

Padayachiyar districts are not able to draw sugarcane for crushing during this current crushing season. Sugarcane in several thousands of acres of land in this district has been losing sugar content due to inordinate delay in the drawal of sugarcane for crushing. The farmers have been suffering a lot and incurring irreparable damage due to inordinate delay even to the extent of 10 or 11 months in the drawal of sugarcane by the factories.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to increase the installed crushing capacity of the existing sugar factories to enforce implementation of the letters of intent for new sugar mills and also to issue sufficient letters of intent to new mills in Tamil Nadu so as to increase sugar production and also to encourage the farmers involved in sugarcane cultivation.

- (v) **Need to declare Kampear-Basti, Bansi-Bidharghat, Sikariganj-Ramjanki Marg and Walterganj-Ayodhya in U.P. As National Highways**

[Translation]

SHRI ASTBHUJA PRASAD SHUKLA (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Karmeni to Menhdwal, Bansi to Menhdawal-Khalilabad-Ghanghata-Bidharghat, Sikariganj to Chhauni and Basti Walterganj to Gaur roads are very important from religious, cultural, historical and geographical point of view and are unavoidable for the purpose of transport.

Karmeni-Menhdawal a 9 kms stretch between Kampearganj-Basti road is in a very bad condition, for Lucknow and Delhi bound passengers from Sonouli and Nautanwa have to reach Basti Kampearganj-Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Khalilabad which add 100 kilometres to the distance which leads to increase in fare and freight accordingly. The area surrounded by Bansi-Menhdawal, Khalilabad-Ghanghata-Bidhar road, Ghaghra and Kuano has an important place from the point of traffic facility. There are a number of Buddhist centres like Dharm Singhwa, Kopia, Tameshwaranath etc. The road upto Bansi is being constructed under the Kapilvastu scheme but this has not been included in the scheme yet. If this road is constructed then the 125 kms. distance for the Varanasi and Allahabad bound passengers, from Kapilvastu will be reduced. At present they have to go via Naugarh-Gorakhpur.

Road between Basti and Gaur has already been constructed but in the absence of a bridge at Varakhshattar Ghat the entire road is out of use. If this bridge is constructed the distance between Basti and Lucknow will be reduced by 50 kilometers.

The condition of Sikariganj-Chhauni Ramjanki Road which is of prime importance has deteriorated.

All these roads, which have religious, cultural and historical importance, also connect two national highways.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that Kampearganj to Basti, Bansi to Bidharghat via Menhdawal-Khalilabad-Ghanghata, Sikariganj to Chhauni, Ramjanki Marg and Basti to Walterganj to Ayodhya via Gaur Vabhnam roads, should be declared as National Highways and approval should be accorded for the construction of bridges at Varakhshattar and Bidhar Ghat and the necessary funds for the construction of bridges should be provided.

- (vi) **Need to increase the Amount given to Rajasthan for developmental activities in SC/ST dominated villages and also lift Restrictions imposed on its use.**

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR) : Sir, an amount of rupees 18 crores was being given every year by the Department of Social Welfare of Government of India to the Government of Rajasthan for the development of villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The said amount is much less than the grant given to the other States. Last year an amount of rupees 8 crore was provided by the Department of Social Welfare and a restriction was imposed to the effect that this amount would not be spent under the heads drinking water, roads, electricity etc. in the villages inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, whereas no other State has been put under such restrictions and they are given encouragement for such works. The said amount was given in the last week of March and as such this amount cannot be spent until sanction for the coming year is received.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government that the full amount of rupees 18 crore for the last year should be made available to Rajasthan without any delay and the restrictions imposed on its utilisations should be withdrawn.

- (vii) **Need to provide interest free loans to unemployed youth under self employment scheme**

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, a maximum amount of rupees 20-25 thousand is given by the District Industries Centre to the educated unemployed. Recently the Prime Minister had announced that this amount would be increased to rupees one lakh.

It has come to my notice that arrest warrants and orders of attachment are being issued against the educated unemployed who have failed to repay the

loan despite the fact that these educated unemployed pledge their certificates at the time of getting loan from the bank.

My submission to the Central Government is that the interest on the loan taken by the unemployed youth should be waived off as they pledge their certificates with the banks and all the educated unemployed youth of the country should be given loan amounting to rupees one lakh for setting up of industries or for starting other work so that they can lead a smooth life.

Besides, the loans should be renewed in the case of those educated unemployed youth who have failed in their endeavour to start an industry or work due to any reason and they should be encouraged by giving loan again so that they may raise their standard of living.

(viii) Need to resolve the dispute between shipping agents and Calcutta Port Trust early

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, the working of the Calcutta Port Trust has come to a standstill since 14th July, with the shipping agents having refused to undertake any export carting or accept import deliveries. They have also decided to stop their operations in stuffing, de-stuffing, carting and delivery activities. As a result, besides Russia-bound tea, refrigerated shipments-mainly shipments - mainly shrimp and other marine products - to Japan are hit. In fact, shippers apprehend that all commodity exports from the Calcutta Dock system, including cast iron, engineering goods, mica, jute, jute goods and leather products may be dealt with a body blow if the current impasse continues.

I would urge the Minister of Surface Transport kindly to exercise his good offices to resolve the dispute and ensure that normalcy returns soon to the Calcutta Port, and tea, marine products and exports etc. are not upset anymore.

13.00 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE 'DRAFT AGRICULTURAL POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED)' - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion on the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution. It is the turn of Shri Sukdev Paswan. But Shri V.S. Rao has made a request that he may be permitted as he has got some other engagement. If Shri Paswan obliges, we can allow Shri V.S. Rao.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, let him speak first.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. Shri V.S. Rao may speak now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I convey my sincere thanks to you and to Shri Paswan for obliging me.

As the hon. Minister for Agriculture said yesterday it was most unfortunate that this country did not have an agricultural policy for all these years. Their industrial policy was formulated as far back as 1948 and eight subsequent modifications have taken place for that. But in this country, where 75 per cent of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, neither the planners nor the Government think it fit to have an agricultural policy at all. I may tell that if a policy is there it will act like a beacon to the sailors in the sea. If the Government implements the policy with all sincerity it will help a lot in the development of that particular sector and in this case it is our agriculture which is involved.

Sir, Japan was having a basic agricultural law in 1961. Two important objectives of it were to increase productivity and to increase the income levels of the farmers on par with the people who are in other sectors of the economy. Similarly the European Community also has a common agricultural policy.

The first effort to formulate an agricultural policy was initiated by the National Front Government in 1989-90. I was associated with that formulation as I was a member of the Standing Advisory Committee headed by Shri Sharad Joshi at that point of time. We all dealt with the subject at length and we had prepared a draft also. Of course, later it was modified and a very condensed one has been brought out now.

In this connection I would like to bring to your kind notice certain things about the Draft Agricultural Policy as modified by the Standing Committee on Agriculture which has expressed a lot of dissatisfaction with this present Draft. I will quote from their report :

"They are not satisfied with the scheme and strategy enunciated therein and find it inadequate on many accounts to meet the challenges listed in itself. ... The challenges need a more systematic and exhaustive narration. The Draft lacks specifics and is silent on many important issues concerning agriculture and its overall development.

The Committee concluded that a fresh determined effort should be made by the