

Therefore, I humbly request the Union Government and the Ministers of Agriculture and Civil Supplies to declare these districts as drought-affected districts at the earliest and provide requisite funds to the State Government for making adequate arrangement for drinking water, foodgrains and fodder so that relief operations to the affected people may be carried out on war-footing.

- (ii) **Non-availability of adequate quantities of food-stuffs in F. C. I. depots in Madhya Pradesh and need to allow the State Civil Supplies Corporation to take up distribution of food stuffs and sugar**

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

There are 183 Issue Depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh, but foodgrains and sugar are seldom available in half of these depots due to which supplies of foodgrains and sugar cannot be made in a number of districts in the State and particularly, a very small quantity of foodgrains is supplied to the issue depots in tribal belt of the State and the poor people do not get foodgrains, edible oil and kerosene at fair prices. For instance, only 150 tonnes of sugar was supplied to Sarguja district per month for months together in 1984-85 as against the quota of 750 tonnes per month.

The Food Corporation of India has not been supplying wheat in seven districts of Chhatisgarh region for the last 14 months. The wheat kept there is not fit even for consumption by animals. The people are forced to buy that wheat. Similarly, inferior quality of levy rice containing excessive quantity of husk is supplied by the Food Corporation of India. Such rice distributed to the people.

The Civil Supplies Corporation of Madhya Pradesh wants to take over the distribution of foodgrains and sugar, approval for which should be given by the Central Government. This Corporation should also be authorised to lift sugar direct from the mills and procure levy rice and should also get all assistance for the procurement of levy wheat and rice which the Food Corporation of India gets.

Government should also pay special attention towards the corruption rampant in the depots of the Food Corporation of India.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know when you will wear a smile.

MR. SPEAKER : In a short while.

- (iii) **Need to provide assistance to Himachal Pradesh for meeting situation caused by drought, fire, etc.**

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh, had to suffer enormous loss due to recent drought. Drinking water and fodder were not available for the cattle. The farmers have also got almost negligible harvest from the crops sown by them. Fruit-growing, a source of income for the farmers, has also received a severe set-back as the fruit did not grow to their full size and as a result the financial condition of the farmers has become worse.

Besides, the nurseries set up and saplings planted by the Forest Department also got damaged at several places and forest wealth has been destroyed due to fire. The State Government has suffered a heavy loss on this account.

The State Government could not make good the loss suffered due to drought with the assistance made available by the Centre. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to provide adequate assistance to Himachal Pradesh Government for making drinking water available in villages and cities and also for providing irrigation facilities.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to examine the feasibility of drilling two m-well bores in existing wells to overcome the shortage of water for irrigation in AP**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : The districts of Anantapur and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh are situated on a very high attitude and facilities for irrigation are very meagre as these districts are not endowed with any perennial rivers and the people in these areas depend on irrigation wells. Due to continuous droughts, the wells amounting to a lakh and fifty thousands