

Demands entered in the second column there of against Demand Nos. 66 to 68 relating to the Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting.”

The Motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants (General) 1986-87 in respect of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting voted by the House

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the Lok Sabha	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
66.	Ministry of Information and Broadcasting	32,32,000	—	1,61,60,000	—
67.	Information and Publicity	8,26,14,000	49,03,000	41,30,68,000	2,45,17,000
68.	Broadcasting	39,11,88,000	34,42,26,000	1,95,59,39,000	2,22,70,50,000

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you for whatever you gave us as a theme for the national integration. I would like you just to project and erase the communal bias out of this body politic of India. Make it like this. When you finish this cancer, we shall be very helpful.

(ii) Ministry of Agriculture

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House will take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 8 relating to Ministry of Agriculture which may be discussed till 6 P.M. today only when guillotine will be applied.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

Motion moved :

“That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1—9 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

List of Demands for Grants (General) 1986-87 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture to be submitted to the vote of the House

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 13th March, 1986		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
	Ministry of Agriculture				
1.	Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	81,49,000	—	4,07,45,000	—
2.	Agriculture	42,07,07,000	2,53,44,09,000	2,10,65,34,000	12,67,20,46,000
3.	Fisheries	4,38,32,000	1,48,69,000	21,91,62,000	7,43,46,000
4.	Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development	23,52,26,000	7,70,11,000	1,17,90,30,000	38,50,53,000
5.	Cooperation	3,46,67,000	39,53,33,000	17,33,33,000	1,97,66,67,000
6.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	15,76,000	—	78,81,000	—
7.	Payments to Indian Council of Agricultural Research	26,31,12,000	—	1,31,55,62,000	—
8.	Department of Rural Development	4,43,13,58,000	5,33,000	14,16,22,96,000	26,67,000
9.	Department of Fertilizers	2,89,16,30,000	73,07,50,000	14,45,81,47,000	3,65,47,50,000

MR. SPEAKER : Before we start, may I draw the attention of this august House and say that somehow we have been able to come to, and take up this discussion on the Demands for Grants for Agriculture? It is now 1.35 p.m., and 6 p.m. is the time limit, which cannot be extended. It has to be guillotined. We have about 3½ hours left till 5 o'clock, when the Minister would like to reply. So, within three hours I would like as many Members as possible to participate in the discussion, and make their points, and not lengthy speeches,

I know one can speak for hours together. But I would like you to make it not more than seven minutes, in any case. So, that will be the time limit, and that will be the guillotine time for each Member's speech. By that watch, I will see and I will not allow any Member to have more than seven minutes...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : It is unfortunate. We should have allotted maximum time to Agriculture,

MR. SPEAKER : The time has been gobbled up by other Departments. It is we who are to blame. Naturally, I think that it will be possible to make points. You can say : "These are the specific points. I want the Minister to reply to them."

I think it is agreed. Now Mr. Ramachandra Reddy. He may please note the time limit.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : I am initiating. Within the time given to me, I will try to adjust.

MR. SPEAKER : Then you can have ten minutes.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Make it fifteen minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : No; then you will lose. I have got examples from various Parliaments, where they are allowing only three minutes. That is all; nothing more. If they whole House agrees in a consensus, then they can increase it. Otherwise, only three minutes they give. You can summarize and capitalize on the time available.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Sir, it is a very very important Demand. Because of the constraint on time, I have been asked to finish within ten minutes. I would like to make it through points, as far as possible.

This Demand concerns 76% of the population in India. Most of this population is under-fed. This is the rural population which is residing in about 6 to 7 lakh villages spread cover the length and breadth of India, and it is semistarved and half naked. They do not have any roofs over their heads.

This Demand pertains to poor people, and these people have been exploited by the urban rich, the village tyrant, the bureaucracy, the industrialists and the petty politicians.

Even though nearly four decades have elapsed since independence, not much has been done to banish poverty from this

country. The efforts which the Government have made to banish poverty have not borne fruit. Government has failed very miserably to remove poverty from this country.

It has been admitted by Government that the percentage of people below the poverty line has been reduced to 39%. Even if we take these facts as they are, without disputing them, it means that the percentage of persons lifted above the poverty line is only between ten and fifteen, during these 30 or 40 years. If so, how many years will we take to lift these 39% people above the poverty line? I don't think we will even be able to imagine it. So, the conventional welfare approach has had the opposite effect of perpetuating and reinforcing the powerlessness of the poor people.

We may have to think, under these circumstances, of something different, because the difference between the urban rich and the rural poor is expanding. For example, a rural man is able to earn only Rs. 10 per day, and out of this Rs. 10, he will be able to spend Rs. 5 or Rs. 6 for his food and shelter. Compare this with an industrialist or the urban rich. He is a man who is able to spend about Rs. 2,000 per day, for his stay in a five-star hotel. That means the difference between the two is 50 times and 400 times. So, the gap has to be closed. But the effort made by the government is that the gap is widening; actually it did not result in closing the gap; it has only resulted in increasing the gap.

As far as consumer statistics are concerned, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. House this fact. This is apparent from the consumer pattern. The urban rich man consumes 427.7 grams of cereals and pulses whereas the rural poor consumes 168.7 grams per day. The urban rich consumes 34.3 grams of edible oil and at per day and it is 2 grams in case of rural poor. The urban rich consumes 51 grams of sugar and gur per day whereas the rural poor consumes only 1.7 grams. Like this in each and every aspect of life, the rural man has been curtailed; and now in order to show that the rural man has prospered, the government has resorted to these

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

jugglery statistics. Now, here I would like to submit that the carrot of development is simply dangled before the poor. He is taken for ride by the Government. He is deceived and jugglery of figures and statistics are resorted to by the government to create an illusion of development only.

I would like to draw your attention to NREP. Here the government claims in the NREP fund that they have allotted only Rs. 230 crores in 1985-86. Now, they have raised it to Rs. 442 crores. That means they have raised it by 93 per cent, and the government is trying to take credit for it; probably it is well and good. Now you please see these figures. Why don't you put the facts before the people? In 1983-84, for NREP Rs. 536 crores were given; in 1984-85, it was Rs. 600 crores. When it comes to 1985-86, it has been slashed down to Rs. 230 crores. That means 65 per cent has been reduced. Why do you hide these facts? Why don't you come forward and deal with the people fairly and say this is our fate?

The government just before the Parliament Session had imposed taxes to the tune of Rs. 2000 crores; they said that these taxes were imposed in the name of administered prices, because they wanted to improve the economy of the rural poor people; they wanted to improve the lot of the rural people. What has happened to Rs. 2000 crores? What is the amount you have allotted for them? You are not able to allot the same amount which was allotted in 1983-84; and in the budget in 1983-84 and in 1986-87 which you considered, there was a rise in the budget allotment for about 30 to 40 per cent. You have imposed taxes to the tune of about Rs. 2 to 3 thousand crores but allotment has been cut by about Rs. 440 crores from Rs. 600 crores in 1984-85. So, my request to the government is to please see the fate of the rural poor. You are simply giving them illusory figures and try to take them for a ride. You come forward with actual facts and say this is what we are able to do. Please don't deceive us; don't deceive those poor people. They are hard working people; they do not know these facts. Why do you resort to

these jugglery of figures? Why don't you come forward with clear facts and say what you can do and what you cannot do.

Whenever I see I feel that there are two types of persons; two types of citizens. One type of citizen is 24 per cent and they are residing in towns; the other type of citizen is 76 per cent and they are residing in villages. Now, I feel that this government is only for 24 per cent of the citizens and not 76 per cent of the citizens. The whole administration is just geared up only for the sake of 24 per cent of the citizens. Who are 24 per cent of the citizens? On one side we have got people who are cared and pampered and on the other side who are uncared and neglected. The first category is privileged articulate, organised and advantaged comprising of affluent sections of people, industrialists, industrial workers, businessman, officials and politicians. The second category consists of people who are under-privileged, inarticulate, unorganised and disadvantaged consisting of residents of rural areas. Why don't you try to do something for those people also? Here I would like to give you an example. For 1982-1983 and 1984 8 million tonnes of foodgrains have been imported. Do you know that our procurement was 49.73 million tonnes and the offtake from the public distribution system was only 44.40 million tonnes? There was a surplus of five million tonnes in procurement and still you resorted to importing 8 million tonnes of foodgrains within three years. That is why, during this period you were able to restrict the prices of agricultural produce to the detriment of farmers. Whenever you import these things you say that it is done in the interest of the country in order to see that food is given to the poor people at low prices. And you forget the swadeshi movement. But when it comes to the import of farm machinery, irrigation system like solar pumps, you place restrictions on them on the ground that liberalised import of these would kill the swadeshi industry.

Heavy import of vegetable oil has resulted in bringing down the price index of vegetable oil from 359.5 to 281.5. Thus this acted as a positive deterrent for high production. I have gone through the

annual report very carefully. In one place some truth has come out. It is stated on page 8 of the annual report that development of dry land agriculture through micro-watershed technology could not make much headway due to inadequate financial support. What is this financial support? It is very meagre. It is only 4 per cent of the whole Budget. 80 per cent of the oilseeds are grown on dry land. Still you do not bestow any interest in dry land cultivation.

As far as small and marginal farmers are concerned, at page 9 of the annual report it is mentioned that two-thirds of the land-holding class are small and marginal farmers and they cultivate only one-fourth of the cropped area.

It is because a very high percentage of the land is with a few farmers. You are suggesting land ceiling. Why do you not have the same yardstick in the case of urban property? Why do you not impose ceiling on urban property?

SHRI RAJ MANGAL PANDEY (Deoria): The nation owes its gratitude to the agricultural scientists who have brought the green revolution which not only made us a matter self-reliant of food-grain production but we are also producing so much that we need an international market. If our planners could have given top priority to agriculture from the First Plan itself, then the situation would have been all the more brighter. But the agriculture was not given priority until the Third Five Year Plan. It was the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth and the beginning of the Seventh Plan that we have been having brighter results of our planning due to our agricultural knowhow and technology. But I would like to remind our Minister that our approach in sugar and edible oil has not been so rational as it ought to have been, because it is these two items which will be needing about Rs. 1000 crores in foreign exchange for imports. This is a huge amount affecting our national economy.

13.50 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

We are finding that the International Monetary Fund is very very reluctant to

grant further loans. Even the loans that we have already taken are at such a high rate or percentage that I do not think the developing countries can afford to pay.

For many years there has been a long debate on whether priority should be given to industry or to agriculture. There were certain parties which were very much reluctant and were not recognising the use of heavy industry but subsequently they realised that it is through heavy industry, which compels us to use modern techniques, that we can produce the maximum as we have seen from the results in Punjab and Haryana. Unless our industries coped up with our national demand and given us the impetus or the inputs like fertilizer which needs heavy industry, like tractors which need heavy industry, our agricultural economy could not have been as bright as one could envisage. It is good that we are having successive good crops and that has boosted our economy, but the difficulty is that even after 38 years of our economic independence, our assured irrigation is hardly 38 per cent, our forests are about 35-36 per cent and 26 per cent of our land is unirrigated. We could have raised the underground water through scientific methods so that our dry farming land could be cultivated or could be cultured into beautiful culturable land.

Our animal husbandry stocks, which are the base of our agricultural economy, have not improved that much as they should have. Even pisciculture and fishery have not developed that much as they have developed in other countries in a very short span of time. So, I would like to remind our Minister and the Department that very great attention has to be paid to pisciculture and fishery.

Besides these, there are many schemes with regard to the production of sugar-cane. Sugar-cane production in our country has been so freak that sometimes we have bumper crop. We produce so much that our factories run even beyond July-August, but in the next year we find that there is hardly any cane for the sugar factories to crush even for two or three months. It shows that either there is something lacking in our planning or there is some difficulty somewhere which should be mended.

[Shri Raj Mangal Pandey]

Now I come to the international marketing. Our economy, as we are finding it today, is not so good. We have to depend on agriculture and the agriculture demands that for finding an international market we have to make our commodities less cost-productive. If that is not done, we shall not find an international market. The whole difficulty is that in this Department also, although we have been praising it, the inputs that agriculture is using for production, are over-weighted than the other cost of production. Therefore, the tenant or the peasant does not get the benefit that he should get. And since it is not coming forth, the condition of our rural folk is not as good as it should have been and the benefit of the plans, has not reached him to that extent as it should have. It is true that we have prospered very much. Our *per capita* income has increased but the benefit has not passed on to the rural agricultural folk who have been doing the hardest labour and who have been going through all kinds of sufferings. This has to be looked into by the Ministry concerned.

There are many things to be improved upon but all the same, the Department that has been functioning, has brought such a Green Revolution that we are proud of and we congratulate the Ministry for that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. After independence we paid less attention towards agricultural development and foodgrains production and keeping in mind the situation prevailing in the nineteenth century, we decided to industrialise the country, like Britain. This country being an agricultural country, when we did not become self-reliant in agriculture, our leaders very wisely paid attention to agricultural development. The result is that today we are self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains. But, Sir, it is a matter of regret that justice is not being meted out even today to that very peasantry who have made the country

self-dependent in the matter of foodgrains and brought about green revolution in this country.

Sir, the farmer produces the foodgrains. He has to buy all the inputs at high prices. Fertilisers, seeds and other inputs have to be purchased at very high prices, whereas his produce is sold on cheap rates. In spite of a very able Agriculture Minister like Shri Buta Singh at the helm of affairs, our farmers do not get their hard work and investment compensated fully. The Government should pay attention to this aspect. Sir, last month, through a supplementary question, the Finance Minister was asked the reason for lower price when the foodgrains are purchased by traders from the farmers and the proportionately higher price for the same foodgrains are paid by the farmers when they purchase them from the traders. That is why we regretfully say that injustice is being meted out to the farmers. Therefore, I request that the Agriculture Minister and the Finance Minister should discuss the issue together and formulated a policy when which the farmers should not get lower price when they sell their produce to the traders. For this, I suggest that proper arrangements should be made in the villages, in the surrounding areas of the village and at the district level to store the foodgrains.

Sir, we have encouraged the grain markets very much, but we feel that the farmers have not been benefited from these grain markets to the desired extent. I can say this particularly in the case of the eastern region of Uttar Pradesh that from these grain markets the farmers have benefited very less. These grain markets merely collect the taxes and the farmers are not being benefited from them in any way.

Sir, I have heard that a Rs. 500 crore World Bank Scheme for agricultural marketing is going to be implemented. Several officers concerning agriculture and rural development are present here and the hon. Minister himself is also present here, Shri Makwana is also present. I want to tell all of you that in the matter of foodgrains, Uttar Pradesh stands first, but there is dearth of industries there, particularly in the Eastern U.P. where there is so much population that no part of the world can match this region in this respect. People

are illiterate and they depend on agriculture and labour. Therefore, I will request the hon. Minister to select Eastern Uttar Pradesh for implementing the World Bank agriculture marketing scheme. This region badly needs this scheme. Sir, if you do not pay attention towards this, Eastern U.P. cannot make progress. Eastern U.P. is not having its due. It has not seen the ray of progress. Therefore, you must implement this World Bank Scheme in Uttar Pradesh, particularly in eastern part of it.

Sir, another thing I want to submit is that there is a Central Scheme to provide subsidy to the farmers on fertilisers and seeds. But I regret to say that in spite of endless requests by the Department of Agriculture and the Government of U.P. for providing funds for subsidising fertilisers and seeds, the same has not been released to Uttar Pradesh, the biggest State and a State which has helped, like other States, in making the country self-reliant in the production of foodgrains by bringing about green revolution. Sir, in this connection I have met the Agriculture Minister also, but the funds are not being released and even if these are released, they are so meagre that they are just a drop in the ocean. In this way, Uttar Pradesh is being resuscitated drop by drop.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to pay attention towards this. Shri Makwana has recently visited the area. In this connection one long interview of his has also been published in the newspapers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Makwana visits only those districts which are outside Delhi.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I would urge him to kindly release the funds demanded by Uttar Pradesh. Sir, this money is to go to the farmers, the poor and the backward people. I, therefore, request that the money may kindly be released immediately.

Sir, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had conceived the schemes for setting up agriculture science centres and poultry farms and in big places like Bangalore and Chandigarh, where-

ever these schemes have been started, these are in operation successfully. In Eastern Uttar Pradesh where there is a dense population, you get the foodgrains produced without providing full facilities and assistance, but in spite of this we grow foodgrains though there is not a single agriculture science centre in the East of Faizabad, nor there is any research centre for helping poultry farming. Therefore, Sir, through you, I request that efforts should be made to open these centres in that region. For this, I had requested the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development of our Parliamentary Party, but I was told that the land was not available for the purpose. Sir, for this I have arranged 50 to 55 acres of land in Vardab tehsil Mohammada. I got one resolution passed by the Panchayat Samiti of the village. This will not only benefit that area, but it will be beneficial to Azamgarh, Ghazipur, Balia, Western Bihar, Deoria and Basti areas also. Therefore, I request that a research centre in poultry farming and an agriculture science centre should be opened in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. With the setting up of these centres people will come to know about all the things which are produced there and they will be benefited. Sir, once the hon. Minister had made an announcement also that they would provide one agriculture science centre in every district. But that commitment has not been fulfilled and now when this issue is raised in the House, the hon. Minister states that this will depend on the availability of funds. It is just like this that first you ask some one to bring 'thali' and to serve him with food, but when the person brings 'thali', you tell him that the food will be served when cooked. It is not good. Therefore, I request that the funds should be got sanctioned by the hon. Finance Minister and one agriculture science centre and one poultry farming centre should be opened there.

Sir, recently in Mathura... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may now conclude in one minutes

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Sir, I am going to finish in two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you may finish in one minute.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : All right, Sir, I will conclude in one minute. A proposal is being considered that the poultry breeding centre at Mathura may be shifted to Haryana. I had recently gone to Mathura and found that there is great resentment among the people there. When I enquired about this from the hon. Agriculture Minister, he replied that he was looking into the matter. Sir, the poultry breeding farm is functioning very efficiently there. Therefore, it is not proper to shift it from there. The people there have struggled much to get that facility. Their demand is genuine. I, therefore, want that it should be retained there and should not be shifted from there.

Of course, in Eastern Uttar Pradesh sugar mills are being opened.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you may conclude. Shri P.C. Sethi.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : I am concluding, Sir, I want to say only this that there is only one centre in Kanya for promoting and adopting new techniques in sugarcane farming. There should be one more centre in Eastern U.P.

I also wanted to submit that the poor farmers and labourers are not getting full benefits under NREP.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rai, you may please now resume your seat. You may speak sometime else.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : As you direct, Sir, I resume my seat.

