

[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and threat of their total extinction in case the Excise duty imposed on HDPE woven fabrics w.e.f. 1.3.1987 is not withdrawn immediately.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

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

important role in the economy but they are its backbone around which the whole of economy revolves. Paradoxically, despite this the condition of farmers is deteriorating fast. If we take 1970-71 as the base year, we find that the prices of inputs used by farmers in agriculture have gone up at the rate of 9.6% a year during the period from 1970-71 to 1984-85 while the prices of agricultural produce have been raised by the Government at its rate of 3.5% a year only. The agricultural production in the country has grown at the rate of 1.5% per annum while the average farmer's output has grown at the rate of 3.5% per annum.

Government has increased the prices of wheat at the rate of 3.5% per annum while the prices of other consumer goods have registered a tremendous increase over the years unabatedly and economists of the country are of the views that this trend in increase of prices is likely to reach the whopping figures of 15% by the end of the year.

From the above data, it is clear that the purchasing power of the farmer of our country is eroding day by day and he is getting involved in financial trouble. Today, agriculture has become sick industry. Government is taking several measures for the development of sick industries.

According to the report of the Reserve Bank of India ending June, 1986, the number of sick industries has gone up to 1,30,606 in which a sum amounting to Rs. 4,665 crores has been staked by the nationalised banks. Despite this, Government has taken measures for their development by providing markets for these industries and investing money for their development. But it is not clear as to why Government is not declaring agriculture as a sick industry. I request the Government to declare agriculture as a sick industry, give financial assistance to farmers, take steps to reduce cost of cultivation, develop marketing facilities for selling the produce at remunerative prices and through these measures bring this industry out of the bonds of sickness.

15.30 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI B.R. BHAGAT (Arrah) : I move :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :-

'That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 22nd February, 1988.'

Sir, the President has been very kind to remind us in his Address about the vision of India. I would like to begin my introductory remarks with this basic point of view. The Indian independence movement or Indian revolution has its own basic role of event in history, an event which profoundly affected the whole world. It is an event like earlier the French Revolution which brought about the end of all kinds of exploitation and feudalism in Europe. Not only that, it unleashed a force which led to the development of entire Europe, industrialisation and also led to the negative factors of colonialism, colonisation and imperialism; later on, the advanced form of exploitation not only of its own economy but exploitation of the world as a whole. Later on, the event has given us—bigger event of historical significance—the great October Revolution in the earlier part of this century. It led to the emancipation of mankind not only in the Soviet Union, foundation of the Soviet States, workers and the peasants but a powerful impulse throughout the world which led to a great movement for emancipation and restructuring of the civilisation of a large number of countries. In the same context, if you see historically Indian independence movement was unique in the sense that never in history