

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : The seeds of secessionism will not be allowed to be germinated in Punjab and terrorism will be rooted out from there. We will mobilise all sorts of resources needed for that. Along with it, our hon. Prime Minister is of the opinion that if anybody wants to hold talks within the frame work of the Constitution and ensuring the unity and integrity of the country, Government will not discourage him but in the process the unity and integrity of the country will not be allowed to get jeopardised. In order to maintain the unity and integrity of the country and to restore peace in Punjab, we shall take stringent measures, no matter how expensive or harsh they may be. We will root out terrorism from the soil of Punjab. It is our firm determination and for that we seek your cooperation.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, I have a point of order. My point of order is that under 193 discussion, a point was raised with regard to the recent spurt in the killings in Punjab and deployment of sophisticated weapons like rockets. The Minister in his reply did not answer to these points at all.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, there is no point of order. Now discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

13.43 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89—
Contd.

Ministry of Agriculture—Contd.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhunjharpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the proposed demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture... (Interruptions).

Though the Centre is giving crores of rupees as grants to the States for agricultural development, yet it does not have any control over them. When the Constitution was framed 37 or 38 years ago, it was not

envisaged that State Governments would not be accountable for the funds which it would receive from the Centre.

I do not follow the trodden path in my submissions and therefore perhaps, what I submit may give rise to controversies. But whatever I say will be in the interest of the country.

The Central Government repeatedly asked the State Governments to implement land reforms but they did not pay any heed to it. There are still people including the persons holding/ministerial post in many States who possess huge areas of land. These *benami* possessions are in the names of other people.

13.46 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

When the issue of land ceiling comes up, these people want to evade the topic. People have got *benami* land in the names of their relatives and servants even in the names of their pet dogs and cats. What can be more shameful than it? I, therefore, urge upon that this matter should be given a serious thought. One of the major factors behind the growing social tension and formation of many 'senas' is attributed to the absence of land reforms. When this matter comes up, no one is found to be interested to implement it. I want to submit that C.B.I. is sent to investigate into the cases wherever State Police is failed to make any breakthrough. Similarly, Government should set up a machinery in the name of Central Bureau of Agricultural Crime Investigation which would identify persons who have got *benami* land and after identification such persons should be given suitable punishment. As in the case of Income-tax evasion, the persons who give information are given a certain percentage of the amount of tax recovered, similarly, if any person gives information about *benami* land, he should be given a reward of 5 or 10 per cent of the value of land. This is not a joke because only by taking such a measure can this thing be stopped.

Today, Government swears by the name of socialism and wants to bring socialism in the country, but if the above steps are not

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

taken the situation will not change and people will lose faith in the Government.

I want to submit about problem of bonded labour in the rural areas. Everyone will accept that there is a section of people, who are compelled to work as bonded labourers because their fathers and grand-fathers happened to work as such. This should be discussed from a new angle. A detailed discussion can be held separately on the new point which I have made. What I mean to say is that unless land reforms are implemented seriously, we cannot have any development in the agricultural field.

Secondly, it was written in the Annual Report of 1987-88 and I quote—

[English]

“Scarcity Relief and Management of National Calamities :”

[Translation]

Under this heading, three-fourth of it has been devoted to drought whereas a very large area in the country has been affected by floods which is a problem more serious than drought. Every year floods occur in the country and causes damage worth crores of rupees but no permanent solution has been found so far. People become helpless but there is none to solve their problem. Last year, Bihar, Bengal, Orissa, Assam and all other Eastern States faced unprecedented floods. People were rendered penniless and began to starve. It is, ofcourse, essential to fight drought, but it is more essential to control floods. If you have gone through the report of W.H.O., you might be aware of the fact that a large part of Asia is facing a shortage of foodgrains and its forecast is that it will face a more severe crisis this year and the year to come. Some countries of Asia like Indonesia have been affected by drought or some of them like Bangladesh, Vietnam and Taiwan by floods. The places which once produced surplus foodgrains are passing through a phase of foodgrain crisis and will likely to be remain so this year also. I say with it full emphasis under my command that this year also we shall be in the grip of drought and floods. You should

give importance to the agricultural sector but it is more important that advance measures be taken to save flood prone areas like eastern parts of India. Last year, floods occurred as many as 5 times in North Bihar. People were ruined, crops were destroyed and there was a huge loss of life and property. Seeds were sown four times but were washed away everytime for no fault of their. In this connection, my suggestion is that in the flood prone areas crop insurance schemes should be implemented and the premium of insurance should be paid either by the Central Government or the State Government concerned. This will ensure that they get a compensation when their crops are damaged or their property is destroyed by some natural calamity. There are certain Central projects, for example the Kosi and the Gandak projects, which are under implementation for years together. The initial cost was Rs. 20 crores but Rs. 300 crores have already been spent on it. Yet the project is not complete so far.

The politicians, bureaucrats, engineers and contractors have become millionaires during the course of this project's implementation. Even last year I mentioned it during the debate that some one should find out as to where the money was is being drained out. In fact, everyone is aware where it is going to. It is a sheer injustice with the masses of this country that we go on imposing taxes on our population, or resort to deficit financing to mobilise funds and the money so mobilised is usurped by a handful of unscrupulous persons. I would also like to add that the remunerative price for farmers is being discussed widely today. People are gradually shifting towards other professions and leaving agriculture. This is happening only because the farmers do not get reasonable return from their produce as compared to their investment made on inputs like seeds, manure and labour. The area from which I hail was chiefly a jute-producing area and jute was also exported from here. Today people have stopped growing jute there because they are unable to get its remunerative price. Whenever I raised this issue in the House the Government has always tried to drift the matter on the one or the other pretext. The need of the hour, therefore, is that they should get remunerative price. Incentive must be given to farmers irrespective of fact that they grow

jute, sugarcane, wheat, rice, oilseed or pulses, otherwise a time will come when there will be such a scarcity that you will have to import foodgrains and other agriculture produce from other countries.

In the end I would like to submit that a number of incentives have been provided to the agricultural labourers but they are unaware about the same. Today television sets have reached each village and, therefore, you should propagate through Doordarshan the various incentives you have provided to the marginal agriculturist. The provisions of the 20 point programme should be implemented properly. We should understand that agriculture is the backbone of our country and new ideas should be brought in this field.

[English]

SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH (Bulandshahr) : Madam Chairman : I am happy that after the lapse of a very long time, Government's attention has again been focussed on Agriculture as is evident from this year's budgetary allocations as well as from the mid-term appraisal of the 7th Plan, that report too, I understand, lays great stress on agricultural production, and it has recommended that top-most priority should be given to agriculture in the remaining two years of the Plan period. All this goes to show how much importance is now being given to agriculture ; and that is how it should be, because as it was rightly said by the hon. Member here and many others, agriculture is still the backbone of the country's economy. In spite of the fact that we have made tremendous strides in industrial production, in technology, in nuclear science and all the rest, the fact remains that this country is predominantly agricultural ; and so long as that backbone i.e. agriculture remains healthy, the country will be healthy and there will be prosperity in the country. So, from that point of view, I am very happy that the Government has taken note of that reality.

After the success of the Green Revolution, unfortunately we become complacent once again on the agricultural front, and we thought at that time that probably our food problem had been solved for all times to come. Unfortunately, that presumption has

proved to be incorrect. Had we succeeded in keeping down our population side by side with progress in agriculture and in other directions, we might have been in a better position, than we are in, today. But because of the tremendous rise in population and the stagnation on the agricultural front, we have now found ourselves in a rather difficult position ; and this difficult position has been accentuated by the recent drought which played havoc with our economy and our agricultural production. Today we are faced with a difficult position and some very drastic steps will have to be taken to increase our agricultural production.

I welcome the measures and the steps which the Government has already taken in this regard. The division of the country into sixteen agro-climatic zones, I think, is a very good step, and a step in the right direction. This will enable our farm scientists and administrators to draw plans and formulas etc. for raising production, in each particular zone taking into consideration the soil conditions, irrigation potential available there, and the need of the farmers in that area, rather than talk in general terms and prescribe something for universal application—which does not do as much good as this specific plan would do.

