

[Dr. Dutta Samant]

workers out of job. Apart from sufferings of workmen, the Government is losing Rs. 15 lakhs excise per day and total loss of excise duty for the last ten months is about Rs. forty crores.

During this period, the Company was given new licences to start new products and profit of the Company has gone up.

I appeal to Government to intervene in this matter and take it up for discussion in the House.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I have noted all the
submissions made by the hon. Members
and I will bring them before the Business
Advisory Committee.

12.21 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1989-90 *COMTD.*

[English]

Ministry of Agriculture

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House
will now take up discussion and voting on

Demand Nos. 1 to 5 relating to the Ministry of
Agriculture for which 8 hours have been
allotted.

Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh has
tabled a Cut Motion to the Demands for
Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.
Does he want to move his Cut Motion?...Not
present...Not moved.

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceed-
ing the amounts on Revenue Account
and Capital Account shown in the
fourth column of the Order Paper be
granted to the President, out of the
Consolidated Fund of India to com-
plete the sums necessary to defray the
charges that will come in course of
payment during the year ending the
31st day of March, 1990, in respect of
the heads of Demands entered in the
second column thereof against De-
mand Nos. 1 to 5 relating to the Minis-
try of Agriculture."

STATEMENT

Demands for grants (General). 1989-90 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture Submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 17-3-1989		Amount of Demand for Grant submitted to the Vote of the House	
		1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE					
1.	Agriculture	70,79,00,000	3,34,00,000	346,60,00,000	16,72,00,000
2.	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	56,77,00,000	25,88,00,000	283,85,00,000	129,40,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	38,50,00,000	—	192,50,00,000	—
4.	Department of Rural Development	1072,97,00,000	5,00,000	1147,77,00,000	25,00,00
5.	Department of Fertilizers.	1015,94,00,00	41,75,00,000	3400,94,00,000	208,75,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Madan Pandey to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, perhaps this is for the first time that the Opposition has not pressed a cut-motion on the Demands for Grants for Agriculture. For it I extend my thanks to the Opposition on behalf of the discerning members of this august House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of this country's economy. Staggering agriculture staggers country's economy and a strong agricultural sector strengthens the country and its economy. In this respect, not only the present one but even the earlier Ministry of Agriculture has made a remarkable contribution towards strengthening the agricultural sector. I recall the days, in 1952-53, when maize which was the foodstuff of pigs in America, was being exported to India and supplied to the people who stood in long queues to get it. I have seen this with my own eyes. Today we see both the Food and Agriculture Ministers being taken to task even if a little sub-standard wheat is sold through Fair-Price shops. Along with the farmers, the officials of the Agriculture Ministry deserve appreciation for the progress made in the field of agriculture. I also congratulate them for the good Rabi crop. As regards the provision of facilities made for the development of agriculture it leaves no scope for criticism. All these things are ample proof of support of the opposition. By not moving a Cut-Motion, the Opposition has also expressed their agreement in this respect. But suggestions should definitely be given because howsoever wisely we have planned our resources, it is never fool-proof. Whatever arrangements you have made, are most praiseworthy, still there is need to think in terms of future also. For instance, there has been a marked increase in the country's agricultural yield. So much so that today India is an exporter of foodgrains. But we must think of ways to increase our per acre yield. The question before us is whether we can increase our per

acre yield in proportion to the increase in population.

I would like to mention it that the hon. Agriculture Minister has performed the role of an able administrator and a Chief Minister. Today the country's public looks to him with high hopes. May I know from the hon. Minister if we are in a position to increase our per acre foodgrain production? Can we reach the level of Japan where agricultural production has gone as high as 90% to 95%? Can we plan a manifold increase in the production of wheat? Considering the rate at which our population is increasing the present yield will be perhaps quite insufficient to feed the masses of this country.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards what is necessary for agriculture in this country. It has been a great misfortune of our country that there has been a draw back in the way land-reforms have been enforced in this country.

In our country, the size of land holdings has become very small. Every year we see changes in the agricultural implements. Without changing the size of our agricultural implements in relation to the diminishing size of land holdings, we will not be able to make full utilisation of our agricultural implements. This aspect should be kept in mind otherwise modernisation of agriculture will not be possible. I request the entire House to ask the Government to formulate a long-term plan which envisages viable land holdings where we can use sophisticated agricultural implements.

It is true that we have invented new agricultural implements. But there are some drawbacks in their applicability. We have started manufacturing tractors, cultivators and feeders etc. How can a farmer with only one or two acres of land put these to use?

Moreover, the cost of agricultural inputs has gone so high that the farmer has to bear the burden of debt on that account or he is completely deprived of these inputs. Bedecked with money power the middlemen

offer to purchase the produce of the farmers and later on they sell it to earn profit on it. In this way, small farmers are exploited by the what middlemen. I want is that the Government should formulate a scheme wherein modern agricultural implements are used by a cluster of 5-10 villages so that small farmers can make use of them at a lesser cost.

The second most important input for agriculture is fertilizer and seeds. The hon. minister has done commendable work in this regard. Crores of rupees are being given to the farmers in the form of subsidy on fertilizers. But I have got first-hand experience at the village level that its full benefits do not reach the farmers. In villages we are told that benefits are being enjoyed by middlemen instead of farmers. This system should be changed and there should be a reduction in the prices of fertilizers in order to give the real benefit to the farmers. Our country also imports fertilizers. According to my information there is scope to increase the production of fertilizer in the country. The technology of the Sixties which we have been adopting today needs to be updated and the money to be spent on the import of fertilizers should be spent on the modernisation of production technology. There is plenty of space with the Gorakhpur plant. This area can be used to set up a new plant and the old plant can be renovated at a cost of Rs. 60-70 crores. With it we can substantially increase the production of fertilizer. This point has been repeatedly raised here but no action has been taken. I take this opportunity once again to draw the attention of the Government to this point.

No doubt, the Pusa Institute and many other institutions have produced high quality of seeds through research. But there is still scope for further improvement in seed quality. Unfortunately these improved seeds reach those people who can easily manage to procure them on their own without Government help and it is the poor farmer who needs such seeds most. Government machinery should be made use of for this purpose and ways should be found out to reach

the facility of seeds to each and every of the poor farmers.

The third important thing required for agriculture is water. Even if quality fertilizers and seeds are available, proper cultivation is not possible without the timely supply of water. I am a bit hesitant to narrate all these things here since the hon. minister is not directly concerned with this subject. Today 35% of the country's agricultural land is irrigated while 65% of it is rainfed. We shall have to find out ways to convert it into irrigated land. For that we shall have to make efforts. Planning in our country has reached a stage where we can not be totally dependent on rains for our irrigation needs. It is opportune moment for us to adopt man-made sources of irrigation like dams, lakes and canals etc. This calls for the formulation of extensive and ambitious projects like the one conceived by an erstwhile Irrigation Minister who was an engineer by profession.

Can you consider that scheme also? If the Ministry of Agriculture allocates the entire sum of its annual budget for its implementation, it will be a worth while proposition. I want to draw your attention to the Ganga-Cauvery grid. This is a scheme which, besides strengthening national integration, will enable us to utilise lakhs and crores of cubic feet of water in our country now going waste into the sea. If we think of forming a water grid on the lines of power-grid, we will be able to supply water to the farmers. If the farmers fail to get remunerative prices for their produce during your regime, when will they get it? Of course, I admire the efforts made by Government in this direction. The minimum prices fixed by the Government have been considerably enhanced over the years. It was only today in the forenoon that Mr. Samant raised a question about the price index. But we have to see whether the increase made in the prices of agricultural products is satisfactory or not. Our economy has to face some difficulties. But I appreciate the efforts made by you. The Government should increase the prices of agricultural products in proportion to the increase in prices of industrial products, which are sky-

[Sh. Madan Pandey]

rocketing. Since you are ringing the bell, I have to conclude. I thank you for calling me to speak first. I request the hon. Minister to accept my congratulations for the progress made in the field of agriculture during his stewardship.

