

have gone dry. On every project, the Government is spending at the rate of Rs. 15000 per acre. As there are no perennial rivers in these districts, no irrigation projects could be constructed. Hence the need for a well project. The Government can take up drilling of two in-well bores in each and every well and this will cost the Government an amount less than ten thousand rupees per well, and in case of wells where bores yield sufficient water, the Government can collect a water tax of Rs. 50 per acre and waive this collection the bores fail.

The feasibility of this well project may be examined and it may be taken up immediately to save the people from hunger and starvation.

(v) **Need to direct Agricultural Research Wing to devise ways to save paddy crops from floods**

DR. K. G. ADIYODI (Calicut) : Recent floods in Kerala have affected almost all the farmers in general and the paddy growers in particular. Paddy cultivation is dwindling fast in Kerala due to the high cost of cultivation and low price of paddy. Difficulties of paddy growers are increased since there is no variety of paddy seeds whose seedlings can withstand floods by remaining under water for more than fifteen days. We wish the Government to direct the agricultural research wing to take up this matter seriously.

(vi) **Demand for a T. V. relay centre in Yavatmal District of Maharashtra**

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal) : There was, and it is still, a strong popular demand of the people of Yavatmal district to establish a TV Relay Centre at Yavatmal. Its headquarter Yavatmal is a district place and declared backward district having population of more than one lakh plus population of adjoining villages bordering on Yavatmal Municipal limits. As it is, TV relay from Nagpur/Amravati will not benefit Yavatmal as its distance is more than 200 and 100 kms respectively. Needless to add that the people are so impatient to have TV centre that agitation rallies have recently been organised hinting that there is no excuse at all for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to delay granting Yavatmal TV Centre any more.

Therefore, I would now request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to

establish/start a TV Relay-Centre at Yavatmal without logging any further time.

(vii) **Levy of consignment tax and need to bring a Bill in the current session of Parliament**

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : A legislation on consignment Tax has become necessary due to the financial constraints faced by the different State Governments.

The Constitution of India was amended through the Constitution Amendment (46th) Act, 1982 with a view to ensuring that taxes on the consignment of goods in course of inter-state trade and commerce are brought under the ambit of taxation. The Union Finance Minister convened a conference of Chief Ministers in November 1983 and again in May 1984 in order to sort out the details of the proposed legislation on consignment tax including the procedures for collection and sharing of the tax. In the two conferences unanimous recommendations were made. Though it was felt in the conferences that the legislation on consignment tax should be introduced at the earliest opportunity, nothing has been done in this respect. And as a result, the State Government are denied the benefit of additional resources.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to introduce the Bill on Consignment Tax in this Session of Parliament and pass it for mobilising more resources for the State Governments.

12.21 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB),
1985-86—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab for 1985-86. Shri Bhattam.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : The Accord on Punjab was more or less uniformly and universally agreed to and was hailed by all sections of the people and most of the political parties. It is hoped that we would turn the corner and open up a new chapter and the vexed problem of the Punjab is once for all solved. But, Sir, of