Secondly, I welcome the appointment of an Expert Committee, with Dr. Alagh its Chairman which has been entrusted with the work of drawing up a new strategy for raising food production.

14.00 hrs.

I welcome that measure very much indeed. In this connection, I am told that a conference or a seminar was held very recently, which was addressed by our hon. Agricultural Minister. In his key note address, he did point out some key areas where there is a need for attention and where there is a need for strengthening those areas. In his key address, he mentioned about proper water management ; secondly, supply of good quality seeds ; help to farmers ; better prices to farmers ; increase in the use of fertilisers by 20 kgs. per hectare ; reclamation of degraded land and rapid development of dry land farming technology. These were the key areas pointed out by the hon. Minister himself and they require a lot of attention and

[Shri Surendra Pal Singh]

strengthening. I only wish that he had mentioned two more items, then the whole scenario would have been complete and those two items in my opinion are : first, fast depleting forest cover in our country—which is also playing havoc to our climate and affecting our food production, and second a large population of useless cattle in our country—which is competing with human beings for survival and a large chunk of our land is now being utilised as reserve for feeding them. Such cattle are not contributing as much to our economy as they should.

Regarding supply of quality seeds, we are aware of the fact that the Green Revolution was ushered into our country because our scientists were able to produce and develop new variety of seeds. Prior to that, production was stagnant ! But no sooner did this scheme come into use, our production went up and we had a Green Revolution in the country. So, the role which a good quality seed plays in increasing food production is really very praiseworthy. In this connection, I would like to say that, today, after 20—25 years of our efforts in this direction, we are deficient in seeds. Even the hon. Minister of Agriculture himself admitted the other day that we are able to supply only 42 per cent of the demand of the farmers. So, my first request in this connection will be that we should do everything possible to produce more and more quality seeds so that all our farmers in the country are able to utilise good quality seeds and they do not have to use old seeds which do not produce as much as the new seeds produce. Side-by-side there should be efforts and a direction should be given to our scientists that now a time has come when they should develop better seeds than what we have today for the future. The seed which was developed 20—25 years ago has begun to deteriorate ; its response is not the same as it was at that time. So, if you want that there should be an increase in production, you have to develop new seeds and that exercise should go side by side with the production of our old seeds.

Regarding help to small farmers, it is a very important matter, which many hon. Members referred to. Of course, I do not

subscribe to the theory that there are big farmers and small farmers ; there can be affluent farmers and poor farmers. There are about 70—80 per cent of our farmers who are poor and they do not have the means and the wherewithal or the necessary financial help to produce as much as affluent farmers can do. So, it is very essential that these 70—80 per cent of our farmers who own about 40 per cent of our agricultural land, their per acre yield should be raised or should come up to the same level as that of the affluent farmers. Today, it is half of what the big farmers are producing. If by helping these farmers we can increase their per acre yield to the same level as is being obtained by the bigger farmers, then straightway our food production will go up by at least 20 per cent. It is not that these small farmers do not know what to do or they do not know the technique. The only thing is that they lack in financial resources and other inputs and wherewithal to produce more and they have to depend entirely on the cooperative sector and the Government agencies, which, unfortunately, are not able to give them all the things they need in time and in the quantity that they require.

If you want the production of small farmers to increase, you would have to gear up and strengthen the governmental and cooperative agencies so that they are able to provide to small peasants all the necessary inputs and financial help for increasing their production. Here often it has been said that small farmers in Japan and China have done very well indeed. I maintain that our farmers are just as good as the Japanese and Chinese. They know how to increase their production provided we give them the requisite help and assistance to enable them to do so. All this needs special attention.

About better price to farmers, Mr. Rajhans has also mentioned about it a little while ago. This point is being stressed by practically every farm expert and farm lobby. The farmers should be given better prices. The prices should not only cover their cost of production but they should also be given a fair amount of profit so that they can take care of their other needs. After all, they have got to feed their children. They have got to educate them. They have got to marry their daughters. For all these

things, they require extra money. Unless and until we can give them a fair price, we cannot improve their financial position. Unless that is done, you cannot bring prosperity in the rural sector. I think, this is very important and a fair price to the farmers should be given.

Now, I will refer to the cattle population once again. Roughly the cattle population of this country is half of human population. According to an FAO report, 60 per cent of our cattle are useless. As I said earlier, one would not mind if this large population of cattle was making useful contribution to our economy. But they are neither good for milk nor meat nor as draught animals. And we have to reserve a very large area of our land for feeding these useless cattle. Now, my suggestion in that regard would be that we should do something to put a curb on this rising cattle population and reduce this population as far as possible. Keeping into account the religious susceptibilities of various groups of our country, we cannot take very drastic measures to curb the population. What we should do is to sterilise all the scrub bulls and males of other species. Once we do that, the undesirable population would automatically go down. Thereby we will be saving our land for food production.

Now, I will refer to degradation of land. I think, the hon. Minister of Agriculture is aware that out of total cultivable land of 266 million hectares nearly 175 million hectares of land has either been degraded completely or is in the process of being degraded. This is a big loss. As I said, land is our great natural resource and we just cannot afford to lose it. Therefore, something drastic has to be done to see that the degraded land is reclaimed as early as possible and made useful if not for crop cultivation, at least for growing grass or shrubs which can be utilised for feeding cattle. And we shall also stop further degradation. For that proper agricultural practices must be adopted.

We are making use of fertilisers without finding out the quality of the soil as to what our soil needs. It results in over application of fertilisers.

Besides that, our farmers keep on raising

those crops year after year which are very heavy feeders on nutrients, with the result that we are taking more from the soil than putting back into it. We never allow our land to remain fallow or put some farm yard manure into it, to build up its fertility and humus. As a result of wrong agricultural practices the soil is getting impoverished.

Madam, at this rate, our agricultural land may become alkalined and barren.

Madam, I will take only two more minutes.

Dry land farming is another important thing. Nearly two third of our foodgrains are produced in dry land farms today and sixty per cent of our agricultural land falls within arid zone. The production there depends entirely on rainfall. Because of the vagaries of the weather, the production fluctuates from year to year; sometimes good, sometimes bad, and it is more bad than good. We have to evolve a technology, whereby we can raise the production in the dry land farms and stabilise it so that we do not have to depend on monsoon so much. In this connection, some very good work has been done in Dry Land Institute, Hyderabad. But, I am told that the problem has not been solved completely and our scientists have not been able to find an answer at all. Whatever little work they have done that has also not reached farmers because the local extension service have not cooperated.

I would like to tell one more thing. Our agricultural schemes sponsored by the Central Government can only succeed if there is complete cooperation between the State Governments and the Centre. This is a concurrent subject. All the proposals and schemes have to be carried out by the States for which the State Government's cooperation is very much necessary. I think, we should really make efforts in this regard and impress upon State Governments the need for their fullest cooperation. A sort of harmonious relationship between the State Government Agencies and the Central Government has to be established so that all our proposals and schemes can be carried out properly.

With these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI SODE RAMAIAH (Bhadra-chalam) : Madam Chairperson, my constituency Bhadrachalam was worst affected by the floods in 1986. The damage was to such an extent that the farmers in the area had lost everything that they had and are yet to recover from the heavy burden of loans. They are in a helpless situation now. Similarly, the entire area was affected by the worst ever drought in 1987-88. The crops withered away. Though the farmers succeeded in raising the crops at some places, they had to suffer heavily as there were no remunerative prices for their produce. The cotton, mirch and tobacco growers suffered a very heavy loss and they are now in a helpless position. Hence the Government of India should take steps to write off all the loans of these farmers and see that new loans are granted to them by State Bank of India. This way the farmers can be rescued from their present miserable position. The Government should also extend timely help to them to raise new crops.