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 76 per cent people of India live in the rural areas and agriculture is the main source of their livelihood of the rural population. It is a matter of happiness that a highly experienced and senior person happens to be our Minister of Agriculture. But in spite of it, desired progress has not been made. The entire economy of India depends upon agriculture. Water and power are badly needed to bring prosperity in the villages. As far as water is concerned, Haryana and Punjab are at the top in India in producing foodgrains due to availability of ample water in these States. They already had canals and now more canals have been built there with the construction of Bhakra Dam. No dam has been constructed in Bihar although a number of river are there. When the whole of Bihar has to face the fury of flood, the production of foodgrains in Bihar naturally suffers. The Government has to spend lakhs and crores of rupees to meet the situation. I request the Government to construct dams on all the rivers of India to augment the water resources. Sutlej, Ravi, and Beas are the rivers that flow in our region and dams on two of these rivers have already been constructed and Thein Dam on Ravi is being built but there is delay in its construction. After its completion so much water and power can be made available that production of foodgrains in the entire country will go up. Similarly the construction of Rajasthan canal has been going on for several years. Though it has reached many areas but the progress is far behind the target. The Government should spend more funds on these schemes and increase the allocation for agriculture. In the matter of allocation of funds, top priority should be given to defence since it concerns the unity and integrity of the country. The next place should go to agricul-

ture for which water and power are the basic requirements. If dams are constructed, power-houses will also be constructed and both water and power will be available. The construction of dams will also save us from the devastation caused by floods. Therefore, in the first instance dams should be constructed on each and every river, waters of which are now going waste. 65 per cent water is going waste and only 35 per cent water is being utilised. Therefore, this water should not be allowed to go waste but should be made available to the farmers. If water is provided to the farmers, they will become prosperous like the farmers of Punjab and Haryana. Rabi Crop is being harvested now, in Haryana a labourer is paid a sum of Rs. 38 as wages while a sum of Rs. 10 only is being paid to a labourer in the desert areas of Rajasthan.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar):

Who says that Rs. 10 only are being given in Rajasthan. They are getting higher wages in Rajasthan in comparison to Haryana.

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH: I am sorry. Hundreds of labourers from Rajasthan are working in Haryana. If they could get more wages in Rajasthan itself, why should they go to Haryana? The labourers from Bihar also come here. We want to help Rajasthan. If you are affected, we in Haryana are also affected. We want that more power should be supplied to Rajasthan. In Haryana power is supplied for 20 hours in a day while in Rajasthan it is restricted to just 10 hours. I would like to submit that there should be no discrimination in this respect. Agriculture is the backbone of all the States. Steps should be taken to supply water and electricity to the States which are backward. We want that the other States of the country should also become prosperous like Punjab and Haryana and import of foodgrains may not have to be resorted, as was done in the past. We should be able to produce enough foodgrains to meet our requirements. Government should overcome its shortcomings. Shri Bhajan Lal is an experienced person and himself a farmer. If desired results are not achieved even during his tenure, it leads

one to only one conclusion that there is lack of intention on the part of Government. Secondly, I would like to plead another point of farmers. The farmers do not get remunerative prices for their produce. The price of gram, which was Rs. 900/- per quintal, has now fallen to Rs. 500/- per quintal when the crop of farmers is likely to arrive in the market. At the time of harvesting when crop is with the farmer the prices nose-dive but no sooner it is sold to the traders, the prices go up. You may take the example of wheat or gram. The present price of wheat is Rs. 180 per quintal but within few days it will shoot up to Rs. 250 per quintal. Similarly last year the prices of millet, which is consumed by the cattle, touched the figure of Rs 1100 per quintal due to drought but its price has now crashed to Rs. 200-300 only when the crop is good. The Government should work for the welfare of the farmers and see that they get remunerative prices. When its ruling price during 10 months was not less than Rs. 300, its support prices should be fixed at Rs. 250. Price fluctuations do not help the farmers. They do not get adequate quantity of seeds although efforts are being made to produce better quality seeds. But adequate quantity of seeds is not being produced. As regards the rate of interest charged from the farmers, it has been reduced from 15 per cent to 12 per cent, which should be fixed at 6 per cent as the farmer grows foodgrains to feed the nation and works day and night. Ch. Bhajan Lal knows very well that in the winter months of December and January, the farmer leaves the warmth of bed at the dead of night at 1 and rushes to his fields to water them dressed just in an underwear irrespective of the biting cold. The rigours faced by him are beyond comprehension of the people living in the cities. He may be bitten by a snake or meet with some other accident but in spite of all these hardships he toils hard to produce foodgrains and other crops. He is not a mill or a factory owner. Therefore, he should be advanced Rs. 5-10 thousand at a nominal rate of interest. The Government have fixed a maximum credit limit of Rs. 10 or Rs. 20 lakhs as loans from banks in case of factories and mills. I want that similarly Government should fix a credit limit for loans

to farmers taking into account the area of land cultivated by them because majority of cultivators in our country are small farmers and with the fixing of a credit limit they can take loans from the banks directly without undergoing cumbersome procedure and can also repay it in time. Today, when the farmer goes to take loan from a bank, he has to pay a cut of 10 per cent or more as bribe to the bank officials. Therefore, in order to protect them from per force paying bribe, the Government should fix a maximum credit limit for farmers also as has been done in the case of all the industries. Our Hon. Prime Minister has said on several occasions that a huge amount running into millions is allocated every year by Government for different schemes meant to help small farmers, the poor and for agriculture but 80 per cent of that amount is pocketed by the middle-men and even 20 per cent of that amount does not reach the intended beneficiary. The reason responsible for it is the fact that today only 10 per cent rural people and 90 per cent urban people are employed in Government services. The urban people think that if the rural people migrate to the urban areas, who will grow the foodgrains. They have no sympathy for the rural people but they sympathise with the city dwellers. That is why the schemes of Government are not properly implemented and in most of the cases the allotted funds are pocketed by the middle-men. 76 per cent of our people reside in the rural areas. Therefore, I request the Government to reserve 76 per cent posts for the rural people including harijans, girijans and backward classes and the remaining 24 per cent posts should be left for the urban people. Then the Government will be able to implement all its laws properly and the funds will also not be misappropriated by the middlemen. Thus the Government will get full return for the amount allocated. But if the Government continues to work as hitherto, nothing is going to be achieved. Today, things have come to such a pass that although subsidy is given by Government on innumerable items but it does not reach farmers but it is misappropriated by the middlemen. This is the position throughout the country. There is no tax on farmers in

[Sh. Ram Narain Singh]

other countries such as America etc. but here in India there is heavy taxes on agricultural implements. The price of a tractor, which was Rs. 20,000, 15 years ago, has now shot up to Rs. one and a half lakh of rupees while the prices of wheat have hardly doubled. Today the farmer is not in a position to purchase a tractor. When 76 per cent population of our country lives in the rural areas, the Government should spend at least 50 per cent of its total budget on rural development. The Government should write off the loans upto Rs. 5-7 thousand advanced to small land owners, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Government may say that it is not appropriate to write off the loans, but Chaudhary Sahib, our hon. Minister of Agriculture knows it very well that during the British rule, when Punjab was united a Bill was introduced to write off loans of small farmers. Consequently, the loans were written off. Sir, Chhotu Ram was the leader of farmers those days and when he became the Minister he not only ordered the loans to be written off but also enabled the small farmers to get back their lands which were mortgaged. All those lands were returned to them through an order. Leave aside those big farmers who are under heavy debt. But small farmers who own small holdings and who have taken a loan of Rs. 10,000 or less but are not in a position to repay including those of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and backward classes should be helped. Their loans should at least be written off.

Now, I would like to say something about Haryana. The lifeline of Haryana is SYL canal. In case that canal is constructed, the States of Haryana and Punjab would be in a position to fulfil the requirements of food grains of the entire country. At present the country is suffering the loss of about hundred crore rupees. Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone of this canal and assured to complete the construction within one and a half year. But even after a long period of eight years it is yet to be completed. The costs are escalating every day and therefore, the esti-

mated cost of the construction of canal has increased manifolds. So my first submission is that the SYL canal should be completed at the earliest so that Haryana is at par with Punjab in respect of agricultural production.

