

farming technology, specially when we are losing agricultural land every year for our developmental projects and by constructing dwelling houses etc. According to Indian Agriculture Research Institute, some oil bearing crops can be raised from these non-irrigated lands. As opined by IARI. at least two crops in a year can be raised in areas, where farming suffers not only due to lack of irrigation facilities but also due to paucity of power supply, needed to energise pumping sets. In such cases, these areas can be turned into gold mines to yield cash crops like mustard raising incomes of rural masses.

The study conducted by the ICAR shows that in semi-arid areas, the per capita food production has been sinking steeply over the past decade. In such circumstances they evolved a new approach to land and water management to boost yields of the five staple crops of the country's semi-arid regions like Sorghum, Millet, chick pea, Pigeon pea and Groundnut by which it will generate extra income of Rs. 5,000/- per acre.

This technique involves a mix of furrowed and un-furrowed patches in fields, which decreases erosion and allows rainy seasons, run off to be collected in storage tanks for use in dry seasons. The experts of the ICAR are in the view that as these five crops are largely grown for food rather than for cash, the authorities have never paid due attention to it. The poor farmers who grow these crops cannot afford the cost of fertilisers or irrigation, which their wealthier counterparts use. They are compelled to depend on un-reliable rains through which, only one crop can be raised instead of three crops.

In such a situation, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to look to this very genuine problem personally and this new technique may be applied in dry land farming on a large scale with time bound programme, which can treble the production.

[*Translation*]

(ii) **Demand for survey of waterlogged areas and measures to save crops from destruction in these areas**

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw attention of the Central Government to a very important issue under Rule 377. The natural calamities like heavy rains, hailstorm and drought affect crores of farmers every year, on which the Government have to spend billions of rupees. Besides, lakhs of acres of land and crops thereon is being affected at present, due to seepage in canals. The Sharada Sahayak Canal which is the largest canal in Uttar Pradesh has been causing extensive damage. Although the crops are destroyed due to the seepage of canals, yet the Government realises the irrigation charges from the farmers when actually they should be paid compensation for it. Lakhs of acres of land have been rendered unfit for cultivation due to waterlogging. I think it is the duty of the Government to pay compensation to those farmers whose crops have been destroyed or who are unable to cultivate their lands due to waterlogging. My constituency Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh) is also facing the same calamity. Here, there is a network of Sharada Sahayak Canal tributaries but in absence of drainage system, the farmers are in great distress. During the rainy season, there is so much waterlogging due to seepage in canals and rain water that the farmers face near starvation.

I would suggest that the Government should order an immediate survey and make arrangements for the drainage of water from waterlogged areas so that the farmers are able to cultivate their land to eke out their livelihood and contribute to the increase in foodgrains production which would be beneficial for the country.

[*English*]

(iii) **Demand for execution of work on Sakri-Hasanpur railway line.**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :
Samastipur, which belongs to Mithila region of North Bihar is the divisional headquarter