Government not made available good seeds, good fertilizers and pesticides, the production would not have increased so much. As you know, our scientists went from village to village to educate the farmers about the quality of seeds, fertilizers and pesticides which should be used and when there should be used. Had all this information not given to the farmers by the Government, then the production might have not increased so much. So far as the problem of cotton in Andhra Pradesh is concerned, it is not only the problem of Andhra Pradesh, but of the whole country. As you know, when there is drought, the whole country has to face the failure of crops. Due to the successive droughts for the last two-three years, production has gone down. In Andhra Pradesh, due to a special type of disease in the cotton crop, its production has decreased. Last month a seminar was held on 18th and 19th by our agricultural scientists to find out the ways to get rid of this disease and to evolve such seeds which will not be affected by this disease. We are going to evolve such seeds and pesticides which can be used to ward off this disease. We will try our best to see that such a disease does not reoccur in future.

So far as the cost is concerned, it is true that the cost has increased from Rs. 3 thousand to Rs. 5 thousand per hectare. This is due to the fact that there has been increase in the prices of fertilizers and electricity as well as the wages. But if we compare the price of cotton three years ago with that prevailing now, we find that at that time, it was Rs. 400 to 500 but today its current market price is Rs. 800 to 1000 per quintal. It is almost double. The rates are now low. But it is true that due to decline in production,

the farmers have suffered a loss. We should make good their loss.

Due to the white fly and drought and then sudden rainfall continuously for 10 to 12 days, there was much loss. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I am born in a farmer's family, I know that after 10 to 12 days' rainfall, an insect is born with moisture in the cotton, which damages the crop. As moisture increases, leaves become yellow and the yield of the cotton is not as much as it should be. Due to the disease caused by heavy rains, the production goes down. He has made a very strong point that in South the farmers get loans from banks by mortgaging their jewellery. It is not so in many other States. Loans there are available under the Government's policy. The one reason for this, I think, is that the land might be in the name of somebody else and they might be tenants who may not get much loan. So, they have to take loans from banks by mortgaging their jewellery. If it is not so, then it is not necessary for them to pledge their jewellery in banks.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh). Are farmers required to mortgage jewellery in order to take loans from the nationalised banks?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Jewellery is mostly mortgaged by nationalised banks. Cooperative banks do not do so with the exception of a few ones. So far as the question of jewellery is concerned, it may be the cause for committing suicides. The farmer takes loan by mortgaging the ornaments of his daughter thinking that after getting his produce, he would be able to get the ornaments released from the bank and send his daughter to her in-laws house. But in case of failure of crops, he is unable to take back the ornaments from the bank and then thinks how he would send his daughter to her in-laws' house. Out of shame he may commit suicide. I will only say that farmers should be

awakened that they should not take loan from banks by mortgaging their jewellery.

The Indian Government has drawn up a proper policy in this respect. Different programmes have been formulated for the poor, small and marginal farmers and for those farmers who are below the poverty line. Loans are duly made available to them. They should utilize those loans for their work. Besides they are also given subsidies. They should make full use of this facility. The hon. Member has expressed the fear that their ornaments would be auctioned. On this issue, I would like to inform that the Government of India has given orders to the effect that their jewellery must not be auctioned.

The hon. Member has also asked for the waiver of their debts. The Government never waives the debts of big industrialists and of those people who borrow on a large-scale. In many cases, debts of a number of farmers are written off in case there is no one to repay the loan or no heir remains. Similarly, debts may be written off in case of an industry which is wound up or goes bankrupt.

It is being said that waiver of debts of farmers should be made a customary practice. To this I want to say that such a move is not in the interest of farming community itself. I would like to give an example to clarify my point. I do not want to say anything that has political overtones. So, please excuse me. It is already known that a wrong move has been initiated in Haryana. The air in Haryana is rife with false rumours that debts of farmers are being waived. I invite the hon. Members to visit Haryana. Let them see for themselves what the actual situation is. The hon. Members can ask the farmers whether these rumours hold water. The farmers will themselves vouch for the predicament that the farming community finds itself in. Today a week has passed since I visited Gurgaon in Haryana. I went into deep forests and marsh lands to see the crop being grown



