

(iii) Need to provide fodder and other assistance to drought affected people of Bikaner.

SHRI MANPHOOL SINGH CHAUDHARY (Bikaner) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, district Bikaner has come under the grip of severe drought this year. Jayal tehsil of district Nagaur is also facing severe drought.

There are a large number of cattle in district Bikaner and tehsil Jayal. District Bikaner alone supplies about five lakh litres of milk to Delhi. Oxen of District Nagaur are famous all over India. Due to non availability of fodder in District Bikaner, cattle owners have stopped tethering their cattle because timely supplies of fodder are not being made. Therefore, immediate measures should be taken for supplying fodder by road and by rail.

The Government had promised to provide employment to atleast one member from each household during the period of severe drought but nothing of the sort is being done. Special drought relief as is being provided to Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Barmer districts should be made available to district Bikaner also.

[English]

(iv) Need for efforts for peace in West Asia

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : The explosive situation in West Asia, Iraq-Iran war, the last happenings at Mecca during Haj and the burning question of Palestine are a constant threat to world peace. Peace in West Asia is not possible unless PLO led by Yassar Arafat is given its due and Palestinianians are given a homeland and allowed to go back and settle there. Similarly unless conflict between Arab countries and Iran is not settled in a just manner, things will continue to push back the world peace to a utter gloom.

India has always championed the cause of PLO and Arab Unity in world forums. We have also done our best to bring Iraq Iran war to an end. Even when other countries with vast Muslim population did not support PLO and Arab world, India

had stood the acid test of time and always fought for them. The super powers are playing the game to divide the nations in this region and do not want a permanent and just solution because of their business and other vested interest.

The Arab League has renewed efforts for Arab unity and restoration of diplomatic relations amongst Arab nations, end of Araq-Iran war and just solution and homeland for Palestinianians, to maintain sanctity of Haj and right of Saudi Arab to administer this occasion has also been demanded by it.

India should fully support these efforts to maintain world peace and also peace in West Asia.

(v) Need to give incentive to the Cotton growers of Maharashtra.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amravati) : Sir, I urge upon the Government in the interest of the farmers that cotton should not be imported at any cost. Relief should be given to the farmers in drought conditions at the same time. Kindly allow export of cotton through Maharashtra State Cotton Federation without any ceiling because last year Government reduced the quantity of the export from six lakh bales to four lakh bales.

International Market is very attractive and Government can meet the trade deficit. At the same time, the farmers will be benefited. State Government is inclined to give more price to the cotton growers but the Government of India has put a condition that the procurement price should not be more than the price decided by the Government of India. It is requested that relaxation may be given as a special case, or the Government of India may allow the State Government to give bonus to the cotton growers from the Government as a revenue expenditure.

Looking to the cotton prices within the country, our support prices should be revised immediately. Lower quality should be Rs. 600 per quintal, medium should be Rs. 700 per quintal, and Rs. 850 should be for the best quality.