

[Shri Hussain Dalwai]

India has been blessed by very many big rivers through its length and breadth. If the water flowing in these rivers is properly channelised for irrigation purpose, our country can emerge in years to come as the biggest granary of the world. We are committed to better the lot of majority of our people, many of whom are living below the poverty line. As a democratic country having implicit faith in socialism we have to reduce the disparity in distribution of wealth. We can only achieve these goals if we concentrate our efforts in the direction of agricultural development of our country. The vast irrigation potential which is available to us, if properly planned and implemented, can convert our vast fallow and grass-growing pastures into fertile food growing fields. The Government of India should give topmost priority for undertaking a massive programme of irrigation projects in India and earmark substantial provision of funds for the same in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

(ii) **Need for allocation of funds by HUDCO for rural Housing or to set up a separate Corporation for financing rural Housing Schemes**

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : As per the policy of the Andhra Pradesh State Government the A. P. State Housing Corporation is entrusted with the construction of 1,40,000 houses of which 90% are being taken up for the benefit of the rural poor.

The financial outlay for the construction of 1,40,000 houses comes to about 88 crores out of which the loan component is Rs. 45.45 crores, the balance being subsidy and beneficiary contribution.

The main objective of HUDCO is to undertake housing and urban developmental programmes. Its priority is for financing urban schemes. HUDCO earmarks only 15% out of the total lending for rural housing for weaker sections. In this connection, I would suggest as follows :

- (i) The present priority of HUDCO should be changed so as to increase it to 50% in case of rural housing as for all loans released by HUDCO, the State Government stands guarantee.
- (ii) The period of repayment in the case of rural housing is 10 years

whereas it 20 years in urban areas. This disparity should go.

- (iii) In view of massive programme undertaken in Andhra Pradesh for rural poor, HUDCO should give preference to rural housing schemes in Andhra Pradesh.
- (iv) If reorientation of policies of HUDCO on the above lines is not possible, a separate independent corporation may be set up exclusively for financing rural housing schemes for weaker sections.

(iii) **Need to formulate a code of conduct and ethics for the Press**

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara) : Sir, the Press which is an important organ of Indian democracy and having a long reach over the public mind has no codified norms. Accountability is essential and for accountability a code of conduct and Ethics is extremely important. Agencies of mass communication are carriers of public discussion and information acting to learn and report facts. Newspapers, magazines and those who write for them are bound by no specific Code of Ethics.

Certainly no code of ethics can be imposed on the Press it has to evolve from within the Press itself as any imposition may lead to control of the press which would be undesirable. Without a code of ethics, long established values of journalism get devalued. A mere libel law is not enough. Therefore, what is needed is a code of ethics formulated by member bodies of the Press itself and thereafter a pledge by individual members that they would be bound to the code of Ethics. The Government should thereafter deny accreditation and its concomitant facilities to those who refuse to subscribe to it. The Press must not only function freely but also responsibly to promote and preserve the bond of mutual trust and respect between the Indian journalists and the Indian people.

(iv) **Need to expedite the Western Kosi Canal Project**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Sir, sometime back the Central Government had reviewed the progress made in the execution of the Western Kosi canal project, keeping in view the urgent need for harnessing river Kosi for irrigation purposes in the Madhubani

and Darbhanga districts of Bihar and reducing its propensity for causing flood. It is gratifying to note that work on this project is almost complete in the Nepalese territory but there is hardly any progress in the Indian side. It has been told repeatedly both by the Central Government and the Government of Bihar that the project would be completed by June 1987. But seeing the slow progress of the work, it is almost impossible to complete the work by the above date. As such, the Central Government should ask Bihar Government to expedite the execution of the project and also monitor its progress.

(v) **Need for relaxation by South Central Railway in the rule regarding booking of 20 wagons at a time for one place in Karnataka**

SHRI D.K. NAIKAR (Dharwad North) : The trade and industry in Karnataka are greatly handicapped because of the insistence of the South-Central Railway authorities to book 20 wagons at a time for one place for allotment of wagons. The traders in North Karnataka particularly in Hubli are small traders. They are finding it very difficult to move their goods from one place to another, since they are unable to accumulate goods for being carried in 20 wagons at a time. This in fact has caused scarcity of essential goods in many parts of Karnataka State. This insistence of booking 20 wagons at a time has indirectly affected the common people in the State. The Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry has repeatedly requested the General Manager, South-Central Railway to relax this rigid rule of booking 20 wagons at a time. It is, therefore, requested that the hon. Minister for Railways be pleased to concede the request of the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Hubli and direct the South-Central Railway authorities immediately to relax the rigid rule of allocation so as to enable the traders to promote their trade in Karnataka State.

(vi) **Need for amending the Forest Conservation Act to obviate delays in execution of development works in tribal areas**

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Sir, it is a matter of great concern that construction works, especially in tribal areas of the country, are hampered due to the Forest Conservation Act which was enacted in 1980. According

to the above Act, a State government has to take prior permission for starting any construction work on forest land. State government have to take permission even for electrification in the villages which are situated in adjacent areas of the forest resulting in slow development of tribal areas in the country. It has been also brought to notice that in the Sixth Five Year Plan many Projects in different States were affected resulting in great discontentment amongst the tribal and other inhabitants of the area. I, therefore, want the Government to look into this and see that no development work is stopped or delayed due to above said Act. If need be suitable amendment to the Forest Conservation Act may be brought.

(vii) **Plight of the workers on account of denotification of Indian Rubber manufacturing Unit of West Bengal**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah) : The Indian Rubber Manufacturing Unit of West Bengal had been denotified for the last 1½ years, resulting in starvation of about 1,000 directly employed people of my constituency.

Meanwhile, a year ago, the Government of India set up the Tyre Corporation of India, incorporating some of the premier tyre or rubber units excepting the unit of India Rubber Manufacturing Unit, popularly known as IRM unit.

The market of rubber goods is expanding in India and abroad. A number of Government organisations including defence and Railways are also the bulk consumers of rubber goods specially manufactured by skilled labour of IRM.

The workers are prepared to reduce the strength on the ground of superannuation etc. if the Government agrees to re-open the units.

The Industry Ministry can consider the following proposals to save the unit :

- (i) Bring back the issue to Cabinet withdraw the de-notification order; or
- (ii) Make arrangements for merger of IRM unit into Tyre Corporation of India or Burn and Standard Co.; or
- (iii) Make it an ancillary unit of railways for exclusive supply of rubber goods.