

[Sh. Mankuram Sodi]

Therefore, I want to submit to the Central Government that the view of the vastness of the Bastar district, directions should be issued for the setting up of district level hospitals at every project headquarter so that the Adivasis can get the benefit of modern medical facilities and be saved from the illusions of age old superstitions and beliefs.

[English]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Rajasthan State, girls' enrolment is very poor and for desert and tribal districts, it is a cause of great concern. Non-formal education centres can help improving girls' enrolment. As per the existing policy of the Government of India, the number of girls' Non-formal education centres is restricted to 30% of the total centres. In view of the peculiar problem and low literacy among girls, the percentage of girls centres needs to be enhanced to more than 50%.

It is also suggested that in all desert and tribal districts, the Government of India should introduce a scheme of attendance scholarships for girls, since the drop-out rate among girls is very high due to economic reasons.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want the following subjects to be included in the next week's list of business:-

1. The employees of Telephone Department have been agitation for a long time in support of their demand of better wages. Even the Department considers their demands justified. The technicians of this department are getting lower wages as compared to other departments. Their demands for better wages have not been finally accepted and various hinderances are being created in this regard. It is in the interest of the department to start high tech-

nology and train its workers and give them better wages but unrest caused by the delay in accepting this unanimous demand has affected the efficiency of the department. Therefore, discussion on this subject in the House is essential.

2. The employees in Government press are getting a bonus for lesser number of days as compared to other Government employees. While the employees of this very department have been given bonus of 27 days, the technical employees in Government press have been given bonus of 21 days only. There is unrest amongst in the employees due to this anomaly. Therefore it is essential to hold discussion in the House on this subject also.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, we take note of the submissions made by the hon. Members and we will try to absorb as many as we can next week.

---

12.18 hrs.

[English]

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### Demands of Farmers and Agriculture Labour—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up the next item i.e. Further discussion on the demands of farmers and agricultural labour raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy on the 3rd November, 1988.

Shri Harish Rawat to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there was an industrial lobby in our country which constantly demanded concessions for the industries. The demands of the farmers have also been a subject of discussion within as well as out-

side of the House. I support the provision of the remunerative price to the farmers for their produce. But a balance will have to be maintained between the price of farmer's produce and the situations prevailing in the country. It will not do if every section in the country gets used to working like a trade union. Our party sympathises with the farmers as much as those who call themselves the leaders of the farmers. We stand much better if you compare the work done by the Congress and the Congress Governments for the welfare of the farmers to the work done by the Opposition Governments in this regard. Today many people are indulging in inciting the farmers and taking them to the boat club. I feel that all this goes against the interest of the farmers. There is no denying the fact that the farmers should be paid fair price for their sugarcane produce. I would like to give the example of Haryana in the context of the demand being made for paying Rs. 35 per quintal for sugarcane, and the way political parties are supporting it. The hon. Minister of Agriculture hails from Haryana and he must be well aware that the present Government of Haryana has purchased only a limited quantity of sugarcane at a price of Rs. 35 per quintal and the rest of the sugarcane is being sold by the farmers at the same price in the other states. They have purchased some quantity of sugarcane at a price of Rs. 35 for publicity, the Haryana Government feels that it will be able to achieve something by inciting the farmers of other states and pressurising their Governments. I feel that this is not right. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should adopt a clear policy on this subject according to which there should be a parity in the price of sugarcane and other products of the farmers in different states. If with an eye over the elections, State Governments start increasing the prices on their own, then it will give rise to a situation which will be in favour of neither the farmers nor the State Governments and the industry. We all talk of the benefit of farmers, but we have to see as to what percentage of farmers are benefited if we give them the best price. What was the percentage of the farmers represented by Shri Mahendra Singh Tikait at the Boat Club? It

would be maximum 10 per cent and only 10 per cent of the farmers in India are such who own 15 acres or more of land. Rest of the farmers are such who grow foodgrains as per their need. Therefore he is not going to be benefited, no matter what price you fix for it. A very few percentage of farmers in Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh is going to be benefited by the increase in the price of foodgrains. Separate policies will have to be formed for the real farmer, who is a marginal farmer and who is dependent on agriculture. The marginal farmer is unable to get the expected benefit of the programmes of development agencies. The farmer is not even able to get the benefit of policy formulated for fixing the prices of agricultural produce. This needs to be looked into. The programmes formulated by the Government for the welfare of the farmers and the villagers were very good but there is a machinery in between the programmes and the farmers which is not implementing those programmes properly. The programmes like N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., I.R.D.P. etc. are meant for the development of small and marginal farmers. The Government is spending crores of rupees and every year there is an increase in the amount to be incurred on these programmes. However, those programmes are not being evaluated. Those who are directly associated and are called their representatives do not have contact with the people whom they represent. I do not agree with what Shri Gauri Shankar was saying the other day that nothing is being done in this regard. Some thing is definitely being done, it may not be upto the desired extent. You should look into it. Not only the West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh Government utilised the money provided under N.R.E.P. for political purposes but some other state Governments also have not made proper use of these funds. The I.R.D.P. programme had created a ray of hope in the hearts of lakhs of poor farmers that they will be benefited, but the poor farmers have not been trained properly in this programme. They have been given loans but no scheme has been formulated. The Government machinery has no feeling of dedication. Several farmers and labourers



[Sh. Harish Rawat]  
who had taken loans under I.R.D.P. are being imprisoned and money is being recovered from them. The Government will have to reconsider as to whether the I.R.D.P. loans should be waived completely or partially for those whom we have to raise above the poverty line but have been unable to do so. Crores of rupees remains unrecovered from the capitalists and they are pocketing it. Something should be done for the farmers of India by virtue of whom we have arrived in this House. This needs due consideration. I support all the suggestions given for the welfare of the farmers and I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that concrete steps should be taken for the welfare of the farmers and the poor. The Government will also have to make arrangement too see that the benefits of the schemes formulated for the welfare of the farmers reach them. All needs of the farmers should be fulfilled in time. If you make such arrangements, the farmer will surely be greatly benefited.

[English]

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in our country nearly 80% of people depends on agriculture. Agriculture is the backbone of our national economy. Unless we develop this sector of economy, it is difficult to have the economic development in the country.

We have been discussing many things about the problem of cultivators, farmers and landless agricultural labourers; but nothing has been done to uplift this particular section of society. They have been facing many problems—problems of regular supply of water to their fields, problems of having better quality of seeds, problems of having regular supply of electricity and the like.

In my State of Assam, there are frequent floods damaging the standing crops. We find in our country that most of the areas suffer either from floods or drought.

Nearly 70% of the cultivable land depends upon rainfall. If monsoon comes regu-

larly there will be good agricultural harvest; if it fails then there will be drought. Therefore some areas suffer from excessive supply of water and some other areas suffer from paucity of water. Steps should be taken to control floods and also to supply water regularly.

For that purpose what I want to suggest is that dams should be constructed on all the rivers so that at the time of need, water can be taken to the agricultural fields through canals.

We find that the electricity charges are not uniform all over the country. In some areas the rates are high and in some other areas the rates are low. In situations like drought and flood the poor agriculturists are not able to pay their electricity charges. Therefore instead of suspending the payment of electricity charges there should be a provision of waiving the charges.

There is also the problem of heavy burden of agricultural loan. The Government of India always states that it is difficult to waive the agricultural loan. But we find in some States, including the Congress ruled States like Maharashtra, that the Government has waived the agricultural loans. What is the reason which prevents the Central Government to take such steps to give relief to the poor cultivators?

We also find that the Government has introduced a provision to supply fertilizers at subsidised rate. But the question is whether that benefit goes to the common people or to the big industrialists; whether there are some steps taken by the Government of India to prevent such malpractices to see that the benefits really go to the common people. Most of the fertilisers are taken away by the big industrialists. Tea planters take away 80 per cent of the fertilizers for their own benefit. Ultimately what we find is that the benefits proposed to be given to the common people are enjoyed not by the common people but by the big industrialists. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to examine the system of providing fertilisers to

the poor people so that the real benefit goes to the common people.

Then again we find in our country there are millions of landless agricultural labourers who are not properly organised. Therefore, their position is very very weak. On account of this weakness on their part they cannot bargain with the employers and thus we find they are paid even at rates lower than the ones provided under the Minimum wages Act. I would like to know what steps have been taken against violation of this Act. I would also like to know how many cases have been framed against the violators of the Minimum Wages Act? What is the sense of having such an Act unless the Act is effectively enforced. There is no sense of having such an Act confined to paper alone. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to see that such Acts which remain on paper alone are duly enforced and there is no violation of these Acts. Again these people are not employed for the whole year. They are casual labour. Provision should be made for their employment during the lean period. I suggest that steps should be taken for extension and development of village khadi industries and small scale industries where those people can be employed.

Sir, Government has been very vocal about the Land Reforms Act but is it being applied in practice? If we go to Bihar what do we find? The full-fledged system of zamindari is going on there. Nobody is challenging that. I would like to know whether Land Ceiling Act is being properly applied or not. Similarly in some parts of U.P. also full-fledged system of zamindari is prevailing though not in form but in practice.

Therefore, in conclusion I would say that Land Reforms Act should be properly amended so that there is no violation on this Act and that it is effectively enforced for the interest of the poor cultivators. With these few words. I conclude.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is complete unanimity in the House as far as I can see in

regard to many of the demands of our farmers. We want crop insurance and cattle insurance. We want also famine insurance, flood insurance and anti-erosion measures have to be taken. We want water rates and power rates to be removed or reduced considerably. We also want remunerative prices and not only support prices. In regard to all these things there is unanimity but where from money is going to come? It is just there the Government policy has got to be settled.

I am very glad to find fortunately in view of the coming elections that the Opposition party people also have begun to talk about the parity between urban areas and rural areas, urban people and rural people, between agriculturists and non-agriculturists. They want this parity to be enforced through State policy. This policy has got to be made very clear, has got to be placed as a standard for the Planning Commission. It is not the job of the Planning Commission to say 'yes' or 'no' to anything that the Ministry or any Minister proposes. It is for the Planning Commission to accept the policy adumbrated and accepted by the Government of the day and especially when the Opposition also is agreeable to it. That is where, Sir, I want the Parliament, as a whole, and all the leaders of the parties to sincerely make it very clear — as they have done now — and stand by it about their attitudes in regard to agriculturists so that the Planning Commission would be able to take it as its master instruction.

With great difficulty, the Government had established, first of all, the Agricultural Prices Commission. But then that began to think only in terms of consumers. With much greater difficulty we were able to persuade the Government and through the Government, the Planning Commission also, to establish what is known as 'Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission' so that the producers' interests also could be given primacy. This has got to be implemented. The Planning Commission is not willing to accept it so very heartily. So, they wanted to go back again to 'Agricultural Prices Commission'

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]  
and drop the word 'Costs'. It goes to the credit of the former Minister and especially the present Minister and more especially the Prime Minister to have accepted the demand made to them in the House as well as outside that it should not go back again to Prices Commission, it should stand by the assurance given and the policy laid down and the action taken by Indiraji that it should be Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission so that the interests of the farmer would be given primacy, thereafter the interests of the consumers also.

Secondly, Sir, it has got to be accepted — the policy of price parity between agriculturists and others, price parity also between agricultural prices and other prices. This has got to be placed before the Planning Commission and let them prepare their own plans. Now when we ask the Government to take up so many of these constructive activities, which would mean the expenditure of not even hundreds of crores but even thousand crores and more, we do not suggest to the Government how they are to get this money. It is not the business of the Agriculture Minister alone. Fortunately for us, we have had agriculturists put in charge of this Ministry for a number of years. From Raoji, Dhillonji and now Bhajan Lalji, all the three of them are agriculturists. What can they do by themselves? Half a dozen and more Ministries are involved in the various fields. That has got to be done in order to protect the interests of the agriculturists. All of them have got to be put on a panel to be presided over by the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister to be its Vice-Chairman. It should be that panel's job to allot various responsibilities in regard to all these various things that are needed to be done in order to provide minimum protection, minimum satisfaction to the agriculturists. This has not been done. This has got to be done. Otherwise, Sir, what happens? We make all the suggestions. We have been making them again and again almost in every session and the result is not satisfactory. Where is the money — these thousands of crores of rupees — to come from? We want more

power, more irrigation, more anti-erosion measures, more protection against natural calamities, drought, floods, frost and so on. Who is going to pay for this? I suggest that a time has come when we have got to make it very clear to non-agriculturists that they have got to make sufficient contribution and allow the Government to raise sufficient funds in order to finance all these things. That is why, I suggest that there should be a purchase tax except on foodgrains and medicines.