Khammam, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts are predominantly tribal areas. Much of the area in these districts is an Agency area where there is a dense tribal population. Hence the Government of India should conduct a thorough survey of these areas and taking appropriate schemes under the integrated Tribal Area Development Programme for the around development of these backward areas. This is the best way to help the tribal people in these areas. The surplus land of landlords should be taken over and distributed among the poor and the landless. Necessary pattas should be issued to make them legal owners of the land. All possible help should be extended to these poor people for cultivating the land given by the Government.

Sir, there is a land dispute between the rich landlords and poor people in Bhimolu in West Godavari district. The dispute is pending before the Supreme Court now. The Government should see that the dispute is resolved in favour of the poor and justice is done to them. The poor should get the land. Similarly the Pattas should be issued to the tillers in Visakhapatnam

district.

The rivers Shabari and Godavari flow through Khammam, East Godavari and West Godavari districts. These rivers are perennial rivers. If the lift irrigation schemes are taken up on both sides of these rivers, it will boost agricultural production. The farmers will be able to raise all sorts of crops. The entire area will prosper. Hence necessary steps should be taken to conduct a survey for introducing lift irrigation schemes on these rivers.

Due to unprecedented drought the agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh has gone down very much. There were no good crops this year. Hence the Government should take steps to ensure supply of rice, wheat and other essential commodities etc. to the affected people.

New factories should be located in the Manyam area, so that the drought affected people there can get their livelihood.

An Aluminium Plant at Krishna Devipeta in Bhadrachalam Constituency with Soviet assistance has been sanctioned long ago. But the construction work has not been taken up so far. Hence, steps must be taken to start construction work of this plant immediately. It will help the drought hit people of the area. Due compensation should be paid to the people whose land has been acquired for this purpose. Employment should be provided to the local people.

The country is facing an unprecedented drought. It is the worst ever drought in this century. The farmers in the country are now facing too many problems. Life has become miserable for them. But ignoring all this, the Government, instead of spending money for the welfare of the farmers, is spending lavishly on meaningless ceremonies and functions. Very recently a function was organised at Asiad Village Complex, New Delhi to celebrate the 40th anniversary of India's independence and 100th Birth anniversary of Late Pandit Nehru. The programme was organised by the Fertilizer Industry. Only 100 invitees belonging to Public Sector and Cooperative Sector had participated in this function. A

dancer was flown from Calcutta specially for this programme and Rs. 5 lakhs were paid for her expenses. Government Companies such as NFL, IFFCO, KRIBHCO, RCF etc. contributed Rs. 5 lakhs each for this function. It is most unfortunate that when the country is facing a natural calamity of gigantic proportion, the Public Sector Fertilizer industries choose to spend money recklessly on such functions. Similarly, Madam, Rs. 50 lakhs were spent on inaugural ceremony of a water treatment Plant at Aonla. The total cost of this water treatment Plant was around Rs. one crore only. Rs. 50 lakhs were spent on the inauguration of a Plant which costs only Rs. one crore. Yet, in another instance, the annual management Conference of KRIBHCO was held recently at Surat instead of New Delhi where its headquarters are located. Nearly Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs were spent on this Conference. All these instances show how lavishly the Government is spending the money of the people on functions and ceremonies. Had this money been spent on the welfare of the poor farmers and in creating new irrigation potential, it would have helped the farmers immensely. Madam, the Government should stop such wasteful expenditure. The money should be spent on the farmers and their welfare. Then only the country will prosper and the farmer will prosper.

With these words I thank you very much and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA (Hoshangabad) : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Agriculture Department. At the outset, I thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture, his junior Ministers and the concerned officials who under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi tackled the severest drought of the century in such a manner that neither the farmers nor the masses of our nation could ever realize its impact. They indeed deserve to be congratulated for the same. Those who still say that nothing has been done in the field of agriculture, are perhaps interested in seeing the world blind folded. On hearing their views I am reminded of one of the interviews of late Shri Jagjivan Ram, which was given to a magazine published on the eve of Congress Centenary year. In that

interview he stated in a highly emotional tone that when 10 to 15 years back during his tenure as the Agriculture Minister, there was a scarcity of ration, and whenever he visited abroad to ask for food grains, the heads of the foreign states refused to even meet him. They said that a beggar had come to beg foodgrains from them. Now situation has totally changed. Today our Minister of Agriculture goes to South African countries and other countries, he proudly says that if there is any nation in the grip of starvation, then India can readily provide foodgrains to it. I once again want to thank our Minister of Agriculture for our agriculture policies.

Now I want to make some request through you to the hon. Minister. A lot of reliefs have been given to the farmers in the Budget which has come recently. But keeping the current price-rise in view, this relief has failed to make any impact. Therefore, I feel that there is a need to give even more reliefs. It is most ironical that the commodities produced by the farmer yield cheaper rates, whereas commodities which he purchases are available to him at a higher price. Even the raw material like the oil seeds etc. grown by him are sold at a very cheaper rates. The same oil seeds when transformed into oil is sold at a very high rate. Same is the case with pulses. Therefore, I should like to request you that this inequality which has arisen should be removed so that farmers may get the maximum price for their produce.

Today, the farmer wants to adopt advanced method of agriculture, but the problem arises when he goes to buy pipe, tractor or any other agricultural implements in the market. He has to pay as much as Rs. 110 thousand for buying a tractor and similarly the other farm equipments such as Diesel machine, pump and pipe etc. are all available at an exorbitant price. In case he wants to irrigate his land with the help of sprinkler-system, then that too is quite expensive. He is interested in adopting advanced agricultural implements in his cultivation but these implements have become so expensive that he is unable to afford them. I request you to make some such rule that just as money is given under self-employment or other such Schemes, or just as 25 per cent subsidy and other such subsidy is provided

[Shri Rameshwar Neekhra]

to the backward districts, similarly a provision should also be made for the purchase of tractors and other such things. When you make provision for maximum subsidy, the farmer too will use the advanced agricultural implements. I have seen that the farmer wants to purchase high quality seeds which are produced by your Agriculture Department but they are so expensive that he feels unable to buy them. If he wants to buy wheat seeds in the market, it is available at a price as high as Rs. 700 per quintal and when the produced wheat comes to the market, it is sold at Rs. 400 per quintal only. Similarly when he goes to buy the seeds of Soyabean, oil seeds or any other seeds, he has to pay double or triple price in the market. If you want that the farmer should make use of the high quality seeds available, you will have to give them the seeds at a cheaper price, so that the poor farmers, marginal farmers and small farmers, for whom you have already made various schemes, may make use of them.

Now, I would like to draw hon. Minister of Agriculture's attention to a disparity. On the one hand the Government constructs a dam by spending many crores of rupees, dig a canal and the farmers take the canal to his farm and a band of high officials are employed to look after it. The irrigation tax of that canal in Madhya Pradesh and other places is Rs. 25 per acre. If the farmers gets a tubewell or a well sunk by taking loan from the bank, he has to pay Rs. 100—125 per acre as electricity charges, whereas the Government charges only Rs. 25 per acre for irrigation through canal. This disparity in which a farmer has to pay Rs. 100—150 as electricity charges in case he himself develops the means of irrigation should better be removed. The funds which are being spent for providing canal irrigation facilities should be spent for providing well and tubewell irrigation facilities. I also want to submit that I have seen in my own constituency that a dam on which you spend hundred of crores of rupees, gets completed after 10 years and if its cost is initially Rs. 200 crores, then, by the time it is completed, the cost touches Rs. 2,000 crores. But if you give funds to the farmers for tubewell and he spends it for the same purpose, then irrigation starts in the same month. Approximately Rs.

60,000 are spent on a shallow tubewell, and it irrigates 40 acres of land. No subsidy is yet being given for that. If you give a subsidy of 50 per cent on a shallow tubewell, then you can get immediate benefit whereas this is not the case in the dams on which you spend thousands of crores of rupees.

