

[Sh. G.S. Basavaraju]

The Public Distribution System is not functioning satisfactorily. Corruption is rampant in the Fair Price Shops. Adulteration of sugar, kerosene oil Palmolene Oil has become very common. The middlemen are having a roaring business and they are cheating the common man. Central Government is pending thousands of crores of rupees to these Fair Price Shops such that the down trodden, Harijans and Girijans backward people can be benefited. Unfortunately this benefit is going to the middlemen. Such middlemen should be brought to book and they must be punished severely.

Fees structure in the educational institutions in Karnataka has to be changed. The capitation fees in Engineering College ranges from two to three lakhs of rupees. The capitation fees in Medical Colleges ranges from 2 to 5 lakhs of rupees depending upon the capacity of the applicants' parents. Not only the intake of these Colleges has been increased but also many new colleges have come up. Most of these Colleges are privately managed and there is no specific pattern for collection of fees. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to look into this matter and bring and uniform fees structure in all educational institutions. The atrocities on Harijans and Girijans are unabated. There is no protection for them. Of course now the Governor's rule is trying its best to restore normalcy in the state. Law and order situation is returning to normalcy. The number of atrocities on Harijans is a record during the Janata Government rule. The number of deaths in these atrocities is also a record. Hence I request the Hon'ble Minister to protect the Harijans, Girijans and other down trodden people.

The deficit which has been shown in the budget will definitely go up. The total deficit will be atleast Rs. 300/- crores. Hence I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to sanction atleast Rs. 300 crores as special assistance.

I support the Budget wholeheartedly. I thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity

to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to regulate the functioning of fair price shops and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: I withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now let us go to the next item.

Sri H.N. Nanje Gowda ..
Absent

Shrimati Usha Choudhary.

17.47 hrs.

CROP INSURANCE SCHEME BILL

[Translation]

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARY (Amravati): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

'that the Bill to provide for comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme and matters connected therewith be taken into consideration.'

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if something is to be done for the farmers and the agriculture, then the later must be declared as an industry. For the upliftment of the farmers the only alternative is to declare agriculture as an industry. Therefore, this Bill is significant and

there is need to amend the 1985 Act also. That is why I have moved this Bill. The House may be aware perhaps this is the first time that I have gone upto the speaker's podium since my election to the august House. I have never gone beyond writing letters to the Hon. Speaker. This itself explains the important of the Bill. I am grateful to the hon. Members for supporting me in raising the problem of the farmers and to the hon. Minister for his prompt reply thereby enabling me to move the Bill. Today, I have realised that in addition to honesty and labour, manipulation is also necessary but the farmers can never learn to manipulate. However, I feel the way I have manipulated to air the grievances of the farmers in the House is justified. Sir, in the Parliament and in the Legislative Assemblies the issue of the farmers upliftment must be taken up seriously. If manipulation is done for person gain it is bad, but one should be hesitate if it has to be done for the welfare of society, country and the upliftment of the backward sections.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, while speaking on the Public Distribution System the hon. Minister told us about the total foodgrain production in the country. Though India become self-sufficient in foodgrains after Independence, but we must also look at the condition of the farmers. Today, the country has large foodgrains reserves, but we must also see whether the farmer has enough to feed his family. Despite the increase in the foodgrain production and the per capita income, the condition of the farmers, the labourers and the common man has not improved. What is the reason? The reason is prevailing conditions in the country which needs to be changed. We should not see how much the country has progressed but now much has the common man progressed. Has the standard of living improved? To improve the lot of the farmers and the agricultural labourers the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, and the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, took several concrete steps and launched many programmes.

Our Government and the Congress

Party has always been committed to the upliftment of the poor and the backward people. Though one may like the reservation policy or not but it has definitely helped the poor, the tribals and the women. Why I am saying all this, is because the insurance scheme introduced in 1985 was not implemented in all the States. I would like to tell those accusing the Congress Government of doing nothing, that Maharashtra is the first State where crop insurance scheme has been introduced, and this has been done by the congressmen there. The Central Crop insurance scheme should be extended to all the States.

I would like to add here-that this year's drought has been the worst of the century. It has caused extensive damage to the crops. If all crops had been covered under the insurance scheme and not a few as is the case, then the farmers would not have suffered such heavy losses. The losses suffered after 1985 have not been fully compensated. Therefore, the loss suffered should be made good under the crop insurance scheme. In addition to this, I would also like to say that the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the revival of the Panchayati Raj and other schemes are basically meant for the upliftment of the rural masses, the farmers and the labourers. I would like to make a submission about the crop insurance scheme. If we are unable to provide full crop insurance cover to the farmers they cannot be uplifted. We have to work for the upliftment of the poor through the Panchayati Raj system and for that, crop insurance scheme is very essential.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to your notice that this year, oranges were sold at the rate of Rs. 75 to Rs. 125 per thousand in our region. I know this because I also own an orange orchard and I am myself a farmer. The farmers in the Vidarbha region have got no transportation facilities to bring their oranges to the market. As a result, they resort to distress sale of their produce. They cannot afford freight charges for the transportation of their oranges to Delhi, Madras, Bombay and Bangalore. That is why they have to sell