As you know, as a result of the Planning Commission's work and the Government planning also during the last forty years, the middle classes have come up like anything. It is to the credit of our country and our farmers that the middle class have been strengthened and their wealth has been going up and they can now be expected to make some contribution. And that is why, I suggest that now their contribution should be there whether it is 5 per cent or 10 per cent, and in course of time as their wealth grows, the demand that the Government would be making for their contribution would also be growing, but that contribution has got to be collected from those people either in the shape of surcharge on income tax, and various other taxes or in some other ways, but an effort has got to be made. Then, purchase tax also. Middle classes are spending money like anything. Go anywhere in the small towns, and not to speak of citizens. Shops are growing in number, in depth and in wealth and in their profits. Who is responsible for all this? It is the expenditure by the middle classes and the upper classes on various odds which are not so very essential, which are generally luxurious, and which certainly are of higher prices. So, purchase tax has got to be raised and surcharge on income tax has got to be raised in the name of rural reconstruction. I call it rural reconstruction because rural housing has not been paid any attention at all.

And then, the rural hygiene, rural health, all the various services have got to be developed. Where from are you going to get this money? Who is going to contribute?



It is not good to ask the farmers to pay as everybody has said here. Even flourishing peasants do not get more than a thousand rupees as family income per month, as net income, whereas on the other hand, if a farmer is sensible enough to get his one or two sons educated and then they get a job of a clerk, they start with a salary of not less than a thousand rupees each. Their income is generally Rs. 1500 each per month and it goes on to several thousand of rupees. Under these circumstances, how can you expect farmers to agree to make any contribution to the revenues of the Government?

Our friends talk of implementation of the land ceiling and so on. It is good that the ceiling has got to be implemented, the principle has to be accepted. Some people have managed to escape and so on. But nevertheless, because of the law, the land by two generations comes to be divided. By now, it must have come down below the ceiling even in the few cases where people had escaped. The most important thing is not that at all, but it is to see that minimum wages are fixed, minimum employment assurance is given to farmers as well as to workers as has been done in a few States and minimum prices have got to be prescribed.

It goes to the credit of our present Minister here that he has given an exhortation to all the farmers all over India not to indulge in distress sales. It means a lot. They would not sell, but somebody has got to buy their produce, otherwise they do not have money and somebody has to advance them credit and so on. All those things will follow. But first of all, should not be forced to sell his produce. Therefore, it means that the courts should not accept any complaints from the creditors. The decrease should not be enforced; there should not be any distress sales of land for satisfaction of the debts and so on. So many things followed as a result of that very courageous exhortation that the Agriculture Minister had given the other day. All credit to him.

There is also the Crop Insurance Scheme. It used to be up to mandal level and

we suggested that it should be brought down to the village level. In a second, Sir, the Minister came forward and said, "Yes, it should be started from the village itself." Then we also suggested that this insurance should not be limited only to those people who borrow from the cooperative associations and other banks but it should be extended to all the farmers whether they are debtors or not. The Minister accepted it. Then, how could you find fault with the Minister and more so with the Prime Minister?

I am very glad that this young man has become our Prime Minister. He came fresh without any prejudices. He has been going around our 'jhoparies' and our villages and he has seen the misery of our people which has been pictured by so many of our Hon. Members unanimously in this House. He too has shed tears for the sufferings of these people. Therefore, he has taken cudgels with all those authorities in various ministries including the Planning Commission, that their attitude towards farmers should change. This is a great lead that he has given. It is a courageous lead too because the services are not so very powerless, rather often at times they are very much more powerful. Therefore, this exhortation is very much needed. It has come from the Prime Minister himself. It will be a source of strength to the Minister for Agriculture and other ministers associated with various activities of our own farmers. I am very glad about it.

I am also glad that the farmers are organising themselves according to their parties. There was a time when so many Congress people were just wondering whether there will be any need for a separate 'kissan' organisation. We were able to persuade Mahatma Gandhi to agree to it. Now, the Communist Party people were also at times, hesitant because their mentor elsewhere was more keen about the proletariat than about the peasants because they thought that the peasants are petty bourgeois, money-minded and private property minded people and so on.



[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Here also comes the Gorbachev. The horrors committed by the Stalin's regime and the sufferings were inflicted upon the poor farmers and 'kissans' of Soviet Russia. Today, all these people have got to be helped, served, protected and raised at least to our Class-IV people to begin with. More so, the urban middle class people, salaried people, educated people, all these people have got to be made to pay and they will pay once the Government as well as the Opposition agree to this particular principle.

Sir, there was a time when we wanted the abolition of the 'Zamindari' system. Many people rose against it. But nevertheless it came to be the national policy of all parties. Today nobody is prepared to go back to the 'Zamindari' system. Similarly the Raja Pratha has also gone. Today to be a 'raja', to be hailed as a 'raja' is no longer a matter of credit about a matter of shame. Rajas themselves go on saying that they are no longer 'rajas'. In the same way the approach of the richer classes towards the agriculturists, the attitude of the educated administrative people towards 'kissans' should be raised. This should be given the first priority. The Government and the Opposition should go throughout India and make it as an accepted national policy so that we will be able to strengthen the hands of the Agriculture Minister and the other concerned minister also and we will be able to strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister also. If we accept this, then we would welcome the 'kissan' marches that are going on all over India. If it is right for the Vice-Chancellors, for College professors, for even scientific workers drawing Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 as salaries, and may be for other people also to march for better conditions of life, to organize their own marches everywhere, to go on strike, how is it wrong for farmers to organize themselves, to organize their own marches and make their own demonstrations?

But, unfortunately, some of our political parties seem to think that it is their own monopoly. But it is not the monopoly of the Opposition. It is not the monopoly of the

Government, either. It is because of that, when a wrong time was chosen, a wrong place was chosen by some of our people, other kisans also demonstrated the other day. If you had a demonstration at the Boat Club, we had 3 times, 5 times bigger demonstrations at the Red fort. How did all those people come? One-third or one-fourth of them must have come because of the various facilities provided by these organized political parties; but the rest of them came of their own accord. They came and demonstrated that they were behind the national Government, they were behind Rajiv Gandhi; not because he is the Prime Minister; also because he is the Prime Minister, indeed because he is the Prime Minister he has chosen to champion their cause in such ringing terms, eloquent terms, as had been our charge till now, in favour of the farmers, as against all other classes. Therefore, I make this appeal to the people and to all political parties in Parliament, to stand by the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister in regard to their policies vis-a-vis the farmers. In regard to other things, they may differ. Mr. Raghuma Reddy has mentioned so many things. So many other things have been mentioned by people who have come from other States, from all over India and from all other parties. All these are needed. I am in support of them, except one point, viz. the point made by one to our friends, that the poor farmers, small farmers, inefficient farmers, backward farmers cannot make a proper contribution; therefore, they should be brought compulsorily into cooperatives; their land holdings should be merged into cooperatives. I do not agree with that. On that, I had joined issue with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. We fought all over the country against that proposal, viz. compulsory cooperative farming. We also fought against the other proposal that agricultural holdings also should be treated in the same way as the zamindaris; and, therefore, they should be abolished. That system has gone. And what is more, Soviet Russia itself has given it up. It is coming back to peasant proprietorship. Therefore, I stand by self-employment, self-employed peasants, self-employment for farmers, self-employment for all, for as many

of the rural workers in arts and crafts as possible.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the various problems of farmers for the last two days. This itself shows how much interest we take in the welfare of our farmers. Our Senior Colleague Prof. Ranga has given many valuable suggestions in this regard.

Even after 40 years of Independence, the life conditions of the farmers have not improved as much as we expected. The investment for the welfare of farmers is very meagre even though there are about 60 crores of farmers in the country. Merchants, officials and others are receiving better treatment even though they constitute a lesser percentage of population.

I have seen the living conditions of various people in various capacities as President, Secretary etc.

Tax evasion and black money in this country is estimated to be about 30 thousand crores of rupees.

As Prof Ranga has said, the farmer is facing many problems. Therefore, we have to provide water, electricity and other facilities to him. If this is not done then there is no future for farmers in this country.

Democracy is flourishing in this country only on account of farmers and not on account of merchants and politicians. Farmers is like a cow, an innocent person. If he has to lead a life of a good citizen, he should get the following facilities:

1. Crop insurance;
2. Cattle insurance;
3. Insurance for the farmer's property affected by floods and drought.

Irrigational facilities should get top priority in our country. Bhakra Nangal is a big dam which provides water to lakhs of acres of

land for irrigation. The small farmers who take loan for pumpsets, tube wells etc. are not in a position to clear their debts. About three thousand crores of rupees are paid as subsidy for fertilizers. But where does this amount go? The Managing Director of Mangala Fertilizers in Mangalore gets 25 thousand rupees as his salary. It is high time that our Government should look into these matters.

The rate of paddy was about Rs. 180 in the year 1967. Now, the rate is around rupees 200/- only. At the same time what is the increase in the rate of fertilizers since 1967 till today? These differences have to be rectified immediately.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can you resume your seat for one minute? Hon members, I have a list of 11 members who want to speak on this subject. The Minister is going to reply to the debate at 2 P.M. He needs a minimum of one hour to finish his reply. Therefore, if all the hon. Members present in the House agree, then we can forgo our lunch hour today so that we may be able to finish our discussion on this subject.

ALL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, the House has decided to forgo the lunch hour today. Now I shall request all the members to be brief when they speak so that we may be able to finish it by 2 P.M.

Mr. Basavaraju, now you can continue your speech.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU: Our Government's objectives are exemplary. We have many programmes like N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. etc. for the upliftment of the poor masses of this country. But, I am sorry to say that the money paid by our Government for these programmes is being misused by officers, administrators and others.

Cotton growers, Sugarcane growers and all other farmers are facing the problem of marketing. Our Government should come

[Sh. G.S. Basavaraju]  
to their rescue. If the farmers get marketing facilities, irrigation facilities etc. Then the whole country can progress because the farmers is the backbone of our country's economy. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, every session, we are discussing about the agricultural labourers and their economic condition in our country.

Four hundred and forty six Districts are there in our country. There are 5.4 lakhs of villages. Out of which, 4.4 lakhs of villages have been electrified. If there is one bulb in a village, that village also come under the category of electrified village.

Out of 90 million farm holdings, only three-fourth of the holdings are with the marginal farmers. Their holding amounts to two hectares. There are big farms. Because of the failure of land reforms, the actual tiller of the soil has not been able to get agricultural land. This is where we are failing.

The actual farmers, the tillers whom we are calling as poor, do not have land. There are four categories of farmers agricultural labour; small farmers; marginal farmers and affluent farmers. Do you not think at any time that this is the only Department which does not need any training or any kind of technology which would bring the farming in a developed manner? So those are unable to find any job anywhere have to go back to the village for any sort of job that is open to them i.e. agricultural farming. But that is also not available for the whole year. 67 per cent of the people are still depending upon farming. Even after 40 years of Independence this percentage of people have been neglected. And because of this negligence, the country could not move forward. It is unfortunate that the farmers, who are the food growers, are forced to lead a sub-human life. You will be

surprised to know that the average milk consumption is 160.8 grams. Perhaps, it is not sufficient even for a cup of tea. But we are boasting that we are going to be equal to America or other developed countries. If you see our standard of living, per capita consumption of many essential items, you will find that we are one of the poorest countries in the world. But we are boasting too much to get into the 21st century. We have got enough loans. If these had been spent in a better manner, our position would have been quite different. We have given first priority for the industrialisation of the country and spend crores of rupees on that. But what is the result? We are getting only 0.2 per cent of the foreign exchange by exporting industrial goods. If you had given first priority to agriculture, perhaps, our country would have marched forward leaps and bounds.

13.09 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the  
Chair*]

We have lost thousands of crores of rupees in our industries. We are in the debt trap now. This is all because of giving first priority to industry. Now you are going to face resource problem. So you are looking towards farmers for coming to your assistance. So the farmers are the backbone of our country because without farmers we cannot move forward. So more energy, more money should be given for the development of rural areas and agriculture.

