

**Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for 1989-90**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for 1989-90. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 7717/89]

12.03 1/2 hrs.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE**

[English]

**Hundred and forty-sixth and Hundred and forty-seventh Reports**

SHRI R.S. SPARROW (Jullundur): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:

- (1) Hundred and forty-sixth Report on Trunk Automatic Exchange at Calcutta.
- (2) Hundred and forty-seventh Report on Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1986-87) and action taken by Government on the recommendation contained in their Hundred and Sixth Report (Eighth Lok Sabha) relating to Excesses over Voted Grants and Charged Appropriations (1985-86).

12.04 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[Translation]

- (i) Demand to improve power supply in rural and backward areas in the country.

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana): Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to draw the

Government's attention towards the power supply system in the country. The Government is spending large amounts of funds on power supply, but it is not being utilized properly in rural areas. Transformers and transmission lines remain out of order for months together even after officials are asked to take remedial action. This causes great loss to poor farmers, for whom electricity is an essential agricultural input. This is exactly the situation prevailing in my constituency—Kairana—where farmers have been put to a lot of inconvenience. During my visit to the affected villages, I apprised the concerned officials of the situation. Nothing except receiving letters promising prompt action is being done.

Hence, I request the Government to take urgent steps to improve the deteriorating power supply situation not only in my Constituency but in all backward areas of the country.

- (ii) Demand for stopping alleged harassment of Bombay Diamond traders by Income-tax officers

SHRI ANOOPCHAND SHAH (Bombay North): I would like to draw the attention of Minister for Finance towards the harassment of diamond traders in Bombay by income tax authorities.

Diamond trade has contributed a lot by way of earning foreign exchange through regular and tremendous exports during the last few years. This year export of diamonds will cross the record turnover of last year, which may ease the balance of payment position. For the last about one month regular raids are being conducted on the premises of diamond traders in Bombay.

In spite of representations made at Bombay to the authorities concerned, Diamond traders are facing lot of problems and they may be compelled to close down their trade if harassment by income tax officials is not stopped.