

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

16.00 hrs.

But its work has not started yet. Efficiency and promptness in the administration are simply a slogan. So I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Implementation to this important subject.

(ix) Need for remedial measures in order to meet the severe drought situation in Gujarat.

[English]

(viii) Need to instruct the United Bank of India to liberalise its policy in respect of tea financing.

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL (Broach) : A grave situation has arisen in Gujarat due to drought conditions in a number of districts, especially Saurashtra and North Gujarat. It has affected almost half the population of the State. Rivers and tanks have dried up. Big storage tanks, dams and reservoirs are fast running out of water. The uncertainty of rains makes matters worse. The farmers in villages are worst affected. There is no crop and fodder. Cattle are facing extinction. There is fear of large scale migration.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : Sir, due to sudden squeeze by the United Bank of India for Tea Financing for the Season 1986 the fund position of a large number of tea gardens in Upper Assam, Cachar, Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling is reported to have been adversely affected and as a consequence of which the workers of some of the tea gardens especially in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Districts are not getting their wages, salaries and ration for weeks together. The vital cultivation works of tea plantation have badly suffered and the supply of essential inputs have also been stopped. This situation has caused alarm among the tea garden workers, employers and others concerned. According to the changes made in the norms for advancing loan, the United Bank of India has stipulated 25% margin money investment by tea gardens seeking loan as against 15% fixed by other banks and refusing to accept the evaluation of tea stocks made by registered and recognised brokers. The Bank has even refused to allow the gardens of Darjeeling to draw funds for the implementation of long term developmental schemes sanctioned by the Government of India for revamping the sick tea gardens stalling all development works.

The State Government are doing their best for the supply of water and fodder. They are mobilising tanks and transport vehicles. They have requested the Railway Ministry to run special tanker trains. They have approached the Central Government for maximum financial aid and supply of fodder, etc.

I urge the Government to immediately consider the following requirements which would go a long way in easing the drought situation :

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government to ask the Bank concerned to liberalise its policy and ensure flow of fund for the smooth running of tea gardens.

I also urge upon the Government to make a statement in the House in this regard.

1. Railway Ministry make available as many tankers as possible to supply water to drought affected areas as was done in the case of Madras in the recent past.
2. Tankers from the Defence disposal quota be provided to facilitate distribution of water.
3. Enough number of rigs be supplied to tap underground water.
4. Huge stocks of category food which are rotting with the Food Corporation of India be made available to the State Government at concessional rates to meet the scarcity of fodder.
5. A team of scientists be deputed to look into the problems and suggest remedial measures.

6. The State Government have requested the Central Government for assistance of Rs. 342 crores. 100% assistance may be provided to the State Government by treating the current drought as a natural calamity of rare severity.

16.05 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri Eduardo Faleiro to move the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-mugao) : Sir, I beg to 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 20th February, 1986.' "

In his Address, the President has made a very comprehensive assessment of the different spheres of national activity. He has really conducted a sort of overview of the State of the Nation. And he has particularly dealt with the economic, political and foreign policy aspects. May I, therefore, begin with that portion of his Address where he has taken most of the time, *viz.* the economic scene ?

This is also in continuation, as it were, of the last discussion we had in this House ; and that has also been on one aspect of economic problems facing this country. The policies of this Government over the last one year which the President has, in fact, commended in his Address are the reiteration of the traditional policies

of the Indian National Congress, asserted in several resolutions of the All India Congress Committee, and implemented by the different Congress Governments since 1947. Those are indeed the policies which have brought this country from those days in 1947 when we had people in this country dying for lack of food, to the present position, when we are proud to say that it is a credit to this Government, it is a credit to this nation that we have reached a stage where from a condition of poverty, of utter hunger, from a condition even in the '60s when we were living as the saying goes, in a condition of ship-to-mouth, to the present position in which we have a substantial surplus of foodgrains. We are now in a position to export these very commodities for which are people yearned thirty years ago.

The policies of the Indian National Congress have been reiterated by this Government. They are the same policies which this Government is carrying on, if I may say so, with greater enthusiasm, with greater sense of commitment, with a greater zeal and dedication for its implementation.

It was the Indian National Congress again, which saw to it that our industrial situation, which at the time of independence was such that we had to import even pins and needles from England and other foreign countries, has reached a stage today when we are the tenth largest industrial nation in the world, when we are making aircrafts, when we make the most sophisticated machinery. Therefore, we have a situation which is unique, in fact, for any developing country. This has been achieved by the Indian National Congress and the Congress Governments which have been in power for the last more than 30 years, except for the interregnum of three years, to which I shall come later. This is what the Congress party has achieved by going ahead on the path of prosperity and welfare for all sections of the people, particularly for the most deprived sections, and by going ahead on this difficult and narrow path of self-reliance in a parliamentary democracy.

These are not mean achievements. These achievements have not been