You are having so many schemes like cash compensatory support, drought prone area programme, hill area development programme, technology mission on oilseeds. But should they remain only on papers and with the officers? I would like to know how much progress have they made with all these schemes which I have mentioned.

From the beginning we have tried to reach a five per cent development growth but we have never reached the target. So, please try to reach the target. Wherever



there is deficiency, you must check it

We have got Blocks, Districts and *Gram Panchayats*. We have also got fields like poultry, husbandry, fishery, etc. but we cannot develop them within a year. Where are we lacking? Our people do not have training. Our officers who have had their college education, are supposed to be experienced persons and having the technical knowhow. Perhaps that is why they are sent to the villages. But they are not working with the farmers. They are officers. They are the Commanders-in-Chief. So, this tendency of being the Commanders-in-Chief should be stopped. The villagers should be given training for fishery, poultry, animal husbandry and other works. Then the standard of living of our people can be raised within a year, I tell you. Let us start from just now to raise the living standard of our farmers. What is needed for the countryside is houses, drinking water, electrification and good seeds to be distributed in time. We have been repeatedly telling you to look into these small things. If you don't do that, you will not be able to get any resources for any development at all. So, it is high time that you pay attention to these things. This is not something where party politics should come in. This is a national problem and if the national problem is not met by all, then perhaps we will find ourselves in a very difficult position in future. So, Sir, I warn the Agriculture Minister and the Prime Minister also that they must pay more attention to see that our people's and our farmers' standard of living is raised. Then only we can find resources for the future development of our country. With these words, I thank you, Sir.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the miserable condition of an average Indian farmer is such that he is born with debts and dies with it. Our Government has implemented a number of schemes till date for the welfare of the farmers, yet the farmer is never relieved of the burden of loan. We call the farmers a benefactor which sounds sweet and soothing but

all the efforts made by the Government to raise the economic, social and cultural level of that benefactor have not proved effective due to some or the other drawback. Even today our farmer is illiterate and lacks general awareness due to which the Government machinery and its officials harass him. If the farmer has to get water from a canal, the concerned officials will not make the water available to him in time. If the farmer makes a complaint, against these officials of Government machinery, they will harass him and will not pay attention to him. Therefore, the farmer should be so potent that his requirements of power, fertilizers, seeds and water etc. may be got fulfilled in time.

The hon. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has taken a very good and major step, under which the farmers were allotted land and given the documents of the land. But even after a lapse of so many years, the farmers have not been given possession of that land for which the hon Chief Minister has constituted a committee, which will visit various districts to enable the farmers to get the possession of the land allotted to them. We should take steps to make all these things available in time and effectively. It is also worth consideration whether the farmer has been able to get a higher price for his crop in the same ratio as the prices of essential commodities like fertilizers, seeds etc. have increased. This is a serious matter which needs Government's consideration because the prices of all the things which a farmer needs for cultivation have risen exorbitantly but the price of his crop have not been increased proportionately. When the farmers will be able to get the proportionately increased price for their crop, then alone we can say that their condition will improve. In case of natural calamities the Government writes off a part of the loans and land revenue due to the small or marginal farmers or defers the repayment of it for some time. But this cannot be the solution of their problems. Unless the farmer starts feeling that he is free from the burden of loan, his condition cannot be said to have improved. We should think of some such remedies so that the farmer may be relieved of the burden of all



[Sh. Dal Chander Jain]

kinds of loans and fully concentrate on increasing his agricultural production. Only then we call him the benefactor in the real sense of the term.

Here I want to make another submission, that the farmers have to run to the various departments to get their problems solved. They have to go the *patwari* and struggle with the departments of power and irrigation for it. As such there are Gram Panchayats and other authorities too in the village to attend to their woes but they do not pay due attention to the problems of the farmers, or else ignore them. So it becomes the responsibility of the people's representatives to provide all sort of relief and assistance to the farmers. The Chief Minister of my State has taken some welcome steps in this direction. I would like that the Central Government should also take similar steps for the benefit of the farmers of the whole country. Only then will the farmers realise that this Government is doing something for their welfare or in their interest.

[English]

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, much has been said about the interests of farmers and agricultural labour. We are today proud of our achievements in the field of agriculture. But then these achievements in terms of increase of production on the basis of these programmes do not relate to the real interests of the farmers. Farmers all over the country have a common goal, there is no doubt about it. Whether they should be helped by organising them politically at the level of parties and all that, I think, deserves serious consideration. But, in fact, the problems faced by the farmers and agricultural labour all over the country cannot be generalised because there are different regions in the country and these different regions have their own problems, I mean, the peasants and the agricultural labour in different regions have different problems. I do not like to make any reference to the general problems that have already been mentioned in the

course of the debate. I represent the North-East where the sub-Himalayan region covers hilly and small, small valleys surrounded by hill areas, topography and general geographical conditions in these small States. Also we can consider along with this, part of the Himalayan State like the Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, part of Assam, Mizoram, Manipur and portions of Tripura too. Although Tripura does not have many problems, they have a problem of very special kind of topography where we need to develop the terrace type of cultivation and also to stop shifting cultivation. The farmers and the agricultural labour who earn their livelihood in these areas deserve a special consideration. We have been demanding a special programme for training the people on terrace cultivation as is done in Japan and other places to avoid shifting cultivation which spoils the environment and forest products of the region. This is not only harmful to the areas but also harmful to the forest. We indiscriminately destroy forest in the name of shifting cultivation. We are not providing farmers a permanent land facility. They shift their cultivation from year to year or within a few years. In this shifting, as we have seen, the entire environment and ecology of the small States in the Northeastern region gets spoiled and we do not know *where we are heading for*.

We have made a demand to the Agricultural Ministry that the ICAR should have special programmes for these areas. What we find today is that the programmes of the ICAR in the Northeastern region remain only in laboratory and it is merely production of samples in States like Arunachal Pradesh. We do not like to see samples. We would like to see comprehensive programme where we should train the cultivators and agricultural labour to use certain clear portions of their land in the hill areas for main cultivation which will need so much of assistance for their water, for special development which perhaps need technical assistance. ICAR has opened its units in all these States. But these units, as we have seen during so many decades, are there only to show samples.

We would like to have a comprehensive programme. I would like the hon. Minister to see that Northeastern States and similar areas in any part of the country — because I do not have much idea about other areas — are assisted by special programmes. I request through you that the hon. Minister while replying should be able to promise all these steps and that the agricultural labour will be assisted not merely by showing samples, but would be trained on large scale. In this way, it not only ensures improvement of agricultural production and lot of the farmers and peasants but also ensures protection of the environment. Unless we protect environment, these areas will become desert, hill desert, like Ladakh in which case, we shall be thinking of shifting the population to other places which again will be a serious problem. In order to avoid this, the Government should take up a special programme in the forthcoming Plan and a special provision should be made. I think, enough information and enough expertise are already available with the Northeastern Council and also with the respective Agricultural Departments of the small States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the House is discussing the matters relating to the farmers and the farm labourers. Being an agricultural country, the condition of India has become like that of the leading lady of the epic of a Rajasthani poet who utters these words "*Aur joon dhanni dhanha, Manakh joon kyon deeni*". Today the condition of the farmer is so miserable that he is fed up of his existence. Today the farmer's ox is quite safe and sound under him which is a privilege for it but the Indian farmer does not have the facility to maintain himself as a human being and he has started hating himself. Yesterday an hon. Member had said that as the farmers were not getting the remunerative price, for their sugarcane, they had set their sugarcane crop on fire. Dr. Iqbal once said about the present days of independence that—

*"Us khet ke harkhushaigandum ko jala do*

*Jis khet se dehkan ko mayassar na ho roti"*

But today in the independent India the farmer does not get a remunerative price for his crop even after burning his crop of sugarcane. Such is the condition of the farmers in Free India. If we peep into Akbar's era, we find that even Tulsidasji had once said that:

*"Aapas mein baith puchhat hein, kahan jaai ka kari."*

The situation is such that people sit together and ask one another as to where to go and what to do? The farmer is the worst victim of all the problems which exist in India and its society today. Whether it is the problem of inflation, flood, drought, epidemic or corruption, it all affects directly or indirectly the farmer only.

If epidemic or inflation strikes, the farmer is helpless because of the lack of resources. If he leaves the village, he will have to come to the town. On the way he will be caught ticketless and thrown into the jail. After facing a lot of difficulties he will come to pull rikshaw in the streets of Delhi and Bombay and add to the slums. In fact all those people who are living without sufficient clothes on their body and without a roof over their heads in the slums are nobody else but the uprooted farmers of the villages.

Such is the tale of woes of the villages that even after 40 years of independence, the villagers have not got any facility due to which all these problems continue to haunt them. Corruption prevails every where and does bring equal dividends to all. For example when an industrialist gives Rs. 5 thousand some where, he expects a return of Rs. 50 thousand on it and if a clerk or an officer pays a bribe of Rs. 500 for a particular work, he may also get Rs. 500 from some other party. But a farmer can not get any such money from anywhere. He is the worst victim of corruption.

Adulteration is another problem. Adulteration is rampant even in the matter of pesticides which are used in the farms. All

[Sh. Het Ram]

such spurious medicines are given away to the illiterate villagers to whom the Government is indifferent. Such medicines given to them are harmful. Our Ministers and leaders have no faith in such medicines and go for their treatment to England or to some other foreign country. The sub standard and spurious medicines are supplied to the villagers which become the ultimate cause of their death. The Government does not consider it necessary to make any improvements in this regard.

I want to quote an example. In 1977 the price of *narma* (cotton) was Rs. 700 and its average yield per acre was 4 quintals. In those days the price of one truck was Rs. 28 thousand which means that a farmer could purchase a truck by selling merely 40 quintals of *narma*. Today price of *narma* is Rs. 500 and a tractor now costs Rs. 98 thousand. Therefore, now a farmer shall have to grow 200 quintal of *narma* for purchasing a tractor. That is the position in regard to the fair price a farmer gets for his crop.

I want to make a request to the Government that provision should be made to supply electricity in the villages. Further, flood control work should also be undertaken and roads should be got constructed in the rural areas. The Government should do something for economic and social security of the farmers. Industrialisation should take place in villages. Village craftsmen, whose hands were cut off by the British, should be rehabilitated. Besides their crops, the farmers themselves should also be insured. Farmers working in fields at night are vulnerable to snake-bite. Another cause of death of the farmers is the sprinkling of pesticides on crops. Loans should be given on low rates of interest. It is the duty of the Government to waive the debts of the poor.

Facilities have been given to industrialists for the export of agricultural products. These facilities should be given to farmers instead of middlemen. Now we are importing wheat. The import substitution benefit

should go to the farmer and not to middlemen.

The Land Ceiling Act is not implemented. The Indian farmer cannot finance elections because he faces difficulty in arranging finance even for himself. We should not compare the performance of the farming community with that of Reliance Industries which is able to treble its assets over three years. Today, the Government helps the Tatas, Birlas and Reliance Group at every step because it needs them. The illiterate and innocent farmers are ignored by the Government because they are thought to be of no use. But soon these illiterate and innocent farmers will revolt and create problems for the Government.

Minimum Wages Act has been enforced. This Act is implemented in factories only. Farm labour is not able to get the minimum wages. That is why farmers do not get an appropriate price for their produce. When the farmer cannot make both ends meet how can he pay to the labour? So the Government is requested to give proper attention to farmers and the latter will take care of the minimum wage aspect. Industries should be set up in villages so that people living there can get employment. Today the country's economy is unstable because there is no representative of farm labour in this Parliament. I belong to a family of farmers. I recall my student days when we had to work in the fields during summer vacation while the affluent used to plan to visit places like Shimla. The Government should provide education facilities in villages so that children over there do not take studies as a part-time occupation. The education system in villages should be designed on the lines of that existing in public schools in the cities.

With these words, I end my speech. Jaihind.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to express my view in this discussion on the problems of farmers and labourers.



