

[Sh. Madan Pandey]

Standing Committee on Agricultural Labourers, held in May, 1975, a recommendation was made to enact a Central law. In the special convention of Unorganised Rural Labourers held in 1978, demand was made that in order to safeguard the interests of agricultural labourers, framing of an extensive central law be considered. With a view to studying the problems and giving suggestions to the Government in this regard, a Standing Central Committee on rural unorganised labourers was constituted in September 1978, but later on it was dissolved. The sub-committee of the Central Committee prepared a draft bill for the agricultural labourers, which was considered in Labour Ministers Conference in 1981, but as no final decision was reached, a working group was constituted. That group also failed to reach to any unanimous decision. In September 1982, the Ministry of Labour advised the State Governments to make laws in consonant with the local situation so as to safeguard the interests of the agricultural labourers. In pursuance of this advice, Tripura Government enacted a law in 1986. Except Tripura and Kerala, no other State Government has made any law in this regard, though the number of such agricultural labourers, including the marginal farmers, in the country is about 16 crores. Last year, after having visited eight States, the sub-group of Labour Advisory Committee unanimously made recommendations to enact a Central law.

Therefore, I demand from the hon. Minister of Law that the Central Government should enact a law in regard to agricultural labourers as early as possible to safeguard their interests.

[English]

- (iii) **Need to construct the building of Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bhanjanagar (Orissa) and also implement the training scheme meant for cultivations**

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, though the Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Bhanjan-

agar in Orissa was established more than two years back, no training worth the name is imparted to the cultivators of the area. Although the Revenue Department has given land for the construction of the buildings, and there are road communications to the site too, construction of the building has not yet been taken up. Two years have already passed out of the 5 years period in which, the programme is to be implemented. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Agriculture Minister, to start the construction of building immediately and implement the scheme in right earnest.

- (iv) **Need to expedite sanction to the Wasteland Development Project in Indira Gandhi Canal area**

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Sir, in a meeting presided over by Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India on 20th April 1987 it was decided that National Wasteland Development Board would finance a wasteland development project in Indira Gandhi Canal area. Accordingly, a project amounting to Rs. 12 crores was prepared and sent to N.W.D.B. in May, 1987.

The project envisaged afforestation, pasture development and sand dune stabilisation over 25000 hectares in Indira Gandhi Nehar Project area at an estimated cost of Rs. 12 crores.

National Wasteland Development Board asked the Rajasthan Government for certain clarifications which have also been sent to them in June, 1988. Sanction of the project has not been received so far.

It is, therefore, requested that the Union Government may expedite sanction so that work on the project may be started on war footing.

- (v) **Need to take suitable measures for development of agriculture in Orissa**

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, considering the

increase of population, it is estimated that the demand for foodgrains may increase to 240 million tonnes by the turn of the century. But due to large scale erosion and conversion of agricultural lands into uncultivable lands, due to saline inundations, which are increasing year by year, the agricultural produces are bound to be reduced. To protect such destruction of agricultural lands and to bring more and more areas under cultivation, the following measures should be taken up in right earnest:—

- (a) A well thought plan of the specialists in the subjects, is to be deployed for checking further erosion and to reduce salinity from the lands.
- (b) A central tubewell Corporation may be constituted which may set up chains of Tube-wells, to exploit underground water.
- (c) Easy and timely availability of inputs like improved and high yielding seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. through cooperatives, which should be located within a radius of 2 km.
- (d) Remunerative prices, should be ensured for the farm produce.
- (e) Government should provide chains of small warehouses through co-operatives so that the farmers may store their products on a very nominal charge to get off-season high prices.
- (f) Institutional credit facilities for farmers need to be liberalised and the rate of interest should not exceed more than 5% and the penal as well as compound interest should not be charged on defaulters and their lands should in no case be auctioned.
- (g) Easy availability of loans for purchase of agricultural imple-

ments need to be ensured and that too, not more than 5 KM from their native places.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) **Need to allow export of garlic and issue licences for manufacture of garlic powder or capsules to ensure remunerative price to the farmers of Chittorgarh**

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards an important problem faced by the farmers of Chittorgarh. Garlic and onion are two important ingredients of the Indian recipes. The farmers who produced garlic by taking loans have been put to great loss as its prices have crashed in the market and it is being sold at throw away prices as its export has been stopped. Once the farmers got very good prices of garlic and onion and they made much profit. Taking incentive from this, they grew garlic by taking loans on a large scale in preference to other crops. In my constituency Chittorgarh, almost all big and small farmers have stored garlic in the hope that its price will go up. But it is most regrettable that the farmers purchased garlic seeds at the rate of Rs. 40 per kilogram, but today garlic is being sold even below Rs. 2 per kg. As a result of it, the farmers are being put to great loss. I demand from the hon. Minister of Commerce that the Central Government should allow the export of garlic, so that foreign exchange could be earned and the farmers can get the financial benefits.

Licences should be issued for manufacturing garlic powder and garlic capsules. They should be given subsidy liberally so that the farmers can get the utmost benefit of this Indian produce.

- (vii) **Need to set up an oil refinery in Damoh District (Madhya Pradesh)**

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bundelkhand area, particularly Damoh and Panna districts, where about 45 per cent population consists