[English]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up soil testing and fertilizer quality control laboratories by the Central Government in Gaya district, Bihar.](6)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to start a rice minikit-cum-community nursery in Gaya district, Bihar.](7)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to protect crops from epidemics.](8)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to prevent decline in production due to adulterated seeds being supplied by the National Seed Corporation.](9)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to prevent huge losses in the State Farms Corporation due to mismanagement.](10)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to prevent damage to the crops in the country due to adulteration in fertilizers.](11)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to formulate schemes by Central Government for small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers in Masaudh sub-division of Patna district of Bihar.](12)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reclaim lakhs of acres of land by Central Government in Gaya district of Bihar.](13)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check adulteration in seeds.](14)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to implement the proposal of setting up an enforcement cell for

plant protection and to collect samples of agricultural insecticides.] (15)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to accelerate the reclamation of barren land for agricultural purposes.](16)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop the country's resources in the field of agriculture.](17)

"That the demand under the head Fisheries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include Masothi in Patna district and Khijar Sarai division of Gaya district of Bihar in Fisheries Development Project.](60)

"That the demand under the head Fisheries be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to include Arbal division of Gaya district in Bihar in Fisheries Development Project.](61)

"That the demand under the head Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to cover Gaya district of Bihar under Operation Flood Scheme.](64)

"That the demand under the head Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give clearance for setting up a Dairy Development Corporation at Masaudhi in Patna district of Bihar.](65)

"That the demand under the head Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

"Need to set up a Centre for cattle breeding and fodder production in Masaudhi sub-division of Patna district of Bihar.](66)

"That the demand under the head Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up fodder Production Centres at Masaudhi in Patna district and Jehanabad in Gaya district of Bihar.](67)

"That the demand under the head Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop country's resources in the field of animal husbandry.](68)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY :
I beg to move :

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the average yield of foodgrains, groundnut and sugarcane per hectare.](57)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the production of pulses.](58)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve drought resistance variety of groundnut.](59)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to declare agriculture as an industry.](78)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve methods for development of agriculture and agricultural produce.](79)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve marketing of agricultural produce.](80)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

[Need to evolve a scheme for promotion of agricultural operations in dry lands.](81)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve a separate plan for export of agricultural produce.](82)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to conduct survey of agricultural landless labourers in the country.](83)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give a support price of Rs. 220 per quintal for groundnut.](84)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix a support price of Rs. 350 per ton for sugarcane.](85)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to devise ways and means to reduce dependence of agriculture on rains.](86)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to assist the people of Andhra Pradesh suffering due to chronic drought conditions.](87)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reimburse the losses suffered by farmers due to supply of rotten seeds by National Seeds Corporation to them.](88)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the yield of Jawar, Bajra and groundnut in rain fed areas.](89)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reimburse the losses suffered by farmers due to power shortages and failures.](90)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the procurement prices of agricultural produce.](91)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give higher support prices to all farm produce.](92)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish a National Corporation for perishable agricultural Commodities.](93)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reduce the interest rate to 4 per cent on all loans to agriculturists.](94)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop agriculture by expanding Co-operative credit structure.](95)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give clearance to the single-window system scheme in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh.](96)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the limit of farm credit at a low rate of interest.](97)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to proclaim moratorium on all rural indebtedness to save them

from the clutches of money-lenders.]
(98)

"That the demand under the head Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide liberal amount for Institutional credit to the farming communities.](99)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need for processing of agricultural products, by-products and wastes.]
(100)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for setting up of a new centre for advanced studies in agriculture in Andhra Pradesh.](101)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up regulated markets for all agricultural produce.](102)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for steps to remove the stagnation in Green Revolution in farming.](103)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for large scale soil testing in the country.](104)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to educate the farmers about the latest technology in Agriculture.]
(105)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to open more agriculture universities in Andhra Pradesh.](106)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop advanced technology for the improvement of dry-land farming.](107)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop seed which is capable of resisting a dry spell of 3 to 5 weeks.](108)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evolve agricultural technology for the benefit of common cultivators.](109)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to devise ways and means to narrow the gap in demand and supply of agricultural inputs.](110)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to improve the poor performance of agricultural scientists.](111)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for quarterly review of various rural development programmes.]
(112)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to appoint persons who are sympathetic dedicated and have experience rural conditions for the implementation of various rural development schemes.](113)

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to formulate a plan for rural industrialisation.](114)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for additional funds for Andhra Pradesh for providing sanitary facilities in rural areas.](115)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up a Ministry at the Centre exclusively to deal with drought and floods.](116)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for a plan for permanent eradication of famine in Rayalseema in Andhra Pradesh.](117)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot more funds to Andhra Pradesh for the supply of safe drinking water to villages.](118)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allocate more funds for Minimum Needs Programme in Andhra Pradesh.](119)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for impartiality in allotting funds for famine to Andhra Pradesh.] (120)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

ment of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to send a central team to assess the severe effects of famine in Andhra Pradesh.](121)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allocate more funds for DRDP, DPAP, NREP, and RLEGP schemes in Andhra Pradesh.](122)

"That the demand under the head Department of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to evaluate the progress of the various anti-poverty programmes in reducing poverty among rural people.](123)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply fertilizers to farmers at cheaper rates.](124)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to meet the increased demand of fertilizers by increasing the production of fertilizers.](125)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to devise way and means to attain self-sufficiency in fertilizers.](126)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to examine the impact of hike in petroleum products in the prices of fertilizers.](127)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to reverse the trend of reduction in the use of fertilizers in the country.](128)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to educate the farmers about the quality of fertilizers to be used after soil testing.](129)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to revise the support prices of agricultural inputs to ensure remunerative prices to farmers.](130)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give remunerative prices to farmers for their produce.](131)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to regulate the agricultural markets to help farmers to sell their produce at a remunerative price.](132)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to remove restrictions on movement of agricultural produce from one State to another.](133)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop agroforestry in hilly areas and drought prone areas.](134)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish agro based industries in the areas where they are produced.](135)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase per hectare yield of all agricultural produce.](136)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring all the districts of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh under intensive agricultural development programme.](137)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to consider decline in the growth rate of agriculture.](138)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to boost the export of all agricultural produce.](139)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to consider the decline in agricultural production particularly in Eastern States.](140)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to stop the import of agricultural produce.](141)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for Central assistance for providing pension to agricultural labourers in Andhra Pradesh.](142)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for Central assistance for implementing the welfare schemes for landless agricultural workers in Andhra Pradesh.](143)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply adequate modern implements to farmers for improving dry-land farming.](144)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri K. Ramachandra Reddy]

[Need for adequate supply of groundnut seeds to farmers.](145)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for a thorough study of agricultural input *vis-a-vis* output.] (146)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to allot funds for the development of dry-land farming.](147)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to enact laws to fix the minimum wages for agricultural workers at Rs. 30 per day](148)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to evolve a procedure to bring out uniformity in the prices of agricultural produce throughout the country.](149)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to step up the production of coarse grains like millets, maize, bajra, ragi and cholam which is a staple food of the poor.](150)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need for a scheme to give pension to agricultural workers throughout the country.](151)

“That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100.”

[Need to investigate into the low progress of agricultural extension programme in the country](152)

SHRI P.C. SETHI (Indore) : Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Agriculture occupies a key position in the Indian economy because of its contribution to overall economic growth through supplies of food, raw materials and exports. It is a source of livelihood for a majority of our population and it provides a large market for non-agricultural goods and services. It is on account of the overwhelming importance of agriculture to this country that the successive Plans have laid top-most priority to the agricultural sector. As a result of this an all-round improvement in the agricultural field has been achieved and in fact in respect of some of the products like jute, mesta and cotton, the production now exceeds demand. This has been made possible by the accelerated increase in area under irrigation and increased use of high yielding varieties of seeds and fertilizers. Apart from the provision of infrastructure, the factors mainly responsible for these achievements are the extension of new technology and procurement of foodgrains at remunerative prices. As a result of these developments, not only self-sufficiency in foodgrains has been achieved but also significant possibilities have opened up for further growth of agriculture through modernisation and even for export which we are doing even now.

However, there is no evidence, as yet, of a decline in the amplitude of annual fluctuations in the output of foodgrains in the country, because a large proportion of foodgrains continues to be produced under conditions of uncertain rainfall, and even a good part of minor irrigation including the so-called controlled irrigation through wells is vulnerable to the vagaries of monsoon. The persisting fluctuations in agricultural output suggest that there is no basis for complacency and slackening of developmental efforts in agriculture in the wake of a succession of good harvest and consequent accumulation of stocks. It also suggests the need for regional dispersal of output growth through the expansion of assured irrigation in areas where the proportion of area irrigated is low and through the development of dryland farming where irrigation is either not possible or is uneconomical. In a large country like India with significant spatial variations in agro-climatic conditions, a regional dispersal in the growth of foodgrains output is likely to even out annual fluctuations in aggregate output and reduce the costs of distribution

on account of carrying stocks from year to year and transportation across the regions.

Another feature of agricultural performance is that the bulk of increase in output particularly foodgrains, has been concentrated in a few regions which are well-endowed with infrastructure like surface irrigation, rural electrification, roads and markets and where farmers are resourceful in terms of their capacity to invest and bear risks.

It has been estimated that such developed areas accounting for less than 15 per cent of the area under foodgrains in the country contributed as much as 56% of the increase in foodgrains production in the post-Green revolution period.

But a more balanced growth of agriculture as between different regions and classes of farmers can lead to a rise in the purchasing power of the rural poor through the rise in employment and incomes of small and marginal farmers in the less prosperous areas.

Another aspect of imbalance in Indian agricultural sector concerns crop-wise disparities in growth, between foodgrains and non-foodgrains on the one hand, and among different foodgrains themselves on the other. Part of this inter-crop imbalance derives from regional imbalances. For instance, a breakthrough in rice output in the Eastern region where the yields are low and where there is a significant potential for growth, can be redress part of this inter-crop imbalance. Similarly, a breakthrough in dryland farming by raising the output of millets, pulses and oil-seeds can also correct these inter-crop imbalances. Since small and marginal farmers predominate in these regions, they can benefit a great deal from such development. Fixation of prices of crops at appropriate levels to ensure inter-crop parity and procurement of output would also be necessary for promoting optimal use of agricultural resources by correcting inter-crop imbalances.

It, therefore, follows that broadening the base of agricultural growth and moder-

nisation through infrastructure development e.g., irrigation, drainage, roads, markets, and credit institutions in the less developed regions, extension of new technology, particularly breakthrough in dryland farming, afforestation and appropriate price and procurement policies for crops as are essential for accelerating the growth of agricultural output, reducing annual fluctuations in output and for correcting inter-regional, inter-crop and inter-class disparities. Such a pattern of growth can also provide the necessary impetus to rural development through the dispersal of agro-industries. This is how agriculture can contribute more effectively to the fulfilment of the national objectives of self-reliance, removal of poverty, increase in productivity and eco-preservation.

Before I conclude, I would wish to lay emphasis for increasing production of such of the commodities as oil seeds, pulses and sugarcane for which the demand far exceeds the supplies. Special plans should be evolved for increasing the output of these products to meet the demand and so also to save the foreign exchange outgo.

I am happy to know just now from the Minister of Fertilisers that the production of fertilisers has increased. The demand for fertilisers has also increased and we are happy because the best fertiliser plants are coming up. The hon. Minister himself is sceptic about Namrup getting improved but I hope that the other plants will come in time but for this the completion of the pipeline is very necessary and I hope the Ministry will pursue that the pipeline which has been started and complete it in time so that these fertiliser plants where huge amounts have been invested come up for production in time.

[Translation]

*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, after 35 years of economic Planning the Government claims that they have achieved maximum success in the field of agriculture. This is because our agricultural production has increased, and we have achieved self sufficiency in foodgrains, we have a huge buffer stock of

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foograins and we are today exporting food-grains to other countries also.

But on the other hand what is the real picture that we see? We find that in the rural areas the number of agricultural labourers is fast increasing as more and more farmers are getting landless continuously. Their miseries, starvation wants and other misfortunes are increasing rapidly, and the land and other rural wealth is getting concentrated in a few hands. Sir, in India a family of five persons require $8\frac{1}{2}$ quintals of foodgrains per year. If we had proper irrigation facilities and if we could use other inputs at the right time and in the right quantity and if we could raise two crops in a year, then the required $8\frac{1}{2}$ quintals per family could be produced from only 33 to 34 decimal of our land. The average size of the land of our marginal farmers is 0.37 hectares *i.e.* it is more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ times of what is needed by him to become self sufficient in food. That means, every marginal farmer of our country can turn into a producer of surplus foodgrains if he gets the required facilities. But in spite of that lakhs and lakhs of our small and marginal farmers, share croppers and agricultural labourers are passing their days in starvation and semi-starvation conditions. Why? Who is responsible for this? Sir, our total agricultural production has increased to some extent. But productivity has gone down tremendously. The 7th Five Year Plan documents have accepted that. It has been stated therein that, "The growth of agricultural output in the recent past has not been commensurate with the increase in inputs indicating a decline in the productivity of input."

Sir, in the opinion of some experts the productivity has declined by 23% in the last decade. This means that the quantum of inputs used by the farmer in his land to produce additional quantity of foodgrains is not proving remunerative to him. That is, whatever he is getting by producing foodgrains is not compensating him for the cost of his inputs. For producing every ton or every quintal of foodgrains he has to incur extra expenditure. Side by side, the price of farmers' crops are not increasing, rather they are declining. Because of that the farmer is not only

unable to make any capital formation out of his land, rather he is faced with the problem of making up the loss. In this process the farmers are becoming landless.

Sir, the States in the eastern region of India are terribly backward in the field of agriculture. The productivity of agriculture in this region is also very little. The Government claims that in the 7th Five Year Plan, the agricultural productivity of this region will be increased. In this way the regional imbalance and disparity will be removed and that a special programme for paddy production is also being launched in the eastern region in this respect.

Sir, irrigation is the key for increasing production and productivity. If we look at the allocations made for irrigation in the eastern States in the 7th Five Year Plan, it will be clear how much increase in productivity will come about in those States. In the 7th five year plan the allocations made for increasing irrigation facilities in five years is as follows. For West Bengal it is Rs. 400 crores, for Assam it is Rs. 334 crores, for Orissa it is Rs. 696 *i.e.* the total allocation for these three eastern States for irrigation purposes is Rs. 1430 crores. On the other hand the allocation made for Maharashtra alone is Rs. 1890 crores, for Gujarat it is Rs. 1676 crores. Therefore I feel that far from reducing regional imbalance in the 7th Five Year Plan, it will further increase and aggravate it. The benefits of the so-called green revolution has not reached the States in the eastern region of our country. The people of this region are deprived of the good results of the green revolution. The per hectare production in this region is the lowest in the country. In spite of that the Centre's contribution in the 'Teesta irrigation project' which is of national importance, is only Rs. 5 crores out of a total expenditure of Rs. 50 crores on this project.

Sir, for increasing agricultural productivity in the eastern States, the S.R. Sen Committee had made several recommendations. I will urge upon the hon. Minister to accept those recommendations. One recommendation specially was that for the irrigation projects in the eastern region, a definite amount should be allocated in the Central budget. If this is not done then

the eastern region will not be able to increase its agricultural productivity. The regional imbalance of this region cannot be removed merely by announcing good intentions and pious wishes. Sir, the pricing policy of agricultural produce has appeared as a challenge before the farmers of the country.

Last year the Government fixed the minimum price for jute. But the experience of the farmers is that what he got from the sale of his jute crop, was much less than the cost of his production. Most of the poor farmers did not get even the minimum price fixed by the Government, because the JCI did not enter the market at the right time. As a result, they were forced to sell their jute crop to the agents and stockists at a price lower than the minimum price fixed by the Government. The Government says that, that is the just and reasonable price. The same situation prevails in the case of other agricultural products also.

On 8th January last, a conference of the Chief Ministers of the eastern States was held at Patna. There the hon. Minister of Agriculture was also present. In that conference the Chief Minister of Bihar also commented that the price of wheat and paddy as fixed by the Government was unrealistic. This news was published in various papers. If the Government wants to save the farmers, if the Government wants to increase the purchasing power of the farmers, then they will have to change their pricing policy. Moreover the Agricultural price and cost commission will have to be revamped into an organisation that will command the confidence of the farmers. The farmers must have faith in it. To achieve that, the representation of actual farmers must be ensured in that commission.

Sir, I want to say a few things about rural development. At present various schemes and projects are being implemented for removing the poverty and unemployment among the rural people. According to Government estimates, 37% of our people are at present living below the poverty line. The Government hopes that in the coming decade *i.e.* by 1994-95 it will be possible to reduce their number to 10% of the population. In U.S.A. the number of

people living below the poverty line is at present 15% of the total population.

Now, Sir, according to Government's announcement we will improve upon USA in this respect in the coming 10 years. This is very encouraging to hear no doubt. But what is the reality? When the sixth Five Year Plan started, about 48% of our people were living below the poverty line. Today we claim that it is 31%. That means, during the sixth five year plan the number of people living below the poverty line has come down by 11%. Now this 11% means about 8 crores of people. The number of beneficiaries under IRDP programme during the 6th five year plan is 16,56,727 families. That comes to 8 crores and 28 lakh people. From that we can conclude that all the beneficiaries of IRDP programme in the 6th plan have been lifted above the poverty line. But from the performance budget of the Department of Rural Development for 1986-87, it is seen that according to a Survey of RBI, only 17% of the beneficiary families have come above the poverty line. According to the survey of NABARD it is 47% and according to PEO survey it is 49.4% some time back Shri Nilkanta Rath has shown with figures that number of those who have come above the poverty line cannot be more than 3%. Now there is such a wide disparity in the estimates running from 3% to 49.4% which figure is to be taken as correct? I would like to know from the hon. Minister himself. What was the actual number of people living below the poverty line and how many of them really were able to come above the poverty line? Does he have really any correct account of that! What after all is this poverty line. So far there was the yardstick of IRDP beneficiaries, according to which the yearly family income was Rs. 3500. Now it appears that the annual family income limit will be Rs. 4800. The poverty line has been fixed at Rs. 6000. Now those who are claimed to have been raised above the poverty line, what poverty line they have crossed? Is it the income ceiling of Rs. 3500 or those with Rs. 4800 or those with Rs. 6000? Sir, with the present system of feudal exploitation it will not be possible to remove the poverty and unemployment of our village people. If you want to remove poverty and unemployment then you will have to implement the

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'land to the tiller'. From the 1950's although the Government accepted in principle the question of giving land to the tiller, but in the absence of political will, they have failed to take any firm steps in this regard. That is why no progress have been made in the field of radical land reforms even today. Sir, in our country till this date only 73.56 lakh acres of land has been declared as surplus. Out of that the various State Governments have taken possession of only 58.37 lakh acres. Out of that again only 45.09 lakh acres has been distributed. If the landless farmers could get possession of land, then numerous farmers could build a permanent asset base. As a result, through land based production or other auxiliary works, their purchasing power can increase, and he can come above the poverty line. Sir, the second land reform Bill passed by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly in 1981 has at long last got the hon. President's assent and has become law now. The purpose of this legislation is to take away the surplus land from the possession of the big zamindars, big jotedars etc. who illegally transferred land through benami transaction etc. and to distribute the same to the lakhs of poor landless agricultural labourers, sharecroppers, etc. If other States also follow suit and pass similar legislation there, then lakhs and lakhs of acres of land can be taken away from the control of big zamindars etc. and the same can be distributed among the landless. I will request the hon Minister to persuade other States also to enact similar legislation so that the landless may be given possession of land.