Sir, 80% of the country's population earns its livelihood through agriculture. Today, farmers face certain problems which must be solved. It is true that the hon. Prime Minister and the Government have tried to solve these problems through various programmes, the benefits of which have reached farmers to a large extent. But there are still certain problems which need to be looked into. The most important thing is that farmers should get timely supply of water, electricity and quality seeds. There is an acute shortage of transformers also. As a large number of transformers are burnt it is not possible to operate tubewells. Often electricity supply remains interrupted. So the Government should arrange for repair of transformers and tubewells.

Often it has been seen that timely supply of high quality seeds is not available during the Rabi season. They face problems in such a situation. Efforts should be made to ensure timely supply of high quality seeds.

There should be an adequate supply of water in canals. Tubewells should also function properly. If the farmers get proper supply of water and seed they will definitely have a good harvest.

I also want to raise the matter of farm labour. The Government provides a lot of facilities to small and marginal farmers. The Government should prepare a list of marginal farmers who are eligible for benefits and assistance should be given to them on the basis of their eligibility.

Whatever foodgrain the farmer may be producing, he should get the right price for his produce. Ratna Sugar Mill in Shahganj in my constituency is lying closed. Rs. 80-85 crores are due to the farmers for the sugarcane bought by this mill. Crores of rupees are also due to labourers. As today's discussion is on farmers and labourers, the Government is requested to ask the Ratna Sugar Mill to pay back the dues of farmers and labourers in my constituency. The Ratna Sugar Mill should be reopened. Not only

Jaunpur but 4-5 districts in the vicinity will also be benefited. As there is no other sugar mill over there the sugarcane produced in the area cannot be used elsewhere. So efforts should be made to revive the mill.

Subsidy should be given only to eligible farmers. Insecticides should be sprayed on crops free of cost.

Farmers are frequently affected by floods and drought. The Government should make arrangements to prevent flooding of agricultural land.

I want to congratulate the Government for trying to help the farmers in every possible way.

Minor problems which still persist can be solved by making arrangements for supply of seed, water and electricity.

With these words I hope the hon. Minister will consider these points.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion.

**XV. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to take part in this vital discussion under Rule 193. While participating, I would like to give some suggestions about the facilities to be provided to the farmers of this country.

Agriculture is the main occupation of our country. About 80% of the population of our nation is depending upon agriculture.

Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Minister for Agriculture Shri Bhajan Lal have taken keen interest in the welfare of farmers. Our Government is trying its best to provide more facilities to the peasants. But this is not sufficient. We have to help the farmers to a large extent. The basic facilities that the farmers need are land, water, seeds, pesticides and fertilizers. All these items are very essential for the progress of farmers.



[Sh. V. Krishna Rao]

The standard of life of merchants, bank employees, government employees etc. is much better than a farmer. Hence, it is our prime duty to help the farmers. Electricity, pump sets, seeds etc. etc. should be provided to the farmers at cheaper rates. Marketing facilities should be provided to the farmers. There should be no middlemen. There should be no exploitation of farmers by the merchants. The farmers should get remunerative prices and the Government has to take the responsibility of providing marketing facilities to the farmers.

In Karnataka, there was no rain for the last 7 years. This year we had good rain in the beginning of the monsoon season. But unfortunately, towards the later part of the monsoon season there was no rain. This was affected the cultivation of groundnut, ragi and other agricultural produce in Karnataka.

Farmer's children are not receiving good education facilities. They cannot dream of medical and Engineering Colleges. Therefore it should be the responsibility of our Government to provide educational facilities to the children of farmers.

Fluctuations in the market rates have to be curbed and farmers should be able to get better prices throughout the year. The life condition of the farmers at present is pitiable. 90% of them are not in a position to pay the interest on their loans. Many of them do not have even two square meals a day. In my State, Bangalore, Tumkur, and Kolar districts are the worst affected districts for the last 7 years due to drought. Ofcourse, now the situation has improved. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to complete the Upper Bhadra Project and provide water to lakhs of acres of land. If irrigational facilities are provided then we can provide foodgrains for the whole world.

At present the farmer is like a rabbit before bear, tiger, lion etc. in the forest. He is a small person in the society. This situation

should change and the solution is irrigational facilities.

During the recent devastating floods in my Constituency, about four thousand families have lost their homes. I request the hon'ble Minister to rush relief measures to my constituency and to rescue the people, especially the farmers. I hope the Hon'ble Minister would do the needful in this regard and with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY (Nandyal):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, Farmers' issue is a major issue which is plaguing the country at the moment. A lot of injustice is being meted out to farmers at present. The other day millions of farmers assembled at boat club and passed several resolutions. They wanted to meet the Prime Minister who turned their request. If the Prime Minister of the country declines to meet the farmers, how can any one say that the country belongs to farmers! Absolutely there is no justification in saying that the farmer is the backbone of our country. During the days of British a farmer was more powerful than a hundred soldiers and now he is nowhere. The problems of agriculturists have almost been ignored by the successive Governments ever since India achieved independence. We still remain very backward on irrigation front. Not much has been done in the past to increase irrigation potential. The allocation made for irrigation in the central budget is meagre. Added to this, there is a terrible power shortage in the country. Power generation in the country has not gone up sufficiently to meet the growing requirement of farmers. During summers, there will be acute shortage of power. The progressive farmers who installed engines will have no power. Not only the engines but also the agriculture activity comes to a stand still. Ultimately farmers incur huge losses. This is the position of an average agriculturist in the country today. Here, in Delhi, the Central Government, instead of devoting time and energy to consider providing more facilities to the farmers, is trying to find out ways and means to impose agricultural tax. It is quite strange indeed. The Government is trying to impose

tax at a time when most farmers, unable to survive on their land, are migrating to urban areas disposing off whatever they have. It is becoming more and more difficult to depend on agriculture for their survival. Villages are being deserted and agriculture is taking a backseat. It is reflecting on our food production also. We are still far from that cherished goal of self-sufficiency. I fail to understand why the Central Government is not taking any note of the serious situation which is now prevailing in the country. It is time to take steps to avert the situation. How long are we to depend on import of foodgrains? If we could not solve at least this one problem of becoming self sufficient in foodgrains, then what is that we can boast of achieving during the past 40 years of our independence? What is that we have achieved during the last forty years? Our achievements are the increase in poverty and population. Should we feel proud of this negative achievement? Who is going to control the situation today? Sir, who should raise the crops and produce foodgrains to feed the nation when the Government itself is helpless? How can a farmer pursue his avocation when everything is going against him. Farmer toils hard, day and night and throughout the year to produce foodgrains. His attachment to the land is much more than his attachment to his kith and kin. His land is more dearer to him than his own life. Even when his wife is ill and bed ridden, he goes to his farm leaving her. He attends to the needs of the farm first and the needs of the family next. But the same farmer is now being compelled by the circumstances to sell his dear land and migrate to urban centres for survival. Farmers are preferring to be petty shop-keepers in an urban centre rather than remain in villages and pursue the risky profession of agriculture. It is really possible. It reflects on the performance of the Government. The Government has miserably failed to develop agriculture. They have miserably failed in solving the food problem. No country is so backward as we are in agriculture. Look at China! Their achievement in controlling population and increasing the production of foodgrains is really worth emulating. India was far ahead of China not long ago. Now,

within a short time, China has overtaken India in development. That country has controlled its population admirably. It increased the agriculture production in an equally admirable way. Is it not something which we should feel ashamed of of our slow progress! Now the farmers have to produce foodgrains for feeding the urban people. But they are not in a position to do so. So, the Government has to consider all these things seriously and do something to revitalise the agricultural sector.

On one hand this sector is afflicted with labour problem and on the other there are no remunerative prices for the farm produce. Added to this, there is a cycle of floods and droughts. A farmer who produces foodgrains usually becomes a victim to the fury of nature. The crop either withers away due to drought or washes away due to flood. If by chance a farmer survives these two, he is denied of a remunerative price for his produce. The price he gets is hardly sufficient to meet the expenses for raising the crop. Sir, the Government should think about all these problems seriously and make an effort to solve them. The lift irrigation facility and also the facilities to tap ground water should be provided to the farmers in all drought prone areas. Otherwise, I am afraid, farmers will no more try to raise the crops in these areas.

In fact, as I said earlier, the farmers have started disposing off their land and migrating to urban centres. Immediate steps have to be taken to avert this alarming situation. Sir, in the last 40 years only black-marketeers have prospered. Money lenders have prospered. Industrialists have prospered. It is only the farmers, who are ruined. It is the only farmers, who have not derived any benefits of our Planning. The farmers are becoming poorer and poorer as the days are passing by. Our food production is also going down. At least the Government could have constructed reservoirs in the areas where there is a good rainfall. It would have helped in raising food-production level. Instead of utilising money for productive purposes, the Government is squandering

[Sh. M. Subba Reddy]

away money on useless things. Under the present circumstances it is becoming increasingly difficult for the farmers to produce the grain sufficient to feed the urban areas. Our Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture is an agriculturist himself. Yet, he is oblivious of the problems of farmers. Unless there is a revolution of the sort in agriculture, this sector will not develop. Till then the food problem would continue to haunt the nation. The Government should at least wake up now and take steps to usher in a revolution in agriculture sector. There is a Crop Insurance Scheme which is in operation. But it is far from satisfactory. For some reason or the other majority of the farmers are out of its purview now. Sir, a farmer raises his crop facing many odds. There is the risk of the crop withering away afflicted by some disease. Or there may not be timely rains. Even if the crop survives all these odds, yet there is the danger of getting washed out in a flood. Hence the Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented in such way throughout the country as to cover every farmer against every odd. Loans are being advanced to farmers now. But even when there is no crop he is made to repay. While no action is being taken on big tax evaders, the farmers are being subjected to humiliation even if there is a slight delay in repayment. Saletax collection is a big zero. Blackmarketeers never care to pay Incometax. Though we have several taxes, none is being collected effectively. The concerned people care little to pay these taxes to the Government. So in order to hide their failure in collecting the taxes from big wigs, the Government is now trying to impose tax on poor and gullible agriculturists. Sir, I have no doubt, that if the Government imposes the tax on agriculturists, even the few who are still remaining as farmers, would also dispose off their lands and bid goodbye to agriculture. There will hardly be anyone left out to carry on with agriculture.

Sir, Prof. Ranga is a veteran Member of this House. The cause of farmers and agriculture labourers is very dear to him. He is affectionately called by the farmers as "Rytu

Ranga". I was listening to his speech attentively. I share his anguish. His elderly advice has to be taken note of with all the seriousness. Effective steps should be taken to implement them. Sir, the farmers are a neglected lot in the society today. If everyone continues to ignore the farmer and his problems, it will go against the interest of the country. I appeal to the Government once again to see that the situation does not deteriorate any further. It is a pity that our Hon. Minister had turned down the request of the farmers to have a meet to discuss the problems with them. It was a very short sighted decision. Perhaps, he has taken the farmers too lightly ignoring the consequences. Everyone including the Prime Minister depends on the farmers for votes. Hence it was not advisable to keep away from the farmers. This single decision would cost the Government very dearly. The Government has every responsibility to protect the interests of the farmers. Crop Insurance Scheme has to be implemented everywhere and should cover every farmer. Farmers should also be given money to raise the next crop in case their earlier crop is damaged. The banks which are advancing loans at present refuse to give loans once again for the second time. There are no other avenues available to farmers to get money for raising the next crop. Hence it should be seen by the Government that a needy farmer gets sufficient money in time for raising the next crop. No need to say that sufficient money is required to purchase fertilizers etc. in time, which are very much essential to raise a good crop.

Sir, village should be considered as a unit under Crop Insurance Scheme. Irrigation facilities should be developed. We should generate sufficient power, so as to meet the growing requirements of the farmers. Steps should be taken to tap the ground water. Unless ground water resource is tapped fully, it will be very difficult and risky to continue with agriculture in drought prone areas. Latrest Rigs should be imported from America. The Government should see that motors etc. are available in sufficient numbers. The Government should do everything



possible to tap the underground water and be made available to farmers in the drought prone areas. Sir, the present position in such that the rigs which are in use now can not go down deep. The water stable in the wells will be receding constantly, the wells dug this year will not have any water next year. Hence American rigs of eight inches should be imported and supplied in the drought prone areas. This step will boost the agriculture in dry areas. The bane of our agriculture is that of small holdings. The holdings of an average farmer in this country is of 2 to 2 1/2 acres. Such small holdings are beneficial neither to the farmer nor to the country. Under Indian conditions one has to have a minimum of 30 acres to maintain a plough and oxen of his own. In such a condition, it is absolutely no use to have small holdings. Prof. Ranga also mentioned this point. As the holdings sink to smaller and smaller ones, the interest in agriculture will disappear and profit gets diminished. Not only the absentee land lords of these holdings, but also tillers lose interest in them. The profit from such holdings is almost nil.

