

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

commission agents they are told that Food Corporation of India has not paid money for their paddy. Foodgrain mandis of Sangrur, Barnala, Dhuri, Dhanaul, Tapa, Malukatla and Nihal Singwala owe Rs. 2 crores each to the farmers. The delay in payment is adding to the hardships of the farmers as they are to pay back the cooperative loans, bank loans and purchase seed and fertilizers for Rabi crop. The Minister of Food and Supplies should intervene immediately and help the suffering farmers.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to amend the Forest Conservation Act for speedy development of undeveloped forests and backward areas

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government have along been making efforts for the development of undeveloped forests and backward area and are committed to undertake development work on priority basis there. But such areas fall cent percent under forest and hill areas. Sir, after the enforcement of the Forest conservation Act, 1980, a ban has been imposed on the non-forestry use of the forest land. Therefore, it has become necessary to amend the said Act to facilitate development of such area so that roads, canals, electricity lines, irrigation barrages, etc. could be built there. Unfortunately, many works have been lying incomplete in those areas on which crores of rupees have already been invested. The portion of work already done is getting destroyed. Besides, no new construction work is being taken up in those backward areas.

Therefore, I humbly request the Central Government to suitably amend the said Act. Otherwise, these backward areas would continue to languish in the 19th century, what to talk of 20th and 21st century.

(viii) Demand for setting up a Fertilizer factory at village Nawan, Hanumanagar Tehsil of District Ganganagar in Rajasthan

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr,

Speaker, Sir, a discussion had taken place in Lok Sabha on 12-8-1980 on the question of setting up of a fertilizer plant in Ganganagar district. The concerned hon. Minister had given an assurance that a factory would be set up in Rajasthan but he did not disclose the place where it would be set up. I came to know from you that the factories to be set up in future would be located near the actual consumers so that they could get cheap fertilizers and in time.

I would request you to set up the proposed factory at village Nawan in Hanumanagar tehsil of Ganganagar district, in support of which I submit the following facts :—

1. The entire quantity of fertilizer to be produced in the proposed plant will be consumed in the Ganganagar District itself.
2. That the land was earmarked for this proposed 25-30 years back in the said village and the said land has not been put to any other use to date.
3. That raw material and water is available near this village which are essential for a fertilizer plant.
4. That Ganganagar is an industrially backward district and no public sector industry has been set up there as a result of which unemployment is growing there day by day.
5. That labour force is also available there to work in the proposed factory.

Therefore, my submission is that this factory will provide means of livelihood to the poor people of this backward district. So, the said factory should be set up immediately.