[English]

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture accounts for half of the revenue of the Central Government and maintains 70 per cent of the population. Therefore all importance should be given to this subject. We have been saying that there has been a steep increase in production and we are self-sufficient. But the figures that have been released show that our production does not support the claim. Even the current year production will be around about 148 million tonnes, almost 6 million tonnes less

than the target. I said, Sir, the current year's production will be 148 million tonnes which is less than the targeted figure by 6 million tonnes. The population is increasing and is expected to go upto a billion by the turn of the century and the requirement of foodgrains will be 240 million tonnes as per one estimate. Therefore, it is a matter of anxiety for us whether it will be possible for us to reach that target of 240 million tonnes in order to be self-sufficient.

Sir, for the Seventh Plan it is suggested that 4 per cent annual increase will be achieved in the foodgrains production. That was not the position during the Sixth Plan and the figures that have been released from time to time also show that whatever statistics have been released later on belied the claims made by the Government.

Now, Sir, I am glad that the Government have realised that the Eastern sector has been completely neglected and has not been affected by the green revolution. We should not depend only on major irrigation projects. On the contrary we should concentrate on minor irrigation and we should try to catch the annual rainfall into ponds and tanks to be able to irrigate. In the Eastern sector mostly rice is grown. I would suggest we should also try to develop pulses and oilseeds in those areas because we are short of that.

Now a word about fertilisers. The consumption of fertilisers is likely to go upto 90 lakh tonnes and still we will be importing fertilisers from abroad. My submission is that this use of fertilisers has also eroded the quality of soil. So we should also develop organic manure and bio-fertilisers. I know the Government is giving attention to that and use of bio-fertilisers and organic manure is being encouraged. My personal experience is that where there is no irrigation facility we cannot use this chemical fertiliser and where there is no rainfall it is all the more difficult. Therefore, we should give more emphasis on organic manure and bio-fertilisers for which the technology is there with the Government and if it is lacking they should develop it.

Now I come to the question of soil conservation. From the figures we find half the cropped area is subject to soil erosion. When I had asked question about this on

the Floor of the House I was given the reply that Government were taking usual measures for soil conservation. I had suggested that energetic measures have to be taken for soil conservation because half the cropped area is under soil erosion. I want to emphasise this point again.

Then, Sir, dry land farming has to be adopted. You are aware that a question was put in this House when it was brought to the notice of the House that a person from Delhi had gone to Jodhpur area and has started dryland farming there and he is able to earn about a lakh of rupees in a year in cultivating only a hundred acres of land. So, this holds out a good prospect for dryland farming. I know that the Government is aware of the fact and Government would energetically pursue these measures for dryland farming.

Now, I will take the case of rural development because this Ministry has been reorganised. It is no longer the Ministry of Agriculture. It is the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation and under it the Department of Rural Development is working. It is a very important Department. The Prime Minister has also been giving full attention to this subject and he has been visiting those areas where the adivasis live, where the Harijans live, where poor people live in order to find out whether the benefits are reaching them. Many distortions had been discovered by him also. The other day I was attending the Seminar under the auspices of PADI in Vaishali where a bank representatives were also present, the village level workers were also present. They were giving their experiences from which it appeared that a lot of corruption at that level has crept in. I am aware of this fact that the Government in the Finance Ministry has issued the instructions that now the money should directly be paid in cash to the beneficiaries if they are going to buy any bullocks, cows, buffaloes or anything like that, it will now be their responsibility to select the quality of the animal and they should submit cash receipt for the same. Secondly, for the ordinary work, cash amount of Rs. 3000 is to be paid to the individual beneficiary for which utilisation certificate has to be submitted. I think even today, the Estimates Committee has submitted a Report on Social Banking and has said that the banking sector has not

done so much and the new recruits are not prepared to go to the villages for which a very great training programme has to be undertaken.

With regard to TRYSEM, the Central Bank itself is imparting training. But only 30% of those trained came forward to start industries. The others did not. The IIM at Ahmedabad is also running this programme. But this programme has failed to make any dent. Now, I would submit that the Government should make a study of the situation and find out why is it that those young men who have been trained under TRYSEM are not coming forward to start industries of their own and not going to utilise their skills? This is one point on which I wanted to emphasise.

Then, in regard to the selection of beneficiaries, it has been stated in the Report that has been circulated that the beneficiaries are now selected in the Gram Sabhas. I do not know whether Gram Sabhas are really active. As far as I know nowhere the Gram Sabha is working. I may submit that the Gram Sabhas never met and the selection of beneficiaries is not made in the Gram Sabhas. It is only during 1978 when this Food for Work Programme was started that the villagers were collected in a place and the beneficiaries were selected. In the presence of all those people, the right type of persons were selected. If the elected Gram Sabhas meet and the beneficiaries are selected in the meeting, then there will be no scope for selecting wrong type of person; those who do not fall in the targeted group. In many areas, Gram Panchayat Elections have not been held. I know about my State of Bihar where Panchayat elections have not taken place for a number of years. Now, you are trying to activate the cooperative movement in the villages. My experience is very sad on this point and I think, the hon. Minister knows it. What is to be done? It has to be rescued out from the stranglehold of a coterie of people who are monopolising the cooperative sector and all those who are interested in the movement should have a chance to participate in its functioning and organize cooperative societies and run them properly without any kind of allegations being made against those societies.

Then, I have been toying with one idea which I want to submit to the hon. Minister.

[Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha]

The other day during the debate on the Ministry of Energy, it was said that an Urjagram was being started and the village was being made fully self-sufficient in rural energy. I would suggest to the hon. Minister that he should concentrate on a few villages in every block to make them self-sufficient in regard to industries, skills, roads, irrigation, drinking water supply, electricity etc. If you are able to create such villages, which are self-dependent to a large extent, it will catch up and the kind of atmosphere which is prevailing in the countryside, of frustration, of suspicion and of desparation, which is leading to clashes will disappear. It will create hopes and aspirations in those people. In this way, the Government would be able to create new units of self-sufficiency and every person in the village will get benefit out of it. This idea has to be worked out. I have also spoken to the representatives of the PADI, whose branch is working at Vaishali. I hope they will also be able to take it up. For that necessary technology and administrative skill is needed and I am sure, apart from money, Government will also provide requisite technology and administrative skill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is the general impression in the country that the production of foodgrains has increased. I agree to it. But this increase in the production has not benefited the people at large in the country who are living below the poverty line. They have no capacity to buy foodgrains to feed themselves. So with the increase in the production of foodgrains, we shall have to bring changes in the present ownership of land in the villages. Then only capital will be formed in the villages and industries will be set up there. It will bring prosperity to the people of the villages and the people living there below the poverty line will be able to get two square meals a day.

In our country, crops are grown on 143 lakh hectares of land which is called top soil. But, out of this, 85 lakh hectares of land is being damaged for one reason or the other. It results in the damage of 30 to 50 lakh tonnes of foodgrains worth Rs. 45 crores to Rs. 75 crores.

The Forest Department has reserved 67 lakh hectares of land on the plea of afforestation under one law or the other. But, out of it, only 30 lakh hectares of land is actually under forest. The rest of the land is lying barren in the name of afforestation. Again there is 40 lakh hectares of land which is cultivable, but is laying unattended. Then 16 lakh hectares of land is earmarked for horticulture and pastures, out of which 3 lakh hectares of land is earmarked for horticulture and 13 lakh hectares for pastures. In this way, we can use 266 lakh hectares of land for agriculture, horticulture and pastures. But, out of it, about 175 lakh hectares of land is being eroded due to water, wind, waterlogging and indiscriminate use of fertilizers. If the Government takes steps to check it, the present production can be doubled or tripled. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the prerequisite for increasing production is irrigation. Government have created irrigation potential for only 30.50 lakh hectares of land, but that has also not been fully utilised. We have been able to provide irrigation facility for only 25.30 lakh hectares of land. So I would like that the irrigation potential should be utilised fully.

I would also like to say that the farmers are being exploited in the matter of price for their produce. There is no one to give ear to their complaints. The farmer grows crops, brings them home and has to resort to distress sale of his produce. He has no other means to solve his problem. He is constrained to sell his foodgrains at throw-away price, but he has to pay more when he goes to the market to buy them again. India is the only country in the world where the farmer is so hapless that he has to purchase foodgrains at high price whereas he is compelled to sell them at lower price. On the other hand, the manufacturers of those goods which are produced in the factories, charge arbitrary prices for their products. In manufacture of fertilisers, the cost of urea comes to 52 to 56 paise per kg. This fertiliser is sold in different parts of the country. Some time back it was being sold at Rs. 1.12 or Rs. 1.13 per kg., but even then you have increased its price by Rs. 200 per tonne. Similarly, salt is a small item which is needed by the common man everywhere in the country. The cost of production of

one kg. of salt and its transportation to every part of the country comes to 21 paise per kg., but it is being sold at a price of 80 paise per kg. in the market. Similar is the case of cement. In the production of cement the cost comes to Rs. 26 to Rs. 28, but in the market it is being sold at Rs. 67 to Rs. 68 per bag. The prices of goods manufactured in factories are skyrocketing, but the produce of the farmer is being sold at a very low price. Unless you fix the price of the agriculture produce, the farmer will not be motivated to work sincerely in his field. It is necessary that the prices should be fixed with a view to increase the agricultural production. Besides this, I would like to caution you that irrigation facility should be provided and problems like water-logging, floods, erosion of land should be solved. The prices of agricultural produce should also be fixed. But unless the ownership of land is not changed, peace cannot be restored in the country and everyone cannot be provided with two square meals a day. It will result in the agitation in the country and disorder will prevail everywhere. What is the situation today? The Land Reforms Act is on paper only. The Land Reform Act, which was enacted in 1962 is there only on papers. In Bihar, even today, 10000 cases under the Land Ceiling Act are pending in the courts for the last 15 years. Under this Act land of many persons becomes surplus, but the people have held land in the form of *benami* land and in the fake names. Maths and Temples have been exempted from Land Ceiling Act. In Bihar, there are 5,000 such maths and temples which have land measuring 100 acres to 10,000 acres in their possession. In that State there are 10,000 farmers who own land between 500 acres to 15000 acres and do you know who those farmers are? A majority of such farmers are sitting on that side of the House. The need of the hour is that this Act is implemented sincerely. When you hand over surplus land to the landless labourers, a condition should be attached with it and that is that they will have to undertake co-operative farming. The fallow land should also be made cultivable. A land army should be constituted for this purpose and the Government should bear its expenditure. It should be made obligatory that the landless labourers who are settled on the fallow land,

will have to undertake co-operative farming. In this way co-operative system would also be propagated. As a matter of fact, land is a common property of all. Co-operative farming should be the ideal. The ownership of land should vest in the entire village community. Ultimately the ownership of land will have to vest in the village panchayats for the fulfilment of the dream of Gandhiji to establish *Ram Rajya*; of Vinabaji to make land a common property of all; of Jaya Prakash Narayanji to establish *gram swaraj*; of Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiaji to establish *chankhamba rajya*. Then only peace can be established in the country in the real sense and a new society based on equality and prosperity can be established.

I shall conclude after saying a few words about the panchayats. A lot is said about the panchayats, but have you ever delegated adequate powers to the panchayats? No, you have not delegated powers to them. You can withdraw at any time whatever powers you have delegated to them. Under the Constitution, powers should be allocated to the Central Government, State Governments, zila parishads and village panchayats. If panchayats are to be made strong and self-reliant, then powers will have to be delegated to them under the Constitution. Panchayats and the people will have to go hand in hand to undertake developmental work in the country. If the schemes and plans are carried out from the grass root level, it will accelerate the pace of development. Only then the dream of Gandhiji will be fulfilled. With these words, I oppose the Demands for Grants, because only verbal importance is attached to strengthen villages. Although agriculture is very important, yet you have reduced the allotted time from 8 hrs to 3½ hrs. This shows that you attach no importance to agriculture. You give verbal importance and no importance is attached in actual practice.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : See what can we do, because already we have taken a lot of time for other demands.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : We are willing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already we have taken a lot of time for other demands. We are going to guillotine this also now—this debate. Shri Gholap.

SHRI S.G. GHOLAP (Thane) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants for the Agriculture Department. Sir, I am requesting the Opposition Parties that instead of giving Cut Motions, they should have moved the Plus Motions for this Department because at least we can save the work of this Department. We know we were importing milo, but within this 30 or 35 years, we have increased our production especially in the case of rice, every year, we are producing 11 lakh tonnes more. As regards wheat, we are producing 12 lakh tonnes more every year. We are producing much more. Therefore, I must thank the scientists, the agriculturists and also the Department. Sir, this is the position of India, that we are becoming stronger in food production.

But what about the position of the agriculturists. The average income in 1980 of an average person in India was Rs. 1968. The latest income of an average person is Rs. 2348.

As regards the income of an average person in other countries it is as follows :

Australia	77,775
Canada	70,972
France	80,637
Germany	87,474
Indonesia	3,344
Pakistan	2,799

That means comparatively, there is a very big gap in comparison with other countries. The average income is too much in other countries while in India it is very low. So we must think what will be the average income—especially the average income of rural and urban put together 1918. In the Department of Agriculture, every year they are conducting a survey. And why separate income of rural mass is not given? It is not good. If it is given, it will be

less than Rs. 1,000 per person. Therefore, I would request the Department that there should be a separate survey regarding the rural and urban incomes.

As regards the loan on agriculture, in India, 60 per cent are dependent on agriculture. The world average is only 43%, and in some countries it is 8%, 9%, 10% or 12%. So, how to reduce the load on agriculture, is also the problem of India. Agro-industries such as sugar factories, spinning mills and horticulture should increase in number.

Normally, bonus is given to workers; but nowadays, bonus is given to Central Government servants also. But what about the agriculturists? What do they get? Their average income is only about Rs. 900. We have to consider how they can get more. More price should be given for their produce. More incentives should also be given to them. In the rural areas, it is said that it is better to be a Peon than to be an agriculturist, because definitely the former gets more money, while the agriculturist is getting much less.

As regards crop insurance, you have introduced it recently. But it is limited to the loan given to the agriculturist. Whether it is the insurance of the loan, or insurance of the crop, it is limited to one-and-a-half times the loan given to him. Why should this limit be there, I do not understand.

As regards interest on the loan given to the agriculturist, as we are not able to give him a proper price, we should at least give him concession in the rate of interest. In Maharashtra we decided before the elections—*i.e.* in the manifesto itself we said—that interest payable by the agriculturist will be only 6%. The Maharashtra Government has asked for permission from the Central Government to give loan to the agriculturists at 6%. The interest above 6% will be given as subsidy by the State Government. Reserve Bank has not allowed it. Similarly, even the Central Government has not given permission. I request that this permission be given, so that they will get the loan at 6% interest.

In the villages, it is said that plant protection has become difficult, and there

are more of insects, because Government is exporting frog legs. Frogs protect the plants. But Government is exporting frog legs to the extent of 3,000 tonnes per year. Because of this difficulty in protecting plants against diseases, there should be a ban on the export of frog legs.

Regarding natural calamities, from Maharashtra we have asked for a grant of Rs. 561 crores, but we have got only Rs. 52 crores. This is so, because we have not changed our norms for giving advance grants, or for giving loans to the States.

As regards the Fisheries Department, we are exporting fish worth near about Rs. 382 per year. Deep sea fishing is there. Deep sea fishing vessels are exempt from Excise duty on diesel oil. Small fishermen using mechanized boats are not getting this subsidy. Why this difference? In Maharashtra, we have given exemption from Sales Tax on the diesel to these persons if they purchase diesel oil through cooperative pump. The same practice should be followed in respect of Excise duty also.

As regards the Department of Rural Development, I request the Prime Minister through the Department of Agriculture : to consider this request. In the backward areas, especially where 90% of the people are Adivasis, and 90% of the land is also forest land, no land is made available for schools, roads or tanks. So, no such development work is undertaken. Even electricity is not given. If this is so, how can these backward areas be developed? If the need is for a small piece of land, i.e. upto 50 acres, Government should give it immediately for development and other public purposes.

I conclude my speech with thanks to the Chair, and I support the Demands in respect of Agriculture.

[Translation]

*SHRI M. MAHALINGAM (Nagapattinam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party the AIADMK, I rise to say a few words in support of the

Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation for 1986-87

At the outset I would refer to the rural indebtedness in the country. It is a recurring feature in our country that one part of our country is afflicted by floods and the other part by drought. The farmers of the country are faced with this twin natural calamities year after year. How do you expect them to liquidate the loans taken by them in this circumstance of adversity? They are not able to pay even the interest accruals on such loans. You will be surprised to know that on short term loans the rate of interest is 11% to 14%. This rate is too exorbitant for them to pay. I take this opportunity to suggest that the rate of interest on loans to small and marginal farmers should not exceed 5%. Then only they will be deriving some benefit from such loans.

Our State Government headed by the enlightened leader Dr. M.G.R. has passed a law liquidating the indebtedness of small and marginal farmers from non-institutional sources, i.e. from the money-lenders. All the States in the country should emulate this example. Our Chief Minister, whose commitment to the welfare of farmers is beyond words of description, has also arranged to supply electricity at a very low rate. I suggest that the farmers who are the backbone of the country should be given loans etc at a very low rate of interest.

The Reserve Banks of India has ordered that no branches of commercial banks should be opened in rural areas. In order to ensure assured flow of credits to the farmers, in each District headquarter there should be one Regional Rural Bank. In Tamil Nadu there are only two Regional Rural Banks. Our hon. Minister of Agriculture should use his good offices in having one Regional Rural Bank in each district headquarters of the country with its branches in each Taluka headquarters.

In my constituency of Nagapattinam, there are several thousands of fishermen. The World Bank is assisting the Fish Seed

[Shri M. Mahalingam]

Farms scheme being implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In Tamil Nadu having the longest coast line there is not even a single Fish Seed Farm. Similarly the Fish Farmers Development scheme is also not being implemented in Tamil Nadu. The Reservoir Fisheries Development for Small and Medium Reservoirs has been assured World Bank Assistance. But this project is still in draft stage. The Indian Fisheries Act was passed in 1897. No effort has so far been made to substitute this archaic law. I understand that a draft Bill is ready to replace this Act. I want this Bill to be enacted soon for the good of fishermen. There is also another scheme called Beach Landing Craft for Small Fishermen. This scheme is being implemented by the National Cooperative Development Corporation. So far Tamil Nadu has not derived any benefit from this scheme also. It is stated in the Annual Report of the Ministry that the NCDC has been requested to prepare a set of norms for release of funds to the State Governments for this scheme. Though this scheme is said to be under implementation during the past two years, no guidelines have been formulated so far. All these schemes meant for the welfare of fishermen should be implemented without any delay. There is the Group Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen, under which so far 5 lakhs of fishermen have been covered. In Tamil Nadu alone there are 20 lakhs of fishermen. I want that the word 'active' should be removed and the scheme of Group Insurance for Fishermen should be implemented for good of all fishermen. A National Fishermen Housing Finance Corporation should be constituted so that financial assistance can be given to the fishermen for constructing houses nearer to coastal area which is safe and secure for habitation.