You have encouraged the cultivation of pulses by saying that profits will be given to those who cultivate pulses. When a farmer produces more pulses, even then the Government decides to import it from abroad and when pulses are in excess in the market, its rates get reduced. I request you that in no case you go in for import from other countries and in our own country, the moment our farmers get higher prices for the pulses, their produce will be doubled, or even four times and next year you will find that there is no need to import from other countries. Therefore, you should stop importing these and other goods.

You have done a lot of work through R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. and through R.L.E.G.P. you have given permission to the State Governments that they may build primary and middle schools in their state in case they are interested. This has surely spread education to a large extent but the situation is such that the high schools built by the Government have neither any building nor any laboratory. The same ratio which is adopted for constructing a middle school, is used for constructing a high school as well. Therefore, I request you to give permission to build high schools through R.L.E.G.P. This will surely benefit the field of education.

I want to make another request with a heavy heart. While extending my congratulation and thank to the agricultural scientists for their magnificent contribution, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a news item appeared in newspapers some days back regarding the suicide of 5-6 scientists working in the I.C.A.R. due to frustration and agony they were suffering there. I personally know a case in which a officer was how badly oppressed and harassed by the authorities and if you give me an assurance that he will not be taken to task, I can tell his name also. His name is S.K. Patel and he is at present posted at Junagarh. When he was posted at Nagpur, he was to be

confirmed in his service at that time. But he was not confirmed. He was confirmed only when he went to court to redress his grievances. But the Council made appeal against the judgment of the court in the District Court, High Court and finally in the Supreme Court. In another case also, the Indian Research Council again went against him in the Sessions Court, High Court and finally in the Supreme Court. You may ask for information of this case. The lakhs of rupees were spent on litigation so that he could be deprived of any benefit. But the Supreme Court gave its ruling in his favour and provided him relief. I want to say that the concerned officers of Indian Research Council should be held responsible for this wasteful expenditure and the amount incurred on this litigation should be recovered from the pensions of the concerned officer, if refused. No doubt, you have a very good team and I hope that with this team you will be able to check all these things.

The caterpillars have caused on extensive damage to the crops of pulses specially in Hosangabad, Narsinghpur, Raisen areas of my constituency and the crops of pulses have been completely damaged by caterpillars in just within three days. I, therefore, request you that a team should be sent to estimate the damage and the proper compensation should be given to farmers for this damage. Because the Government have encouraged them to cultivate this crop, therefore, the Government should also give them appropriate compensation for this damage.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank the chair for giving me an opportunity to speak and express myself.

[Translation]

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) :
Madam Chairman, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1988-89.

After Defence, Agriculture has been given the utmost importance by our Government. We are allocating more and more money to agriculture since 1952. The five year plans have given new enthusiasm to the life of far-

mers in the country. Much has to be done to boost the production of food grains and step up our exports.

I would like to speak on the seven very important points which are the integral aspects of progressive agriculture. They are : (1) Good quality seeds ; (2) Fertilizers and manures ; (3) Credit facilities ; (4) Irrigational facilities ; (5) insecticides and pesticides ; (6) Adoption of New technology ; and (7) Marketing facilities.

Good quality hybrid seeds and saplings have to be provided to the farmers. For this purpose more and more seed research centres have to be set up in the country. Farmers do not need our lip sympathy but they want good quality seeds. During the years 1962-65 quality hybrid seeds were supplied to farmers and there was steep increase in the agricultural production. National Seed Corporation has to take the responsibility of supplying only quality seeds. Recently in my constituency many farmers burnt their fingers. They were given very low quality seeds and the entire maize crop was a failure. Hence steps have to be taken against the bureaucrats and other connected officials who are responsible for distribution of low quality and adulterated seeds. I hope the hon. Minister will take suitable action against the culprits.

There are about 20 crores of cattle, 30 crores of sheep, and 50 crores of hens etc. Therefore, there should not be any shortage of manure. It is unfortunate that we depend upon chemical fertilizer. There is also large scale of adulteration of fertilizers. We are continuing to import fertilizers. Of course, Government is giving subsidy on fertilizers to help the farmers. This benefit of subsidy is not reaching farmers and only the factory owners of these fertilizers are deriving the benefits. This has to be avoided and steps should be taken to see that the farmers get all the benefit of subsidy.

Many farmers are not getting the loans from banks. Some farmers are asked to wait for years to get their loans. There are cases where loans have been sanctioned after the crops yield has been obtained by the

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

[Shri G.S. Basavaraju]

farmer. In such cases farmers pledge the jewelry and obtain loan from money lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest. I urge upon the hon. Minister of Finance to come to the rescue of farmers and to direct the bank officials to help the farmers. The Co-operative Societies and the banks have to come forward with liberal credit facilities.

Irrigational facilities play a vital role in the field of agriculture. Our country has vast natural resources but less irrigational facilities. Even after 40 years of independence the percentage of irrigated land has not reached the mark thirty. We have great rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra, Narmada, Krishna and others. Water of these rivers is flowing into the sea. Several crores of rupees are being spent for development of co-ops; old Delhi. Ironically we are not in a position to spend 1300 crores of rupees to provide irrigational facilities in the country. Every year the farmer is affected either by drought or floods. There the Government should make it a point to provide irrigational facilities to at least the two acres of land per family. Jaladhara scheme, has enthused the farmers community throughout the country.

Pesticides and other medicines should be made available to the farmers. There are so many crop diseases still prevailing even today. The "root wilt" disease had destroyed the coconut trees in South India resulting in huge losses of coconut crop. Therefore, insecticides and pesticides should be distributed to the farmers at cheaper rates. Our hon. Finance Minister was mentioning about the tax concession to farmer for buying the pesticides. Unfortunately even after the announcement of concession by our Government many of the merchants are selling the pesticides at the old rates. Steps have to be taken against such merchants who are exploiting the farmers.

New Technology must be adopted in our agriculture. If we still pursue the traditional system of agriculture, we cannot increase the agricultural production. Per hectare agricultural yield is very low in our country when compared to some of the foreign countries like China, Japan, Ireland and Denmark etc. where New technology is being adopted to

boost agricultural production. In the agricultural research institutes and in the agricultural universities technical hands have to be appointed as far as possible. Instead of appointing IAS officers in the above said institutions the Government should appoint technically trained experts at various levels.

Marketing facility plays a vital role in encouraging the farmers. The farmers in this country will be ruined if proper marketing facilities are not provided and the standard of farmers living condition will never improve. Here I would like to cite an example. The farmer sells one KG of cotton for Rs. 5 or 6. The same farmer purchases a dhoti which made of one KG cotton by paying between Rs. 55 to Rs. 100/-. By this, we can imagine the extent to which the farmer in this country is exploited by the man. I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to provide direct marketing facilities to the farmers. There should be no middle men and this should be the responsibility of the Government.

Horticulture must be encouraged throughout the country. Dripping irrigation facilities must be provided. Instead pepsicola we should propagate tender coconut water which is not only tasty but also acts like medicine. The production of mango, orange, grapes, sapota, banana and other fruits should be increased. The health of the people in the country will improve if our Government extends proper encouragement for the production of fruits instead of artificial drinks.

Animal Husbandry is another field which has been neglected since a long time. We talk about white revolution in addition to green revolution. At the same time we import certain cattle feed. Due to drought situation prevailing in the country especially in States like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and other places there is no fodder. We have to make some other alternative arrangement to look after the cattle. Otherwise the cattle will perish and ultimately the farmer will be ruined.

As it is in Gujarat hybrid varieties of cattle have to be reared in all the States. Dairy Development, poultry should get all assistance from the Government.

We are spending about 2000 crores of rupees for the rural development programme. There are several programmes for the upliftment of the poor rural masses of the country. NREP, RLEGP and other programmes have laudable objectives but it is very essential for the Government to ensure that the money reaches the poor people for whom these programmes are meant. Cottage industry should also be encouraged with all financial facilities from the Government.

Agriculture should get the top place in order of priority. I hope that the hon. Minister would do their best to help the farmers to improve their living conditions and to boost agricultural production.