[Sh. Bhajan Lal]

there. Mustard crop is grown in that area. Around 4000 to 5000 farmers gathered there. I asked the farmers if their debts had been waived. In reply they all said in one voice that the rumours were baseless. Not one of them said his debt had been waived. I invite the hon. Members to see the real situation. It would be better if the hon. Members visited Haryana as ordinary people and not in their capacity as Members of Parliament. Let the hon. Members ask the farmers.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):  
You take us there.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If the hon. Member so desires, he is welcome to visit Haryana today itself. I am ready to take the hon. Member there. There is no question of even a single penny being waived. They (the Haryana Government) are misleading the people. They are asking the Central Government to waive the debts.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): That is under normal conditions, but here it is a special condition. The whole area is affected.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I have replied with reference to the points raised by the hon. Member. Nothing can be accomplished by waiving the debts. It is well-known what will happen to the nation if debts are waived. For this reason, this is neither in the interest of the farming community nor in the interest of Government. If such a situation were to be created, no person would even think of repayment of loans. It has been rightly suggested that the farmers should be given concessions, that the loans taken by farmers should be subjected to a lower rate of inter-

est and that the farmers should get profitable returns on their yield. But it is not proper that a person should indulge in misinformation for his selfish interests.

As far as the hon. Member's area is concerned, previously we used to collect the debts within a 6-month period. Now the duration of repayment has been extended to 3 years. This morning I said in reply to a question that in areas affected by drought this year and in those areas which have been facing drought for the last 2 years in succession, bank loans should be recovered in easy instalments in a period of seven years. If the amount of interest exceeds the principal amount, the surplus interest over and above the principal amount would not be recovered. If someone takes a loan of Rs. 10,000 and interest works out to be Rs. 15,000, the amount in excess of the principal of Rs. 10,000 would not be collected.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): It is quite correct, but these things will apply only to small and marginal farmers; I mean the rescheduling of loans etc. The other farmers have to pay the interest and then only the rescheduling of loans will be done. The interest should not exceed the principal; it would also apply to small and marginal farmers and not to other farmers. It should be extended to other farmers also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I want to emphasize that it is not a question of small farmers or big farmers. This will apply to all the people living in drought-stricken areas. Areas which have been declared as drought-stricken will come under its purview. As regards the hon. Member's suggestion for evolving new varieties of cotton and for establishing a centre, I said in my answer that

the Government will certainly do the needful.

12.54 hrs.

[ *English* ]

The second thing that the hon. Member has mentioned is about diseases and about restrictions on synthetic fibre. To this my answer is that the Government would consider the pros and cons of these issues. One thing the hon. Member has said is that pesticides should not be used in excess as it is harmful and a warning to this effect should be printed on the containers. The Government will certainly stipulate the quantity of pesticides to be used. The farmers would be enlightened on the merits of using the correct quantity of pesticides so that damage to crops can be prevented. Instructions about correct usage of pesticides would be printed on the containers so that the farmers are able to read and follow them.

HIGH COURT AND SUPREME COURT  
JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE)  
AMENDMENT BILL\*

[ *English* ]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI  
H.R. BHARDWAJ): On behalf of Shri Binde-  
shwari Dubey, I beg to move for leave to  
introduce a Bill further to amend the High  
Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act,  
1954 and the Supreme Court Judges (Con-  
ditions of Service) Act, 1958.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The ques-  
tion is:

"That the leave be granted to  
introduce a Bill further to amend  
the High Court Judges (Condi-  
tions of Service) Act, 1954 and  
the Supreme Court Judges  
(Conditions of Service) Act,  
1958.

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: I introduce\*\*  
the Bill.

The hon. Member wants the law to be strict. The law is already strict. The Government will consider whether any changes are needed to be introduced. If there is any deficiency or loophole, the Government will look into it. Quality Control Orders are already in force and in case of any shortcoming therein, efforts will be made to remove it. The Government will check whether tests are being conducted properly in the laboratories.

12.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[ *Translation* ]

The hon. Member has mooted the idea of constituting a Cotton Board and bringing the cotton crop under the preview of insurance. In reply to the question I said that the Government would consider about it. All his suggestions would be considered sympathetically. The Government will try its utmost to safeguard the interests of the farmers.

- (I) **Need to announce support price for potato to ensure proper return to the farmers.**

SHRI RAMPUJAN PATEL (Phulpur):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am drawing the

\* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 7-3-88.

\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.