Even today the cattle driven cart is the main mode of transport of foodgrains from our 5.5 lakh villages to the nearby mandis and markets in the towns. At least 10% of the outlay on agricultural implements and machinery should be spent on the welfare of cattle in the rural areas, as we all know that cattle is the best friend of the cultivators in our country. The carts should be modernised. The

simple traditional agricultural implements should be produced in substantial quantities. The traditional plough should be made more effective. The cattle maintenance should also be scientifically done. The farmers should be helped with their age-old assets.

Sir, Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu occupies the pre-eminent place in producing agricultural products. The farmers here are dependent on the supply of water from Mettur reservoir. They do not get adequate quantum of water from Mettur reservoir. Even when they get some water from here, it is not given at the needed time. Naturally they are suffering for want of water. Whether it is a small farmer or a big farmer, I suggest that all the farmers in Thanjavur District must be given loans for digging and installing tubewells so that they can have assured supply of water for irrigation. They should be given grants or loans at subsidised rate of interest. They should also be helped financially to have modern irrigation canal-system here. Similarly, the insecticides and fertilisers should be supplied to them at a subsidised rate so that they are not hard put to find funds for purchasing them. With these words I conclude my speech.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : I am very unhappy and speaking with much pain while participating in the debate on the Demands for Grants relating to my Ministry.

This year has proved to be very bad and very difficult for us. The nature was very unkind. Not only the nature but you have also become very unkind to us as you have given only three or four hours for discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Many of the things were discussed under rule 193, calling attention, etc. Lok Sabha allotted most of its time for agriculture.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Nearly 12 States and two Union territories have suffered from drought and 22 States

and four Union territories have suffered from hailstorm, fire, avalanche, cyclone, etc. Therefore, I said that the nature was very kind. I said that you were also very unkind because you have given only three to four hours for a Ministry which represents 70 per cent of the population of the country. This is not one Ministry. There are three Ministers sitting here—fertiliser, Agricultural and Rural Development. This trio has got four. So, we have to be very brief and confine to some aspects of the Agriculture Ministry. We cannot go into details. And in depth we cannot discuss it which I and my colleagues would like to do so that we can tell the hon. Members about our programmes, about the increase in foodgrains so that it will benefit our farmers and the poor people at large in the country.

Four or five speakers have participated so far in the debate. We were hearing their speeches. I will reply to some of the points made by hon. Members.

Sethi Sahib has said about increasing the production of oilseeds, sugar and pulses. Our Prime Minister is very keen to see that the production of oilseeds and pulses is increased. Therefore, he said that it should be taken up as a mission and with a missionary zeal our scientists should work on the research in these areas. The technology mission on increasing oilseed production is, therefore, established. It has started functioning. We are sure that with this mission and with the zeal and enthusiasm of our scientists who are working in the field of development of oilseeds and pulses, we will achieve breakthrough and we will be able to produce a variety which may be disease free and high yielding and of short duration. That will help our farmers a lot. There will be more production of oilseeds and pulses in the coming days. He mentioned about the production of sugarcane also. Sugarcane is also an area which has attracted the attention of our scientists and they are working on it for a better variety, free from disease and, as I said, high yield also, so that there will be more production. Our scientists have also worked on some diseases like pyrrilla in Uttar Pradesh and in other areas of the country and they have also found out the solution for it.

Shri Satyendra Narayan Ji mentioned about the production of rice, pulses, oilseeds in Eastern States. On 8th of January 1986, my senior colleague Shri Buta Singh Ji took a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Eastern States at Patna and this was discussed at length in that meeting. They discussed about the production of rice in the Eastern States, and the development of pulses and oilseeds also. This was discussed at length and a project is made for the development of paddy varieties which can suit the soil and the area and can give high yield. There was a seminar organised by ICAR—an international symposia which was organised with the help of International Institute of Rice Research in Philippines—and there also they have discussed a number of problems which our farmers are facing in the production of paddy.

There are certain points made regarding the small and marginal farmers. We have a number of schemes which help our small and marginal farmers. We want that our agriculture should develop and, therefore, we have introduced a crop insurance scheme, and I am happy to say that eleven States and one Union Territory have accepted it. They have insured the farmers in their States for cereals, particularly rice, wheat, paddy and millet. For cereals there is two per cent premium and for oilseeds and pulses, it is one per cent. In the case of small and marginal farmers, 50% of the premium is given by the Centre and the State on the basis 50 : 50. In the Kharif season of 1985, 23.25 lakh farmers were covered under this scheme involving an area of 41.80 lakh hectares. The total sum insured was Rs. 540.81 crores and the premium collected was Rs. 9.33 crores. During 1985, fifteen States and Union Territories have taken action to implement the Scheme. This Scheme is insuring the farmers who have taken loans. So, there is some criticism about it. Some Members want that it should cover even those farmers who have not taken loans. But this scheme is at an initial stage, on an experimental basis we are doing it and we wish that it should be extended even to dry farming, even to the areas where the farmers have not taken loans, because we want to assure our farmers about their harvest and if it fails, then we want to compensate them

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

by way of insurance. That is why the scheme is introduced and in the near future we can change it, and it may be extended to other areas also.

Sir, in the case of Fisheries also, number of steps have been taken to increase the catches as well as for the development of inland fisheries. A novel idea of fishery estate is developed and we have fishery estates in U.P., in Madhya Pradesh and in Gujarat also. We are creating such fishery estates which will help the farmers, particularly the small and marginal farmers, to get added income. By this pisciculture he will be able to earn a little more. So, this will help the small and marginal farmers.

So far as Dairy development is concerned, we have completed Operation Flood-I and Operation Flood-II. The results are quite good. Today we have got bumper milk production and it has become a problem for our dairies to process it. Earlier, when we started dairies in this country there were lot of criticisms. There were complaints and people asked us: What are you going to do? Where is the milk to process and convert it into SMP butter oil, butter etc.? That was the criticism which was made earlier. But today we have only limited capacity of processing the milk. Therefore we are not able to accept all the milk which is coming to us. The milk producer has to convert it into ghee and sell it in the market. Ghee price has also come down because of this—more availability of ghee and butter in the Market. So, this programme has helped farmers—particularly the small and marginal farmers and the landless labourers. This scheme was sanctioned in March 1975 and then for some years this was in the initial stages. But now there are more than 40368 milk cooperative societies in the country. We have 154 numbers of milksheds covered. 42.46 lakhs of farmers are members of the societies. 25321 dairy cooperative societies are covered under animal health. 8241 dairy cooperative societies are covered under artificial insemination. We have received Skimmed milk powder, butter oil and butter from the EEC and through re-combination we provide milk to metro dairies and we generated funds and we created more facilities for the processing of the milk. What we received from the EEC was converted

into fresh milk for the metro cities and this led to the establishment of feeder dairies as well as metro dairies. This programme has done really good work in the area of dairy development and for the development of animal husbandry.

Now we are planning for Operation Flood III and we expect that this Operation Flood III scheme will minimise the need for gift commodities. The time will come when we will not want any more gift commodities and we will do all these things on our own.

So far as horticulture is concerned, we have a Horticulture Board. It is developing fruits, vegetables, cashewnut, spices, etc. Number of steps have been taken in this regard. The Commissioner of Horticulture is looking into all aspects of diseases in respect of fruits, vegetables, etc., and for the development of new varieties for more production. So, a number of steps are taken in this area also. As I said earlier, the time is very limited and the field to be discussed is vast because this Ministry is just like a big empire. There are Ministries which can be clubbed together; if five Ministries are clubbed together, this Ministry can be formed. That is the dimension and the size of the Ministry and that is why a number of things are to be discussed, my colleagues will discuss about other points which are raised here, and there are some areas which I have not entered into particularly fertilizer, and other areas which I have not discussed. But I can assure you, Sir, that we are doing our best to help our farmers and we expect that in the coming days not only the food will be surplus, today it is surplus, but the pulses and oilseeds which are short today will also be available in plenty and there will be no difficulty for our poor people.

Sir, I can also assure you that our scientists and our extension workers who are working in the field and who are taking the research from the laboratory to the fields, all will help our farmers and there will be no difficulty so far as the food front is concerned. Even though there is drought and floods, cyclones etc. have hit a number of States, almost every State, not a single State is left out, as I said, 22 States and four Union Territories in the case of floods

etc. and every sort of calamities have affected this time—floods, cyclones, hailstorms, avalanche and fire, which is included newly in the Eighth Finance Commission Report. Fire took place in one State and earthquake also took place in another State. So, all sorts of natural calamities have hit one or the other State. Even then, we expect that production will be nearly 150 million tonnes and there will be no difficulty so far as food is concerned.

With these words, Sir, I thank you for giving me some time to intervene in the debate, and I can assure you once again that we all, including my colleagues and myself and our officers, will do all the best for the farmers of this country. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. MOHANDAS (Mukundapuram) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country and almost 80 per cent of the population are farmers. Naturally agriculture contributes the largest share to the Gross National Product. Although agriculture is the backbone of India's economy, it still remains more or less a gamble of monsoon. That is why the total production of foodgrains have come down to 146.22 million tonnes in 1984-85 as compared to 152.47 million tonnes in 1983-84. We have not been able to irrigate our fields to the fullest extent. If we could provide irrigation facilities to at least 60 per cent of our fields, the yield would have been almost twice as much as it is today. We had green revolution because there were irrigation facilities available in Punjab, Haryana and other States. Green revolution has certainly changed the food situation in the country and we could move towards a state of self-sufficiency in the production of foodgrains. From an importer of foodgrains India moved into the position of an exporter of foodgrains

15.19 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

This became possible because of the excellent research work done by our scientists and the hard work put in by our farmers. I am happy that the Prime Minister is attaching great importance to research in various fields. By useful research in producing high yielding varieties, pest

control and other plant protection measures, soil conservation and other areas connected with agriculture, we will be able to increase our production many times over.

However, the Green Revolution has remained confined to certain States in the North. Nothing was done to take it to other regions, notably in the South. What is required is to have a wider base for Green Revolution. A perspective plan is required for that.

It has been a longstanding complaint that the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. The farmers say that while fixing the procurement prices for different cereals, the actual cost of production is not being taken into account. The prices of inputs have gone up many times over the past one decade. But the procurement prices have been raised only marginally. In a State like Kerala, for example, where the labour charges are very high, the cost of production of paddy is still higher. I am happy that the Government is in the process of formulating a long-term pricing policy for agricultural produce. It should be expedited and before giving final shape to this policy, the Government should take the farmers into confidence and their demand for a fair and remunerative price should get proper recognition in the new pricing policy.

There are certain commercial crops which play a vital role in the economy of a State or a particular region. Coconut is an example. Sir, coconut is the backbone of Kerala's economy and a decline in the price of coconut will adversely affect the economy of State. This is precisely what has happened. Last year, there was a real crash in the prices of coconut. A nut selling at Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 in 1984 is getting sold at Re. 1. The entire economy of the State has suffered. On the one hand, the farmers suffered on account of the severe drought which destroyed a large number of coconut trees, on the other they are facing a serious economic crisis due to the steep fall in the prices. As a matter of fact, Kerala's coconut growers have always suffered because they don't have a lobby here just as there are wheat lobbies, or rice lobbies, which are very powerful. Even fruit growers have a lobby here. When apple was affected by a disease,

[Shri K. Mohandas]

it was declared a national disease and all protective measures were taken. But this concern was not seen when large areas of coconut plantation was destroyed due to the fatal root wilt disease. Some research is going on and some amount was spent. But we could not find a satisfactory solution to this problem so far.

Same is the case about fixing a floor price for coconut. Numerous representations were made to the Agricultural Ministry for fixing a floor price for coconut. I don't know why it still remains undecided. If a floor price had been fixed, certainly the coconut growers would have got some relief. But it has not been done so far. I would take this opportunity to request the Government to fix a floor price for coconut immediately and save the coconut growers most of whom are small and marginal farmers.

Sir, the anti-poverty programmes under the 20-point programme have been implemented satisfactorily in Kerala. I don't want to go into the statistics. Kerala's performance in this respect has been impressive. I would request the Government to increase the allocation to Kerala for the RLEGP programme and other anti-poverty programme. In this connection, I would make one request. Under the Rural Employment Programme, half of the wages are paid in foodgrains. The Centre allocates wheat for this purpose. Actually the people in rural areas are not used to eating wheat and so they do not accept wheat. Thus, the whole quantity of wheat remains unused. If rice is supplied in place of wheat, this problem could be solved and there will be greater impact of this programme.

I hope the hon. Minister will kindly consider the points I have raised. With these words, I support the Demands and conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sriballav Panigrahi. Not more than 7 minutes, in any case.

15.24 hrs.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants relating to

the Ministry of Agriculture, and Rural Development.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Government, the Union Government, the agricultural scientists, and more particularly the peasantry of the country on having brought about successfully the green revolution in the country. Sir, it is no less creditable achievement because at the beginning of the 1st Five Year Plan, our food production was of the order of about 55 million tonnes, whereas it has touched 151.34 million tonnes in 1983-84. That means, during the 22-23 years, we have gone so high in the field of food production inasmuch as it has also received appreciation in different world forums.

But I feel that although there is every reason for us to feel proud of this achievement, there is no room for self-complacency because the task ahead of us is quite challenging. We have a Himalayan task on the food front ahead of us because by the turn of the century, we will be having 100 crores of population and the food requirement will be of the order of 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. Now we are at 150 million tonnes and unless our annual production of foodgrains is accordingly increased, we will not be able to meet this requirement. What is the problem? In the field of agriculture, our problem is two-fold. We have twin objectives. One, to make our country self-sufficient on the food front so that we do not go for asking food from other countries and instead we can supply food to other needy countries as we are doing now. Secondly, the lot of the agriculturists, the cultivators and all those who depend on agriculture, the landless labourers, the agricultural labourers, has to be improved. Then there is no room for complacency.

Improved technology has been the sheet-anchor of our progress.

Now we are doing a lot to eradicate the poverty of our people. So many anti-poverty schemes are being implemented. We must be able to provide irrigation to as much area as possible. We must grow more than one crop, two or three crops, in different areas. That will take care of the poverty of the people. It will automatically help in eradicating poverty from this country. Therefore, irrigation has to be

provided, good seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, modern techniques, all those things will have to be provided to the peasants at their door-steps and well in time.

Research is going on but the outcome of the research is not flowing to the rural areas, to the cultivators of all the areas equally. This is regrettable. Therefore, what is required is establishment of Agricultural Colleges and research Centres also at different places. There should be co-ordination between Extension and Research Wings so that the research benefits really flow to the cultivators and our food production goes up rapidly so as to meet our requirements. It is quite a challenging task that we have to produce about 240 million tonnes so as to meet the requirement of about 100 crores of population by the turn of the century.

We must introduce a changing crop pattern in our agricultural areas. Only 25% of the cultivated land is served by irrigation. 70% of the cultivated land is dry land and it contributes about 50% to our production. Therefore, there should be a regular and proper planning. Proper crop pattern should be there and as you know, we go to our areas and our constituencies and we meet our cultivators and we feel their pulse and we see how discontented they are because of the price factor. They always complain that the price is not properly fixed for agricultural products and that their representatives are not taken in that body which fixes the prices of their produce. Again it does not have any relationship with the prices of the manufactured industrial goods. There should be parity and there should be an integrated price structure so that there is some kind of parity between the agricultural produce and the industrial goods. It is an irony of fate that whenever there is good production, in industry they get bonus but the reverse is true on the agricultural front. When there is a lot of production or when there is a bumper crop, we hear complaints of distress sale. In my State of Orissa there is power shortage and there is no milling during load shedding and naturally procurement has slackened. Therefore, I would appeal to the Minister to look into this aspect and the FCI should procure directly from the agriculturists and not through their agents, the miller and the businessman who in many cases exploit the producers.

Then, coming to crop insurance, it is a welcome feature that crop insurance has been introduced. But it is high time that it should be objectively reviewed and some changes brought in. There is a lot of confusion prevailing among the cultivators. It is limited to the irrigated areas. It should be extended to dry areas because our agriculture is linked with the vagaries of nature. It is still a gamble on the monsoon as it was during the British time. Then there is some confusion and misunderstanding also as to what will be the extent of loss on which the producers will get the benefit. It is calculated according to the Bandobust or settlement records which are pretty old. At that time modern technology was not introduced. Per acre yield was quite low which was recorded in those days. When the loss is calculated on the basis of old records, naturally they do not get anything. So a practical view has to be taken and this crop insurance should be objectively reviewed.

Coming to natural calamity, as our hon. Minister of State has said, large areas in our country are visited by natural calamities every year. Some areas like Orissa perpetually suffer from natural calamities. They are visited every year by natural calamities—either cyclone, drought or floods. In such cases the central assistance that is given should be not by way of loan or advance but it should be grant. It should be 100% grant. In Orissa what was asked for has not been given; only a fraction of it has been given. I would request the Minister to do something about it.

About the anti-poverty scheme I will submit that proper selection should be made about the beneficiaries. It should be strictly monitored and stern measures should be taken against those found guilty because it is seen from experience that the anti-poverty scheme implementation has been paradise for corrupt officers and some middle political men. Therefore, stern measures should be taken about it.

Then one welcome feature of the Seventh Plan agricultural programme is giving more attention for increasing rice production in the eastern India and also the shortfall has to be made up. That should be done in right earnest because now there is a lot of gap between pen and paper

[Shri Sriballav Panigrahi]

and the real implementation in the field. This gap should be closed and it has to be ensured by the Ministry. Then the present problem in the field of agriculture is enhancing production and productivity without raising the cost of production. This has to be kept in mind by our planners and scientists working in the field.

With these words I conclude supporting the Demands of the Ministry which is a very important Ministry and 70% of our people are connected with this Ministry. I support these Demands.

[Translation]

SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA (Chhota Udaipur) : Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, I would like to raise some points. Our hon. Agriculture Minister belongs to a poor agriculturist family. That is why he has formulated schemes to help the poor farmers. However, I would like to speak about the condition prevailing in the areas inhabited by adivasi farmers.

The adivasi and the backward areas lack irrigation facilities. Lift irrigation schemes should be formulated for such areas and tubewells should be installed there. Only then there can be development in the agricultural field.

Sir, the land in the hilly region and especially in the tribal areas, which is tilled by the farmers in an unauthorised way, should be allotted to the farmers for undertaking plantation on it and the Government should bear the entire expenditure on plantation. This will accelerate the growth of plantation and the farmers, who till the land in an unauthorised way, will also be able to earn their livelihood. 50 per cent of the income thus earned from the plantations should be given to the farmers engaged in the plantations and the rest should be taken by the Government. It should also check the illegal realisation of money by the Forest Officers.

Sir, there is desert area in Gujarat, there is Kutch coast and there is sea coast also. It is necessary to undertake the plantation work there.

The farmers do not get remunerative prices of their produce. Just now Shri Makwanaji has said that foodgrains are stored in the godowns and they are eaten away by insects. We try to protect foodgrains from the insects. We have also formulated a scheme in this respect. But we should formulate some National Price Policy in respect of those middlemen who exploit the farmers by manipulating the prices of oilseeds, cotton and other agricultural produce. This year there was distress sale of cotton. The condition of cotton growers has become very pitiable. Oilseeds and cotton are the main crops in our area. I was very much pleased when Rajivji declared that a National Price Policy would be formulated in respect of cotton.