Sir, farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. If there is good production, well, a farmer may not mind if he gets a bit lesser price for his grain. But in the absence of good production, if farmer does not get a remunerative price for the produce, he is almost doomed. Hence the Government must ensure remunerative prices to all the farm produce.

Sir, Agriculture is mainly dependent on water and power supply. Hence, these two have to be made available to the farmers. We have to maintain atleast the food production level. Year by year it is going down. We cannot depend on other countries for our food requirements. Atleast in this front we have to be self-dependent otherwise there will be no meaning in 40 years of independence and Seven Year Plans.

Sir, there are many more things to say. Since there is time, I conclude my speech thanking you for giving me this opportunity.

14.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, Let me make it very clear at the beginning that inspite of being a cultivator, a farmer I am not here with a begging bowl before the Government. I would ask whether you accept some of our rights or not. Unfortunately, agriculture has been put, or somehow it is there as an essential service. We have no other option, because we have no other source of income. We have no savings. That is why we have to cultivate and now every year excessive or erratic rains.

The basic needs of a human being are bread, then clothes and then shelter. Is it not a fact that this agriculturist is giving you bread? How much do you feel obliged towards him? How much of social obligation and feeling do you have for him? That is to be seen. We have seen that in the first two five-year plans, more attention was paid to agricultural sector, and to rural reconstruction activity. But subsequently, the rural economy was completely neglected; and that is why we have influx of people from rural areas into cities. I am happy they are creating a mess for you. You have neglected their claims, you have neglected your duty to give them anything.

When we start an industry, we speak of giving infra-structure. For the agriculturist, you are giving the inputs: water and other things. What about the infra-structure for the villagers; the drinking water facility? Education of his children upto high school, electricity, his health, communication and roads? We have neglected them; and that is why you find that every villager wants to come to the city, live in slums; and he does not want to go back. I know that the slums are worse than the rural areas. They are dirtier than the rural areas. We know that after 1975 we have had the A.P.C. Since then, we have been requesting Government to give us remunerative prices. To me, remunerative prices mean that they should satisfy not only the need of the cultivator himself, but they



[Sh. Uttam Rathod]  
should also look after the well-being of his children, their education and other things. If we do not give these to them, we shall be denying the rights of the cultivators.

Once when I asked a civil servant as to how the wages and salaries are fixed in Government departments, I was told that a person who is assigned a particular job must have some knowledge about it. Without that, he would not be able to take up that job. Secondly, he must have some technical knowledge, special knowledge about that particular work. I want to ask you; Is it not a fact that in the case of the agriculturist to whom you are not giving a proper treatment and infra-structure, the land and the capital are his own? He is the man who decides what and when to do, whether there are good rains or not. He decides when the insecticides are to be used; he is the person who decides how he should manage, how it should be harvested, and how it should be marketed. What about the circumstances in which he works? I was told that one of the main considerations in fixing the salaries in Government jobs. is the environment where he works.

The hon. Minister can correct me if I am wrong. Do you mean to say that the environment in which an agriculturist is working is very congenial? If not, why can't you give him more prices for his produce? As far as sugarcane is concerned, we have accepted 2-3 zones. Of course, you have favoured some States, certain linguistic belts and you have denied it to us in Maharashtra. What is the criterion? Is it the yield or is it the land on which it is grown and also the content of sugar? I want to tell you that the yield in rain-fed area is bound to be less than in the irrigated areas. If this is correct, then why should you not think of giving dry cultivators some bonus? You give it by way of bonus to the cultivators in the rain-fed areas. Upto Seventh Plan, you have been able to irrigate only 27 per cent of the land and for the rest of the land, we do not know how long it will take. There are many villages where you cannot get even drinking water. How are you

going to give them water for irrigation? It is high time that we start giving bonus to the cultivators in the rain-fed area, just as we are giving a special treatment to the marginal cultivators. So, a Time has come when you must give them something more by way of bonus or in some other form to the man who produces his foodgrains and other agricultural produce in rain-fed area.

When a delegation from Poland came to India, we asked them how they fixed the prices for the agricultural produce. They took the yield and then decided. If the yield is less, then they see that a cultivator gets the same amount, just as you are doing. While importing fertiliser at a much cheaper rate. The fertiliser that you are producing is very costly, but, still, we have to pay for all the inefficiency of the fertiliser factories. So, I would like to say that hereafter the government must not only bring the rural people at par with the urban people but they must also accept their rights to infra-structure and more prices. The government has to see that they must have their own shelter; they must educate their children and they should have every right to get all the benefits that an urban man is entitled to.

I have been in politics for almost 32 years both in Legislature as well as in Parliament. Slowly, I have started doubting my own beliefs. It is a fact that the government is elected by the people. But it is elected for whom? Is it elected for the urban people, for the organised sector, for government servants or for all citizens. If it is for all the people, then it must look after the rural reconstruction; there is no other way out.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur):  
Mr. Chairman Sir, India has progressed in many sectors and in the agricultural sector we have become self-reliant. For this, credit goes to the late Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shri Shastri, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the present Prime Minister hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi, scientists and planners. But more than anybody else it is the

country's farmers who deserve applause. But it has become necessary to pay attention to the plight of the farming community despite their good performance. As other hon. Members mentioned, the farmer is economically weaker than his counterpart in the Industrial sector. Farmers do not get the right price for their produce. Adequate facilities are also not provided to them. I hope more attention would be paid to farmers in the country, particularly in areas like eastern U.P., Bihar, Bengal, and Orissa. I am happy that our present Agriculture Minister hon. Shri Bhajan Lal and his colleagues are working in this direction.

Sir, good rainfall at the beginning of the rainy season. This year made us believe that monsoon would be good throughout the country. That the Kharif and Rabi crop would be good. Unfortunately, some areas of eastern Uttar Pradesh like Mirzapur and Varanasi where there have been no rains for three months in succession leading to a situation of drought. Where there is no assured irrigation, crops have dried and there is no moisture at all for sowing of the Rabi crop. So I request the Government to promptly tackle the situation in drought-affected areas of Mirzapur, Bundelkhand and its neighborhood.

Sir, the primary and basic need of farmers is assured irrigation. Even though our country has a lot of agricultural land, not even one-third of it has assured irrigation. I request the Government to make irrigation facilities available to the entire cultivable land in the country during the Eighth Five-year Plan. According to the demands of the area, irrigation facilities like dams, tubewells, hand pump on lift irrigation should be provided. The Eighth Plan should include provision of irrigation of agricultural land in every corner of the country. The best possible facility a farmer can hope for is timely supply of water for irrigation. The other facilities can be arranged by the farmer himself with a little help from the Government.

Sir, I was very happy yesterday when I heard the hon. Agriculture Minister saying

that if funds given for the benefit of farmers were used for some purpose other than agriculture by the State Governments, no further facilities would be provided to them. This is a very good step and it should be strictly adhered to. I have been saying from the very beginning that landless farm labourers, Harijans and Adivasis should be allotted land. If we are to see peace and harmony in the agricultural and rural sector we must allot land to the farm labourers in rural areas. I suggest that surplus land belonging to the 'Gram Samaj' be distributed among them. Cases pending under the land Ceiling Act should be expedited and 'pattas' of land thus obtained should be given to these people. Where there is no 'Gram Samaj' land or land rendered surplus under the Ceiling Act, the Government should buy land and give it to them.

The hon. Minister also looks after the Forest Department. The entire land under forests is fit for cultivation. Crores of hectares of forest land is cultivable. Adivasis and others who live in forests also want to cultivate that land. I would suggest that, 'pattas' of four or five 'bighas' of forest land should be given to farm labourers, Adivasis and others living in forests.

A condition should however, be attached that trees would be planted on half of the land and the other half would be used for farming. Thus they can get an income from two sources and the rural people would get the much needed relief.

Every citizen of this country wants ownership right of land, in direct proportion to the size of the land he cultivates or possesses. I feel that every person should be given some land, be it for setting down, farming or planting trees.

The hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture knows that eastern Uttar Pradesh is affected by drought. Farmers should be extended all possible assistance at this juncture. As our hon. Minister is quite familiar with the problems of farmers, I do not want to go into details. With these words I

[Sh Umakant Mishra]

thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I hope that our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Agriculture Minister and other concerned will pay attention towards farmers.

14.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the  
Chair*]

SHRI AKHTAR HASAN (Kairana):  
Hon. Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. This is a very important discussion. I hope the Government will provide some facilities to farmers. I would like to give some suggestions in this context. There are mainly five reasons for the deteriorating economic condition of the farmer:— 1. Failure of crops. 2. Unremunerative price for their produce. 3. Poor quality of seed, fertilizer and pesticide. 4. High cost of agricultural implements and other inputs. 5. Faulty procedure of disbursal of loans.

Protection of crops against flood and drought is most essential. Supply of electricity, repair of Government tubewells, supply of abundant water in canals during drought and protecting areas adjacent to roads and highways against flood is very important. It has been seen that crossings on roads and highways for passage of water are not broad enough. As the water channels have not been dug properly, the flow of water is blocked leading to water logging for a long time. This causes destruction of crop and, therefore it needs to be looked into.

Higher prices should be given for their produce. For instance wheat crop is bought at Rs. 160- Rs. 170 a quintal and marketed at Rs. 300-400 a quintal. Rich traders stand to gain in this process. The support prices for the next season should be announced at the end of the harvesting season.

Agricultural inputs are very costly. Cost of inputs like tractors, seed, fertilizers and pesticides should be low. Spurious fertilizers should in no case find their way to the farmers. Seed and pesticides, in particular, should be of good quality.

Farmers should be at liberty to sell his raw as well as finished products anywhere in the country and concession should be given on carriage of agricultural inputs. They find it troublesome to wait for hours at the check-post.

Sugarcane cultivation is being undertaken in 80 to 90 per cent of land in Western Uttar Pradesh. This crop costs high and land remains booked for the whole year. The Farmers do not get proper remunerative price for their products. They are not able to send the entire produce of sugarcane to the mills. In order to get rid of this problem the Government should either install as many number of mills as would be required to crush all the produce of sugarcane or give upon permission to the crushers to produce sulphur sugar so that the crushers could run with the income accrued from sulphur sugar and purchase sugarcane at a good price.

The procedure adopted to advance loan to farmers is very wrong. That is why the tractors and land of the farmers had to be auctioned in order to repay the loan. First of all they did not get the full amount of the loan. But they had to pay two to three times of the amount of loan. The officers of the block and the bank grabbed a sizable portion of the amount. That is how they did not get the full amount of loan. I would therefore, like to suggest that the farmers should be given direct loan, if required, on the basis of the cost of their land and their personal account should be opened with the limited amount accordingly. They should also be prevented from selling the land till repayment of loan is made.

During the last 2 to 3 years supply of power to Western Uttar Pradesh has not been for more than 2 hours. Some concession should therefore be given in the electricity bill. Agriculture should be treated at par with the industry and should be supplied power as much as it is supplied to industry.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is holding a discussion on the problems of the farmers. I would like to put forward a few points with



regard to my State and my constituency.

The surplus land that was available after enforcing the land ceiling Act was allotted to poor farmers and people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Rajasthan and the allottees were given lease deeds. But the influential persons approached the courts and obtained stay order. That is why allottees have not been given possession of land so far. It is, therefore, necessary that the Government should ensure settlement of their cases in the court and give possession of the land to the allottees.

Secondly, permanent water courses had been constructed for distribution of water in the first phase of the Indira Canal, but a lot of irregularities had been committed in the construction. I do not want to go deep into it. I would like to say only this much that 80 per cent of them have collapsed. Half-baked and yellow coloured bricks and insignificant quantity of cement was used in the construction work. Concrete was not at all used. Sand was used to construct the water courses. Any how, let us not bother about the past for what has been done there. The charges in respect of water courses payable by the farmers of Haryana and Punjab have been waived. The hon. Minister is fully aware of it and he is fully aware of our problem. The Government is constructing small channels at its own cost in the second phase of the Indira Canal. The farmers of the area do not understand it. As such charges in respect of water courses payable by the farmers should be waived.