[Smt. Usha Choudhary]

the oranges at a very cheap rate. While in the market, the oranges sell at Rs. 1 or Rs. 2/- per piece, the traders make the bulk purchase of oranges at the rate of Rs. 125 per thousand. We are also helpless and that is why we had to sell the oranges at cheap rates because this year our region was lashed by stormy winds. Since cotton is grown in a number of States, the Government is considering a proposal to cover cotton under the crop insurance scheme. If we cannot provide a cover for the crops of the farmer, all the allied business activities will come to a standstill and with that, the industries will also come to halt. Since time is short, I cannot go into the details of everything, but I would definitely urge upon the Government to extent crop insurance scheme to cotton, oranges and all other such crops. It has been our slogan that the gap existing between the rich and the poor will be bridged and this thing is repeatedly at the time of Budget presentation. In this connection our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi as well as our Government took a great risk, to work for the upliftment of backward sections of the society and formulated schemes for the farmers and the villagers. As such when we are formulating a number of schemes for the backward people, we should not think in terms of profit and loss. We will have to bear losses in order to bring them at par with others. As such, in view of the losses suffered, we should increase the amount of insurance which was reduced in 1985 and implement the scheme in all the States.

Besides that provision it may please be noted that the Central Government is yet to pay the amount of its contribution under the crop insurance scheme for Maharashtra. Though the Government of Maharashtra has already deposited its share of insurance money payable to the farmers. The Central Government has so far not paid its 25 per cent share. I would like to request the Government to make payment of its share at the earliest.

The Central Government took a bold

step while extending necessary help by way of paying Rs. 250 crores to Rs. 300 crores for crop insurance in the year 1986-87. For this, I would like to express my thanks to the Government and come to my final point.

The crop insurance scheme was properly implemented in Maharashtra in 1988. In this connection I would like to make a submission. For the purpose of crop insurance, Taluka is being treated as a unit. When the entire block of a Taluka is affected by drought or famine or crop is damaged, we treat it as as a unit. Sometimes it so happens that drought affects only two villages of a Taluka and other 4 villages are not affected by it. As such the above law needs to be amended and instead of Taluka, the village should also be taken as a unit at the block level. For the purpose of compensation under the crop insurance scheme, only the extent of less suffered should be taken into consideration. This year the General Insurance Corporation has earmarked a sum of Rs. 6.73 crores as its share for the payment of crop insurance money to the farmers. The Central Government is yet to make its contribution. It is only after that the farmer will get the insurance money. Under the above circumstances, funds are also required for those states where the insurance schemes has already been implemented. While holding a discussion on this Bill this thing should also be taken into account.

The Bill is in black and white before the House as well as the people. I would not go into further details of it. I hope that besides myself, one or two other hon. Members should also support it.

While making yet another submission I would like to request the Government to reconsider the point of reduction made in the amount of insurance money. It is only during the last 2 to 3 years after 1985 that the people suffered heavy losses and that is why some changes have been made in the crop insurance scheme. The amount of loan payable to farmers has been fixed at Rs. 10,000. It means that the earlier amount has been reduced. The amount of insurance

money which was earlier 150 per cent has now been reduced to 100 per cent. It has been reduced further. Now at the minimum level, 80 per cent compensation is being paid, but earlier it was 80 per cent of the total loss. The Central Government is thinking of bringing it down to 60 per cent. The Central Government has proposed this change in view of the losses suffered during the last 2 to 3 years. Instead of taking the losses into account, it would be more appropriate if a liberal view is taken in the interest of welfare of farmers. The crop insurance scheme may be implemented providing adequate compensation for all the crops and ensuring its implementation in all the States.

One thing that I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much help has been extended to the farmers by the nationalised banks? I want that we should extend maximum help to the poor.

With these words, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

SHRISHANTARAMNAIK (Panaji): Sir, She can continue in the Ninth Lok Sabha...

MR. CHAIRMAN: She has finished.
Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for a comprehensive crop insurance scheme and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Sir, I suggest that we sit for one more hour. This is the last Session and then we may not be able to sit until next time when the Bill can be discussed. May I suggest that we sit for 10 or 15 minutes more? Let the Minister state the Government's policy that they are in favour of crop insurance. Before the new Lok Sabha comes, let us give an opportunity to the Minister to say... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): We can take it up on the next Friday.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since next Friday is the day of the Resolutions, it cannot be postponed till next Friday.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no precedent regarding this. So, the House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 7th August, 1989 at 11.00 hrs.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 7, 1989/ Sravana 16, 1911 (Saka)