Madam Chairman, I thank you for allowing me to speak and with these words I conclude.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : Madam, Chairman, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Ministry of Agriculture is a comprehensive Ministry, whose jurisdiction extends to a vast part of the country including the hilly areas, desert areas, drought affected areas and the matters concerning Horticulture etc. This is the first time that Government have paid attention to agriculture and have given some relief to farmers in the Budget, but the relief provided is too sufficient to encourage the farmers to do more work and pay their full devotion to it. The Congress Party have set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Rao Birendra Singh with regard to subsidy being given to farmers. The present Minister of Agriculture alongwith the new Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture is doing his work with full dedication and devotion, I would like to request him to withdraw the system of providing subsidy because it breeds corruption in public life. The Government is giving loans and subsidy to the small farmers of desert areas and drought effected areas under R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.P. In this regard, I am to say that the Government, instead of giving subsidy to farmers, should not charge interest on the loans provided to them. In this way, the farmers will get some relief. The farmer who irrigates his fields by canal is more lucky than the farmer who irrigates his fields by his own tubewell because the tubewell is installed by taking

loan from the Government and due to non-recovery of the loan the Government files suit against him and he has to face trials in the court. I want that Government should not charge interest on the loans because both kinds of farmers equally contribute for the development of the country. The Government have brought schemes like 'Kisan Vikas Patra,' 'Jal Dhara' and 'Kuteer Jyoti' for the welfare of farmers. I think under the 'Employment Guarantee Scheme' the Government will provide open wells for the small farmers in Maharashtra and the farmers will not be charged anything for this. But farmers will have to take loans for purchasing electric motors to draw water from the wells. We have not yet decided to treat agriculture as a capital Intensive Industry. When power is supplied, only then the industry would run. But power is not being supplied to farmers. I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to pay his attention to this regard otherwise, only the cities would progress by the 'Kisan Vikas Patra'. I am to request the Government to use these Vikas Patras for the development of farmers only which are being collected from farmers.

I, therefore, strongly make a demand that the setting up of Agro Processing Industries would be in the interests of farmers and labourers both. The Reserve Bank of India has prepared a very good scheme which requires the attention of the Government of India. To start with, the 10 per cent of the money may be given by the farmers and let the R.B.I. pay the rest 90 per cent of the amount to purchase shares. In Maharashtra, the farmers are required to contribute 500 rupees for a share of Rs. 1000. The Government should evolve a scheme whereunder 500 rupees should be made available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes farmers as interest free loan and, the rest of the money, i.e. 500 rupees, is financed by N.C.D.C.

You can see that people in a very large number are migrating from villages to cities. Mahatma Gandhi had always aspired for an ideal village. All of us always talk about the development of villages, but inspite of this the people are migrating from villages to cities. But why? I will not give data in support of it, because you will ring the bell, but I want to tell as to how the villages can

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

be developed. A panel has also been set up in the A.I.C.C. for this. You please pay your attention towards this. We could neither understand the problems of rural areas nor find out the way to solve these problems. But why? We have the political will but we should take strong steps to materialise it. As I have said earlier you will have to gear up the cooperative movement in village for this and have to reserve some industries for rural areas in the cooperative and agricultural sector on the pattern you have already reserved for small scale industries. You can reserve some small scale industries like fruit canning and Food processing etc. As many as 32 cases with regard to opening of Spinning mills in Maharashtra are pending clearance with the N.C.D.C. The farmers of Marathwada and Vidarbha regions, which are the backward areas, have managed to mobilise an amount of rupees two crore each by taking loans from banks to set up industries in cooperative sector. But the Planning Commission did not give them permission to set up industries in cooperative sector. The recovery of loans has already started. We often talk about the rural industries and the rural development but do nothing for their development. If the middleman is removed only then the farmers would flourish and their children would get education. Leave alone providing education to the children of farmers, the position in villages is so miserable that even today the village labourers, be it in drought prone areas or desert areas, have to lead their life just as a bonded labourer. Every member of the family has to go for work to earn his livelihood, leaving the oldman inside the house to look after it. The agriculture is no more a beneficial enterprise, there is only losses in it. You have set up a National Agriculture Commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Mirdha who has given many valuable suggestions. We are aware that the Ministry of Agriculture is facing constraints of funds, but you will have to do something. You are giving Rs. 3 crores more for agriculture credit but you will have to make a basic change in the agriculture credit itself. You are applying the same policy for every situation, be it for drought, irrigation, desert, drought prone areas and the flood affected areas. This is

not a good thing. You will have to prepare short term, medium term and long term policies. You will have to make some basic changes for this and will have to frame medium term policy for 12 years instead of 7 years, the long term policy for 20—25 years instead of 15 years and will have to withdraw the provision of charging interest on loan. If these policies are adopted, production would automatically increase and the inflation would be controlled. Unless these policies are adopted the villagers will continue to migrate from villages to cities to live in slums, and, we will simply indulge in making tall claims for farmers and village development. As a result, the slums will go on increasing without any medical and educational facilities. An hon. Minister has said on the other day that the Government is trying to restrict the migration of people into Delhi. The other cities like Bombay and Madras are also facing the same problem. Therefore, the Government should take it seriously and try to create employment in villages through the Cooperative Movements. If the people get employment in their villages, then what for they would come to cities? There is also the need to rationalise the price of the agricultural produce. There is also the need to reduce the prices of agriculture inputs. Another thing which I want to submit is that the Government have implemented the Land Ceiling Act in villages only and not in cities. Why this injustice has been done to villages and farmers? Is it because the urban people give more donation than the villagers? The Congress Government have promised at the time of presenting the Land Reforms Bill in Parliament that it will be implemented in villages as well as in cities also. To export the agricultural products, the FICCI and some other private sector industries want to establish 100 per cent Export Farms and they have also submitted a proposal before the Government. Each year during the course of debate on the budget I sought information from the Government with regard to it, but the Government have each time replied, "No such proposal is under the consideration of Government". I would like to know whether the Government of India would accept the proposal of FICCI or any other private industry for establishing 100 per cent Export Oriented Farms keeping in view

the trade deficit and to increase the agriculture produce. By this way, private sector wants to violate the Land Reforms' Act. Last year, I have submitted a proposal and made suggestion also that instead of creating 100 per cent 'Export Farms', the Government should choose areas and then decide as to what items are to be exported from what areas. By deciding this, the Government will be able to export agricultural produce by taking these produce directly from farmers. In the process, there will be no middlemen and the farmers will be directly benefited. The Government have also constituted climatic zones for this purpose, main purpose of setting up this zone is to export the item directly from that very State which produces it.

Farmers will themselves export some portion of their produce through cooperatives if some incentives are given. For the last three years in every session I have been raising this issue and FICCI also has been demanding the same for the last 10 years. Something needs to be done for promoting exports.

For irrigation land our demand is introduction of sprinkle and Drip irrigation systems. For this Government should give long term interest free loans, withdraw subsidy and do away with medium term facility, so that farmers find it easy to repay back the loans.

Right now, Maharashtra is facing water scarcity. Shri K.L. Rao said that there was Ganga-Kaveri Scheme. Despite a number of schemes and experts available, I regret to say that at the time of implementation nothing is seriously done. In order to achieve the target of 175 million tonnes of foodgrains, seeds, water, electricity and timely credit are required. Soft loans are provided to a particular industry by treating it as sick. But the agriculture is not considered to be an industry. In the Budget, interest on loans has been reduced by 10 per cent. Farmers are helpless, they do not have anyone to air their grievances, but when the hon. Minister is so seriously looking after the work of this Ministry, then my request to him is to formulate soft loan policy for the welfare of farmers. Some incentives should also be given to agriculture for increasing exports.

About Maharashtra I would like to submit three-four points. In the absence of coordination between research and extension, we are helpless to undertake extension work. Unless we undertake it, how the production will increase. When we approach I.C.A.R. and Agricultural University, they say it is not their responsibility it is the duty of the State Government.