Thirdly, there are two tehsils viz. Nohar and Bhadra in my constituency are rain-fed. The land of these tehsils is fertile and totally plain. This area experienced drought 4 to 5 times. It is only this year that their has been some respite. Two schemes viz. Sidhmukh canal and the Nohar canal are under consideration. Survey work on these two schemes has been completed long back but the papers duly completed, are lying in the Central Water Commission for approval. Some work was taken up in the last year on both these

canals as a famine relief measure. I urge the Government to give clearance to these schemes so that the money already spent on them could be utilised and lakhs of people saved from starvation.

Fourthly, the 60 year old Gang Nahar generally called the Bikaner canal has been totally damaged in the stretch falling in Punjab. The intake capacity of the canal is 2700 cusecs water, but it is running with 1800 cusec water only. The shortage causes heavy losses to the farmers. In order to repair this canal, our Government had sanctioned a canal called link canal which was to be connected with Indira Canal near Naugarh and by flowing its water in the Indira Canal in its first head Sadhuwali. There was a proposal to repair the portion of the canal stretch falling in Punjab again. The portion of this link canal falling in the State of Rajasthan was constructed and the Government of Rajasthan deposited money with the Government of Haryana to construct the small portion of this canal falling in Haryana. But the Government of Haryana has not undertaken the construction work on the canal. I request that it should be constructed as the earliest possible.

I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH ( Outer Delhi):**  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, several hon. Members have expressed their views on the problems being faced by farmers in this august House. The House held discussion on this subject yesterday also. I was also present in the House. Some hon. Member said that nothing has been done for the farmers and nobody listen to the woes of the farmers. In this connection, I would like to tell you that the farmer had been facing numerous problems prior to independence. There were no facilities for irrigation and quality seeds were not available. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who had been our first Prime Minister was a man of foresight. The Bhakhra Dam was constructed during his tenure and the dam is providing the facilities of irrigation and supplying electricity to a number of places in

[Sh. Bharat Singh]  
Punjab, Haryana and Delhi. It was the gift of Pandit Nehru. You are perhaps aware that though the population of India was far less earlier we used to import foodgrains. We are very thankful to our Ministers and scientists who devised various means to overcome the above situation. Twenty years back, there was no tubewell at all. It was due to the initiatives taken by our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi that branches of banks have been opened in the rural areas and the farmers are getting loans from their branches. They purchased tractors and installed tube wells out of that loans amount. The farmers got quality seeds, quality fertilizer. They adopted modern methods of cultivation and grew more. The farmers put up hard labour and work day and night. They brave severe heat and harvest crops. They brave severe cold and irrigate their land. They raise bunds in their fields even during heavy rains and secure water in their fields. They produce foodgrains by putting up hard labour. But is a fact that the farmers are also facing difficulties... The difficulty for the farmer is that he does not get remunerative prices commensurate with the hard labour he puts. The farmer would be happy if he gets remunerative prices for the rice and wheat. If there is any problem in paying remunerative prices to the farmer for his produce then he can be helped in some other way. He should be given some sort of allowances. He must get the remuneration for his hard labour.

Secondly, the farmer does maximum hard work to produce maximum foodgrains. In spite of that he does not get the benefits of his labour. He works throughout the day, throughout the year and brings his produce to the barn. If by chance, the produce catches fire from the tractor or short circuit, all his produce reduces to ashes. At this time, no one comes to his rescue. The Government does not help him. It is very essential that the Government should compensate 1/4th of the cost of the crop which reduce to ashes in the barn. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

The farmer works in the field in terrific winter. He works in cold water. The Government should evolve some measures to help the farmer when hailstones destroy his crops. I would like to say one thing about my constituency. Arrangements should be made to flow water in Sarakhpur and Isapur Canals. If water is made available in these canals, the cattle would get water to drink and agricultural land would be irrigated. The farmers should be provided with a quality seeds and equipped with modern techniques of cultivation. They should be supplied implements at reasonable rates so that agricultural production could be increased. The production has increased much as compared to the earlier production and it is increasing further also. At the same time the population has also increased. The hon. Minister, Shri Bhajan Lal is fully aware of the problems of the farmers. He is farmer from Haryana. I am hopeful that he will extend all help to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA  
(Shajapur): A discussion on the plight of farmers and agricultural labourer is taking place here. I would like to mention a few points in this regard.

So far as supply of power is concerned, the Department of power causes a lot of difficulties to the farmers. The farmer can utilise the motor for irrigational purposes only. He has to set up another motor if he wants to instal some other machine. I would, therefore, like to suggest the motor to be provided to farmers should be multi-purpose. The motor should be helpful in starting any small profession or in installing a thrasher. He would be charged for the quantum of power he may consume. I, therefore, suggest that the motor being provided to the farmer should be multi-purpose. It will help solve the problem of large scale unemployment in the villages because the farmer can employ labourers for the additional work. At present he has to pay Rs. 10,000 to instal a

separate motor. The hon. Minister should pay attention towards it.

Secondly, Government fixes the wages of agricultural labour. But the labourers do not get their wages at the rate fixed by the Government. It is because the real rate of wages is fixed by the farmers of the villages in their meeting which they hold for this purpose. The labourers get wages as per that decision. It is a very big problem. Even today these labourers are engaged for the whole year at the rate of Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month. The Government should pay attention towards it. It is a very big problem in the villages.

Thirdly, I would like to point out that the Government have introduced an insurance scheme which is a very good scheme. In this connection I would like to bring to your notice that the insurance authorities do not pay insurance money to the farmers, if crop of half of the farmers in a block is damaged due to rain. I would like to suggest that insurance scheme should be on individual basis. Any farmer, whose crop is damaged owing to rain or drought, should get the insurance amount. It is my submission to you.

With these words I conclude and express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problems of farmers are being discussed in the House for the last couple of days except a small break for some time. Almost all the members of the House have taken part in the discussion and have put forward their valuable view points. For this, I am grateful to the hon. Member and I thank them too.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, it is well known that the farmers are the backbone of the country. They provide food grains. I call them the saviour of life. The man could not live without food grains and it is the farmer, who produces food grains. Therefore, it will not be wrong to call him the saviour of life.

These farmers do tremendous labour and work with devotion as a result of which our country has respectable position in the world. I do not find words to express my gratitude for their hard work.

The condition of the country before and after independence is known to you. If we think of 2-4 years after independence from 1947-1952 every citizen of this country would feel that there was a critical situation in respect of food grains. A country which had splendid past, which has fought the war of independence violently and had driven away the British, could not think of begging something from others. But we had to beg food grains from other countries which lowered our prestige.

In order to regain that lost prestige, the leaders of our country formulated such policies and programmes which may enable us to become self-reliant in so far as good production is concerned and tell the world with dignity that we are a self-respecting nation and self-reliant. The builder of Modern India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru became the 1st Prime Minister of our country. He had said that every thing can wait but not the agriculture. In view of this, we will have to do a lot for the agriculture and he had earmarked about 44 per cent of the Budget, i.e. slightly less than half, to be spent on agriculture. The plan was formulated with such a big allocation. Do you know how many dams were constructed with this money, not only Bhakra, but many power houses were built, many fertiliser factories were set up, big universities were established, Tractor manufacturing units were installed, banks were nationalised so that farmers may get all the facilities. They may get electricity in every house.

The result is visible to us at present. When the country got independence, we could produce 50 million tonnes of grains which has increased to 153 million tonnes at present. People had expected that our production would go down because of severe drought during the last 4 years but the production of this country has remained stabil-



[Sh. Bhajan Lal]  
ised. There has been a deficiency of only 4 per cent which is quite insignificant. America is a very powerful country and all the countries expect assistance from them. Due to drought for one year, prices in America have arisen beyond imagination. A country like America has also started feeling that the condition is not good due to drought because the prices have gone up so high. But it is not a small achievement that India contained the rising prices and kept them within limits and did not allow a single man to die of starvation inspite of drought for 4 years. Are you aware of the conditions prevailing in 1956? Lakhs of people had died of starvation and corpses of lakhs of the people were lying on the roads. The older people tell that it was not a such a severe drought and this lasted for only two years whereas the present drought continued for 4 years and no body died starvation and production has also not gone down. Inspite of drought in 1987-88, 138 million tonnes of food grains was produced in this country. By the grace of God Indra, this year rain arrived on time and as a result thereof a target of 166 million tonnes has been fixed for this year. I can say confidently that 170-71 million tonnes foodgrains will be produced in this country which will be a record production. Growth rate has also been discussed on the basis of 70-71, 32 million tonnes would be more. Based on the figures, the growth rate comes to 23.9 per cent. If we take the production figure to be 152 million tonnes even then there will be an increase of 12.5 per cent. But we shall not be complacent with this. We have still to do a lot further. First of all, the farmers need water of irrigation, electricity for tubewell, good fertiliser, good seeds, new techniques, remunerative prices and through knowledge about them. We had given them and we will have to provide the same in future as well. Some hon. Members have mentioned that a very small part of the Budget have been spent, they say it is 4.5 per cent. Our Budget during Seventh Five Year Plan amounts to one lakh eighty thousand crore rupees, out of which Rs. 40 thousand crores are likely to be spent on agriculture. I told you the budget for agriculture for five years The amount be

to spent for irrigation and energy would be separate. Roads which are built for the benefits of the farmers would also be extra. There are many things which concern the farmers. As you are aware that fertiliser factory is also established for them, if we take all these things into account, I have no hesitation to say that 50 per cent of the Budget is spent for the betterment of farmers and it is not a small thing. I have already stated that the farmers are the backbone of the country.

I want to refer to some important points raised by the hon. Members about the farmers, otherwise it will take a long if I take up all the points. So far as the question of providing remunerative prices, electricity for the tubewells, provision of seed, fertiliser and water and are concerned the Central Government has always been ready to assist and we also want that priority should be given to the plans for constructing power stations whether Thermal or hydel, and generating electricity. Unless we grant them priority, the economic condition of the country cannot be improved. Agriculture is the base of our economic structure. If the condition of our farmers is good, then condition of every citizen of India, whether he lives in the villages or cities will also be good. Every activity starts from the farmer's house and if the condition of the farmer is good, the entire country will be prosperous. Then comes industry, there has been sufficient progress in the industrial sector in our country but there is a third power which plays its part in the progress of agriculture and industry and he is landless labourer. They increase the production of our country through their sweat. We cannot ignore them. We have received many complaints that the Minimum Wages Act passed by us for them is not being adhered to in many States. Where, there is good growth, this problem does not arise as in the case of Punjab and Haryana. Minimum Wages in Haryana is Rs 19.50 but the labourer is not available even at Rs. 25 while he is also served food for three times a day in addition to tea etc. But this problem is faced at different places. At some places, wages up to Rs. 11-12 are paid with great

difficulty. Therefore, we want that the landless labourers and those who are working in factories should get proper wages because if the production will not increase, the economic condition can deteriorate. Therefore, we should pay attention to the industry also. Keeping all these things in view the Government of India formulated the policy of minimum wages and passed legislation for its implementation. The Government of India has set up a Commission for rural labourers and it has been asked to submit their report at the earliest. The Commission was set up in August 1986 and Shri Jaina Bhai Dardi is its Chairman. We are making efforts that it should submit its report early. Some members of Parliament are also members of this Commission. We have asked them to submit their report early so that Central Government may take early action. Sometimes many problems arise and farmers are paid compensation at different times as in the case of crops catching fire or destruction of crops. But they give nothing to the labourers working in their fields. This is also a problem. That poor man should also be paid some compensation out of that because he also works in the fields. But the farmer claims that his crops have been ruined, he has been left with nothing and he will not get enough fertilisers, what can he give to the labourer. The farmer pays something to the labourers from his own pocket but still he should get according to his entitlement, he must get this. The way the labourer does hard work in the field, he must get some part of the production, I agree with it.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA: Why do you not fix some percentage for the farm labourers? Just when the crops catch fire or destroyed due to some other calamities the Government pays compensation and relief to the farmer. So please make some provisions so that a part of it goes to the agriculture labourers.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: So for percentage is concerned as I have already said, some where one third part is fixed, somewhere it is one-fourth, somewhere it is one-fifth but still they should get it out of agricultural produce

whatever part is due to them and there are some good farmers who do give them their due but at some places they do not get it. We cannot pass legislation for this purpose. There are some difficulties in it and I feel that there is no necessity of any legislation. If a share has to be given to the agricultural labour on the basis of production then we have already constituted a committee which will consider all these things and if the necessity is felt, a legislation can be drafted.