A Thermal Power Plant is proposed to be set up in Yamuna Nagar. But no action is being taken in this regard. Similarly, before the elections were held, the hon. Prime Minister had announced, that an Oil Refinery would be set up in Kamal which would provide employment to thousands of people. The foundation stone was also laid. But nothing has come up so far. So my submission is that these projects should be executed in Haryana and the Government should adopt a sympathetic attitude towards the farmers. If the problems of farmers are solved, the country would prosper, otherwise the farmers would prefer to do the work of labourers in cities instead of remaining idle in rural areas. Today, the people living in cities have a misconception that they would always lead a luxurious life. They would soon prove to be wrong if the farmers continue to migrate in large number to the cities. This would create many problems like, pollution etc. in the cities. So I would urge upon the Government to provide similar facilities in the rural areas as those provided in urban areas, so that people do not feel any need to come to cities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, with these words, I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Ministry of Agriculture and various departments which come under this Ministry are the core of the entire Governmental set-up. In the past, especially a year back when the country suffered from the drought of its worst kind, through the efforts of this Ministry alone the people of India could come out of that difficult situation. Even the institutions like the World Bank praised the Government of India for having faced the drought the way it did. But, Sir, it is

very unfortunate that in this effort of the Ministry of Agriculture not a single Member from the Opposition parties came and volunteered to extend his whole-hearted cooperation in the Ministry's endeavour to fight the drought. I remember when Madam Gandhi was not in power, she said, "I accept the verdict of the people. If you require any help from me, I will be ever ready to render my cooperation and give help to the Government." This she said to the party in power. But this sort of cooperation has never come from the Opposition parties and, on the contrary, when the Prime Minister toured different areas and held meetings with the Chief Secretary and Collector to know the situation as to how we are facing drought or floods, certain parties criticised the Prime Minister saying the she had no right to contact Chief Secretary or Collector, etc. So, there was no cooperation from their side to fight the drought or flood but, on the contrary, certain hurdles were created by the Opposition parties.

Sir, agriculture is basically a State subject. There are various items like Items 14, 15, 16 and 21 which are enumerated in the State List. Item 14 speaks of Agriculture including agricultural education and research, protection against pests and prevention of pest diseases. Item 16 speaks of prevention, protection and improvement of stocks, etc. All these items are basically in the State List and there is no doubt that it is the responsibility of the State Governments to look into this. But at this stage, I would venture to suggest one thing. Just as we have got a policy on agriculture at the national level.

[Translation]

You should direct the State Governments to formulate an agricultural policy according to their own needs and send a copy to you. It would enable you to have an idea whether they follow the policy or not. You will also come to know about the problems they have to face. I would propose that you direct the State Governments to formulate their own agricultural policies instead of

imposing Central agricultural policy upon them. You know that different States have different problems.

[English]

Secondly I will take up an important item which has been referred to earlier by Shri Pandey also. This is with respect to land reforms. I am referring to it specially because my State is lacking in this aspect, though we have progressed a lot as far as the other points of the 20 Point Programme are concerned. But with regard to land reforms, we have some problem. When we sought to give land to the tiller by a legislation in Goa, that legislation was challenged in the court. It is still pending for more than 8 or 10 years, as a result of which, the Government of Goa has not been able to give land to the tiller despite 40 years of India's independence and 25 years of Goa's independence. Land is not given to the tiller because the litigation is pending in the court. For this, I would suggest an alternative. The Government of India can request the Attorney General or our lawyer in the Supreme Court to request the judge to expedite all the matters concerning land reforms and dispose them of in six months. If that is done, one of the most important points of the 20 Point Programme will be fully implemented as far as Goa is concerned.

Secondly, I would like to refer to land ceiling. Most of the States have implemented land ceiling laws in some way or the other. But as far as Goa is concerned, we have not been able to enact any land ceiling legislation. When Goa was a Union Territory draft legislations were being sent to the Central Government and then back to the Union Territory and again to the Centre to seek some correction or clarification. It went on in this way for about five or six years. After Goa became a State also, somehow we have not been able to enact a law on land ceiling. I would request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to call our Revenue Minister and the Chief Minister and advise them on this aspect. I do not say you direct them. But you may just advise them that they may enact a

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]

land ceiling legislation by such and such date. If this simple thing is done, I am sure that this task will be accomplished within a period of three months. Today no reminders are sent to the State from the Centre and no assertion is made by the Centre that this legislation should be expedited. That is the reason why the State Government are also keeping quiet. So, it must be insisted upon the State Government must be told that the Centre is interested in getting a land ceiling law enacted in Goa. If this is done, we will have a land ceiling legislation.

Sir, the Annual Report of the Ministry states that 60.65 lakh hectares of land have been acquired as a result of implementation of ceiling law, out of which 45.13 lakh hectares of land has been distributed and as many as 41.72 lakh persons have benefited out of whom 14.70 lakh were Scheduled Caste beneficiaries and 5.70 persons were Scheduled Tribe beneficiaries. These figures are given on All-India basis. If these figures are really the figures in the field.

[English]

It is a very good achievement. But at the national level when lakhs of acres of land is being distributed under ceiling laws, we in Goa do not even have a ceiling law.

13.00 hrs.

This is the situation. Another thing which I want to mention is about the monitoring of major rural development programmes like the IRDP, NREP, RLEGP etc. As far as these programmes are concerned, I had also made one suggestion and that is, instead of just mentioning the letters, we should give names of our important Leaders to these programmes. Now in respect of the programmes which are recently being started, there the names of our veteran Leaders are being given. Earlier also the names of the Leaders were given. So, wherever such letters like NREP or RLEGP etc. are given, I would humbly request.

[Translation]

I would urge upon to give names of our important leaders to these programmes. 'Indira Vikas Patras' were issued in the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. The very name made these savings certificates (*Indira Vikas Patras*) popular among the masses. So I would urge to give the names of important leaders to these programmes too.

[English]

Regarding monitoring, you have rightly said in the Annual Report that "till November, 1988 computers have been installed in about 70 per cent of the DRDAs in the country and about 90 per cent of the DRDAs' staff have been imparted training in computerisation of data and operations of computers. It is expected that computer hardware will be installed in all DRDAs by 31st March, 1989." This is a very good thing. Because for the purpose of monitoring a programme, computers are required but what about assessing the actual implementation of various programmes? The figures which are just obtained by some artificial means will not solve the problem. I know you have got some machinery. But still you collect figures from State Governments and feed them into the computers. They will just say that we have got this much target and we have achieved this much. That will not do. It is because we have to verify whether it has gone to the people. The Prime Minister had also said that in order to give One Rupee to a person, we have to spend Five Rupees for administrative set-up and so on. Therefore, the actual implementation has to be assessed. Those figures are to be collected and should be fed into the computers. Only then our computerisation of all these schemes will be effective.

Another thing which I want to mention is about rural population. If we want to put a stop to the shifting of rural population to the urban areas, first we will have to provide proper infrastructure, for instance, telephones, shopping complexes, cinema houses or decentralisation of powers in the

administrative units existing in villages, etc. So, these are to be provided if we want to prevent people from going to the urban areas. If people can get all the facilities that are available in the urban areas, then they won't shift to urban areas. In some countries, such facilities are provided. They do not require to shift to the urban areas. On the contrary, in rural areas, they get fresh air which may not be available in urban areas. So, such amenities should be provided in the rural areas.

Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is an important component for the rural landless employment guarantee programme. In Goa also, we are having a lot of such units. The only problem is that when we construct these units and if we are not able to provide them electricity or power, that creates some difficulty. In places like Goa, this difficulty is there. In most of the places we are providing them structures but we are not able to provide them water supply and electricity. Then what is the use of giving a plot of land to them? When I was touring some places in my constituency, the major complaint which I received from the people with respect to the Yojana is that they have been given some structure but no proper facility has been provided. So, they have been given plots but no proper facility is given to them.