Sir, sometimes our area is affected by floods and sometimes by drought. Nowadays our adivasi areas have been affected by famine and drought. With the visit of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the Messiah of Adivasis and backward classes in that area, some arrangements for livelihood of the famine-affected people have been made. Now their condition has improved to some extent. However, it needs some more attention. The farmers of these drought-affected areas are given agricultural loans. The Ministry of Agriculture should adopt a liberal attitude in regard to the recovery of loans given to them. Banks and co-operatives also provide loans to them where the area is affected by drought. Special consideration should be shown in matter of sanctioning loans to the farmers of such areas.

Sir, it has been said that the pace of development of roads in the tribal areas is very slow. I would like to tell that roads cannot be constructed through the forests. Roads can be constructed on the land belonging to panchayat only and not on forest land. So, the law should provide exemption in such cases or the present law itself should be amended. Otherwise, the tribals will have to face difficulties in carrying goods from one village to another because neither roads can be constructed there nor any railway line exists there. Diesel engine should be provided for Chhota Udaipur narrow gauge line. Attention should be paid to this also.

Sir, the Narmada Project is under execution in our tribal area. It is a very big

project which will change the face of the country. In this project some land of the adivasis will be submerged. Attention will have to be paid to that. These people should be allotted some alternative land and cent-per-cent subsidy should be provided to them for the development of that land. It will be a welfare scheme for those people who have been rendered homeless and landless.

Similarly, the people in the tribal areas have remained backward in the agriculture sector. Their agricultural production is not satisfactory. So, some diploma course or agricultural camp course should be undertaken so that these people may be trained in the improved system of agriculture and thus development of agriculture could take place there.

There is one more problem in our area. There are two tribes, *i.e.*, Rathwa and Rathwakholi in our area. But only the people belonging to the Rathwa tribe enjoy the benefits of tribal schemes. The people belonging to Rathwakholi tribe are deprived of these benefits. I would suggest that both the tribes should be recognised as such and provided benefits equally. Therefore, Rathwakholi caste should be included in Rathwa caste, the Adivasi caste.

One more last point I would like to make. Most of the T.V. Centres have been set up in the cities but the development of the country depends on the development of agriculture and that of the rural areas. The people living in the rural areas are deprived of the programmes concerning agriculture telecast on T.V. More attention should, therefore, be paid towards setting T.V. centres in the rural and adivasi areas. In this way these areas will be helpful in the development of agriculture as well as the country. By opening T.V. Centres there, programmes concerning agricultural development could be shown to them.

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, like God you too have imposed cuts. I want to thank you that the Almighty sometimes sweeps away everything in the floods, etc., but you have provided us at least 4 hours.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Ministry is directly concerned with 75 per cent of the population of the country and in this way it is a very important Ministry. Taking part in the discussion I want to give some suggestions to the hon. Minister and the Members. Crop insurance has been mentioned here. This scheme has been started only in a few States at present and it is not yet in a very good shape. Out of the 2 per cent premium demanded by the insurance companies, one per cent, of course, can be charged from the farmers, but the remaining one per cent should be shared equally by the Central Government and the State Governments so that the poor farmers are able to take full benefit of the Insurance scheme.

Secondly, this Ministry should neither adopt a partisan attitude nor it should indulge in politics. It is for the entire nation and 75 per cent of the people are affected by it. Of course, the Government have undertaken many schemes and it is being said that the country has become self-reliant, but, I think, at present people's purchasing power is quite low, because many people are unable to buy foodgrains at the present rates. I want to give you one example. USSR produces more foodgrains than us and her population also is lesser than us. Even then she imports foodgrains. This means that the people in our country do not have sufficient purchasing power, and as such, they do not get the full quantity of foodgrains. Another thing I want to say is that if the prices of the inputs continue to spiral as at present, then the price hike in the foodgrains will be so much that the poor will have no purchasing power at all. If he is able to purchase only 25 per cent of his requirement, then he will not have purchasing power to purchase 75 per cent of his total requirement. Therefore, I request that the prices of the inputs should be brought down. For quite a long time I have been observing that every year Agricultural Prices Commission is appointed and it fixes the prices a new every time. The Agricultural Prices Commission is unable to give any decision even till the harvesting season starts. The Government should convene a meeting in which representatives of the farmers should take part and there after taking into account the investment made on the inputs and other aspects concerning the yield, the margin of

[Shri Shaminder Singh]

profit, even if it is half of what industrialists earn or five to eight per cent, should be fixed. A price index should be formulated so that issue of fixing prices is not put forward before the Price Commission every year, and the farmers are able to get the inputs and sell their crops on a fixed price for 10 to 15 years and in this way they are able to chalk out their programme for a long time. I am a farmer and work with my own hands. Therefore, I may be allowed to speak for sometime more. I come from Punjab, I would like to bring to your notice a major defect. Punjab and Haryana have a large stock of wheat. The system of supplying it to other States is not correct. In Punjab even 4 year old wheat is lying. Similarly two lakh tonnes of sugarcane is sent to Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh and we remain busy in arranging only transport. I want that a sugar mill should be set up in Punjab and foodgrain schemes should be given to the South. Within the country crores of rupees are spent on transport and we go on transporting sugar, foodgrain and other commodities from one part to the other.

One thing more. The Central Government has formulated several schemes in respect of oilseeds and pulses and the Indian farmer always welcomes such schemes. Whatever scheme you will formulate for the farmers, they will implement it, be it oilseed scheme or pulses scheme. That is why I am insisting that he should be given proper profit. If that is done, the Indian farmer will welcome all the schemes wholeheartedly and implement them and achieve all the targets. If you do not pay attention to my request, you will see that crores of rupees being spent on bringing about green revolution and white revolution will go waste and put the farmers under heavy debts and gradually one day they will breakdown totally. At that time neither the Government nor the country will be able to do anything for them. With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI K.H. RANGANATH (Chitradurga) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful

to you for the time given to me to speak on this Demand. Since there is paucity of time I will make only two or three points.

No doubt we have made quite a successful improvement in agriculture but you have to take the overall position. It is only in a few States that we have been able to make a mark while there is considerable backwardness in other States. So my point is we have not been able to identify the areas which are suffering for want of irrigation facilities of which are drought affected and also areas where crops like pulses, oilseeds, etc. could be grown.

Further there has not been sufficient storage facility also. The agriculturist is making a big cry for providing him an advantageous price. I still remember the agitation which was there in 1983 in Karnataka—a big movement by agriculturists—in respect of foodgrains and sugarcane. Central Warehousing Corporation is doing some work to provide godown facilities. Cooperative societies have also been doing some work in this respect but there has not been scientific thinking on this matter. Centres of foodgrains production and marketable areas have not been identified and the warehousing facilities have not been provided there. Agriculturists have not been able to keep their produce in the warehouses. As a matter of fact today it is the merchant that makes use of the Warehousing Corporation godowns. The merchant purchases the produce from the agriculturists during the harvesting season and stores it in the godowns. He is able to take 50 per cent money from the banks. Then he sells it at his own convenient time. Why should not the Government think of these things and plan for the whole of the country instead of leaving these things to the mercy of the States? The godowns which had been started in 1972-73 are yet to be completed in the cooperative sector. You have included them in the Plan. You have provide some subsidy also. But the State Governments do not complete them on time. So much so, the warehousing facilities are not available to the agriculturists. If the warehousing facilities are there, the agriculturists can pledge their produce and get 50% of the cost of their produce from the banks and meet their immediate needs and

then dictate the market. They can never be under the mercy of the merchants at all. This is one of the suggestions which I wanted to make.

Sir, in respect of irrigation, I should be pardoned if I say that there has been considerable regional imbalance. As far as Karnataka is concerned. The other hon. Member was making a reference in this House this morning about the irrigation facilities. In this connection, I may point out that the emphasis was given to the agriculture only during the Third Five Year Plan. In the First and the Second Five Year Plans, we did not think about food at all. But from the Third Five Year Plan onwards, we have been laying much emphasis on food production. But the Fourth Plan was never a Plan. There was a Plan holiday and the annual plan was pursued during that time. During the Fifth and the Sixth Plans we made sufficient progress. But as far as Karnataka is concerned, the irrigation projects that were taken up some time in the Third Five Year Plan are yet to be completed. They are yet to see the light of the day. In the meanwhile, our friends from Andhra Pradesh have raised the slogan of Telugu-Ganga project. This has come in the way of Karnataka executing the irrigation projects. Sir, I come from a district which is very close to Rayalaseema districts in Andhra Pradesh. It is chronically a drought-affected area. Have you thought about it? Has there been any scientific approach in this respect? We have spent a lot of money either on flood control or on meeting the drought situations in the country. But if we have spent these monies on irrigation projects, by now we would have completed many of the projects and we would have solved the problems. We must identify the major rivers so that we may plan irrigation projects and provide for them money. If the State Governments want, they can give grants, loans and see that the projects are completed on time and there should be no spill-over of the projects. Today, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, all the works are continuing projects from the Third Five Year Plan. But we say that we have achieved the plan targets. Input facilities like water, seed and needed credits needs to be provided to agriculturists to improve the agriculture. Moreover, the cultivators will have to be provided with

cash facilities in order to enable them sustain till they get the crops in addition to the crop-credit.

Further, Sir, there has been research work going on. The research has also come to the help of the agriculturists. Research facilities will have to be provided all over the country taking into consideration the crops grown in that area that too, the surplus produce. For example, if production through horticulture can be increased in a particular area, research in that direction will have to be undertaken there. So also in respect of cereals, oil seeds, cotton, research institutions will have to be established in those areas. Our work in respect of dairy and animal husbandary is not encouraging. A lot of thing will have to be done in this direction. Unless we come to the help of the agriculturists who contribute nearly 60% of the national income, probably I think our future seems to be very very dim. I know both the Ministers in charge of this Ministry are very much interested in agriculture. But if they were to concentrate only on Delhi, Haryana, Panjab and some of the surrounding areas, it is not just sufficient. They must come down to the South. South requires a constant attention in this respect.

SHRI M R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, agriculture is the backbone of our country. Nearly seventy five per cent of our people live in the rural areas and out of that seventy per cent people depend on agriculture. If we really want to eradicate poverty of the common people, we shall have to develop our agriculture. Agriculture significantly is the most important factor for reducing poverty of the common people in India. Therefore, if we really want to increase the growth of our economy and also develop our economy, we shall have to adopt some measures to develop this sector of our economy. Our Seventh Five Year Plan has been guided by the considerations of foodgrains, works and productivity. By developing agriculture we can support the largest number of people, and it is here that the largest number of productive employment can be created. I, therefore, urge upon the Minister to take all possible measures to develop agriculture.

[Shri M.R. Saikia]

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the chair*]

We find that our country is self-sufficient at present in foodgrains, specially wheat and rice. But there are certain areas, where we have been suffering from deficiency, particularly in respect of edible oils and sugar. In order to fill up the gap between demand and supply, we have to spend significant portion of our foreign exchange on the import of edible oil and sugar. Therefore, in order to make our country self-sufficient and also to reduce the burden of payment of foreign exchange, we have to encourage domestic production of such goods. We shall have to take some measures for increasing the growth rate of our existing production and also to encourage the farmers to produce more, we shall have to adopt some measures such as offering remunerative price for their products as also adopt some other measures to bring home to the small farmers the benefits of the Crop Insurance Scheme through wide publicity. We shall have to encourage them and try our level best to reduce the risk and uncertainty about the fate of their products. We also have to encourage the farmers to adopt both intensive and extensive methods of cultivation to increase their agricultural produce. We shall have to take measures for extension of improved technology for more areas.

Further, we shall have to make provisions for easy availability of credit facilities to the poor farmers. We should also arrange to supply them with high yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers, manures and chemicals.

In addition to these things, the Government should come forward with adequate funds and elaborate provisions for better irrigation facilities, and for construction of major, medium and minor irrigation works to provide required quantity of water to agricultural fields and also to increase the irrigated areas for cultivation.

While thinking of improvement and development of our agriculture, we shall have to bear in mind the effects of high

floods, which are significantly associated with agriculture. Unless we control floods, our very purpose will be defeated. We have seen that every year almost in the entire country except a few limited areas, flood creates havocs. Just at the beginning of the cultivation of kharif crops, flood comes and it causes huge damages to our crops, washes away dwelling houses and thousands and thousands of people and cattle are shifted to high areas. Millions of hectares of land in the country are submerged under water for months together and it totally eliminates the possibilities of Monsoon kharif crops. Therefore, the Government should come forward with adequate funds for the implementation of the flood control programmes.

In my State of Assam, we have seen that every district of this particular State is submerged under water for months together. There is one fertile area in our State, namely Majuli, which is the largest river island in the world. This area has been completely ruined by floods. Actually, this particular area is the granary of Assam and it is also the seat of Assamese culture. Therefore, my humble suggestion to the hon. Minister is that instead of taking some piecemeal measures here and there by constructing bunds which are again washed away by the floods, leaving no trace of their existence, long term projects should be taken in order to control the floods. Unless we can control floods, we shall not be able to develop our agriculture. Such long term measures should be considered not as regional projects. These should be considered as national projects because the problem of flood is not a regional problem. It is a national problem. Therefore, I would like to submit that long term projects should be taken up, such as construction of big dams across the snowfed rivers. Only these dams shall be able to control the floods and these dams shall also be able to provide ample facilities for irrigating the agricultural lands. Therefore, my humble submission to the Minister is that the Government should come forward with adequate funds to take up some long term projects and not short term ones. We have found that crores and crores of rupees are spent in the name of relief work. All this type of spending and investment are very unproductive, India is a poor

country and we cannot afford to waste such large sums of money for unproductive purposes. Therefore, I would request the Ministry to come forward with adequate funds for the construction of big dams across the snow-fed rivers in order to control floods and also to provide facilities for irrigating cultivable land. With these words I thank you.

16.08 hrs.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Thank you Mr. Chairman. I would first of all agree with my colleague here on my left that if you had given us a little more time, we could have dealt with the most vital subject of agriculture at a greater length and in greater detail.

It is also a sad commentary that a discussion of this importance, on this particular subject which affects the vast majority of the people of our country should arouse the kind of interest it has, in the Press and in the Chamber.

Now Sir, my duty first is to speak about the fertilizer industry, which for the first time, is a part of the Ministry of Agriculture as a full Department. What steel is to industry, fertilizer is to agriculture. The development and expansion of the fertilizer industry in India is a success story. Fertilizer today is a growing industry. The post-tax return on the investment in the fertilizer industry either in the public or private sector is 12 per cent.

Now, let us look at the history of the fertilizer industry in India. In 1950-51, we consumed 0.70 lakh tonnes of fertilizer. By 1990 we shall be consuming 14 crores and 40 lakh tonnes. In 1951-52, we produced 27,000 tonnes of nutrients. By 1990, we shall be producing 91 lakh tonnes. Our overall growth will be 11 per cent throughout the Seventh Plan. How have we achieved this? Twenty years ago, India was written off as a bad case, as far as feeding its population were concerned. It was considered beyond saving. But in 1967, when we had some of the worst droughts in many parts of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi took up this challenge to

make India self-sufficient in food and we invested vigorously in the fertilizer industry. Our farmers and our experts have proved that there is nothing that they cannot achieve, if we decided to do so. The fertilizer industry is a good example of that. Today, the entire world acclaims our achievement in this particular field. Why does it do so? The simple reason that we have done this is on our own, on our own farmers, on our own workers and labourers who have achieved this. To organise any programme, any undertaking which involves 70 per cent of the people of this country is not a small task. It is not a minor achievement. It is a major achievement for this country and for the people of this country.

Now, let me give you some figures which speak for themselves. Production of fertilizer in 1985-86 was 100.5 per cent of the target, growth over 1984-85 was 11 per cent and as I said earlier, this will be maintained throughout, the Seventh Plan. But it is not enough as I should tell you in a few moments Mr. Chairman. The capacity utilisation will be 82.3 per cent in 1986-87 which is acceptable and we would like to improve it further. We hope to, but some of our plants are little old, they have to be revamped. They have to be modernised and the funds are being made available. New plants are coming up. Fifteen new plants are coming up. They include eight nitrogenous fertilizer plants and seven phosphatic fertilizer plants. I do not want to give you the names because they are available in the Report and the figures of the Seventh Plan are in the Annual Report which Members will no doubt have seen.

Now what about the future? The demographic projections of India by the end of the century are that we will be in the neighbourhood of 900 millions. For feeding 900 millions people, we will be requiring 235 million tonnes of foodgrains. For producing 235 million tonnes of foodgrains we shall require over 20 million tonnes of fertilizers. That means from 14 million tonnes in 1990 we have to go upto 20 million tonnes in the next ten years. We have to do this on our own. To maintain this a 12 per cent annual use of fertilizers is absolutely essential. It is the minimum. If our production falls below 12 per cent,

[Shri K. Natwar Singh]

we get into the danger zone where we will not be able to produce enough to feed our people. So, it is the endeavour of this Ministry, under the guidance of my senior colleague S. Buta Singh and my colleague Shri Makwana that we shall take every conceivable step to ensure that the production of fertilizer in this country keeps on going up. So, the 12 per cent growth rate is maintained.

Now, we are among the largest producers of the fertilizers in the world. And at the sametime, we are also one of the largest importers of fertilizers. We produce about 60 per cent of our requirements and import about 40 per cent and now we hope that when all the new plants that are coming up in the next four years or five years, these 15 plants are gas-based, some will use fuel, others will use coal this will be achieved. And now the coal technology is very new, to India, that is why some of our coal plants are not doing well. But we are looking into this. But given the determination and will and the finance, there is no doubt that we shall be able to cater to the demands of our vast market in India, and the Green Revolution will not be confined to 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 States. We shall extend it to all the States of the Union, and Union Territories. So, we can look forward to the growth, with satisfaction and with cautious optimism.

Now I would like to close on this note : This Ministry of Fertilizer is not only involved in large plants, but is making sure that services are available to the farmers all over the country—in small villages, large villages and in urban areas—at reasonable prices. Compared to the prices that have gone up in the last few years in other areas—whether it is steel, coal or electricity—the price rise in fertilizer has been something that we can accommodate, and it is reasonable; and since 31st of January, we have been monitoring this. We have put the prices back to 1983. There has been no appreciable difference in the off-take. It is marginal, which we can adjust, and we can live with it.

We have demonstration groups; we have Kisan Melas; we have training camps where seeds are distributed, I myself have

attended one recently. IFFCO and KRIBHCO have adopted villages, where we give them all the facilities available. We give them knowledge, we show them films, and answer questions. We are also extending our services to the dryland areas. As several Members referred to this, special attention will be paid to this.