What I mean to say is that there had been a great improvement in conditions of the farmers since independence and nobody can deny that the Government has done maximum for the farmers what they could do. I am not prepared to accept as some hon. Members have said that the Government has done nothing for the farmers. The farmers can compare the situation of that time *vis-a-vis* present situation, when the country got independence, hardly any farmer had a tractor while hundred to hundred fifty tractors can definitely be seen in every village and even 500 tractors can be found in a big village....

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Such things may be happening in Haryana or Punjab but this situation is not prevalent in Bihar and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, you may get it enquired.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I agree where the agriculture production has not increased, the condition has not improved so much there but still you will agree that condition has improved much as compared to that in the past. You cannot say that there had been no improvement in the conditions.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Please constitute a commission who may go into the extent of improvement in Bihar, particularly in north Bihar, during the last 10-15 years. The farmers at that place are compelled to work as a labourer.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Agriculture has become totally unproductive in Bihar.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): I can say about the desert areas that agriculture has become unproductive in desert area of Rajasthan. I am fully conversant with those areas. There has been drought for last five years and the entire agriculture has become unproductive.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: This difficulty is due to severe drought in Rajasthan for the last 4 years.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Hon. Minister, you may be aware that your Ministry has formulated a special programme for rice, the reason for this is that productivity has drastically gone down in Orissa, Bengal and Bihar. There are diverse problems which are different from those in Haryana and Punjab.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are some reasons for it, I will tell you.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: You may ask your Ministry to go into those problems and have them studied in order to find out as to what are the requirements and how the productivity could be increased and improvements effected.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: I would like to make a request to you to ascertain as to how many farmers in North Bihar turned farm labourers during last 10 to 15 years and what are the reasons behind it.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Yes, why did they turn labourers?

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: It is because agriculture is not profitable there. Farmers do not get remunerative price for their products.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is because the holdings in the area have become smaller. The size of the family of a person who was having 20 acres of land earlier has increased so much after 20 years that every member got two acres of land to his share. It will be difficult to maintain the family with the pro-

duce of two acres of land. Secondly, the modern methods. ... (*interruptions*)

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): The hon. Minister says that the land holdings have become smaller and one family has been divided into four and that only 2 to 4 acres of land fell to each member's share, but on the other hand, I would like to tell him, there are some people who are making a mockery of your Land Reforms Act and have grabbed thousands of acres of land. In certain cases it may be 500 acres or 200 acres. The reason is that we have not been able to implement the Land Reforms Act properly. There are loopholes in it. If land is taken away from these people and distributed among the landless, the poor and the farmers, it will benefit a large number of people. Why do not you implement the Land Reforms Act properly?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if I go on replying these minor things, the main points, the important points may be left unreplied.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN (Raipur): It is also necessary to understand the point that the farmer leaves away his land and works as a labourer only when he finds that he is unable to have his both ends meet from agriculture. That is why the farmers are fleeing from the villages.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are reasons for it. One of the reasons is that they do not get water and electricity in time. Secondly, the rate of consumption of fertiliser is very low in our country. People should take interest in the application fertilisers. If a comparison is made with other countries it will be revealed that people in India use 51 kilogram of fertilizer per hectare on an average whereas it is 300-400 Kilogram per hectare in other countries. This average of 51 kilogram comes when states like Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Tamilnadu consume at a higher rate of 151 kilogram, 79 kilogram, 79 kilogram and 104 kilogram respectively. Had not the rate of consumption a bit higher in these states the average rate of consump-



tion would have been further less. When the quantity of wheat seeds sown in an acre is 30 to 35 kilogram. The rate of fertiliser consumption is only 4 kilograms. There are some parts in the country where the average rate of consumption per acre is one and half kilogram. Even if millet is sown, the quantity of seeds sown in the land is more than the quantity of fertiliser used. The rate of consumption of fertiliser per hectare is 20 kilograms in Madhya Pradesh, 19 kilograms in Orissa and 16 kilograms in Rajasthan.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: You provide fertilisers.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Fertilizers are not in short supply. But the application of fertilisers is less. Unless the rate of consumption increases, production cannot increase. Increase in consumption rate of fertilisers will serve both the purpose. In one acres cultivation, cost of labour and other expenses remain the same. As such, if the consumption rate of fertiliser is increased, production will be doubled.

SHRI CHANDRA KISHORE PATHAK (Saharsa): Where the facilities of irrigation are not available what the fertilisers will do?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: At places, where water and irrigational facilities are available, people use less quantity of fertilisers. The production will increase with the increase in the rate of consumption of fertilisers. If people use fertiliser at the same rate as they used to do earlier, production will remain stagnant. One of the reasons of production remaining stagnant is that due to use of fertiliser at a constant rate for the last 20 years the fertility of land has gone towards lower side. Now there is no use of using fertiliser at the old rate. Now the rate of consumption of fertiliser will have to be increased in order to increase the production. For example, a person taking opium does not get intoxicated if he takes the same quantity of opium now what he was taking 4 to 5 years back. He has to increase the quantity of opium in order to get intoxication of that level. The position with regard to land

is almost the same. The fertility of land has gone low. Therefore, the rate of consumption of fertiliser will have to be increased in order to raise production. For example a person taking liquor starts with one or two pegs. Later he raises the quantity to 5 to 6 pegs and a stage comes when he starts taking a full bottle. The same is the case with regard to use of fertiliser in the land. The rate at which fertiliser was consumed 20 years back will serve no purpose now. It has to be increased in order to raise production.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: The rivers flowing from Nepal through our state take away all the seeds and fertilisers with its flow. Please take some measures for that.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Let me tell you that the Government has extended all help to control floods and face the drought situation.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): So far as use of the pesticides is concerned, the latest expert report says that the excess use of pesticides had put adverse effect on foodgrains as well as human health. What the Department of Agriculture has done in this regard.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I do admit that our scientist are engaged in inventing such seeds which will be immune from disease. We will invent such seeds which will be immune from diseases. Pesticides should be used to check the disease. The use of pesticides affect the plants. I do admit that it is not good for human health. You can ascertain from other countries as to the way in which they use pesticides. What I mean to say is that the Government has made efforts to give remunerative prices to the farmers. Several hon. Members have expressed their views in this regard. It will take a lot of time if I reply to one by one.

As you are aware, the farmers always complain that they have no representatives in the Agriculture Prices Commission. We have included there representatives of the farmers in the Agriculture Prices Commission.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Who are they?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: One is from Andhra Pradesh, one is from Punjab and one is from Haryana.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There is none from Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: If we take from all the States, the number will rise upto 40. Why know the States which produce more. Today Punjab and Haryana produce the largest quantity of foodgrains.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: You take the labourers from Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Punjab and Haryana also feed the people of Bihar. Why do you say so.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: They are also exploiting the labourers of Bihar.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: We do not take them forcibly from their villages. You are a responsible person. Some fresh hand may say so. A 5 year child can be picked up and taken away but he cannot be enticed.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I request you to provide greenery in our dry land. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The representatives of farmers are from Andhra Pradesh, Haryana and Meghalaya. One of them is Shri Nageshwar Rao and one Shri Randhir Singh is from Haryana. The vice chancellor of the Punjab Agriculture University is the Chairman of this Commission.

SHRI PIUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Why do not you take a representative from West Bengal. You have overlooked the eastern zone.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: One representative is from Meghalaya. It is not possible to take a representatives from every States.

They fix original price and take all the points into account. There after, the report of the commission is sent to the State Governments. We have taken representatives of farmers so that they may not have any complaint.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: You should adopt the same criteria and take into account the details as is done in Industry.

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): We welcome the inclusion of three representatives of the farmers in the AC,PC. But the computation method should be changed. Otherwise justice will not be done.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You can observe from the fact that the representatives of the farmers who are there might be taking into account each and everything. It is not so that they might not be doing any thing. They do everything after taking into account all aspects. We have to take care not only of the farmers but also of the consumers. I am more concerned about the farmers, I was born in a farmer's family. I have been reaping crops with my own hands. I know what is the problem of the farmers. What I mean to say is that we should take care of all aspects. We fix prices after making an allowance for a profit of 12 per cent. But the Government will also have to take care of the consumers including poor people, farm labourers, factory workers and the Government staff from peons to officers. Secondly, excessive increase in the prices is not in the interest of the farmers too because he sells 7 things but purchases 110 things. If the prices of his produce go up, will he then be able to get other things at cheaper rates? It is demanded that sugar-cane should be allowed to be sold at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal. But if it is sold at this rate, will he be able to get sugar at Rs. 2 per k.g. (*Interruptions*)

Please listen to me. Do not interrupt

otherwise the problem of time will arise. On the one side, it is said that cotton should be sold at the rate of Rs. 1000 per quintal, on the other it is demanded that cloth should be available at Rs. 2 per yard. If cotton is sold at Rs. 1000 per quintal, will then the cloth be available at Rs. 2 per yard? Who suffer as a result thereof? The farmer has to purchase 110 things from a pair of shoes to a turban. In order to sustain his life he has to purchase every thing from fuel to gold from the market. (*Interruptions*)

This is what I am saying that we have to take care of all these aspects. It is known to you that prices are fixed after making an allowance for a profit of 12-15 per cent depending on the number of members in a family. This time three representatives of the farmers have also been included so that there is no scope for any complaint from them on this score.

Secondly there was a demand for waiving of loans, many hon. Members have demanded it. Waiving of loans is a tedious job. Nobody will waive loan of any body. Money in the banks belongs to you-out of which he takes loan and thus a third person has no right to waive that loan. Of course some concessions can be given. Concessions are given every year and many loans are written off. If somebody cannot repay the loan or there is a question of decreasing the rate of interest, it can be done. We can grant concessions to the poor but to say that the entire loan be waived, it is not possible.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): In 1937, the Congress Government introduced the Madras Agricultural Debt Relief Act in Madras and that Act has not been made applicable. Even Prof. Ranga said that Act must be made applicable even to banks. Interest must not exceed the principal.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: In regard to

loans amounting to Rs. 25,000 there is a provision that amount of interest shall not exceed the double of the principal.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is so in respect of loans upto Rs. 25,000 even to day but I tell you that we can help you... (*Interruptions*)

I want to tell you that if something else comes in, if there is drought...

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: The Bank Regulation Act has been amended so as to make it inapplicable. Now the banks do not give effect to this Act. Therefore, you change this and make it effective even for bank loans.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: The law is there and it covers loans upto Rs. 25,000. But I can say only this much that where...

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: We have to compensate the banks then.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: So far as payment of compensation to the banks is concerned, the most point is how to compensate them. Your suggestion is quite right. We will look into it and see what can be done. Every effort has been made to do whatever can be done by the Government. Wherever there is a drought or wherever the interest was more than the principal, it was waived. It has now been decided that the principal should be recovered in seven years. But in case of areas affected by drought and flood it will be recovered in 10 years...

SHRI R.S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi): No interest should be charged for 5 years.



SHRI BHAJAN LAL: But there should be some basis for not charging the interest. If someone takes a loan and is able to repay but does not pay deliberately, then nobody will waive the loan. If some calamity befalls him, then it is right that it should not be charged and some concession should be given.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: If such a condition prevails as has happened in our districts which have been facing drought for the last 5 years continuously.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It has been done. In addition to the principal no interest money will be recovered. In Rajasthan we will recover the loan in 10 years and that too in easy instalments. (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: There has been an earthquake in Bihar, get it waived there also. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: A reference has been made to the insurance scheme. It is an important matter. Farmers must get money for damages caused by flood, drought or fire. For this purpose a number of schemes are in operation in many States. Though all the farmers are not covered by these schemes. These schemes are not in operation in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan. When I was there as a Chief Minister, I did not start the schemes. They wanted to take a district as a unit but we did not agree. Then they came to the block level even then we did not agree. I said that a block comprises of 100 or 150 villages and if 80 per cent of them suffered a loss, then only the farmers would get something. It is known to you that sometimes a hailstorm does not strike the whole block, but only half a village. Therefore we asked that Patwar circle should be taken as a unit then only the farmer would be benefited. It is for this reason that we did not agree. We demanded that all the farmers should be covered. Which farmer would be covered? The farmer who takes loan from the cooperative bank is covered. This is for the benefit of the bank, what did the farmer get? In this connection we have constituted a commit-

tee, which has already held 2-3 sittings. More sittings are going to be held. I cannot make any promise but we will strive to cover all the farmers whether he takes a loan or not. We may ask them to pay the premium on no loss no profit basis so that all the farmers are benefitted. By a patwar circle, I mean a village as a unit. In case of small village there is one Patwari for 2-3 villages and in case of big villages, there is one Patwari for each village. Since Patwari maintains maintains revenue records, therefore the village should be taken as a unit according to the revenue records so that farmers get full benefit of the scheme. For this our meetings are continuing and it will give full benefits to the farmers. We will take a decision soon in this regard. It will be our effort that whatever decision is taken, it is made applicable to the forthcoming kharif crop. I will tell you more about it also.

We are going to take a big step. Many hon. Members have stated that the prices of grains are cheap at the time of harvesting and after three or four months these become dear. For this purpose we are going to start a new scheme. After holding many meetings, we have reached a final stage. We have also held talks with the Reserve Bank. The only question remains to be decided is when it should be made applicable. It is hoped that it would be made applicable from the next month onward. What is that scheme? As a pilot project and on an experimental basis we have selected one district in every state. The way a trader takes an advance of 80 per cent from a bank by keeping his grains in his godowns similarly a farmer may keep his grains in his own godowns and take an advance of 80 per cent from a bank. At present we have selected one district in every state on an experimental basis, and if the scheme becomes successful, it will be made applicable to the entire country so that this problem is solved for ever.

While initiating the debate, Janga Reddyji accused that Rajivji could not find time to talk to the farmers assembled at the Boat Club. This accusation is baseless. They were given time whenever they had asked

for it. That day I was not here as I had been to Rajasthan but our hon. Ministers Shri Shyam Lal and Shri Rajesh Pilot met the farmers and assured them of solving their problems as far as possible. We have always accepted the right demands but how can we accept a thing which cannot be done.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, this is a discussion on peasants and agricultural labourers. Forty five minutes have passed. Not one word has been said by him about the agricultural labourers. Will he come out with something?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Madam, I have great respect for you. All the hon. Members are respectable. But when I find only ten Members sitting in front of me in the House, I know how much sympathy they have got for the farmers. In the very beginning, I spoke about the labourers but you were not in the House at that time. You ask your party Members, your colleagues they will tell you. First I spoke about the labourers. .... (*Interruptions*) It has been said that farmers were not given water and many other things. One hon. Member said that being scared of the farmers you have shifted the venue of your rally to the Red Fort. But the fact is that we changed the venue of our rally because we had regards for them we did not want that there should be any excesses on the farmers. These farmers had come here to stage a dharna only for one day but they lingered if for ten days. They were provoked whereas we did not want then to get provoked. Even then, we changed the place of our rally as a benevolent gesture because farmer is the backbone on which depends the progress of our country. They can be misled. As now the farmers are in a delusion, but when they will be able to understand the reality, they will realise what the Government has been doing for them. We organised a historical rally at the Red Fort, which was an unprecedented one during these 40 years of independence.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY: One person died. They were lathicharged in the train. .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: It is not the question of somebody's death in the firing or due to lathi injuries. But even the policemen were beaten up there were providing them water. The police did not fire even a single round. If some body dies of heart-failure of which he may die even at his home. What can we do in it. That one person who died there, died of heart-failure. You have made a mention of the pending projects. I am myself of the view that the Government of India should immediately approve those projects, so that work can be started on them immediately because it is the need of the country. With the commissioning of these projects, production will increase and condition of the farmers will also improve. Similarly it has been said about the industrialists that they are never sent to jails, but the farmers are readily sent to jails. You know that if somebody, be it an industrialist or some other person, takes loan and does not return it in time, then legal action will have to be taken against him.

Something has been mentioned here about the support-price. Shri Ram Singh Yadav complained that there has been the crop of Bajra in Haryana, Rajasthan, Punjab and Gujarat after a period of three-four years and its price has gone up to Rs. 110 to 115 per quintal, so it should be purchased immediately. In order to ensure that the farmers throughout the country may get a reasonable price for their coarse foodgrains, we have already fixed a support price which is presently Rs. 145 per quintal, we have started procuring it to maintain it at the fixed price level in the interest of the farmers and so far we have procured about 30 thousand tonnes of Bajra alone. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool): Hon. Minister, Sir, there is a Krishak Parishad, through which the farmers sell their foodgrains' produce directly. They get more rates, as they do not have to pay to the middlemen and now they may get the maximum of price for their produce. Whether you are also going to set up such councils even in other states in the country? (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** There is no ban on the movement of food-grains in the entire country. It can be taken to any part of the country. Secondly, you said that tax is imposed on the interest of the money given to the farmer for their acquired land. You know that this is the decision of the supreme court. It is not the decision of state Government or the Government of India that the interest should be treated as a profit. We are considering as to how to do it. We will try that the possession of the land should be taken only when the farmer has got the money for it in time. The land should be acquired at the market rate and it should be the barren land so that there is no resultant decline in the country's production.

I have already said about whatever has been said by Shri Madhu Dandavate and it needs no repetition. I would like to submit that there are some gentlemen who speak in a different tone in the cities and in altogether a different one in the rural areas. While in Calcutta, they will say that the prices have exorbitantly increased. In villages, they will say that the farmer does not get the reasonable price for his produce, hence starving and meting out with injustice. They follow double standards and use different language according to their convenience. *(Interruptions)*

So far as question of helping the small farmer to increase his production is concerned, it is said that locusts swarm the crops. It is well known that Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab face the damages caused by the locusts. Till now, locusts have not reached upto Andhra Pradesh. Most of the damage is caused by them in Rajasthan.

**SHRI V. TULSIRAM:** Do you stop them there?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** Similar views have been expressed by Shri Tripathi and some other hon. Members. You have also said that the rate of electricity should be uniform throughout the country. It is not the law of the Centre. This is a State subject and the states

fix their own rates of electricity. The electricity boards have to incur a deficit of Rs. 1750 crores in one year on account of farmers. The rate of electricity for domestic use is 80 paise per unit and that for the farmer is 18 paise per unit. Thus the electricity boards had to incur a loss of 62 paise per unit on this account.

There was also a mention of the fertilizer. An amount of Rs. 12000 crores has been allocated for subsidy on fertilizer for the Seventh Five Year Plan and during the current year, Rs. 3000 crores have been given in the form of subsidy to the farmers. It will be a difficult situation if the farmers does not get the direct benefit of it. All over the country, fertilizers are being provided to the farmers on the subsidised rates. Subsidy is given to the factories which are manufacturing fertilizers. So, farmers get fertilizers at the subsidised rates. However a committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Rao Birendra Singh who was previously the Agriculture Minister, and also the Chief Minister besides his being originally a farmer. The committee will look to it that its full benefit reaches the farmers and also as to how they can be provided subsidies directly. So that the farmer may realise that the subsidy is being given by the Government of India. Now the Government bears the amount of expenditure of crores of rupees on subsidy, but it is not known to the farmers. He will know when he will get it. But what steps should be taken so that the farmers can get the direct benefit of it.

**SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:** Are you going to give concession on other fertilizers also as has been given on urea?

**SHRI BHAJAN LAL:** In the current year's budget, concession has been given on urea. The excise duty on other things have been reduced from 105 per cent to 15 per cent and on implements also it has also been reduced.

The price of urea has fallen by Rs. 8.80 per bag. Similarly, Sarvashri Somnath Rath, Manoj Pandey, Zainal Abedin, Ram Singh



Yadav and Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee made their submissions about the employment of women and the youth. We are looking into it and we want that one-third women should get employment. ... (*Interruptions*) ... The youth should also get work.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: A comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers has been recommended unanimously.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I have stated just now that a Commission was constituted on August 11, 1987 in this regard. When the Commission submits its report, it will be considered. You are also a member of that Commission. Why are you delaying the report? Kindly submit it. Similarly, hon. Shrimati Usha Choudhari, Shri Janak Raj Gupta, Shri M. Raghuma Reddy, Dr. A Kalanidhi and Dr. G.S. Rajans also made very good submissions. Dr. G.S. Rajans has been making interruptions but I do not have any complaint about it. Similarly Shrimati Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat, Shri V. Tulsiram, Shri Ram Narian Singh, Shri Vijay N. Patil, Rao Saheb, Shri Ramoowalia and Shri Ram Pyare Panika also made a good contribution. Shri Sriballav Panigrahi also submitted that foodgrain production should be increased. Regarding land reform, I want to state that Land Reform laws have been implemented throughout the country. Out of 70 lakh acres of surplus land 45 lakh acres have been distributed among the landless and about the rest of the 25 acres stay orders have been issued by courts. These stay orders have created difficulties. Still the States have been asked to get these cases settled early so that the land can be distributed. *Benami* land is also a state subject. It has been stated that at many places land has been bought in the name of dogs, cats and other animals. This matter should be investigated. States should proceed further in it. All the hon. Members have submitted valuable points but if I give a reply

to each and every point, it will take three hours. At 3.30 p.m. Private Member's Bills are to be taken up.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: You have dealt in detail the special case of the cotton farmers of Guntur and Prakasam District. Several elder members from your side have pleaded for writing off the interest part of the loans. Even some of your MLAs have come and pleaded for it. Why don't you write off the interest part of the loans due?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Some cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh have committed suicide and it is a matter of great regret for us. The Hon. Prime Minister went here and declared an assistance of Rs. 20,000. The ornaments of these people kept in the banks were saved from getting auctioned and the date of repayment of loans was also deferred. You are aware that waiving of interest etc. falls under the jurisdiction of the State. Your party is in power in Andhra Pradesh and therefore you should have waived it. .... (*Interruptions*)..... Why did you not do it?

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Our Government has written off cotton loan to the tune of Rs. 4 crores. Why not your Government write off the Bank loans?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You think you are doing a great favour to the people by supplying rice to them at Rs. 2 per kg. It is the Central Government which is supplying rice at subsidised rates to the State. Whatever the subsidy is left, it should be passed on to the nationalised banks so that the problem of the people is solved. What is your difficulty?... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Our State Government is helping the poor people as well as the farmers. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIBHAJAN LAL: I do appreciate that you are a well-educated intelligent Member and have made good points about farmers. You are a great sympathiser of farmers. I am also not less than that and none of the hon. Members of the House is unsympathetic towards them. Hon. Shri Ranga has made good suggestions. I will consider all these points seriously. The Central Government will make efforts to implement all the good suggestions and I will also endeavour to ensure their implementation to the maximum possible extent.

With these words, I am very grateful to those hon. Members who have expressed their valuable views here.

---

15.31 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[*English*]

**Fifty-Seventh Report**

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 1988."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-seventh Report of the Committee

on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 16th November, 1988."

*The motion was adopted*

---

15.32 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: IMPLEMENTATION  
ON NEW 20-POINT PROGRAMME—  
*Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up further discussion on the Resolution regarding implementation of New 20-Point Programme moved by Shri Somnath Rath on 19th August, 1988.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): I congratulate Mr. Somnath Rath for bringing this Private Members' Resolution. I fully agree with his view that in the implementation of the 20-Point Programme the much needed commitment is lacking.

This Programme was initiated in 1975, modified in 1982 and re-modified in 1986. Its main and primary objective is removal of poverty. Though several thousand crores of rupees have been spent during the last 13 years, still only marginal change is there in the situation. I do not say that there is no change at all. I do accept that there is some change, but much more is needed to be done. I will quote one instance. You are aware that in northern India especially during the winter months not less than 300 to 400 poor people die because they do not have adequate clothes to protect themselves from the cold wave. Now, IRDP and several other programmes are intended to help the poorest of the poor in the rural areas. If this was really done, if really the poorest of the poor was helped, this situation would not have arisen. This is mainly because during the process of its implementation there are certain deficiencies at different levels. Actually the Government's intention