As far as agricultural education is concerned—I am glad that Mr. Hari Krishna Shastri is here—when Mr. Shastri visited Goa, at our request, he made a beautiful announcement. It was welcomed by all. The announcement which he made was that if a proposal comes from the Government of Goa for the purpose of establishing Agricultural Collage, he will extend full cooperation and he will personally visit Goa to inaugurate the agricultural college. This assurance was given by him. With his blessings, we hope to get an Agricultural College for Goa very soon. The Land Acquisition Act is very important, but many of our development activities are delayed just because of certain provisions in the Land Acquisition Act. If the procedure provided for under the Land Acquisition Act is simplified, of our projects will be expedited. If a road or any other thing

is to be completed within five years, it can be completed within two years if this procedure is simplified. In some places, a No Objection Certificate can be obtained from the people; they can be assured that in case they given a No Objection Certificate for the purpose of land acquisition, the price of the land at the market price will be given to them at their homes; then many of our projects can be expedited because in that case people will cooperate with the Government, as far as land acquisition matters are concerned.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): May I propose that the House may adjourn for lunch today?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the sense of the House to adjourn the House for lunch today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 2.10 P.M.

13.06 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1989-90—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

Ministry of Agriculture—*Contd.*

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Jaipur): Sir, I am on a point of order. The opposition is not in adequate numbers. There are only two there...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No point of order.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: This should be taken note of. The opposition is a part of the House. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing. I am not allowing.

Shri Jagdish Awasthi.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants presented by the Ministry of Agriculture and I would like to submit one thing in this regard. Our country is considered to be an agricultural country where about 70 per cent of the total population is dependent on it and it is also the main occupation of the people in rural areas. It is true that the country has made a considerable development in this field after independence but still it is essential to bring about further modifications in this field because with the constant increase in the population, our dependence on agriculture is also increasing and it has become a matter of great concern. We have to find out a way to reduce this dependence.

About two years back, some States of our country like Gujarat, some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan were hit by one of the most severe droughts after independence. But the Government under the worthy leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi readily met the challenge and did not let other parts of the country face any problem due to drought. The Ministry deserves to be congratulated for facing the challenge with all its might. Two types of methods are adopted for cultivation in our country. One is the intensive cultivation and the other is the extensive cultivation. The population is increasing at a tremendous speed whereas the holdings

are shrinking. So it has become essential to emphasise the need for intensive cultivation. What is needed is to raise the yield of per 'bigha' of land. Agriculture depends upon various other factors. A farmer can not reap a good harvest unless power supply and irrigation facilities are available to him. So far as irrigation is concerned, a few dams and canals have been constructed and pumping sets have been installed to fulfil the purpose of irrigation. But about the big canals the general complaint is that the farmers do not get the water for irrigation in time. Though in Kanpur district canals have been constructed and pump sets have been installed but the water supply does not reach the fields at the tail end and the farmers suffer as a result thereof. I would like the Central Government to hold consultations with the State Governments and thus make certain arrangements so that water reaches the fields at the tail end of the areas where the facilities of canals, pumpsets etc. are already there. This would help the farmers in a big way. Besides, the State Governments have enacted a law that tubewells cannot be installed at places where canals have been constructed. This law should be modified. The cultivators and the administration of those areas where there is no water in canals, should have right to instal tubewells in order to meet the requirements of irrigation.

Besides, a lot of barren land is lying, particularly in Uttar Pradesh. A Government scheme to make the barren land fertile has already been taken up but it has not been successful. I would like the Hon. Minister to conduct a survey and prepare a plan for it. Lot of barren land is lying waste in Kanpur district also. Some of the land was acquire by Kanpur college which has developed a farm over it and constructd tubewells. But the farmers are not benefitting from it. I would like the Government to make that land fertile and hand it over to the farmers so that it can be cultivated and produces rich harvest.

There is a common complaint that the farmer do not get remunerative price for their produce. The agricultural prices are fixed

every year by the Agricultural costs and Prices Commission, but the Government should evaluate the criteria of fixing agricultural prices. This criteria should be further modified in order to enable the farmers to sell their produce at a remunerative price.

Even today, the main grievance of the farmers is that they do not get a price for their produce which is proportionate to the costs and the hard work they do. So the Government should pay attention to this also.

The knowledge of the techniques of agriculture is increasing in our country very rapidly. The Agriculture Universities set up by the Government are conducting research in the field of agriculture and are making use of that research in the fields. But if appears that this knowledge is used in some limited areas only. Therefore, a comprehensive programme should be chalked out so that the benefits of this knowledge could be made available to all. I am to submit that there is a very big Agriculture University in Kanpur but the farmers do not get as much benefit of its schemes as they should. I, therefore, urge the Government to formulate schemes in such a way that our farmers could get the benefits of our scientific progress. What is needed is that the schemes should be executed in such a way that the farmers living in every village could get full knowledge about the new techniques of cultivation.

The Government is aware that the farmers have to face the natural calamities of flood and drought every year. Relief is provided by the Government at the time of flood but lakhs of acres of agricultural land is rendered unfit for cultivation due to floods. There is no doubt that agricultural yield increases following the flood, but the farmers have to face heavy losses prior to it. Therefore, arrangements should be made to check the recurring feature of floods in the flood-prone areas. It is no use providing relief every time when the flood strikes. The calamities like flood and drought can only be prevented by formulating programmes and schemes of permanent nature.

There are a number of small rivers which pass through many districts of Uttar Pradesh and a large quantity of water of these rivers goes waste. I would, therefore, like to request that on the pattern of some other States, small dams should be constructed in Uttar Pradesh also so that the excess water of these river could be stored there and be used for irrigation. This will benefit the farmers.

In our country, the agriculture mostly depends on weather conditions. If the weather conditions remain favorable, the crops are good, but in the event of excess or deficient rainfall, or if the crop is hit by hail-storm, a huge damage is caused, and in that case we curse the nature and say that everything has been destroyed due to bad weather. Therefore, the Government must think in terms of finding preventive measures to protect agriculture from the havoc of natural calamities.

The Government has introduced Crop Insurance Scheme for the farmers but its benefits do not reach the farmers. Arrangements should be made to ensure that farmers get its full benefits. This scheme has been implemented in some places only. The Crops should be insured in each and every part of the country. To ensure that its benefits reach every farmer all over the country, each one of them should be covered under this scheme. I request that this Crop Insurance Scheme should be extended to Kanpur district also. Besides, loans from banks, seeds and fertilizers should also be distributed to the farmers. It has been my experience that discrimination is being done in providing loans from the banks for the purchase of fertilizers and seeds. Especially, the Cooperative banks have been showing fake loans for years. The State Government should conduct a survey regarding the outstanding loans amounting to millions of rupees especially in respect of the district cooperative banks in Uttar Pradesh. No verification has so far been done in this regard. If verification is done, this amount can be advanced as loan to the farmers who have not yet availed of this facility. Govern-

[Sh. Jagdish Awasthi]

ment should help the farmers in this endeavour. Efforts should be made to make use of this money otherwise, it will yield no benefit to the farmers who continue to suffer as before. The Ram-Ganga Project was formulated in Uttar Pradesh, in order to provide irrigation facilities to the farmers and for this purpose, concrete water channels were also constructed. No money was taken when those channels were constructed, but five to six thousand of rupees were charged from the farmers after few years. However, these channels yielded no benefit as they got damaged soon after. The Central Government should pay attention towards providing relief to the farmers who incurred loss due to such defective channels which were constructed under the Ram-Ganga Project in Uttar Pradesh. Oilseeds and pulses are two important crops. Even though, efforts are made to raise production, we still have to depend on import of oil. Such schemes should be formulated which could boost the production of oilseeds. Production of pulses is also not adequate. Proper instructions should be given to the farmers regarding the type of crop they should grow. Sometimes they grow wheat, sometimes sugarcane or some other crop. As such no balance is kept between the different crops. Arrangements should be made to ensure that information regarding the crops is provided to the farmers in time so that they could make necessary arrangements. New factories are being set up for the production of fertilizers and subsidy is also being given to the farmers. Scientists have proved that production can be increased through natural manure. Organic fertilizers enhance the production but ultimately they tell upon the health of the people also. Research should be carried out on cow-dung and other natural manures and the farmers should be told that the use of natural fertilizer is more beneficial than organic fertilizers. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of

Agriculture. There are reports that due to good weather as well as the efficient functioning of the government this year the production of good grain is going to exceed the target of 175.2 million tons. Besides the weatherman also says that there is going to be normal monsoon this year. The farmers in this country are very happy about it. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister for this unprecedented increase in the production of food grains.

Sir, last year the country faced the worst drought in the century. It goes to the credit of the Government that it could save the country from the consequences of such a serious drought. The Prime Minister took special care to provide foodgrains to people who are facing drought in different parts of the country. I congratulate him for all the timely steps that he took in this regard. While I am on this point I must mention here that this year too some parts of the country are facing drought conditions, for example, the District of Palghat in Kerala. The North-east monsoon has almost failed in our State. From October to December, the rain-fall in Palghat was deficient by 80%. Between 1.1.89 and 28.2.89 the entire Malabar region of Kerala including Palghat did not get even a drop of rain. This has resulted in heavy damage to crops and serious shortage of water. I take this opportunity to request the Government to send a central study team to Kerala to study the situation. According to the figures supplied by the Government of Kerala Paddy crops in 11,000 hectares has been totally damaged and in 14,000 hectares partially damaged. The Government of Kerala has demanded rupees two crores for providing immediate relief to the farmers affected by drought. A decision in this regard should be taken quickly.

Technology Mission was introduced by the Government to provide among other things drinking water. This mission is being implemented in Kerala. In fact it is in my district of Palghat where it is under implementation. My complaint is that this Mission is not being implemented properly by the State

*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Malayalam.

Government. This will be evident from the fact that the Mission was sanctioned on 26.12.1986 but could be inaugurated only on 5.3.88. It also shows the total lack of interest on the part of the State Government. When people are suffering due to the shortage of drinking water and are waiting for water like the proverbial rain-bird the State Government is not interested in implementing this programme which alone will be able to ensure supply of drinking water in this drought affected area district. The Government of Kerala is misusing this mission. I can give you many examples in this regard. The selection of villages is being done with their party interest in view. In 1983 when we faced serious drought situation the then Government as well as the survey team from the centre had selected eleven villages as drought affected. Of course in course of time this number went upto 150. Some norms were followed in selecting these villages. But the present Government has given a go by to these norms. They are selecting villages which have returned CPM MLAs and Panchayat Members. Thus the State Government has totally politicalised this mission. If an inquiry is made into it I am prepared to give sufficient evidence to prove my point. In 1985 when the Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Kerala he made an announcement that the special problems of Palghat District would receive serious attention of the Government of India. It is in pursuance of this announcement that the decision was taken to include Palghat in the Technology Mission for water. The people of Palghat are grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister for this. The Prime Minister has kept his word but what about the State Government which is supposed to implement this programme. He has given us four crores of rupees for implementing the Mission in Palghat whereas many other places got only rupees two crores or at the most three. But the implementation is very unsatisfactory. For example, the target was to set up 900 bore wells, whereas only 500 have been set up so far. Out of these only 200 are functioning now. This is a serious situation. I, therefore, request the Government to take over this programme and implement it by some central agency.

Sir, the Government has selected 169 districts in fourteen States for implementing the special food production programme. On a number of occasions I demanded that Kerala should also be included in this programme. In fact when Shri Hari Krishan Shastri, the Hon'ble Minister visited Kerala last year he had assured us that the question of including Kerala in this programme would be favourably considered. But it has not been done so far. In fact Kerala has a strong case in this regard. As the Minister is aware Kerala is a deficit state with regard to food. We get our food from Punjab, Haryana, Andhra etc. from where it has to be transported too far away Kerala. This makes the foodgrain more costly. If on the other hand we are able to produce enough foodgrains in our own state we do not have to depend on other States. The new programme will certainly enable us to produce enough foodgrains to meet our requirements. In this connection I must plead for my district Palghat which is the granary of Kerala. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to include Kerala in this programme and implement it in Palghat. As the House is aware. IRDP, NREP, RLEGP and other rural welfare schemes are being implemented by the State Governments. I must again say that these programmes are not being implemented properly in my State. The money allocated by the Centre for these programmes are being diverted for other purposes. So there must be a very strict monitoring arrangement to see that the money is spent for the purposes for which it is allocated. The State Government is unable to pay even the salaries of his employees. It is in such a tight financial condition that it is bound to misuse the money given by the Centre for implementing these anti-poverty programmes. Therefore I would request that effective monitoring arrangements should be made.

Sir, coconut is the backbone of Kerala's economy. In fact Kerala gets its name from coconut. Today the coconut economy has almost collapsed due to steep decline in the prices of coconut. It is a very serious issue affecting lakhs of small coconut growers in the State. There have been demands for

[Sh. V.S. Vijayaraghavan]

fixing a support price for coconut. I reiterate that demand today. Of course I welcome the reported decision of the Government to ask NAFED to intervene in the market for buying up copra. But the most important thing is to fix the support price. I would request the Government to fix the support price at the earliest, and save the coconut growers. I would also request the Government to declare coconut as an oilseed.

Coconut and pepper are affected by diseases which cause tremendous loss to these crops. We have not been able to find a remedy so far. Millions of nuts are lost and large areas of pepper cultivation are seriously affected. Immediate steps will have to be taken to find a durable solution to this problem. As I have said a little while ago Kerala's economy depends to a great extent on the cash crops. These cash crops bring us valuable foreign exchange. Therefore, it is the duty of the Central Government to save these crops from ruin. I request the Government to depute a high level scientific team to study this problem and make research on the diseases and find a quick remedy.

Finally, I must say a word about the crop insurance scheme. The scheme is good so far it goes. However there are some lacunae in the scheme which I want to bring to the notice of the Minister. At present the crop cutting is done at Taluq level which is very defective. Even if there is damage to crop in some parts of a Taluq the farmers will not be entitled to the benefit of insurance scheme as substantial parts of the Taluq are not affected. For example, last year there was serious drought in some parts of Palghat but because of the inherent lacuna in the scheme not a single farmer in my District got this benefit. I would, therefore, suggest that suitable amendments may be made in the scheme and make village as the basic units for providing the insurance cover. If that is done then even if there is damage only in one village the affected farmers will get the benefits of insurance. After all when we formulate

a scheme for the benefit of our people we must so implement the scheme as to benefit the intended categories of beneficiaries. I hope necessary steps will be taken in this regard. I once again support the demands and thank the Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the hon. Minister of State, all the officers and scientists of their department, as also the farmers of the country for setting up a new record in foodgrains production. Sir, the target of foodgrains production fixed by the Central Government and the hon. Minister of Agriculture for 1988-89 was 166.70 million tonnes, which was revised and fixed at 170 million tonnes. I am proud of the working of our Ministry of Agriculture, the efforts made by our farmers and the wisdom of our agriculture scientists. Thanks to them, we are likely to surpass even the revised target. I would like to submit through you that earlier we had to spend a lot of precious foreign exchange on the import of edible oil, but under the new policy of oilseed development, our production of oilseeds has increased substantially this year. The production of all oilseeds whether it is groundnut, sunflower, mustard or linseed, has registered increase. Sir, land, water, seed, fertilizer and hard work of farmer are the basic requirements for the production of agricultural commodities in any country. It was the Ministry of Agriculture which inspired the farmers to usher in green revolution and later helped them to realise the dream of white revolution. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and the present Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, all gave top priority to the farmers and helped them enhance agriculture production. They made all efforts to solve the problems of the rural peasants. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for paying attention towards increasing the income of the farmers in the country, soon after he came to power. In the Seventh Five Year Plan, the first thing on which he laid stress was that if we want systematic growth of the

country through these schemes, we have to ensure assured supply of food to each and every villager at reasonable price. We should not depend on any other country in the matter of foodgrains. To become self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains is the main objective of Seventh Five Year Plan. The second objective was to create employment opportunities for the people. The third target was to achieve steady progress by following policies which encouraged indigenous production of industrial equipment so as to raise agricultural and industrial out put which is essential for the prosperity of our country. Priority has been given to agriculture in all the Budgets that have been presented under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister right from 1984 till date. The fact that a subsidy of Rs. 3000 crore has been given for fertilizers this year amply proves that Government gives top priority to agriculture. This is the first time that such a huge allocation for fertilizers has been made in the Budget for the benefit of farmers. It was also announced by the Hon. Prime Minister on 1st March, 1988 in this House that facility of loan will be provided to the farmers to encourage them to achieve higher production. It is heartening to note that the hon. Prime Minister has reduced the rate of interest by 1.5 per cent to 2.5 per cent on the loan upto Rs. 15 thousand to be given to the farmers. Thus, it is clear that our Government and our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi is really interested in seeing the farmers get more loan facilities. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has selected 160 or 140 districts where more loans will be provided in order to increase the production and to provide marketing facilities. The farmer will not be compelled to go for distress sale as he is being provided the price of cereals at his door steps. I thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture for this wise step.