14.53 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

About Maharashtra I would like to say one more thing that as far as the question of monopoly procurement of cotton is concerned, Government should immediately fix the price of cotton otherwise its price will steeply increase. Government is now importing cotton. So what is the difficulty in raising the price of domestic cotton? Farmers of India are so industrious that they can even produce double the quantity they are producing. Instead of helping the farmer, Government is importing cotton to help the mill-owners. What is the amount outstanding against the farmers. Despite concern expressed by the Government, RBI and Agriculturalist why loan is not recovered when amount of loan is not recovered, credit line is checked up. When we want to make basic changes in it, the officers of RBI say that repayment of loans is not being made. We should give a serious thought us to why repayment of loans is not being made. But we should not withhold the amount earmarked for increasing production.

This year the agricultural production is going up in Maharashtra and whole of India due to increased sugarcane production, so the price of sugarcane is required to be increased. Arrears of sugarcane payments are mounting. The hon. Minister is requested to pay attention to it, otherwise the output of sugar will go down next year. The dues outstanding against the farmers are bound to go up and the Government will also be forced to release more foreign exchange to buy sugar from abroad.

I got a negative reply each time in response to my three notices of question in the House about progress of Employment Guarantee Scheme in Maharashtra. With the money disbursed and the foodgrains

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

given as subsidy to labourers, development works are in progress under NREP, RLEGP and IRDP. Subsidised foodgrains should also be given to AGS which is as well doing development work.

In Maharashtra there is scarcity of drinking water also. There 28 thousand villages are facing the shortage of drinking water. Maharashtra is in the grip of drought for the last few years. In order to solve the problem of drinking water, Government should allocate more funds for it. In Maharashtra the State Government tried its best to tap underground water by drilling upto 300 feet but all attempts have proved futile. Government is requested to run Regional Water Supply Scheme in Maharashtra and make use of new technology. Government should make arrangement for supplying water here by bringing from far flung areas too.

In the end I will urge upon the Government to reduce the price of inputs and the things given for making investment so as to increase agricultural output. Government should also give some concession on the arrears outstanding against farmers.

With these words I support the demands for Grant of the Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : I am supporting the demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. This year's Budget has taken good care of the farm sector. I am happy that the Government has realised that if the farm sector fails the economy of the country fails. This is more than clear when natural calamities like drought occur as it happened this year. If there is sufficient foodgrains in our granaries there is nothing to fear. But for that the interest of the farmer has to be protected. This is exactly what the Government has tried to do. I am happy that this year the allocation for agriculture has been raised by 40% and I am sure the farmers of this country will feel encouraged to produce more.

It is true that we have brought about revolutionary changes in the agricultural production through green revolution. Production

has increased and we were even in a position to export foodgrains. While all this is true, it is also a fact that our per hectare production is very low. According to a study conducted in 1983 the per hectare production in India in respect of wheat was 1848 kgs. whereas the best production in the world was 7292 kgs. Ireland created this record. The world average of wheat productivity was 2144 kgs. We occupied the 31st position in wheat productivity. In respect of rice too our productivity is very low. In the same year, the best production in rice was 6364 kgs. which was in South Korea and the world average was 3004 kgs. India's production was only 2024 kgs. This reality must open our eyes.

If, with this production and productivity we have a surplus, in only means that our people do not have enough capacity to purchase the foodgrains. But then that is another problem which does not directly concern the Minister for Agriculture. Therefore, we must concentrate on increasing productivity. That alone is going to solve the problem of shortage of foodgrains. Although the shortage of foodgrains is not an immediate problem, it can become a serious problem if the drought condition comes back and the crops dry up. Therefore, a long term policy should be evolved and implemented to increase the productivity of cereals and pulses at least to the level of the world average.

Sir, a lot of criticism is heard about the pricing policy in respect of agricultural commodities. The farmers of this country are very unhappy over the low price they get for their produce. The Government fixes the prices and it is claimed that the cost of production is taken into account while fixing the prices. But the farmers are not fully convinced about it. I would suggest that an independent commission be appointed to study the different aspects of the pricing of agricultural produce more thoroughly and suggest a flexible approach towards fixing the prices.

15.00 hrs.

Last year, we faced the severest drought in the country and the long term impact of this drought is going to be felt in the years to come. In respect of paddy, wheat etc., the

impact can be neutralised in the next season. But there are certain crops on which the impact of drought lasts longer and the growers of these crops suffer for a longer period. For example, coconut, pepper, arecanuts etc. Once these crops are damaged, the grower has to wait for many years after replantation to get any yield. This creates serious problems for the growers. Most of them are small and marginal farmers owning 2 hectare or less. A very large number of them depend entirely on the income from their plantation crops. So if they are damaged they will be left with no income at all. This problem has not been sufficiently appreciated by the Government at the Centre. Already the coconut trees are affected by the root-wilt disease which has destroyed a very large number of trees. Although some research has been done to prevent this disease no break-through has been achieved. My feeling is that enough is not being done in this regard. When apple was affected by some disease it was declared a national disease and the Government had taken all steps to protect the apple crop. But the same eagerness and sense of urgency has not been shown in tackling the problem created by coconut disease. Coconut is not less important than apple. Therefore, I request the Government to give more funds for research and if necessary involve international research organisations in finding a remedy for the coconut disease.

Sir, there was a demand for fixing a floor price for coconut. The Government has agreed to consider that. But it has not been done so far. In fact, the problem is that the poor coconut growers of Kerala do not have a lobby in Delhi and that is why their problems do not get adequate attention. The Government must pay attention to the problems of farmers wherever they are and whatever crops they grow.

Fisheries is an important sector which needs more attention. Kerala has a great potential in this and a very low percentage of its potential has been used. Marine products are a good foreign exchange earner. More fishing trawlers should be imported for the further exploitation of the marine resources. Japan, Korea, etc. have made great advance in marine exploitation but we are lagging far behind. We must also protect the interests of the fishermen. I thank the

Government for the decision taken in regard to the import duty of outboard motors. This will really help the fishermen to improve their condition. A more purposeful plan should be chalked out for fisheries in Kerala.

Finally I want to say a word about the crop insurance. This is a good step but the present criteria are not helpful. Village should be made a unit for computing the loss. Under the present procedure many deserving farmers will not be able to get the benefits. Then the crop insurance should be extended to more crops. This will help the growers of all important crops.

With these words I once again support the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture.

[Translation]

SHRI K.J. ABBASI (Domariaganj) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Farmers are the backbone of the country and with regret I say that during the 40 years of independence least attention has been paid to them though maximum benefits have been derived from the farmers. With the increase of production of foodgrains population is also increasing. I have little time at my disposal so I will not go into the details, but will say only this thing that please remember the period when P.L.-480 foodgrains were supplied to the people and there was hue and cry everywhere. Braving the chilly cold and scorching heat, farmers toiled in their fields. Farmers never bothered about their welfare and faced all difficulties to produce foodgrains for the country. They braved the ferocity of floods but what has the Government done to help them during floods? If you take an honest stock of the situation you will find that the Government comes to their rescue after the floods recede. During the peak of floods, farmers have to bear the brunt of it single handedly and have to take shelter on the branches of trees. If the devastating scene of floods is narrated in the House, tears will roll down in your eyes. With what reliefs does the Government go to the flood victims? Only after receding the floods, Government helps them by supplying gram and matchboxes.

