

[English]

(v) Need to give clearance to Sheep Rearing scheme in Karnataka

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): With a view to increasing sheep rearing in the State a comprehensive scheme involving an investment of Rs. 29.15 crores was prepared by the State Government of Karnataka. Under the scheme it covers 9 districts viz., Bijapur, Belgaum, Bellary, Dharwad, Chitradurga, Tumkur, Mandya, Bangalore and Kolar.

The main objective of the scheme is establishment of an extreme re-implementation farm and extension of State Seed farms.

This scheme was proposed to be implemented with World Bank assistance and the Government of Karnataka has forwarded it to the Government of India. After going through the scheme, the Union Government have suggested to the State Government to obtain an assurance from the NABARD regarding refinance facility. The State Government have implemented the suggestions made by the Government of India and returned the scheme to the Union Government. But the Union Government have not so far considered the scheme. I request the Hon. Minister to kindly agree to the scheme and communicate to the State Government its approval.

(vi) Need to withdraw the excise duty imposed on units manufacturing H. D. P. E. woven fabrics.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance to the grave injustice and threat of their total extinction in case the Excise duty imposed on HDPE woven fabrics w.e.f. 1.3.1987 is not withdrawn immediately. The units under reference are the hundred old small scale units manufacturing HDPE woven fabrics (also known as LDPE coated fabrics). When the matter was taken up with the Govt, these units were given an understanding that the objective of imposition of this levy is only to check duty evasion by the manufacturers of PVC plastic coated fabrics (popularly known as rexin). Since the revenue being earned from

this levy was not commensurate with the loss suffered by these units. It is surprising that the Government did not undertake very simple tests by which the manufacturing of the two products could be easily detected. Even the Excise Collector is fully empowered under Rule 50 of the Central Excise Rules to order seizure of goods for duty evasion by the rexin manufacturers. By not resorting to these measures the Government is doing greater harm to these small units.

I would urge upon Minister of Finance to immediately consider withdrawal of this duty from the IDPE products, if necessary by classifying them more appropriately as processed cotton fabrics under heading No. 52.06 rather than 59.03

(vii) Need to Construct an overbridge at the existing manned interlock level crossing near Pennar Bridge in Nellore (A. P.)

SHRI P PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Nellore town in South Central Railway is a densely populated town and business centre in Andhra Pradesh. The Railway track which is running from Madras to Calcutta bisects the town. There is manned interlock level crossing gate near Pennar Bridge on the Northern side of Nellore North Railway station. At the time of passing trains, which is very frequent, the traffic gets jammed on either side and several accidents have taken place on the same spot, while crossing the gate.

Hence I request the Hon'ble Railway Minister to make arrangements for construction of an overbridge at the place of existing manned interlock level crossing gate near Pennar Bridge so as to provide better traffic facilities, to the public of Nellore town.

[Translation]

(viii) Steps needed to improve the lot of farmers by declaring agriculture as sick industry.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all over the world farmers are playing an important role in the economy of their countries but in agriculture-dominated countries like India, farmers not only play an