Hon. Minister of Agriculture, I would like to request you that instead of confining this policy to a few districts only it may please be extended to more and more districts so that the farmers need not resort to distress sale of their produce. I would also like to tell you that present consumption of fertilizer in the

country is 113 lakh metric tonnes. As against that the Government provides a subsidy of Rs. 3000 crores only. In this context I am happy to note that the Government has evolved a new system under which mini kits are supplied especially to small and marginal farmers. It has proved very effective scheme. Under this system mini kits of 20 to 25 kilogram capacity are being supplied to small and marginal farmers. The farmers find it very convenient to purchase such kits. I would like to request you in this connection that you may issue suitable instructions to all the fertiliser companies that they prepare such kits of at least 20 to 25 per cent of their total production so that the farmers are able to purchase the same at the sales centres easily.

Hon. Minister, I would like to appreciate the steps you have taken regarding the sales centres. Besides the present strength, approval for 50600 new sales centres is really a commendable step. These will prove very helpful to the farmers. The farmers will get fertiliser from these centres very easily. I would like to point out that the Government has not been able to provide technology mission in the districts where oil seeds, groundnut, musterd and rapeseed production has increased or the districts where the farmers want to make more production of these commodities. Sir, I come from Alwar district. Alwar and Bharatpur districts in the country are those districts where we may have maximum production of mustard. I would like to say further that district Alwar in the country is such a district which produces the largest quantity of mustard. Mustard produced in this district is sold at Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 more per quintal than the rate at which it is sold in other places. But there is so far no research centre or any unit of technology mission for mustard oil development. I would like to draw the attention of Shri Hari Krishna Shastri towards the fact that his father, late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had given the slogan of "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" to the country. He had called upon the farming community of this country to produce more. Now I would like to request him to open such centres in Alwar.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): He had also said about the Jawans.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Jawans are sitting beside you. Sir, I would like to make yet another submission regarding the National Seeds Corporation which is a very good organisation in our country. It is doing a commendable job. It develops quality seeds. But its capacity of seeds production is very low. In district Alwar, which is a head-quarter of my constituency, sales centre of National Seeds Corporation is situated 8 to 10 kilometres away from the city. As a result, the farmers are not able to know as to which varieties of seeds are available with the Seeds Corporation. In order to avoid such inconvenience a policy should be evolved in which information regarding varieties of seeds available with the centre should be given publicity through the newspapers or the farmers should be informed through the Panchayat samities about the availability of seeds. This time what happened is that Maharashtra procured 1000 quintal of seeds from that centre consequently the seeds could not be available to the local farmers. I would, therefore, like to request you to shift the Seeds Sales Centre to the city so that the farmers may find it convenient to reach the centre. Besides, Seeds Sales Centre have been opened at district headquarters only. I would like to request that offices of N.S.C. may also be opened at sub-divisional headquarters so that the farmers find it convenient to purchase the seeds and they are not required to cover long distances for the purpose.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to make a submission about the pricing policy. In this context I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister that Agriculture Costs and Prices Commission has started fixing the prices and announcing the same in advance. The present price of mustard is Rs. 460 per quintal. But, as the hon. Minister of Agriculture is also aware of, mustard cultivation involves a lot of risk. This crop is prove to pest infestation and is likely to be damaged by frost. Of course, our scientists are trying their best in this regard.

They have developed T-59 variety which has more resistance. But they have not so far been able to develop a variety which can resist extensive frost. I, therefore, request you to look into the price aspect. Rs. 460 is a very low price. I have come to know that the price of mustard in the mandis of Rajasthan has fallen below Rs. 460. In these circumstances I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to arrange purchasing of mustard from the mandis of Rajasthan through NAFED, Dairy development and other Government agencies without delay so that the farmers need not resort to distress sale.

As regard price fixation, justice has not at all been done by the Government in the matter of fixing the price of wheat. The price of wheat has been fixed at Rs. 183 per quintal. You are aware that wheat cultivation needs hard work, particularly in Rajasthan where canal facilities are not generally available. There is no canal in Alwar and Bharatpur. Water has to be drawn from the wells. The farmers have to irrigate the wheat crop fields 8 times, they have to invest on sowing of the seeds and application of the fertilisers at least 3 times. But the price of the wheat has been fixed by the Government at Rs. 183 which is very low. I request you to revise the price.

An agriculture farm of the Government of Rajasthan is situated in village Pinki-Radi in my parliamentary Constituency, Alwar. I request that an agriculture scientific research centre or a mustard, oil seeds development research centre or a unit of the oil Seeds Production development technology mission may be opened in this Agriculture farm so that we may have a good mustard crop.

With these words I express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and his colleagues.

SHRI SHANKAR LAL (Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt about it that the development of agriculture and of the villages play a major role in the progress of our country. It can be said that India's

progress depend on the development of agriculture. If the farmers and the villages do not develop, other schemes are meaningless. I am happy to note that Shri Bhajan Lal, who is himself a farmer and a strong person, under the able leadership of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is looking after the Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development. Both of them realise the difficulties of the farmers. But I would like to say that various scheme introduced for the development of agriculture have not reached the villages. The benefits of these schemes do not reach them because of the bureaucrats and corrupt elements.

Prime Minister deserves congratulations as our leader but at the same time Shri Bhajan Lal also deserves our congratulations. The farmers in Rajasthan are fighting famine conditions for the last 4 years. They were finding it difficult to live in the villages. Our hon. Minister of Agriculture came to their rescue and saved them from famine. I would like to point out that when the farmers got rid of famine conditions and recovery of loans from the farmers was started. We objected to it and requested you to look into the matter. The Cooperative Department, Panchayat Department are also under you. The Central Government will have to intervene in the matter of the recovery of loans from the farmers in the areas which were hit by famine conditions. I would like to say that interests of loans may not be realised from farmers for the years in which farmers faced famine conditions. It is all right that you cannot write off the loans. It is also true that you cannot make a commitment like Shri Devi Lal. But you can take a right step in the interest of the farmers. You should not realise interest from the farmers for the period in which farmers had to face famine conditions.

I would like to submit further that at the time of recovering loans drawn by farmers from the Reserve Bank of India and other banks farmers have to pay double the amount of the loan. You can issue orders in this regard and provide some relief to the farmers.

As regards the provision of drinking water for villages it has been stated in the annual report that at least one source of clean drinking water will be provided to all the villages under the Seventh Five Year Plan. But it is not being done. In this connection I would like to submit that the people in the backward areas of Barmer and Jaisalmer and Western Rajasthan have to fetch water from long distances.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the "Gram Panchayat Samiti" in district Pali where today water is being supplied through tankers. When the supply of water from Jawai Dam is demanded, it is said that the drinking water will be supplied to Jodhpur. We do not oppose drinking water supply to Jodhpur but the ponds falling mid way and to which water was being supplied till now should continue to get water supply. Hon. Minister of Agriculture should impress upon Rajasthan Government to provide drinking water to district Pali which is facing acute shortage of drinking water. All the ponds there should be filled up through Jawai Dam.

Rajasthan is such a State whose Eastern part is a flood affected area and the western part is a drought prone area. My submission is that a separate board should be set up under Article 371 of the constitution to find out a permanent solution to the famine problem of the Western part. No doubt, Government provides full relief to the famine stricken areas but permanent solution is needed to be found out to face this problem. Similarly a separate board should be set up to protect Eastern Rajasthan from floods. You are well aware of this fact that in Rajasthan different areas have different climatic conditions.

Crop Insurance Scheme should also be implemented in the State to ensure crop protection which will be an incentive for more production. Animal husbandry, Dairy Development etc. are the important parts of the agriculture production and the people in Rajasthan are engaged in the professions

[Sh. Shankar Lal]

Even today, people in the Western Part of Rajasthan depend on milching cows and buffaloes. A loan of Rs. 3000 is granted for purchasing a cow or a buffalo. This much of amount is inadequate for purchasing a cow or a buffalo of a good breed. The Government should raise this amount to Rs. 10,000.

As regards land reforms, Rajasthan has been a State dominated by Samants and Jaghirdars. Ceiling Act has not been implemented in Rajasthan so far. Rich people have purchased "benami" lands in the name of their relatives, other known persons and even in the names of animals. Thousands of landless labourers are aspiring for the land. The Government will have to take some steps in this direction. A Committee should be set up to strictly implement the land ceiling Act in Rajasthan. Only after making such arrangements, we can fulfill the dreams of Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru and can also achieve the objectives under lying our socialistic policy.

Now, I would like to say something regarding the education about cooperatives. I have served as a Chairman to District Cooperative Federation. I know that the education imparted to the cooperative societies through cooperative federation was very informative and useful for villagers. This also contributed a lot in removing corruption from the cooperative societies. But now the funds allotted for the purpose have been reduced. Government officials and Managers of cooperative societies are exploiting the people and the Chairman and the Executive Committee are helpless in the matter. All the powers are vested in Managers. They are not questioned for the irregularities committed by them.

15.00 hrs.

We have Panchayati Raj and Co-operative Societies as well. P. Jawaharlal Nehru once said that, besides a school, we need a Panchayat and a Co-operative Society for the development of villages.

The Government is interested in initiating a discussion in near future on Panchayati Raj. A conference was also organised in this connection. Our hon. leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi also wants to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System. But I feel that Panchayati Raj, Gram Panchayat, Co-operative Society and Patwar circle should be Co-terminus. It is only then we can exercise a control through the Co-operative societies and through Panchayati Raj over the corrupt patwaris.

I want to thank for the time given me to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude to the hon. Members for expressing their views regarding the demands for grants for the year 1989-90 for the Ministry of agriculture.

It is a matter of satisfaction that most of the hon. Members have appreciated and have expressed their satisfaction regarding the working, the achievements and future planning of the Ministry of agriculture.

In the Budget for 1988-89, the plan outlay for 1988-89 had been fixed at Rs. 703 crore whereas for this year it has been raised to Rs. 800 crore which is definitely more than the amount of the previous year. In this connection the hon. Members have made a mention to a number of schemes, they have demanded special programmes to be introduced in their respective areas. The provisions have been made in this budget. This budget provides for assistance for land-reforms, for the distribution of fertilizers, assistance to farmers or for increasing oilseeds production.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH (Kaiserganj): Hon. Mr. Minister, Sir, the budget of I.C.A.R. has been drastically cut and it is not possible for them to undertake research works within this amount. Will you consider this aspect?

There are a number of organisations in the country for which the allotments have always been increased many times but the budget of I.C.A.R. has been drastically cut. It appears that the hon. Minister is not interested in any type of research work.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: My senior colleague will reply in details to the question raised regarding I.C.A.R. At present I am not in a position to say anything in that connection.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH: You are telling us about the increase in budget and passing on the responsibility to explain the reductions in budget to your senior colleague. You should clarify this point here.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: My senior colleague will explain all these things while replying to the entire debate on the subject. I do not want to add any thing on my own. I wanted to draw the attention of this esteemed House to certain points which have not been discussed so far. Last year hon. Prime Minister introduced a special foodgrains programme in the year 1988-89 for increasing agriculture productivity and total agricultural production after making a midterm appraisal of 7th Five Year Plan. There are 14 main foodgrains producing States in the country, out of which 169 districts have been selected for it. Just now the hon. Member from Kerala was saying that no such programme has been introduced in his State. I want to inform him that this programme has been introduced only in the main districts of the major foodgrains producing States because it was a special foodgrains programme as is clear from its name and the esteemed House will be agree with me that this year we have achieved a record production. The foodgrain's production is more than 17 crore tonne this year. This is a landmark in the history of this country. But we should not be satisfied with this achievement, we are going to formulate schemes for further increase in the foodgrains production during the coming three years. Therefore, for the year 1990-91-92 target for increasing the production of

wheat and rice has been fixed at 4.5 million tonne per year. We are taking steps to make it success. Our department has already started taking steps in this regard and I can say that we will be able to achieve the target fixed.

I would like to make a brief mention of the major aspects of this year's budget. Several hon. Members have expressed their views in the matter. Firstly the percentage of bank loans in the agriculture sector is being increased from 17 percent to 18 percent. An additional amount of Rs. 4000/- crore will be given as loans this year. The rate of interest has been reduced from 14 percent to 12 percent on loans between Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 25,000. The farmers who are engaged in poultry-farming have been given 33-1/3 percent exemption in income-tax to encourage poultry farming. Excise duty on skimmed milk, powder and condensed milk has been reduced from 15 percent to 10 percent. Duty has been reduced from 90 percent to 40 percent on fishing nets and related allied machinery imported from abroad to encourage fishermen and to enable them to achieve success in their occupation.

A special programme for the production and development of seeds was announced in September, 1988 by the Hon. Prime Minister. It is expected that new varieties of seeds of vegetables, fruits and flowers will be developed under this programme and that the import duty on machinery and other inputs required for the production and processing of fruits and vegetables has been fixed at 40 percent ad valorem. Similarly, the rate of duty on poultry feed or on the amino acid seeds has been reduced from 147.25 percent to 70 percent. You are aware, that subsidies were hitherto being given on fertilisers. In 1980-81 the amount of subsidy given for this purpose was Rs. 1,179 crores. In 1988-89 it went up to Rs. 4,343 crores and this year it will go up to Rs. 5,173 crores. I think that the steps which have been taken by the Hon. Prime Minister for increasing the production will have their positive effect and the farmers will be more successful in their efforts to increase agricultural production.

[Sh. Shyam Lal Yadav]

The House is aware that due to the drought conditions, our foodgrain production fell down considerably last year but this reduction was much less than what was apprehended. This reduction was only by 3.5 per cent as compared to that in 1986-87. The drought situation was tackled by formulating a special programme which helped in lessening the severity of drought. This shows that our agriculture has become resilient and a stage has been reached where we are able to tackle this kind of crisis effectively. The contribution of the farmers in controlling the drought situation has been praiseworthy. Sir, as I have already stated, the success achieved on the agriculture front in 1988-89 makes all of us feel proud of it. As regards the various special programmes formulated for the progress of agriculture, the Hon. Prime Minister has laid special emphasis in this connection on having effective control over monsoons by collecting full information in this matter and disseminate the same from time to time to the persons concerned; to provide irrigation facilities to those regions where such special programmes are under implementation on the basis of the productivity of land and amount of precipitation and while undertaking such programmes the particular needs of the region should be taken into account. It is with this view that 15 agro-climatic regions have been set up and which have been further sub-divided into smaller parts. The Agro-climatic regions collect information about capacity of land in respect of its productivity, irrigation facilities, amount of rainfall etc. Action is taken after giving a serious thought to all these aspects. A senior vice-Chancellor of an Agricultural University has been made the incharge of each of such zones who advises the farmers as to what to do in the given circumstances and suggests to the Government as to what sort of assistance should it give to them after taking into account the requirements and the deficiencies of the respective areas.

Next, I would like to take up the issue of fixation of support price for the agricultural

products by the Government. Several hon. Members have raised it inside as well as outside the House and it has been a topic of frequent discussion. Different support prices for wheat and oilseeds etc. have been suggested by the parties and the individuals but they have not taken those practical aspects into consideration on the basis of which such prices are determined. That is why the nomenclature of the Agricultural Price Commission has now been changed to Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission under the instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister and it determines the support price after taking into account the agricultural produce and the cost of such production. Since last 3 or 4 years, under the instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister, support prices are announced far in advance of the sowing of the crops so that the farmers are able to choose their crops taking in view the support prices fixed by the Government. Another very important measure which has been taken by our Hon. Prime Minister, is that 3 out of the 6 Members of the Agricultural Cost and Price Commission are the representatives of farmers so that the views of the farmers are taken into account and the recommendations are made on that basis. The Agricultural Costs and Price Commission determines the cost of various foodgrains after taking into consideration the cost of agricultural inputs, the fluctuation in prices of the agricultural inputs, the extent of parity between the production cost and prices of other essentials required for personal use, the market rates, the supply and demand position, the parity in the rates of one kind of crop with another, the effect which the new prices would have on the cost of the industrial products, on the rates in the general market, on the cost of living in general and on the prices in the international market. Apart from all this, the parity between the support price and the price which the farmer pays for buying things of his daily needs is also taken into account. After considering all these aspects the Commission sends its proposals to the Central Government. The Central Government declares the support price after consulting the State Government in this matter and after looking into the fact that the

farmers are able to get reasonable margin of profit after incurring all the necessary expenditure. Efforts are made to declare such prices which may provide reasonable margin of profit to the farmers. Thus, this Commission looks into all these aspects.

In this connection one thing is repeatedly said that the production costs of the farmers are increasing rapidly but the support price which is determined by the Government is not increasing equally. Hence the question arises as to what is meant by production expenses? The Commission in fact, takes into account all sorts of expenses incurred by the farmers. For example, the expenses of maintaining hired labour, the cost of buying cattle or the recurring expenditure incurred thereon if taken on hire. The cost of purchasing or hiring pump-sets, tractors, machines such as crushers etc. and the labour charges incurred on operating them is also taken into consideration by the Commission. Further, the cost of the seeds, whether grown in his own fields or bought from outside, cost of pesticides and natural or chemical fertilisers whether prepared by himself or bought from the market, and agricultural implements are also taken into account. In addition, the cost of providing irrigation facilities, the expenses involved in the payment of land revenue, repayment of loans, payment of interest on working capital and on capital assets excluding land are also taken into consideration. Sir, the incidental value of land is also determined and taken into account. The cost of labour is also included in such evaluation.

Thus, there is not a single expense incurred by the farmers for raising various crops which is not taken into account while determining the support price. Therefore, I think that this charge is baseless or is levelled out of ignorance that farmers are not being paid remunerative prices. In fact, all these things are considered before determining the support price.

To illustrate my point, I would like to submit that the support price of arhar, moong and urad for this year has been fixed Rs. 35

more than the last year's price. Similarly, the prices of oil seeds, pulses etc. are also increased every year. The price of groundnut has also been increased by Rs. 40 per quintal. The price of sunflower has been enhanced by Rs. 60, and that of rapeseed and mustard has been hiked by Rs. 30 per quintal.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): In relation to other prices?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: In relation to the prices of the same commodity of the previous year.

[Translation]

Sir, I would like to make one more point. It has been demanded many times that all the agricultural products should be purchased at support price. Rice and wheat is purchased by FCI or other bodies but the purchase of other items is made by NAFED on behalf of the Central Government. Apart from this, as the hon. Member from Kerala was saying just now that the prices of coconut produced in his State or in Karnataka, prices of potatoes produced in Uttar Pradesh or prices of onions produced in Maharashtra are falling is a fact. It is under consideration of the Government to fix the support price for coconut. I hope that an early decision will be taken in this matter. But so far as the question of market intervention is concerned, we are considering to do it through NAFED. In this connection as I had stated in this House a week ago that a decision shall be taken shortly in this regard.

Similarly NAFED is doing market intervention for eggs. The difference between market intervention and support price is that in case of the former half of the loss is borne by the State Government while in case of the latter the entire loss is borne by the Central Government. State Governments who want market intervention for foodgrains produced in their State should adopt this programme.

[Sh. Shyam Lal Yadav]

Sir, the new Seed Policy announced for raising agricultural output is very encouraging and shall be of tremendous benefit to farmers. The Government aims at increasing seed production and producing high quality seeds. The farmers of today are more aware and demand newer variety of seed every year unlike in the past when they used seeds of their own. The Government also tries to meet this demand. A total of 56.30 lakh tons of seeds were distributed in 1987-88, 56.80 lakh tons were distributed in 1988-89 and a target of 70 lakh tons has been set for 1989-90. This includes oil-seeds and cereals. State Governments also supply seeds to farmers. There should be an increase in the production of quality seeds and farmers should be able to produce their own seeds. This will fulfill their needs.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: And there should be no adulteration in the seeds.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Efforts are made to ensure that there is no adulteration and action is taken if such cases come to light.

Sir, special emphasis has been given to animal husbandry. This will not only generate employment but also augment the income of the people production of milk has increased as a result of this. Milk production has increased from 440 lakh tons in 1985-86 to 487 lakh tons in 1988-89. N.D.D.B. has been a major contributor in the milk production programme Co-operative Societies have also contributed to the success of this programme. I request all hon. Members to strengthen this programme through co-operative societies in their respective constituencies, to take more interest in animal husbandry programmes and to follow the example set by co-operative societies in Anand.

There has been a lot of development in the fisheries sector also. The fish catch was 31.34 lakh tons in 1988-89 as compared to 28.76 lakh tons in 1985-86. Special emphasis is being given to sea and fresh water fishing in our country. This will be of great help to traditional fishermen.

Sir, continuous efforts are being made to acquaint the farmers with new farming techniques. Extensive publicity is being given to the Lab-to-Land programme. The 'Training-and-Visit' programme being run for the farmers has been very successful wherever it has been introduced. Recently from 25th March to 10th April a National Agriculture Fair was held at New Delhi's Pragati Maidan. Nearly 1.5 lakh farmers from all over the country attended this Fair such events evoke an awareness among farmers. We hope more such Fairs will be organised for the benefit of farmers. Recently the hon. Prime Minister dedicated a Super computer to the nation, for making long-term weather forecasts. Accordingly, farmers can space the sowing of crop and also take preventive measures to save their standing crops against natural calamities. This programme has been successfully implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture. The Department has been very prompt in giving assistance to areas affected by flood on drought. Concerted efforts have been made to implement various schemes within the time-limit set for each. Teams visit States in response to reports or memoranda received. The Government considers the team's recommendations and tries to send assistance within one month. Last year the hon. Prime Minister personally toured the drought-affected areas and directed relief operations. The Ministry of Agriculture has made remarkable progress under the able leadership of the hon. Agriculture Minister. I am sure the Agriculture Department will fulfill its obligations towards the nation and its farmers, under the direction of the hon. Prime Minister. I congratulate the officers and staff of the Agriculture Department for their untiring efforts towards increasing agricultural output.

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, only 2-3 minutes are left. I hope, next time I shall get an opportunity to speak at length. Sir, several hon. Members have spoken before me on agriculture. Everyone, be they from the Opposition or from the Congress (I), has praised the developments in the agricultural sector. I too express my appreciation for the same. Both the Centre and the States have given special attention to agriculture. More funds are being allocated for agriculture and allied sectors. Greater technical assistance is being provided as compared to the past and I congratulate the Central Government and the hon. Agriculture Minister for this welcome step. What is more important, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, is that there has been a change in the thinking of the farmer. The farmers of today are more open to new ideas and technologies than their predecessors. Progress in the agricultural sector has been possible due to a combination of the Government's desire to help farmers and an eagerness on the part of farmers to accept that help. Till recently the rural populace shied away from adopting new ideas. But now the farmer watches television and listens to the radio with rapt attention, to educate himself and for subsequent application of the knowledge he acquires. This is a good omen for Indian agriculture. With the Government behind them the farmers can certainly improve their lot.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue on 19th April.

15.30 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Sixty-fourth Report

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUNDERWATI NAWAL PRABHAKAR (Karol Bagh): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolution presented to the House on the 11th April, 1989."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Sixty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 11th April, 1989."

The motion was adopted

12.30 1/2 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: MEASURES TO CONTROL POPULATION EXPLOSION—
 CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi on the 31st March, 1989 on Measures to control population explosion. Shri Ajiz Qureshi may continue his speech. He is not present in the House. Shri Jatav please.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena): I rise to support the Resolution regarding measures to control population explosion moved by Dr. Bhoi. Today it is essential to have a small family as it will help in checking the extra-ordinary growth of population in our country. If a family of 4 brothers has 25 bighas of land and this land is divided among them, it becomes difficult for them to earn their livelihood. This leads to unemployment and educated village youth are unable to get jobs. While once again expressing my sup-