[Shri K.J. Abbasi]

Farmers have served the country despite all these odds which they have to face. It is a fact that steps have been taken to improve their lot but with slow pace. You may recall the period when Block officials used to request the farmers to give a part of their land to them to grow crops on it. Farmers were even allowed to take away whole of the benefit accrued from it. Even then, farmers were not ready to give land. Only after great persuasion they seldom gave their land. But when the farmers reaped profits through improved seeds and implements resulting in rise in production from 4 to 6 maunds to 25 maunds a bigha, their output rose 4 to 5 times. The agricultural production can further be increased, there is scope for it. For accomplishing it, Government has 26 Universities in which several people are working, I won't go into the details but despite this there is shortage of quality seeds. I would like to tell one thing to the hon. Minister that though Government has abolished zamindari system and brought small farmers at par with large farmers, but still big farmers are very much there, not on paper but in practice. In the names of fictitious persons they own lands as much as 50 to 400 bighas. They own big houses, cars and all of us are entertained by them at their residences. The improved seeds supplied by the Government from Satna are usurped by the big farmers in between. Seeds do not reach the poor and small farmers, resulting in great distress to these people. Now they are also interested in purchasing quality seeds. Earlier, they never took any advantage and now nothing is made available to them when they intend to avail of the facilities provided by the Government. It has been informed that there is shortage of the seeds and the Government is importing seeds worth Rs. 900 crores. But why there is shortage? Why does the Government not produce these seeds? There is neither shortage of land nor expertise in the country. Our scientists are now challenging the whole world. In India, there is shortage of neither scientists nor know-how, then what are the reasons we are not able to produce enough seeds and why are we importing from abroad? Government should think over all this. The money allocated in this Budget should have been allocated ten years ago. Government is

late by ten years. That's why shortage has emerged. It is a fact that only after farmers got agitated Government has started looking into their problems, otherwise they were continuously suffering for a long time. Only after the farmers got agitated Government realised that it must do something for them and then paid little attention towards their problems.

I hope you will now think over it that something is yet to be done for them. The most important matter which I have stressed upon repeatedly, is the market tax which the farmers have to pay when grain is brought in the market for self. As a result of continuous struggle, a legislation was enacted in Uttar Pradesh in 1982 to abolish market tax. Now farmers sell their produce in the market without paying market tax. When they carry the goods belonging to four to five persons in the tractors, to sell them in market, the goods are seized by the police. If they bring their produce in the market in bullock carts, even then their bullock cart is seized. Sometime one of their pair of bullocks dies in the police station and cases are registered against them.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : It has been stopped in the market of U.P.

SHRI K.J. ABBASI : The farmer should be free to sell his grain in the market of his own choice so as to get maximum benefit. At present grains brought in the market by the farmers are purchased by the Government, for which purchase centres have been opened at different places. But middlemen loiter around these centres to purchase grains from farmers because F.C.I. delay the purchase which forces them to sell their produce to the middle men. Later, these middle men sell it to the F.C.I. So this practice is going on with the connivance of F.C.I. without any check on it.

Nowadays, a pair of bullocks is available at a very high cost, due to which half of the rural population do not have a pair of bullocks. So they are interested to do the cultivation through tractors which they are unable to afford Private individuals lend

their tractors for plough cultivation on rent at Rs. 50 per bigha. Ours is the largest State and we are interested in the welfare of farmers. Therefore, I suggest that such centres be set up in every block where tractors could be lend to farmers on minimum amount of rent, so that they can get benefit out of it. I hope attention would be paid to it. Since the days Shri Vir Bahadur Singh ji became the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, he has been able to manage the power supply for 8—10 hours per day. But the timings are quite irregular and the farmers find themselves to be unable to utilize the power. How can the farmer do so when he is unaware of the timings? So timings should be announced before hand.

The hon. Member has rightly pointed out that subsidy is given on tube-wells. In my opinion, more and more farmers should be given subsidy to get the tube-well connections.

Digging work of Sarju Canal is being done in quite slow pace. The reason of its slowness is said to be the paucity of funds. Government should pay proper attention towards this and get it completed for the benefit of farmers. You will be dismayed to know that foodgrains for the work done under IRDP are provided after the work is over, as a result poor labourers are not supplied foodgrains when they need it. Foodgrains supplied later on by the F.C.I. are usurped by the middlemen. The farmers are forced to sell their produce to the middle men due to delay in making purchases by FCI officials.

Another point which I want to submit is that due to heavy hailstorm in our area, farmers have suffered a great loss. Tomorrow, I am going to my area to take a stock of the damage done at various places. Crores of rupees are spent on water supply and taps have been installed by the Water Corporation but they are dry. Government had promised to supply potable water in villages. So proper attention should be paid towards this. As the Water Corporation does not have mechanics, so the water taps are not repaired after becoming out of order. So it would be proper to entrust this responsibility to the Block Development Offices.

In the end, I would like to submit that the farmer wants to earn his livelihood by putting hard labour only. He does not want to get anything in charity. So I would request to reduce the rate of interest on loans taken by him and they be allowed to return back the loan in a longer span of time.

With these words I support these demands.

[English]

SHRI 'R.S. MANE (Ichalkaranji) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have my right to support the demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. As far as agriculture is concerned, it is said to be the backbone of Indian economy. In spite of the fact that it is the backbone of the Indian economy, the subject of agriculture is mostly neglected in this country.

As far as the seeds are concerned, the National Seed corporation is supplying seeds to the small and marginal farmers but that too not at economical and remunerative prices. That should be done by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Secondly, as far as the credit is concerned, credit free loan, interest free loan should be introduced by the Government and the Ministry of Agriculture, at least for the small and marginal farmers in the country. And as far as the other financial assistance is concerned, I would like to say that the spirit of the SFDA which has already been withdrawn by the Ministry of Agriculture should be introduced once again for all the blocks in the country. The small or marginal farmers, either they may be under the IRDP or SFDA, have a right to get the financial assistance. They cannot be deprived of their right. That is my plea.

As far as the cooperative lift irrigation is concerned, the Western Maharashtra is totally a hilly track. The small and marginal farmers are not getting any financial assistance because the Government of India, in the Ministry of rural development, Department has made a rule that the scheme costing only up to Rs. 2 lakhs will be sanctioned and only the small and marginal farmers under that scheme will get the

[Shri R.S. Mane]

financial assistance. This is injustice to the small and marginal farmer who come under these schemes.

Thirdly, as far as the credit is concerned, interest free loan should be advanced to the small and marginal farmers and for other farmers who are doing the dry agriculture, they should get the loan at the maximum of 6 per cent. But, now the agriculturist is still getting at the rate of 60 or 90 per cent interest. That is the greatest calamity, that is all I can say.

Sir, as far as the water resources are concerned, in my constituency, in my district Ichalkaranji, there are Doodhganga, Varana and Chikotra projects. I can say that the work on all these major and minor irrigation schemes is going very very slowly.

As far as the Doodh Ganga Project is concerned, Rs. 300 crores are required. The Government of Maharashtra has given only Rs. 59 crores in the last four or five years. If the work progresses at this rate, I wonder whether this project will be completed even by 2000 AD or not. Same is the case with Varana Project. The location of the Chikotra Project is not yet finalised by the Government of India and the administrative approval of the Government of India is not given either to the Varana Project or to the Doodh Ganga Major Irrigation Project. In this context, I would say that if we want to develop agriculture, we have to complete the irrigation projects in the shortest time possible. All these important irrigation programmes should be made time-bound. Water Resources is one of the very important departments of the Ministry of Agriculture. Therefore, I request the Minister of Agriculture to look into the matter.

Secondly, I introduced one Farmers' Welfare Provident Fund Scheme. The resolution in this regard has been made unanimously by the Kumbhi Kasari Sugar Factory at Kolhapur. The money required for this scheme is going to be raised totally from out of the factory funds or from the membership money. All that we need is the exemption from income-tax, for this scheme. I have requested the Minister of Agriculture many times to take up this issue with the

Ministry of Finance. I had written to the Ministry of Finance also in this regard. This scheme, which I have introduced, is the first of its kind and it is unique in its character. I have been pursuing the matter with the Minister of Agriculture and the Ministry of Finance, but nothing is heard finally so far, and for the last three or four years the file is moving from Finance Ministry to Agriculture, from Agriculture to Cooperation and so on. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

As far as the sugar industry is concerned, I would like to mention that the industry is suffering because of three rigid guidelines. As per these rigid guidelines, if a new factory has to be established from another factory already established, the distance between the two must be 40 Kms. Western Maharashtra and the entire Maharashtra is suffering because of this rigid guideline because no new sugar factory can be established in the entire Maharashtra and more especially in the Western Maharashtra region. There is ample crop of sugarcane either on the border of Karnataka or on the border of Maharashtra. I am very sorry to mention here that this year about 10 lakh tonnes of standing crop of sugarcane has to be burnt, because there are no factories. The Seventh Plan envisaged about 157 new factories, but only 15 or 20 licences have been approved by the Government of India for establishing sugar factories. I request that the Ministry of Agriculture should look into this matter and they should take it up with the Department of Food and Civil Supplies. There should be a liberal policy as far as issue of licences for sugar factories is concerned. There should be a liberal policy with regard to further expansion also.