One distinguished hon. Member mentioned that the completion of these plants, particularly the ones which are based on gas, is dependent on the completion of gas pipelines. Government have absolutely no doubt—neither I nor my colleagues in the Ministry—that this pipeline will be completed in time. It is our hope that some of our plants will be completed not only in time, but before their time.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY (Midnapore) : Since the time is very short, I will only put a few points before the Minister. First I would like to know : Why has the implementation of land reform been tardy, as yet ? You had a plan to complete land reform by 31.3.1983. Why has this not yet been completed ?

The planners had placed much emphasis on land reform. But I am apprehensive that on our Governments, particularly the Governments in such States where the Congress Party is ruling, the pull of the landlords is so great, that land reform is not being implemented.

Government has taken possession of only 5.6 million acres of land, as yet; and the actual distribution is 4.4 million acres, of which more than 50% goes to West Bengal and Kerala. This is the first point I want to make.

It is a very good thing that Government is going to reclaim 40 million hectares of culturable wasteland in the 7th five year Plan. It is a very good thing. But then, the Government has not mentioned whether this land will be given to the landless agricultural labour, or not. Are they going to bring in these big houses in the matter of reclamation, in the name of production; or, are they going to include landless labourers also—who are land-hungry ? This is my second question.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : It should not be put to sale.

SHRI NARAYAN CHAUBEY : I too agree with you. You convince your Government.

Thirdly, the Green Revolution is operative only in Punjab, Haryana, Western U.P. and a portion of Andhra. The South is neglected; not only the South, but the eastern region is also neglected. Government itself admits these things. Assam, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar—all these places are left out. I would like to know what is the plan of the Government to see that these areas also hope for a Green Revolution? What are you going to do about these things?

In the meantime, I beg to submit that all the hon. Members have stated that there is stagnation in the production of oilseeds, pulses, etc. We are hearing that plans are being taken, but the figures do not show whether your plans have brought any results or not. In future if you do like green revolution, if you can produce more wheat, people will applaud you. But if you cannot produce pulses and oilseeds, etc. then people will definitely go against you. People will ask, why shall we import oil and sugar costing several thousands of crores of rupees of our fund? So, you have to answer this point.

Just now I was hearing from the Minister regarding fertiliser. Yes, the progress, as mentioned, is really impressive. But here I would like to ask Shri Buta Singh also whether this Haldia Fertiliser Plant, after spending Rs. 450 crores, has been able to produce 450 tonnes even. You will kindly answer this point. There is a colossal wastage and we, Members from West Bengal, have been shouting for the last 6-7 years; I do not know what you are going to do about that. All the Ministers know about these things. It is going on for the last long number of years. So, the remedy for the Haldia Fertiliser Plant has to be brought about.

About irrigation, yes, in irrigation also some advancement has been made. But even then today 70 per cent of our cultivable land has no irrigation facilities; only 30 per cent of our land has got irrigation facilities. In Punjab, Haryana and other places, we will cover more. Regarding eastern region, again West Bengal,

Bihar, Assam, and Orissa, they are suffering from irrigation. In my constituency, there are areas where irrigation facilities are only 6-7 per cent. So, the Government of West Bengal has moved the Centre for Subarnarekha Dam at Midnapore. It is lying with the Planning Commission for years together; some loopholes, some faults are being found and it is being delayed. I would submit that this Dam should be taken up at the earliest.

On all sides it has been stated regarding the disparity in prices between the industrial goods and the agricultural goods. The least said the better. Last year, the jute produce had suffered; this year also they are going to suffer; coconut growers are suffering; cotton growers are also suffering. By what plan the government has got to see that the producers who produce these things do get the proper prices and this disparity between material produced by industrial sector and the agricultural sector should be finished? How do you want to remove this disparity between the two?

With these words, I again thank you and I hope that Minister will reply to my all questions.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants presented by the hon. Agriculture Minister. As has been stated by several hon. Members, ours is an agricultural country and it is very necessary that to remove the hunger of the people of this country, agricultural production is increased. It is true that since we achieved independence, the agricultural production has increased enormously but there is still great need to increase it further.

16.24 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*]

The biggest irony is that the farmer in spite of his best efforts is unable to get the fruits of his hard work and toil due to calamities like floods, drought, hailstorms etc. at different times. Then, he does not get fair price also for his produce.

[Shri Jagdish Awasthi]

All the hon. Members expressing their views have stated this and the hon. Minister himself realises that the farmer does not get the price which he should get keeping in view the hard work he puts and the money he invests. As against this, the industrialists fix the prices of their products keeping in view the cost they incur. But, unfortunately, in the case of the farmers yield, it is the intermediaries who fix the prices. Though you have constituted the Agricultural Prices Commission, yet the farmers are not getting the benefits. I request the hon. Minister that these things create resentment among the peasantry, so a permanent solution of the problem should be found out so that the farmers are able to get remunerative prices for their produce and unremunerative farming is converted into remunerative farming.

Along with it, it is also necessary that the declining agricultural production is increased. There are two types of farming—intensive farming and extensive farming. Production should be increased through intensive farming. Also, under the National Rural Development Programme small and marginal farmers are provided with loans and grants from the banks in order to lift them above the poverty line under 20 Point Programme, but large scale bungling takes place in it. The touts indulge in bungling in the matter of payments made to the beneficiaries for purchasing goats, cows, buffaloes or pigs. Without taking much time, I would like to say that you should review this Programme. The Government of India releases crores of rupees to the State Governments for providing benefits to the beneficiaries, but in reality these people are not being benefited in any way. Through you, I would like to submit that instead of making direct Payment to these beneficiaries, if you open small industries etc. in the villages and employ them there, then these people will definitely be benefited and will be able to come above the poverty line. At present, they are going below the poverty line even after administering them first and second doses and resentment is increasing among them. I, therefore, urge that you may consider such type of Programmes and employ the poor in the vocational centres. There is a great need of such a measure today.

I also want to submit that though you provide large sums of funds through the cooperative societies, yet it is not received in time. You are increasing the number of fertiliser depots, but the subsidy you give on fertilisers is not made available to all the farmers. The result is that when they do not get fertilisers, the agriculture suffers. I may also submit that in the Department of Cooperatives, specially in Uttar Pradesh, fake loans worth crores of rupees have been shown against the farmers. Many a time it has been stated that these loans are fake, even then the same loans are shown against farmers names and 'Amins' harass the farmers. Therefore, you should reconsider that when it has been decided several times that money cannot be recovered, why then it is being shown as loans against the farmers. There are hundreds of crores of rupees which are being shown as loan against the farmers. The result is the banks are burdened with outstanding loans and they are unable to provide money to the farmers. I want that you may consult the State Governments and prepare a programme so that those hundreds of crores of rupees which cannot be recovered now are written off and the farmers feel relieved of this burden. This burden should be shared equally both by the centre and the State Governments. You must take action in this regard.

One thing more I want to say. You take many steps to check floods and droughts. In Kanpur district, the flood problem is not there, but the problems of waterlogging and inundation do exist. Waterlogging creates problem there. Every year thousands of acres of land gets submerged and the farmers suffer heavily. To save the land from submerging, the Centre and the State Government should formulate schemes under which drainage system is provided for the submerged land. Also, steps are taken after the floods have occurred. My request is that steps should be taken beforehand so that the farmers are able to take benefits and have not to suffer losses which they suffer due to the floods.

In the end, I would like to make one more point. I had made this submission last year also. The Government is taking measures to encourage fisheries.

Fishes, particularly big fishes, are being exported. It gives good returns and Foreign exchange is earned thereby. But no help is provided to the poor fishermen and boatmen. My submission is that they should be provided with financial assistance. They are also not getting any benefit from the Welfare Board constituted by the Government. I would, therefore, like to request that fishermen and the boatmen living along the rivers should be given assistance so that they may enjoy the benefits.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants presented by the hon. Minister.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Salempur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture after making great efforts.

I would start my speech in the voice of a sad farmer. One farmer says to another in Bhojpur :

*Abhaga hamare deswa ke bhele kisaan
Gaji mian murga mange,
Kali mal mange chirki awokaun,
Abhaga hamere deswa ke bhele kishan
Government pot mange,
Neta Log vote mange
Amla-vakil kahen chod de eman,
Abhaga hamere deswa ke bhele kisaan.
Sab kol haman se mange,
haman ka kaise mangi
hamant Abhangwan ke duta sia Ram bane
Abhga hamare deshwa ke bhele kisaan.*

[Pot means land revenue]

I shall start my speech on this point. Agriculture is such a subject which is related to everybody. Fertilisers, water, diesel for tractor are needed for ensuring good agricultural production. Sir, a professor or a scientist need food to eat. If he does not get food, his mind cannot remain sound. Because "*Bhuvakshitam Krimano Karogi, Papam Chidda Janani niskaruna bhawanti*" It means that a starved man tends to commit crime. So, he needs food. What does a farmer do? He produces wheat, rice, ghee, butter, vegetables for the scientists and professors. He produces better things for ~~poor~~ to sustain life. The rich and the urban

people have big houses to live in. At least, he should also have a small house to live in and a cot for his use. This is a glaring disparity and he is living in such a condition. This is the reason that the people in Bihar are being shot dead. I would congratulate the agricultural scientists for it is only due to them that the production of agriculture has increased from what it was 10 to 15 years ago. The agricultural scientists have developed new varieties of wheat and rice. The farmers in villages say that they would not take to cultivation as the cost of production has gone up very high. This has broken their backbone. 6 to 8 or 10 quintals of wheat is grown in one acre of land, but he has to sell it at a very low price. The farmer has to pay more for harvesting and threshing his crops. Government have fixed the rate of wheat at Rs. 165 per quintal, but he gets very less. In Uttar Pradesh the same thing is purchased from the private dealers at a reasonable rate, but the farmers are given very low price for it. Sir, good quality wheat is purchased from the farmer after sieving it, but the same wheat is purchased from the private dealers without sieving it. The hon. Members may be aware of the quality of wheat which is available at the Fair Price Shops. If this is how the farmer is treated, how can he get remunerative price? In other words, the farmer is getting very low price for his produce. He is not getting remunerative price. He is only able to make both ends meet. He should get fair price for his produce. Whenever we raise this demand, the Government gives plea that they have to provide foodgrains to the Government servants and to the people living in the cities at low price. Sir, the prices given to the farmers for their produce are very low.

Government imports edible oil from other countries. In a meeting held under 20-Point Programme, it was decided that the farmers, having half or one acre of land, should be given subsidy to grow tori and mustard, as they are not able to grow it. Only farmers having 8 acres or 10 acres of land can grow it. They should be encouraged to grow oilseeds by providing them subsidy. If subsidy and fertiliser are provided to such farmers, the production of oilseeds can increase. Instead of importing oil from other countries on higher rates, it

[Shri Ram Nagina Mishra]

would be better if farmers are encouraged to grow more oilseeds by ensuring them its fair price.

Similar is the case of cotton as well. The farmer is not getting fair price for cotton. Earlier the matter was raised in this House. Remunerative price should be given for cotton so as to increase its production. The condition of farmers is very miserable and disparity is increasing. In the cities, huge multi-storied buildings are coming up and on the other hand villages are being deserted. This disparity should be removed. The ancestral land measuring 50 to 60 acres has been brought under Land Ceiling Act, but in the cities there is no restriction whatsoever on multi-millionaires. The multi-millionaires are constructing multi-storied buildings having 20 to 40 storeys and there is no check on them. They construct buildings by taking billions of rupees as loan. On the other hand billions of rupees are outstanding against the sugar mill owners. Last year billions of rupees remained outstanding against them. The farmer does not get immediate payment of his wheat and sugarcane. Is anything available in the market free of cost or without making the payment on the spot. Only the sugarcane and wheat are such items of the farmer which are purchased in advance without making payment on the spot. In the area from which I hail, crores of rupees of the people due to the sale of the sugar-canes are outstanding and the Government is doing nothing for its payment. If public money or the bank money remains outstanding against some villager, he is immediately put behind the bars in the tehsil, but in big cities crores of rupees as taxes remain outstanding against the people, but they are not put behind the bars. Can you give any instance where some multi-millionaire in the country, against whom crores of rupees are outstanding as taxes and income tax, has ever been put behind the bars.

The Government provides loan to the small farmers through co-operatives, but the interest thereon is charged at the rate of 14 per cent per annum. If they are not able to repay it in time, interest at the rate of 25 per cent and 10 per cent surcharge thereon is realised from them and in case of non-payment they are put behind the bars in the tehsil.

The farmer has to pay Rs. 4 to Rs. 5 per litre for the kerosene oil. We had asked as to why such thing is happening: the reply was given that there was no method to colour it. The farmer has to pay more for the salt, the item for which Gandhiji had launched an agitation. The Government is not able to provide even kerosene oil and the salt at the low price.

With these words I would request the hon. Minister to remove the snags in the supply of electricity. Arrangements should be made to provide electricity to farmers at appropriate time. Power is not available at the time of thrashing of wheat. He gets power at 12 O' clock in the night. I want that you should supply power to him in time so that wheat could be thrashed. With these words I support the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, due to paucity of time I would draw your attention towards only a few things.

Firstly, so far as Green Revolution is concerned I am sorry to state that Jammu Kashmir State is not producing foodgrains to the desired extent. That is why we have to get supplies of wheat from Punjab and Haryana. During winter our farmers have to migrate to Haryana, Punjab and Western Uttar Pradesh to earn their livelihood.

MR. SPEAKER : You grow for us and we grow for you.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : I wanted to submit that so far as agriculture is concerned there is great potential to produce foodgrains in the hill areas of Jammu and Kashmir, but the main reason for poverty in our area is that we are neither able to produce for ourselves nor for sending foodgrains to you. In the entire country two crops are grown every year, but in our State only one crop is grown. In whole of the country, Agricultural Research Centre have been opened, but in Jammu and Kashmir not even a single such Centre has been opened.

Ours is a cold and snowy region, but the climatic conditions there and in the neighbouring Himachal Pradesh are not worse than Russia, America and Europe,

These countries experience more severe cold than us, but because of the advanced science and technology, the agricultural yield is quite high there. The reason why our State is not progressing in agricultural production is that it has not got the benefit of scientific and technological experiments. Therefore, I would request that one Agricultural Research Centre should be set up in Jammu and Kashmir which should engage itself in research as to how the maximum food-grains could be produced in cold and snowy regions and should make available the results of the research to our State. I think there should be no difficulty in setting up such a Centre there. So far no Research Centre has been set up in Jammu and Kashmir, because you have not paid any attention towards this. If production can be increased by agricultural research in countries like America, Britain, Germany and Russia, where severe cold is experienced, there is no reason why production cannot be increased in Jammu and Kashmir. I hope you will pay attention towards this and will open an Agricultural Research Centre in our State.

We have a very big problem. Apple is grown in our State in abundance, but it gets affected by a disease named 'scab'. This is destroying and ruining our apple industry. Growers there are facing a big difficulty due to this disease. The private sector has found out a medicine 'Dythene' to protect apple from this disease, but in the use of this medicine scandal and embezzlement of crores of rupees has been committed. This medicine has not only not protected apple from 'scab', the production of apple has also suffered due to this. Therefore, I request the Government to embark upon a research scheme to protect the yield of apple from this disease. The apple industry has not only been affected in Jammu and Kashmir, but it has been affected in Himachal Pradesh also. Lakhs of people in these two States depend on this industry. Therefore, you should establish your own plant to manufacture medicine which may be used in protecting the apple crop so that the efforts to earn crores of rupees by the private sector in this field could be put to a halt.

We also produce saffron. About this commodity I would like to submit that this has not only a domestic market worth

crores of rupees, it has a big foreign market also. Earlier, saffron used to be grown only in certain patches like Pampore in the State, but now, as a result of the latest developments in science and technology and the hard work done by the scientists in the State, it is being grown in other parts of the Valley of Kashmir also. At present it is being produced in several parts of the Valley of Kashmir and the earlier concept that it cannot be grown in other than Pampore area has changed. If efforts are made to increase the production of saffron I can assure you that the country can earn foreign exchange worth crores of rupees. It has a market in Paris, Berlin and other big countries of the world. When visitors from those countries visit Kashmir, the most sought after commodity by them is saffron.

Through you, Sir, I want to submit one thing more. There is not a single State in the country where fertiliser plants have not been set up. The hon. Minister has spoken much on this aspect; Shri Natwar Singh has also dwelt on the subject. This has given us the encouragement that lot of things are happening in our country and we are producing so much that we are even going to export. But in Jammu and Kashmir, till date no fertiliser plant has been installed. It is badly needed there. Keeping in view the peculiar geographical and climatic conditions of the State, one plant must be set up there.

I am grateful that you have provided me with an opportunity to speak and I want that these problems should be solved.

SHRI M.L. JHIKRAM (Mandla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to you for allotting me time to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir, Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy of the country and majority of the people depend on it. It gives employment to the large number of people. Our country has made much progress in the last few years. In the 7th Plan we have fixed a target of 4 per cent of increase in agriculture per year, but it is for those areas where irrigation and other agricultural facilities are available. I would request you that hill areas should also be developed

[Shri M.L. Jhikram]

in the matter of agriculture. The hill areas are not making progress to the desired extent in so far as agriculture is concerned I have been elected from a hill area. I definitely know that plain and even land is required for cultivation, but no thought has been given in this respect in the hilly areas. Even if this matter has been discussed, nothing has been implemented. Secondly, irrigation is very important for the development of agriculture. But in hilly areas neither dams, nor big ponds can be constructed. However, small lift irrigation schemes from the nullahs can be formulated, but nothing has been done in this regard. In my district at least twelve schemes are lying-pending, which are aided by foreign countries. But it is a matter of regret that administrative approval has not been given so far whereas we want speedy development of agriculture in the backward areas, but no attention is being paid even to such useful and welfare projects. In this connection I have written to the State Government in respect of Kota Sangya Dam that it is very useful project for this District and which is foreign aided and if it is completed, the percentage of irrigation in this District would go up. Just now only 3 per cent irrigation facility is available there. The State Government have intimated that another proposal has been lying pending in the Planning Commission which has not been approved as yet. I would request that the Schemes formulated for this area should be considered sympathetically and immediately approved on priority basis so that hilly areas also enter 21st century with good expectations. I request that whatever schemes are submitted for the progress of such backward areas to the Planning Commission particularly in respect of agricultural sector, which is backbone of our economy should be approved without any delay so that hill areas could make progress expeditiously.

In this context mention has been made about the Agricultural Laboratories and taking Labs to the Land. In this connection I would like to say that coarse grains like Kodo, Kutaki, ramtala etc. are grown in hilly areas. Research should be conducted in respect of high yielding varieties and

good quality seeds for the aforesaid cereals, invariably so that the farmers of the hilly areas may take benefit of it and they may make progress. In the hilly areas, no land lease has been given to the farmers of forest villages. Hundreds and thousands of such cases are lying pending, with the result the people are not able to cultivate properly. Although they are interested in development, but they are under the constant fear of their land being taken away by the Government, and their labour being wasted. I would request that land should be given on lease to the people in hilly areas. The crops of those farmers who are living in forest villages, should not be seized.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister through you. Sir, that the officers of Forest Department have declared cow dung as a national wealth in Khargone district of Madhya Pradesh which is astonishing and a matter of regret. The officers of the Forest Department have declared cow dung as a national wealth and it has been seized. If such a thing goes on, the problems of the villager will increase. I would submit that this should be looked into and the cow dung should not be treated as a national wealth. It is the asset and wealth of the farmer. As regards afforestation I would like to make some points. The trees are being felled and the Forest Department is planting new trees. What is the use of it? It will also increase pollution as well as affect rains adversely. I would submit that where there are denuded hills, where there is not even a single tree, afforestation should be done there. Similarly a huge chunk of land belonging to the big landlords in lying unused and cultivation is not being done on it. The Government should issue strict instruction that such land should be put to use. With these words, I convey my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture,

I would like to mention the following few facts about my State of Sikkim in this regard.

The Central Ministry has directed all the State Governments to introduce crop insurance scheme from Kharif 1985. I feel this scheme is a good one, if properly implemented, as it helps farmers to insure their crops so that they may not suffer losses in case of crop failure due to natural calamities and incidence of diseases and pests. But this the crop insurance scheme covers only cereals, pulses and oilseeds and it will not be of any advantage to Sikkim unless cash and commercial crops are also included. Sikkim grows some of the important cash crops, such as large cardamom, ginger, seed potato, orange and off-season vegetables and these crops have great importance and significance for improving the economic condition of local farmers. Further, considering the peculiar topographic and agro-climatic situation of Sikkim, priority should be accorded to growing cash and commercial crops. The State Government has also laid great stress for promoting the cultivation of crops like spices, fruits, tuber crops and off-season vegetables. The idea is to produce high value and low volume crops so that the farmers could make good income even from small land holding.

Keeping these facts in view, it would be of great advantage to local farmers if cash and commercial crops are also included in crop insurance scheme so as to enable them to take full advantage of such a good scheme introduced by the Central Government.

Large cardamom is the foremost commercial crop of Sikkim, the area and production are 23,000 hectares and 3,000 tonnes respectively. This crop has immense potentiality and fits in very well under agro-forestry system of land use. Further, there is ample scope for increasing the area and production. The biggest constraint in the development of this crop has been the tremendous fluctuations of prices as a result of which many a time the farmers have to encounter distress sale. It is, therefore, desirable to explore the possibility of exporting large quantities of cardamom so that the farmers will be assured of remunerative price.

Sikkim also produces ginger and the total production is around 10,000 tonnes of ginger per annum. The area and production of ginger has gone up considerably during the last five years whereas the price has been decreasing. This has greatly discouraged the farmers and the area under this crop is likely to come down in the near future if the price for ginger does not improve. In order to find new markets for ginger there is an urgent need for ascertaining the feasibility of exporting the same or marketing for domestic use of the same.

The Central Government has been doing a lot for the socio-economic development of tribals. In Sikkim also the tribal population constitute about 23% of the total population and the North district has the largest concentration of tribals in one pocket, although the tribal population in three other districts is more than the tribal population of North district. The tribals in districts other than the North are scattered and concentrated in large number of pockets. Their economic situation is far more worse compared to those in North district. The State Government has been making all efforts to improve their economy with very limited resources, but it is not possible to assist such farmers with the available funds under Plan programmes....

MR. SPEAKER : Mrs. Bhandariji, you give it, he will add it.

AN HON. MEMBER : A good ruling, Sir.

SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI : This makes it necessary to cover the tribal farmers of East, West and South districts under Special Central Assistance Programme so that they may also get the same benefits as has been given to farmers of North district. These farmers have been constantly pressing for such benefits and they have already started feeling neglected. The objective of the Special Central Assistance programme is to help tribals to improve their economy and it is desirable to include all the tribal farmers residing throughout Sikkim rather than concentrating only in one district. If this is not done then the tribal farmers of other districts will lag behind in economic development.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduar) : Everybody in this House including yourself calls himself a farmer....

MR. SPEAKER : I do not call, Sir, but I am.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : We say we represent the farmers in this House. Still the farmers' plight is very sorryed in this country. The reason is : what the Government should do first is the land reforms. Land reform is a must because those who are actual tillers have very little land. Those who are holding lands are not at all farmers, they are so-called farmers. They have a good number of lands. That is why in agriculture we are still lacking...

AN HON. MEMBER : Culture.

MR. SPEAKER : Demand reforms in other places also.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Then connected with land reforms is irrigation. So these two Ministries—Irrigation and Agriculture should get together and think over it as to how to provide the facilities for irrigation to the farmers.

Secondly, we should have a need based agriculture. We know in every block how many people are there. Then we should calculate how much rice, how much eggs, how much meat, how much pulses, etc. we need. That should be calculated and the production should be diverted on that line. Then we can know how much our country needs. Now our living standards are very low compared to other countries. Very few people get milk, eggs and other essential foods which a person needs every day. It has become a medicine for a big percentage of our people. Indian people are not getting so much calories a human being should get every day. It is below the scale. Though we have achieved self-sufficiency in food production, still what a person needs in terms of calories we are still not getting. So our living standard is very low. So that has to be improved.

Then agriculture, in our country, is reserved for those who do not know any kind of profession or who does not have

any business or service or any other work. Then he is pushed into agriculture. That means only illiterate or those who have no other means come into agriculture. In that way, if such sort of people are put to agriculture, then how can expect improvement in agriculture? Most of the members have spoken about the fixation of price for the agricultural produces and they highlighted that the farmers are not getting the reasonable price for the same. In this connection, I would like to suggest that the farmers should be taken into consideration; their representatives must be asked as to how much price the agriculturists should get for their produces.

As far as the industry is concerned, the Management and the Government sit together, while fixing the price of the industrial products, and they fix the price accordingly. On the contrary the farmers are not even consulted as to how much price they should get for their produce like jute, rice and wheat. Here, the Minister and the officers sit together and they fix the price for the agricultural produce arbitrarily. So, the grievances of the farmers remain unresolved. In this connection, I would suggest that the farmers or their representatives should be given an opportunity to sit together and fix the price. Then, they can get some justice. In the industrial field, the industrialists are very much involved in fixing the price for their products. So, I would like to ask as to why not the farmers should also be involved while price is fixed like other people? They are very much neglected.

Further, there is one demand which I would like to go on record. My demand is that every Block should be provided with at proof storage facilities where the farmers can keep their produce.

MR. SPEAKER : Why you are repeating it? He has already covered it.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : If it is so, it is all right. Then, one more point I would like to make. Every block should be provided with cold storage facilities for the perishable items which agriculturists produce.

MR. SPEAKER : Transportation for perishable fruits and vegetables from one place to another is also necessary.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Finally I would like to make one suggestion. Food processing in the small scale industry and poultry and in the like fields, there should be training facilities for them. The Police need training; the cricketers need training. So, every block must have a training centre to educate the farmers about the new technologies that are available. That is my request. I hope the hon. Minister, perhaps, will think over it.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in support of the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation for 1986-87, I wish to make a few suggestions.

For the terminal year of 7th Five Year Plan, the target of food production has been fixed at 180 million tonnes. But for 1986-87 no target of production has been fixed for oil seeds, cotton, jute and sugarcane. The production of oil seeds and sugarcane should be given as much importance as the production of foodgrains. Then only we will be able to avert the import of oil seeds. We will be able to produce more sugarcane, which in consequence will result in higher yield of sugar. We can then export sugar in substantial quantity. I want that adequate attention must be paid to the production of oil seeds and sugarcane. Another important issue is the existence of malpractices in the sugarmills, whether they are in the private sector or in the cooperative sector. The management of sugarmills do not give the scheduled prices to the sugarcane cultivators. They owe several lakhs of rupees to sugarcane cultivators. I would like to refer to my personal experience with a sugarmill in the cooperative sector.

There is a sugarmill in cooperative sector in Ambur in Tamil Nadu. This is

being exploited fully. The members have not got any dividend for several years. The Special Officers appointed by the State Government to manage the cooperative sugar mills under supersession also behave in an autocratic manner. In Ambur sugar mill recently 1 lakh bags of sugar has been sold at a price which is 30% below the prevailing market price. Naturally the sugarmill runs under a loss. The Special Officers do not take any interest to run these mills effectively.

There is no meaning in continuing with this kind of aimless behaviour of sugarmill owners. Several years ago the Central Government appointed Bhargava Commission to investigate into these malpractices and make suggestions for improving the sugar industry. This Bhargava Commission recommended the nationalisation of sugar industry. In this House also there were several discussions about the recommendations of Bhargava Commission. So far this recommendation of Bhargava Commission has not yet been implemented. I am sure that our competent Minister of Agriculture, Shri Buta Singh, will nationalise the sugar industry as recommended by the Bhargava Commission. Then only the sugar industry will become profitable.

In Tamil Nadu there are only two Regional Rural Banks. I demand that a Regional Rural Bank should be set up in Pallipattu, which is in my constituency. Before I conclude, I would point out that in many States the cooperative societies are under supersession. There are also many loopholes in the State Cooperative Acts. The Central Government has recently appointed a Committee to look into these loopholes and suggest guidelines for the amendment of State Cooperative Acts. I request that the recommendations of this Committee should be implemented by the State Governments and the State Cooperative laws must be made potent instruments of action. I would take this opportunity to suggest that the cooperative institutions must be entrusted to well-trained professional management.

With these words I conclude my speech.

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we feel elated after seeing photos in the report which has been given to us by the hon. Minister. When the women and farmers return their homes bringing grains from their fields, they feel great satisfaction. But when they take their foodgrains to the market for sale, they return from the markets virtually in tears...
(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : They look good in veil.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Sir, you are perfectly right. They look beautiful in veil. We are pained very much when we see them weeping. The farmer has to suffer loss in every respect. So, attention should be paid towards his sufferings.

I would like to submit through you, Sir, that the Government fixes a lower price for sugarcane, but imports sugar from other countries. Similarly oilseed is also imported at cheaper rates, but it is sold here at higher prices. The money which is used for importing these commodities should be utilised for the production of these things in the country itself so that the farmer may prosper and also all these things could be grown here.

Sir, we spend Rs. 700 crore for the import of sugar and other commodities. Sugar is imported at the rate of Rs. 225 per quintal and is sold here at the rate of Rs. 600 per quintal. In this way the money which is used for importing these commodities should be spent for improving the lot of the farmers. We import oil worth Rs. 1300 crores from other countries, but you say that you have no money for dry farming to be undertaken in the country. Then you say that the country is self-sufficient. You import coconut oil, edible oil, sugar etc. What is the reason of it? The reason so far I have understood is that the farmer does not get remunerative price of his produce so he is not taking interest in the agricultural work. It is, therefore, necessary that the money, which is spent for importing all these commodities, should be spent here for the betterment of the farmers in our country so that they may be encouraged in their work.

Sir, the National Seeds Corporation purchases seed at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg.

and sells it at the rate of Rs. 7 per kg. Its cost comes to Rs. 7 per kg. and then you give subsidy on the seeds at the rate of Rs. 3 per kg. I fail to understand that when the Seeds Corporation purchases seed at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg. and sells it at the rate of Rs. 10 per kg, whether this increase of Rs. 5 per kg. is due to bringing it to the godown and then taking it out of it. This is wrong and such thing should not take place. You call it a economic price. You say that subsidy is being provided on this item, but you are increasing its rate from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. In this way money is being wasted. This should not happen. We should provide benefit to the farmer. I would request that our hon. Minister, Mr. Speaker and eighty per cent of the Members have agricultural background. So sufficient time should be allotted for discussion on the problems of farmers. We sit here from 11 o'clock in the morning till 9 o'clock in the night. But when discussion on this issue is taken up, we find that we have no time for it. The hon. Minister has no time whereas there is sufficient time to speak on other demands for grants.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is his policy in regard to ground nut and cotton? Cotton is sold at a lower rate, but the cloth made from cotton is sold at higher rates. The potatoes are sold at cheaper rates, whereas chips made from potatoes are sold at higher prices. Similarly tomatoes are sold at cheaper rate, but Ketchnp etc. made out of it are sold at higher rates. I would like to know as to what steps the hon. Minister has taken or he is going to take in this regard? When the agricultural product turns out from the factory in a changed form, it is sold at rates which are 150 to 200 per cent higher than the prices paid to the farmers. What is the reason of it? The main reason is that there is no co-ordination between the commerce and Food Ministries. You do not think about the interest of the producer and the consumer, but you take care of the interests of industrialists only.

I would like to tell the House through you, Sir, that not even one per cent of the total outlay is being spent in rural areas and

the farmers are not getting even 20 per cent of what they should have got. This anomaly has to be removed. Only then the condition of farmers and agriculture could be improved.

Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to express my views.

*SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, since the time at my disposal is very limited, I will be very brief and confine myself to a couple of points. I will conclude my speech before you ring the bell.

Sir, there is a saying in Telugu which means that there is no food for the one who provides food. Farmer is the man who provides food. Ours is the country of farmers. Majority of our countrymen are farmers or farm workers. It is a pity that the farmers who toil round the clock throughout the year to grow food in order to feed the countrymen have no food to eat. So poor they are. The main reason for the poverty of the farmers in the country is that the 37 years of Congress rule in the country has done virtually nothing for their benefit. No remunerative prices were offered to the agricultural produce. As though this is not sufficient the Government imposed various levies and taxes to break the back of farmers. The Government had concentrated only on industries and provided good prices for industrial products to enrich the already rich industrialists. The Government policies favoured the capitalists. These wrong policies of the Government have reduced the farmers to the bone and marrow. Now the position is that farmers are facing starvation. Sir, the Government had come out with some statistics regarding generation of employment in rural India. The Government claims that it is spending huge amounts for creating jobs in our rural areas. Similarly, the Government says that it is spending huge amount on poverty alleviation programmes. But how about the results? How far did the Government succeed in creating employment and alleviating poverty? Can this Government claim any success in this regard? Similarly can this Government claim any success in its efforts to reduce unemployment in the

country? Sir, the Government has, in fact, failed miserably to tackle these problems. There is no decrease in the poverty in our villages. In fact, the living standards of our people in rural areas are falling down considerably. The small and poor farmers are now turning into agricultural labourers. It shows how much affected our farmers are by the poverty. In reply to my question No. 7180 dated 21st April, 1986 the hon. Minister for Labour has stated that :

“One of the major objectives of the Five Year Plan is employment generation. (Employment means major employment like rural employment) Full details of the funds allocated for the purpose are not available.

That is one answer. The other answer is : According to the 6th Five Year Plan document, about 12 million persons in the age group of 5+ were usually unemployed in March 1980. In the 7th Plan document, the usual status of unemployment estimate in the same age group has been indicated as 9.2 million in March 1985.” It means that the figure has come down from 12 m. persons to 9.2 millions in 5 years of time. Sir, this is not a major achievement. There has not been much improvement in providing employment to the unemployed. It also indicates that there is no improvement in rural employment. The unemployment is increasing day by day in our countryside. The Government claims to be spending huge amounts to generate rural employment. But instead of decreasing, the rural unemployment has been on the increase.

The claim for employment generation from 1985 to 1986 was 1.65 million man years to 2 million man years. But now almost 5 million man years are unemployed. That means 5 million man years of unemployment is there. Majority of these unemployed are the rural unemployed. This we have to keep in mind. Has the amount spent for generating employment yielded any fruits? Has the unemployment come down as a result of the efforts made by the Government? What is the present ratio between these two? The

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri B.N. Reddy]

Government is not able to clear the position. To say that the Government is spending huge amount for generation of employment is just an eye wash and a camouflage to cover the failures of the Government.

Sir, now I will come to the last point. It is about IRDP programme. It is said that as much as Rs. 6000 crores had been distributed through banks as loans during the period between 1980 and 1986. But, Sir, 30% of the beneficiaries have no permanent assets. Permanent assets had not been created in the case of these 30% beneficiaries. Either they had disposed off these assets or abandoned. This is the position today of the assets created by Banks loans. Without providing them with livelihood on which they can rely on, the Government believes in distributing cattle etc. and claims of providing livelihood. It is an illusion if the Government thinks that it will succeed in alleviating poverty in rural India by distributing a few goats and buffaloes here and there.

The implementation of radical land reforms is necessary. It is also necessary to provide employment. Land reforms can create lot of employment potential. But land reforms have become a disgraceful failure under the Congress regime. I would declare. It has become a disgraceful drama. It is in fact strengthening the capitalist land lordism, I would say, Sir, this is all that I want to say.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, we always avail of the guidance that you provide to this august House and to the country from time to time. Today especially, Sir, I wish to place on record our gratitude on behalf of the millions and millions of farmers and peasants of this country to this august House for having taken at last the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I was not very sure that these Demands will be taken up because the way we were proceeding it had become almost impossible but I realise with your indulgence and with your personal efforts the Demands and Grants have been taken up.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Sir, we protest against this kind of allotment of time. Agriculture is the most important thing.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Ranga, the boot is rather on the other leg. The time allotted was much more. The time was misused for unproductive things.

S. BUTA SINGH: Sir, I am thankful to you for providing this opportunity to this august House to discuss the most important aspect of our national life. Agriculture is not only an occupation for the farmers and the peasants but also is the very source of sustaining the life our country. The kisans provide food not only to our human population but also to all the other beings, namely, animals, birds etc. Anything which is living is fed by the farmers. Therefore, this is the most important aspect of our national life and I am thankful to the hon. Members for having given their suggestions on the most important issue that sustains life in our country.

Sir, I will be very brief in my reply. I would first of all like to place the balance sheet of the achievements of agriculture in the country which has been described in the Annual reports pertaining to Agriculture, Rural Development, Fertilisers and other allied subjects which are covered and served by the Ministry of Agriculture. But, Sir, some of the hon. Members raised certain basic issues on which I would like to touch while presenting the balance-sheet of the achievements made by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Sir, a very significant change has been made in the allocation of sources. In the Sixth Plan the allocation of the sources for agriculture was more in the Central Plan than in the State Plan. In the Sixth Plan the total allocation was Rs. 4900 crores out of which Rs. 2900 crores were in the State Plan and Rs. 2000 crores in the Central Plan whereas in the Seventh Plan out of a total allocation of Rs. 7214 crores, Rs. 4514 crores have been allocated to the State sector and only Rs. 2700 crores to the Central sector. This shows that we are trying to place more and more reliance on the efforts of the States. We are allocating more and more of funds to

the States so as to enable them to increase the agricultural production in this country. This is a very significant change so far as giving priority to the agricultural development in the States as well as in the Central Sector is concerned. Along with this, I would like also to take a little pride in presenting before this august House some of the facts. The hon. Member from Bihar raised a question that nothing has happened in the field of agriculture. He was questioning the very idea of agricultural development. The States know about this; the whole country knows it and the world over it is known that it is an established fact that we have made tremendous progress in the field of agricultural development. If you look at the per hectare yield of some of the crops, this will go a long way to establish that we have really revolutionised the method of cultivation in our country.

In 1950, the per hectare yield in rice was 600 Kg. This has now touched near about 1500 Kgs. or round about the figure. It is an average. If you look at some of the progressive States which have done very well, like Haryana, Punjab, and Andhra Pradesh you will find that in Punjab, rice yield has risen from 608 Kgs. to 3063 Kgs. Does it not show that this is a real revolution? Similarly, in the case of wheat, the per hectare yield was about 663 Kgs. and it has now reached 1873 Kgs. taking the average of the whole country. Again in Punjab, it is 3284 Kgs, perhaps it is the record which has been established by the country. Some hon. Members were very much concerned about the regional imbalance, inter-crop imbalance. Yes, it has come to our notice. These imbalances will have to be removed and we are making special efforts to see that some parts of our country specially the Eastern side, the Southern side and the Western side will also get due attention. But it is not true that if you look at the cropping pattern, in the case of certain crops, the Northern region has done well and in certain other crops, Southern region has done well. Take for example cotton. Now, in North-East, cotton yield is about 185 Kg. per hectare. But in Andhra Pradesh, it is 363 Kgs. per hectare. Similarly, I would like to refer to the progressive State in the case of sugarcane. In the North, it is about 62.25 Kg. per hectare. But in Tamil Nadu, it is 104.2

Kg. per hectare. In maize production, it is about 1830 Kgs. in Punjab whereas in Karnataka, it is 2719 Kg. per hectare. This also shows the efforts made by the Agriculture Ministry, by the State Governments, in attempting to increase the yield of our crops which have been evenly distributed although certain crops are specialised in certain States. For example, Maharashtra specialises in sugarcane, Tamil Nadu specialises in sugarcane and Karnataka specialises in maize. Therefore, there has been an attempt on the national scale to see that this progress is evenly distributed. But it is also a fact that we have now recognised that in certain parts of the country, specially the Eastern Sector—Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Assam and other States—has not done so well as they should have done. Therefore, we are having other projects for increasing the yield in that sector. Now, having done that, I would also like to mention that some of the hon. Members have raised certain points. I would like to start with the first hon. Member, Shri Ramachandra Reddy who initiated the debate. He was very critical about the NREP programmes. He was not correct in giving the figures for allocations for NREP programmes. I would like to inform the House that in the 6th Plan, the outlays were Rs. 1620 crores; it was including the State share. In the 7th Plan, it is Rs. 2487 crores. In the very first two years of the 7th Plan, the outlays have been Rs. 565 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 670 crores in 1986-87. Therefore, this also goes to establish that we are giving much more importance to the poverty alleviation programmes in the country.

Then, we have also drawn special plans in specified areas, as my colleagues Shri Yogendra Makwana and Shri Natwar Singh have very successfully explained some of the highlights. I would not like to repeat because those subjects have been covered by them. Shri Makwana gave the information on dairy farming, fisheries, about mitigating the difficult conditions by the natural calamities and other things. I would like to confine myself only to some of the thrust areas in which the Government of India is very much keen to see that the overall improvement in the rural development and in the agriculture is achieved within a specified period.

[S. Buta Singh]

We have made both these programmes under the rural development and agriculture complementary to each other. Earlier, they were being taken independently, but now we are trying to dovetail the schemes under rural development with the agriculture, whether it is soil conservation or it is poverty alleviation, or it is creating more jobs in the rural areas. They will now be based more on the agricultural extension schemes so that the benefits go to the development of agriculture through the rural development schemes.

It is a question of using the available technology within our country. A very little of the technology available which has been created through the hard work of our scientists and research institutes, has been transferred to the rural areas. I was told by our scientists that about forty per cent of the technology that we have been able to achieve within the country is applied at the moment; sixty per cent of the technology available is yet to be transferred to the farmers so as to make them capable of increasing the productivity in their fields.

There has been some criticism about producing the results of the modern methods of cultivation. If you want to see the effect of it, Punjab or Haryana is a case in sight, Punjab, which is leading the country in modern cultivation, has established that more and more modernization, applying more and more technology to the field brings more and more jobs. Look at the number of people that we are now seeing being deployed in the farmers' fields; the people from Bihar, UP, Rajasthan etc. Tremendous opportunities of employment are thrown. It is only through the efforts that you bring in the latest technology, job opportunities are widened.

There is another impression which I would like to dispel, and that is that certain people believe that smaller the size of the farm, the lesser chances of using modern technology. This is not correct. In Punjab, as you know, more than fifty five per cent of the farmers have less than five acres of land and look at the achievement of the Punjab farmers. It is not only the size of the farm. If you look towards the neighbouring countries, Korea

which is an advanced country, Japan, the size of the farm in some cases is less than two hectares, less than one hectare. It is the scientific approach, application of technology to the unit that is under your occupation, that makes it possible to increase the per hectare yield from the area.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Lab to Land campaign must be made permanent.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is right and we are doing it.

As I was mentioning, progress in the agriculture field has been quite encouraging. But for these drought years which have intervened and which are continuing for the last four or five years, we would have overshot the targets that we have fixed for ourselves. But unfortunately, we could not do so because of the difficult conditions created by the weather, whether it is floods or droughts. And mostly it is because of drought. As my distinguished colleague, Shri Yogendra Makwana just now mentioned, a large number of our States are reeling under drought and that too for the last four years, with the result that the underground water table has almost disappeared and it is impossible for our kisans to draw on the water because they do not have the implements. Through traditional methods they cannot reach to the level to which water has disappeared. Therefore, we are supplying special rigs to those States which are now suffering from drought.

Even then, the most heartening feature of this whole development is that our farmers whether they are under rain-fed conditions or when they are facing droughts of very very severe nature, are able to produce enough. The fall in production as compared to the earlier periods is not much because our scientists have made it possible to develop certain kinds of seeds and to have better management and application of inputs and usage of water *in situ*. That is why our kisans are able to sustain even in the most difficult areas. In the earlier years, when there was drought, production had fallen by 22 million tonnes because of just one year's drought. Now we are having drought for more than four years. The production has fallen in one instance by about 3 million tonnes and in

the second instance by about 6 million tonnes. This shows that through the application of science and with the initiative of our scientists, we have been able to sustain and even under the most difficult conditions our farmers are able to produce enough.

At the same time, there is no doubt that this time in the irrigated areas we are going to have a record production, an all time high record production of wheat and rice. This is another thing on which I would like our kisans to be congratulated by this august House because they are the real ones who are sustaining life in our country.

Now these are some of the areas in which we must continue our efforts. Hon. member Shri Sinha has raised a very important question about soil conservation. No doubt, this is a most important aspect of our farming. We are, at the moment, devoting our attention to maintain the quality of our soil. Soil erosion and soil degradation in our country are colossal. Upto the end of the Sixth Plan, a total of about 29.38 million hectares was attended to and an expenditure of Rs. 1,212.29 crores has been incurred. All types of soil have been treated and water conservation measures both under the Central and State sectors have been taken. This covers about 17 per cent of the total problem area. Now Sir, in the total Plan, we are also having our plan to treat the degradation of soil. A target for treating about 22.71 million hectares was proposed in the Seventh Plan. This would require huge amounts of money. But, because of the constraints of funds, it has been possible to allocate only Rs. 740.19 crores. And about seven million hectares of land will be treated during the Seventh Plan period. Therefore Sir, our continuous endeavour will be to improve the health of the soil because soil and water are the two natural assets.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : What about Water-Shed Management ?

S. BUTA SINGH : At the moment, I am talking about soil, I will come to water also later on. So, this is a natural asset, which cannot be stretched. We have to see that the health of the soil is not allowed to deteriorate. Therefore, all the programmes, whether it is from the Ministry of Forest or from the Ministry of Water Resources or from the Ministry of Agricul-

ture or from the Wasteland Board are to take care of this. The Wasteland Board has been established and our hon. Prime Minister personally has taken interest in these two natural resources. He himself has headed the panels for preserving these two natural resources—water and soil.

About water, the hon. Member had asked...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : He has asked for Water-shed Management. It is a soil conservation.

S. BUTA SINGH : 'Yes', there is an all-India Board for Watershed Management which is taken up special for dry land areas. Now, Sir, we are trying to increase every year, the irrigation facilities in the country and we are adding about 2.5 million hectares of irrigation potentials every year. This itself is more than the area—irrigated area—in Australia and a few other South-Asian countries put together. However, the unscientific and indifferent manner of the reservoirs and the canals led to extensive water-logging and inefficient use of precious water. Look at the extent of the problem. We are only able to utilise the 10 per cent of the precipitations in all the aspects, whether it is agriculture, industry, drinking water, ground water replenishment. This is a huge colossal wastage. 90 per cent of the precipitations is going waste, which should be engaging our attention and we are doing it. Therefore, we shall have to prepare a national plan for taking care of these natural resources and the Government of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources, are very keen to see that this very scarce, very valuable resource is put to the best use. Also, at the same time, we are trying to optimise the land use under cultivation. Our efforts is to increase the cropping intensity from 118 per cent to 130 per cent in the dry land areas and 150 per cent to 200 per cent in the irrigated areas through National Crop Planning, Water Management as well as extension of marketing. Sir, my distinguished colleague, Shri Yogendra Makwana, has dealt with the activities in the animal husbandry field. We are trying to see that in the Seventh Plan, we are able to produce our target of 160 million tonnes of foodgrains, as mentioned by my distinguished colleague Shri Natwar Singh. We have drawn a plan

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towards the end of the century also and we have geared ourselves, whether it is inputs like, fertilizers, programme for producing high-yielding variety seeds, pesticides, irrigation facilities. We are improving ourselves to see that our people, do not have to look for foodgrains and our country is not only self-sufficient, but we are able to produce surplus enough. Sir, the agriculture export itself is a remarkable record. In the last year, our export performance has been 10 per cent over the previous years. Whereas the total export in the country is forecast to have increased by 3 to 4 per cent or so, agriculture export itself has recorded 10 per cent increase, which is quite appreciable, and we will continue to double it in the years to come.

MR. SPEAKER : I know that you can do it and much more can be done about it. By your efforts, you can just multiply it. What about fruits and other products ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I am coming to that. For future of agriculture exports, we are looking towards horticulture, which is again a very rich field we have not been able to make a major break-through but we are looking forward for making a major break-through in that field.

As I mentioned, the irrigation potential will have to be increased. Therefore, we are giving much more importance to the problems of irrigation; and the total assistance is of the order of Rs. 470 crores, of which about Rs. 410 crores are towards minor irrigation—which means that the weaker sections among the Kisans, the poorer Kisans, will get much more assistance—as compared to major irrigation which is very heavily capital-intensive.

Similarly, about Rs. 240 crores on national dairy development projects will prove how special attention to moisture conservation and careful choosing of crop combinations would increase production. So, we are trying to see that the comprehensive crop insurance scheme is extended. Already, the hon. Finance Minister has agreed to extend the scheme to some of the crops under horticulture, cotton crops and some of the crops which are now grown in the dryland sector.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Tobacco and chillies also.

S. BUTA SINGH : We will put it up to the Finance Ministry, naturally, because we want funds.

For the first time, cotton, sugarcane and fruits are proposed to be covered under the scheme, from Kharif, 1986.

We are also trying to amend the laws relating to seeds and insecticides, to ensure not only efficient supply, but also to see that the quality is maintained, so that the farmers get good service from the inputs.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : That is where adulteration has to be prevented.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : The defaulters should be treated on par with adulterators in food products. The present Act is not good. It should be on par with the Food Adulteration Act.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is why we are trying to amend the laws, to make them more stringent. Your suggestions will be available at the time the amendment comes, so that the guilty is brought to book, and the farmers are not cheated; whether it is pesticides, fertilizers or insecticides, we are going to make the laws more stringent, so that the kisan is not exploited.

As mentioned by some of the hon. Members, we are also proposing to bring a long-term policy for agricultural prices. So far, there has been a policy from crop to crop. But the Prime Minister has given us a direction that we must bring a long-term policy, so that the farmers are also able to plan their crops much in advance, and also they are able to work out the economy for crops that they would like to grow.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : It should cover the costs.

S. BUTA SINGH : That will be basis, It will be an Agricultural Prices Commission on Costs and Prices.

Hon. Members Narayan Chaubey, the last Member and some of the hon.

Members were very critical about land reforms. Land reform is not only a question of social justice, but it is the major vehicle for removing poverty from rural areas. It has been agreed by almost all the Ministers in charge of Revenue Departments in the States; in the last meeting that I had in Delhi, they had agreed to give the topmost importance to the issues relating to land reform. There was a consensus on some of the issues, and on the point that land reforms would be taken up for implementation more vigorously.

I will not like to join issue with Shri Chaubey and the hon. Members from West Bengal, because they were not only vociferous, but they extended their support to me, and it is for this reason that I would not like to place certain very inconvenient statistics in this House, before those Members. We had expected from a party which professes to be Marxist, that they would implement the land reforms; but unfortunately, their picture is no different. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Most of the 50% of distributed land is in West Bengal. *(Interruptions)* More than 50 per cent of the land is in West Bengal. That should go on record. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, please sit down. I would like just to add one thing. Land reform is well, but there should be some wealth reform also. Everywhere it should be applicable, not in one place.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : The nation has accepted the land reforms as the guru mantra for the real amelioration of the millions and millions of landless people in this country; that is why there is always a question that why an issue like this has not been vigorously implemented in this country so far. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY : You have to tell us. *(Interruptions)*

S. BUTA SINGH : I was going into the question of implementation performance. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : Why are you giving urban property? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : Land was given to the tillers in Jammu and Kashmir as early as in 1948. Why did not the other States do it?

S. BUTA SINGH : Having said that, I was trying to only highlight what has been declared surplus under various laws. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't waste my time.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : What has been declared as surplus area, has not been distributed. A question regarding a large portion of this area is still hanging in various courts including the Supreme Court; and every effort has been made to see that, somehow or other, this very important programme is circumvented. There are States where land records are not available and in very very big States, States bigger than any number of countries; land records are not available; land records are not allowed to be entered. *(Interruptions)* If I name all the States, then the time left at my disposal will be finished. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Members and seek full cooperation of all the political parties which have agreed to this national programme to see that this programme is given a serious thought and due importance. We will go a long way. Here there is no question of Congress Party or this party : it is a question of nationally accepted policy programme for which there is no political gain. This is one policy. There is no political difference upon which we have to see that the tillers of the land, Poorer kisans, the small farmers, peasants are also given a right to own the land which they till; on this there cannot be any question.

Now, Shri Kabuli wanted to know something about apples. So far as apple scab is concerned, we had a meeting only last week of the specialists from Jammu and Kashmir, from Himachal Pradesh and all the scientists available with the Government of India, here top officers, they have been able to assess the situation; they have been able to see the dimension of the problem and the team will be visiting Jammu and Kashmir soon with a package of schemes to undertake, and all out attack on this scab.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : *It is serious.*

S. BUTA SINGH : It is serious in Himachal Pradesh; it is serious in Jammu and Kashmir. It is serious in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, we have already identified areas; we have also identified the solution; there is no dearth of solution; and this disease is curable. Therefore, we will make an effort to see that the apple crop is very important both for the national economy as well as for the health of the people. The germ plasma of the apple crop in our country is very very old and we are trying to get some of the best german plasmas from anywhere in the world and we will try to see that this plantation is replaced gradually so that our farmers, growers can also have the best germ plasma available in the world.

The issues that some hon. Members have raised are of the nature of certain problems in their respective States. No doubt, we have got the suggestions made by the hon. Members and we will take all steps to see that their suggestions are given due attention and we will try to implement the suggestions made by hon. Members.

One hon. Member raised a very important issue so far as the development of the rural areas is concerned and that is panchayati raj and cooperative system. No rural development or agricultural development for that matter, can take place unless the involvement of the people through their elected representatives, whether through panchayati raj or through cooperative system, is assured. I have been writing to the Chief Ministers. The hon. Prime Minister himself has written to all the Chief Ministers about these two vital issues of our national life *i.e.* panchayati raj and cooperative system. But unfortunately, the response has not been matching with the urge that we have been placing before the States. In certain States the panchayat elections have not been held for quite a number of years. And in certain States the system itself is so deficient that there are hardly any powers with the panchayats. *Therefore, if there is any panchayati system there, it is only a farce. Therefore, in the interest of the overall development of rural areas and well being of the rural society it is just essential that we should be giving due importance to these institutions which are the very hub of*

bringing any kind of social changes in our country. If the panchayati raj system is strong it can help us in identifying beneficiaries for rural development. They can help us in implementing some of the very important schemes which we have evolved for developing the rural economy.

Similarly, in the cooperative sector, again, unfortunately the health of the cooperative is worse. Over 80 per cent of the primary cooperatives societies are not in a position to stand on their own, Prof. Ranga has given a very good suggestion that we should organise service cooperatives which should serve the agriculturists by giving them loan service, etc. Similarly Shri Awasthi was very keen that we should be channelising the major input *i.e.* loan through cooperative societies. If you look at the health of the cooperative societies at the moment, in some of the States, the *State level cooperative societies are not in that position. They are even disqualified for getting any loan from NABARD because their performance, has been very bad in the past. Therefore, it is high time that our Chief Ministers and State Governments address themselves to this in order to see that the cooperative societies are given their due share and they are able to play their role in the development of the society.*

These were some of the issues which the hon. Members had brought forward. I am sure, the august House will appreciate the achievement that the Agriculture Ministry has been able to make. But as I started my remark, we are trying to share more and more financial resources and other powers with the State Governments. So primarily it is the responsibility of the State Governments. Whether it is agriculture or rural development, hon. Members must exercise their influence and try to involve themselves with the implementation of the schemes under agricultural and rural development. Only and only then our country can prosper and our poor peasants and farmers can be saved from exploitation from those vested interests which have been a heavy burden on our rural society.

With these words I commend to the House to pass the Demands for the Ministry of Agriculture.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Buta Singh Ji, I will like to take up discussion with the

Transport Ministry and the Railway Ministry for the easy movement and for some refrigerated van for the perishable so that it would help in the implementation of more productivity in the fruits and perishable products.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sure, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That will be a nice step because if other countries have, then why don't we.

S. BUTA SINGH : Already the hon. Prime Minister has given us the direction to see that the horticulture and specially the perishable fruit, vegetables, flowers should be given due importance and we are trying to see that specially in the big cities, the cosmopolitan cities, the prices of these essential commodities are not allowed to go up, and this can be done only through the efficient transportation. Our farmers who are growing grapes in Maharashtra, in Karnataka, in Andhra Pradesh, are finding it difficult to sell their commodities and, Sir, we have gone to the extent of requesting the Civil Aviation Minister to provide us cheaper transportation for this highly perishable commodity and he has given us a very sympathetic reply.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the cut motions moved to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to vote together, unless any hon. Member desires that any of his out motions may be put separately.

All the cut motions were put and
Negatived.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1987 in respect of the heads

of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 9 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER : Now I have got two minutes left.

[Translation]

If the House agrees, I will put the remaining Demands to the vote of the House.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes Sir, you may do it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : O.K. If the House says.

OUTSTANDING DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1986-87

Ministries of Communications, Environment and Forests, Finance, etc. etc.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to vote.

The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts of Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1987, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against—

- (1) Demands Nos. 13 to 16 relating to the Ministry of Communications;
- (2) Demand Nos. 26 to 28 relating to the Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (3) Demand Nos. 30 to 41 relating to the Ministry of Finance;