I want to say a few words about remunerative prices. Government of India is definitely trying to give support prices to agricultural products. But we are not satisfied and these support prices should further be enhanced. The maximum possible remunerative prices should be given to agricultural products.

In the case of fertilizers also, I request the Government to give a lot of concessions. As far as diesel engines, spare parts and tractor trolleys are concerned, 10 per cent excise duty is imposed on these items by the

Finance Ministry. I request that these items must be exempted from excise duty, at least in the case of the farming community. I say this because it is an unnecessary taxation on the small and marginal farmers. Imposition of this excise duty on the diesel engines, spare parts and tractor trolleys must be exempted. This is my request.

With these words, I thank you.

15.25 hrs.

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

[*Translation*]

*SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI (Chittoor) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture is the fountain head of culture. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy. All of us know the fact that agriculture depends on irrigation to a large extent. But nothing significant has been done in the past to improve our irrigation potential. Even to this day, nearly 70% of our agriculture depends on rains. The wells and tanks which are dependent on rain for water go dry when there is no rain. Tanks are the main source of water in our villages. In many villages, these tanks beds are used for cultivation. Hence the Government should at once come forward with a legislation to ban cultivation on tank beds. Then only tanks will serve their purpose. I also take this opportunity to request the Government of repair and renovate the supply channels of the tanks. This way, the Government can ensure the supply of available water to the farmers in our villages. Sir, the use of fertilizers is being encouraged in the country today. It is good. But, Sir, the fertilizers need lot of water. Consumption of fertilizers has to be appropriately matched by the consumption of water. Using more water results in loss of crop. Hence excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers will not ensure good production. Instead the Government should try to promote the use of manures. Manure which is prepared from organic substances strengthen the soil in a natural way. The use of manure is highly beneficial. It is cheaper also.

Though the biogas plants are being located in our villages, they are not yet very popular. Though the Government has provided some encouragement, the bio gas plants have not yet come up in our villages. Hence setting up of bio gas plants on a large scale in our rural areas is very much necessary at this hour when the country is facing energy crisis.

The Government should also take steps to encourage agro-based industries.

Dairy, Poultry and sheep breeding are highly beneficial to farmers. The Government should whole-heartedly encourage dairy development, poultry and sheep breeding. D.R.D.L. and IRDP loans should be specifically earmarked for these vocations.

Sir, the price of Sugarcane is not encouraging. It is most unfortunate. Though the Government has increased the price from Rs. 170 to Rs. 185, it is still far from remunerative. While increasing the price of cane marginally the Government has doubled the price of molasses. This uneven increase in the prices of cane and molasses has affected the farmer adversely.

Procurement of Levy sugar has now been changed from 65 : 35 to the ratio of 50 : 50. This step would benefit only the millowners. The cane growers have not benefited in any way by this measure of the Government.

The technology mission has made certain recommendations regarding the Supply of Protected water. But the recommendation have not yet been implemented at the district level.

The technology mission has remained just on the paper. I am sorry to make this observation.

We have been requesting the Government since the last three budget sessions to provide a fair representation to farmers in the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission. But, it is most unfortunate that the Government has not yet taken any decision in this regard. Hon. Minister for Agriculture has been promising more representation to farmers. But the promise has just remained promise.

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shrimati N.P. Jhansi Lakshmi]

It shows how the Government treats the farmers of the country.

Sir, it was considered a sin by the farmers to send their sons and daughters for other jobs. But the situation has now changed completely. The sons and daughters are searching for other jobs in order to ekeout their livelihood. It is the most unfortunate and pitiable condition for which everyone should feel sorry. Now the farmers has stopped dreaming about a bright future. They consider the bygone days as the happiest ones. The farmer in the country now shudders to think about the future.

The time has now come to make a proper study of the problems of the farmers in the country and take up appropriate steps to solve them.

Sir, once again I thank you and conclude my speech.

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1988-89.

'Sarvagna' the most popular poet and philosopher of Karnataka has said that "Agriculture is the best form of education among the crores of forms it has." Farmer is the backbone of our country's economy. I will be failing in my duty if I do not congratulate our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and our Finance Minister Shri N.D. Tiwari for presenting to the nation the most popular 'Farmers' Budget'.

Shri Bhajan Lal, our hon. Minister hails from a farmers family and he has the first hand experience in the field of agriculture. Similarly Shri Hari Krishna Shastri, the hon. Minister, also has vast experience in the field of agriculture. Shri Shyam Lal Yadav and Shri Prabhu are also contributing their best for the improvement of agriculture in our country.

There was a time when we were importing foodgrains. When our late lamented

leader Indiraji became the Prime Minister the situation in the field of agriculture changed dramatically. We became self sufficient in the production of foodgrains. Indiraji generously donated wheat to some African countries which were facing acute drought situation at that time. However, we cannot be complacent over the matter. Because we must have the capability to export foodgrains to all the countries in the world, if need be. We have fertile land, plenty of water and all other necessary requirement for boosting the production of foodgrains. Further, to encourage farmers, we should provide good marketing facilities. The Government have all sympathy and love towards farmers. In every nook and corner of the country people are hailing the budget and particularly farmers are supremely happy.

If all the facilities are provided to the farmers we can make agriculture a flourishing profession. At present business is a very attractive profession. Many people would prefer Government job to agriculture. This is because we have not provided all the facilities that the farmers needs. Agriculture should be treated as an industry.

In Ireland the production of wheat is more than seven thousand Kilograms per hectare whereas in India it is not even one and a half thousand Kilograms per hectare. In China the per hectare yield of tea is much more than in our country. Hence it is very essential to use modern technology and to increase the production.

Regarding the production of pulses there is a gradual increase. It is as follows :

1980-81	10626800 tonnes
1981-82	11507200 "
1982-83	11856900 "
1983-84	12893400 "
1984-85	11962600 "
1985-86	13361400 "
1986-87	11737400 "
1987-88	14000000 (target)

I feel that our target should reach at

least 20 crores tonnes during the year 1987-88. There is no considerable increase in the consumption of fertilizers. The farmers must be guided and financial assistance must be given to them.

Animal Husbandry also need encouragement from the Government. Similarly irrigation should be given top priority. There are so many irrigation projects pending in the country especially in my State of Karnataka. I urge upon the hon. Minister Shri Bhajan Lal to look into this matter and to complete the ongoing projects in Karnataka at the earliest.

We the Members of Parliament are pleading to the Government of India to set up a seed Research Centre in Karnataka. Many foreign countries are able to provide very good quality of seeds to the farmers because they have seed research centres. Hence it is very essential to set up seed research centres in our country.

Hon. Minister Shri Hari Krishna Shastri visited our State recently. During his visit we requested him to set up a seed research centre in my constituency. Shri Shastriji was very kind to our request and he promised us that a seed research centre would be set up in Tiptur. We are grateful to him for his assurance and hope the Centre would be set up the centre at the earliest. I also owe my gratitude to the hon. Minister Shri Bhajan Lalji, Shri Shivalal Yadavji and Shri Prabhuji for their best efforts to help and encourage the poor farmers of this great nation.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you were generous to accommodate me to speak today on the demands for agriculture I thank you for that and with these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up Private Member's Business. Shri Basavaraju.

15.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Insertion of New Articles 75A and
164A)

[English]

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill

further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

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

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Substitution of New Article for
Article 263)

[English]

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA (Hassan) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF
UNAUTHORISED OCCUPATIONS)
AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupations) Act, 1971.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :