

The question is :

"That Clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 5 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 6 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 6 was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title stand part of the Bill"

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

**16.07 hrs.**

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED) —  
Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now the hon. Minister Shri Balram Jakhhar may move the motion regarding Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution (as modified).

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : I beg to move :

"That this House do consider the 'Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution (as modified)', laid on the Table of the House on 14 May, 1993."

[Translation]

Madam, Chairman, I am thinking if I should lay it on the Table or not. It is now 2 years and eight months since I had laid it before the House. We could not get time for it despite our repeated requests. It is related to seventy five percents. When I look around the House, my conscience does not allow me to present it. I cannot tolerate insult of 75 percent people. I don't know what to do and to whom to speak?

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : You should also look at your back also.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am casting my eyes all around.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I support him. Every political party should support his views.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Today, this item should be postponed because nothing could be more shameful than this for our country. We talk of farmers and

shed tears for them. An important resolution is being moved by the Agriculture Minister. I have no hesitation in saying this.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the concern of the Minister and the Members of the House, who have expressed, is definitely a question of serious concern to the whole House and to the whole nation. Now, the question is : given the situation as it is, do we proceed with the discussion or we stop it?

Some Hon. Members : We should proceed with... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let us start then. The feeling is that though the situation is terrible, even then those of us who are here are for a discussion. Shri Balram Jakhhar, what is your opinion? Will you kindly continue?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Madam Chairperson, it is unfortunate that the economic policy of the country was determined 30-40 years back. I fully support the hon. Agriculture Minister when he says that some people pose to be the messiahs of the farmers and they shed tears for them but when we look all around, we find that those very people are missing from the House.. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore) : Maybe, the Members are not satisfied with the Draft Agriculture Policy. That is why they expressed their views like that ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think the discussion was agreed upon. I have already expressed about the feeling of the Minister as well as our views... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Madam, I am aghast at the observations of the hon. Members. If it is bad, even then it is to be discussed... (Interruptions) it is absolutely absurd.

[Translation]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : It may be the last session of this Government and the new policy of agriculture will be formed by the new Government, whenever it comes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is about everything. The question is : whether we should proceed with it or not.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : First take up the discussion on the Draft Agriculture Policy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This discussion should not be postponed today. This issue has been taken up after 2½ years. If it is postponed, God knows when it will be taken up. My submission is that the condition of the farmers is miserable. The hon. Minister should start... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister was on his legs. He may proceed.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : During each Session it was on the Agenda but it was not taken up.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am very sad. I listen to everyone, talk about everyone and today two years and nine months have lapsed. The industrial policy, the economic policy and the education policy of the country have already been formed.

[English]

Every type of Policy has come up. When we tried to do it, nobody listened to it. Nobody even tried to discuss it and they said that it was so bad that they did not want to listen to it. What sort of an absurd utterance you make. This is what it is.

Madam, it has a long history. It started in 1990. About the formulation of this Policy, Shri Sharad Joshi was entrusted with the task. He gave some suggestions. Again, the Bhanupratap Singh Committee came. Then again it was shelved. Nothing happened. It collapsed completely. Then the Draft Agriculture Policy was considered by the Cabinet as put up by the Agriculture Ministry on 18.6.1992 and it was referred to the Group of Ministers. The meeting of the Group of Ministers was held on 17.8.1992 under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

And this Draft was again discussed by the Cabinet on 11.11.92. Then on 5.3.93, a Chief Ministers' Conference was called to discuss this Policy in which all the Chief Ministers were called. They discussed it. They gave some recommendations. They made some alterations. And it was completely agreed that this should be the Draft Policy and then we drafted it later.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : It will be good if you speak in Hindi.

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : You should, at least, speak about the farmers in Hindi. They are being neglected. The farmer does not know English and everything related to him is being said here in English..(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is the Member's choice to speak in whichever language he so chooses.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Allow me please, I will speak in Punjabi, Urdu, Gujarati and Sanskrit, whichever language you like.

I was saying that on 5.3.94 the draft was discussed in the meeting of the Chief Ministers. All the Chief Ministers analysed it fully. Later on, some amendments were done in it. They gave some suggestions, which were included in it. Then it was laid in the House on 16.5.94. All this was aimed at upliftment of the farmers, which could not be done till date in the agricultural sector. 75 per cent of our population live in villages. In whatever way they may be associated with agriculture but they make their subsistence from agricultural

land only. Whether they do labour or whether they do farming in partnership, all are dependent on agriculture. Our aim of bringing the agricultural policy was to improve the condition of the villages and their inhabitants.

The first thing in this policy is, how to increase the agricultural production. How should we explain to the farmers to increase the production? How to increase the fertility of the land? Through this policy, the feelings of uncertainty among them can be removed. The way the land is becoming alkaline and the way water is being misused in areas where there is no water, these things will be taken care of by this policy. It would also look into, how water can be utilised and how the fertility of the land can be maintained. We have pondered over preserving the genetic, biotic and natural things. In the beginning, we resorted to land ceiling and thereafter divided it into small holdings. However, our population increased from 32 crore to 92 crore. With this increase the division of the land started. In this regard, we have pondered over how to teach them work on co-operative basis and how to encourage them achieve maximum production. We have tried to make them understand to spare some people from this work and engage them in other work. We want one brother to do one work and another, to do some other work so that they can make their livelihood properly, earn through other means and thus, help remove unemployment. When the production is more, the income will increase. With the increase in earning, they will be able to get more means of livelihood and thus, will not face any deficiency of food. For this purpose we have promoted horticulture, fisheries, dairies, animal husbandry, poultry and sericulture. It is only a micro capsule. There will be a macro programme separately.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Do not say sugar coated. It is thoroughly sugar and not coated. The sugar production has been 145 lakh tonnes. I hope that all of us will try to increase it. I have the recommendations of the standing committee with me. I am also pondering over them and these will be included in the policy.

A detailed discussion was held in Rajya Sabha also. My submission is that it is neither my policy nor the policy of a particular party. It is the policy of the farmers. We want to do whatever is good for them. We would like to prepare the draft with your co-operation and opinion. There should not be any controversy on it since we all want to do it collectively.

Now I come to the issue of value addition agriculture. 25 to 30 percent of the vegetables and fruits in our country get perished. There is a need to preserve them. It is said that the production in China has increased. The production there is not higher than our production. They count potato and other vegetables in their foodgrains. In foreign countries, 40 to 60 percent of the products are canned or are preserved in some other way. They have the facility of storage but we do not have these facilities. We will have to work in the field of grading, packaging, canning, marketing, transportation, storage and processing. For it, knowledge is also required. All these things have been taken care of in it so that even a marginal farmer can be benefited.

I had been to the Rajpura village in West Bengal. I have seen there that earlier the production of tomato was 5 tonnes but now an individual farmer is growing 50-60 tonnes of tomatoes. But what will remain with him if he gets 25 paise per kilogram after producing 60 tonnes. The juice and sauce can be prepared from tomato, but we do not have the facility. Therefore, there should be storage facility and agro-processing industries for it.

Nothing can be done without money. If the farmer does not have money, he will not be able to buy insecticide, fertilizers and even good quality of seeds. Our credit system had nearly collapsed due to the loan-waiver scheme. It was restructured again. This year, we have given loans upto 21 thousand crore rupees and we hope that next year it will be 25 thousand crore rupees. We have made arrangements with the Reserve Bank of India that the farmers should get loans upto 25 thousand crore rupees directly. Now it is to be seen how the States give the loan to the farmers. We want that they should get the loan upto Rupees 2 lakh at 13 percent interest, while the other industries get it at 18 percent interest.

We would like to develop such an agricultural research system in which the work will be got done economically, logically and as per bio-fertilizer, bio-chemistry and natural technique. You all might be knowing that our biggest assets are our scientists. There are 28 agriculture universities, throughout the country. Besides there are 45 research stations and Krishi Vigyan Kendras. We would also like to streamline their working. It is also to be seen that the knowledge is made accessible to the people since acquiring knowledge is also important.

Today I met Ramji, who hails from Bihar. In a meeting with him, he told that he was doing something there, which has resulted in rich production. I said that I was hopefully looking to him. If Bihar also followed Punjab and Haryana then there would be no scarcity of foodgrains in the country. I had also said such words in West Bengal. That State has become self-reliant. Likewise, Bihar says that this time their production of foodgrain has increased by 15 lakh tonnes. We produce 70 per cent of the total production of Lichi. I want to do something in this direction also. The Governor there is taking very much interest in it. I told Ramji that the grant given for fertilizers by the Centre was not being spent and the department did not utilize it. They deposit it in the treasury and invest it here or there. They do not give it to the farmer.

Likewise, it is also to be seen as to how much we can produce in the rainfed area. We still depend on rain. If there is rainfall, the foodgrains will be produced. We wait for the rain but the rain did not fall and it result in drought. Now it has rained, the fields will be lush green. We want to launch watershed programme as well as water recharging programme in the drought prone areas.

I had been to Rajasthan yesterday. Rains have surpassed 15 years old record there. I had not seen so much water in the ponds there earlier. Now, the water level has raised by 10 feet and if it continues to rain, there will be more water available.

**We want to go in for Irrigated Areas and Strengthening**

Institutional Framework for Farmers' Education and Training. Instead of 400 crore rupees, 1300 crore rupees have been given for this purpose but I am not satisfied as yet. I would like to seek your co-operation in this regard so that the farmers can be benefited and demonstration plants can be set up. We want to collect scientific information and disseminate it under a programme of harnessing of scientific research. First of all, we developed a hybrid of Cotton. Later, a hybrid of paddy was developed. If the hybrid of paddy is sown once in two or three years interest in one million hectare land, then 15 million tonnes of paddy will be produced more and he will have immense returns. We would like to do something about inputs also. We want to extend some benefits to the women living in tribal areas under women welfare programmes.

There was no university in Eastern States and the first Agricultural University has been set up in Manipur. In the same way, we will set up one college in each State. We are also setting up an Institute of Fisheries and a Centre for Agricultural Sciences. There is a need to encourage the setting up of more such institutes but it takes time. The system of Accelerated Development of rainfed irrigation of Horticulture is also there, through which plum and some other things can be produced with less quantity of water. Production can be increased in rainfed areas. We should think that how it could be encouraged. We also have to look into the method of plantation. Aromatic plants are used in preparing medicines. The food processing method and marketing of fruits is also to be reviewed. In the same way, the use of less fertile marginal land is also to be encouraged. We intend to transform this whole system through biomass production, so that the production capacity could be increased.

In regard to water, we have to pay attention towards the maximum utilisation of water. We have enough water and the irrigated land we have is only 30 percent which is not sufficient. Our present efforts are not much useful. Therefore, we should find out a method of proper utilisation of water resources. Some people quarrel on the issue of water and the people do not have any knowledge that how much quantity of water is required for irrigating the soil. They put much more water than required and ruin fertility of soil. This will be disastrous for the coming generation. There is a new technique for this, which can transform this system. I seek your help for it. In each and every State, irrespective of party affiliation, all the Chief Ministers are my friends. I have said to all the Chief Ministers are my friends. I have said to all the Chief Ministers that we all should be concerned about the progress of our country and it is our duty to protect and guide the farmers so that the present scenario could be changed. We should try to provide them better facilities. In the same way, we have made arrangements to provide 50 to 75 percent grants to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and all other persons including women for introducing Drip Irrigation and Sprinkle irrigation system. All the women who have land in their own name and engaged in farming will be benefited by it. Madam, this has been done on your request. Narmada Canal passes through Gujarat. I had made a request to Prime Minister and have told Keshu Bhai that if field irrigation is done there. The land will get ruined. In this context the outcome of your efforts will be contrary to your objectives. Therefore, please make proper

use of water. If you introduce these new systems, you can irrigate three acres of land instead of one with the same quantity of water and the coming generation will praise your efforts. It will change the present scenario of the country. I have taken approval of the hon. Prime Minister. He has agreed to provide 50 percent funds. This project is worth Rs. 22 crore and 12 crore will be given. Now the main task is of starting this process and it can be done through continuous efforts. I have also talked to Shri Deve Goudaji for siting and collecting water in ponds for recharging. In this way water will be supplied from this collected water. It will improve our irrigation facilities. If this could be done, it will bring a revolution and create history. This will transform the whole system and people will think about the utility of this system.

*(English)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : You are just speaking about de-silting, but what about DVC which was constructed in 1958 and other old reservoirs, and their storage capacity ?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I am talking about all things. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : You are talking about de-silting of ponds, but what about the reservoirs constructed before?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not disturb.

*(Interruptions)*

*(Translation)*

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Please do not interrupt me, listen to me first. *(Interruptions)*

Why are you disturbing me again and again. Please listen to me first; I am telling a sad story. I am not talking about farmers but about the soul of India which is to be raised. You listen to me peacefully. We have to make use of the increasing irrigation potential. Day before yesterday, this question was raised. At that time also, I had said that you can adopt this system on the land you have as per the ceiling laws. I will pay for it.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : At present, there is no such provision.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : That provision is there. *(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you that this system is for everyone, irrespective of the area of holdings. It may be 10 or 20 acre as per the provision under the law. I had gone to Mysore 10 or 12 months back. There, one person told me that he has adopted this new system of irrigation. Earlier he used to grow sugarcane on 4 acres only out of the total land of 12 acres. He had 2 wells and used to extract water all the 24 hours. *(Interruptions)* Now he has changed that system of irrigation and irrigated the field by collecting water and now he has to run the tubewells for fifteen hours only and could grow sugarcane in 12 acres of land. *(Interruptions)* I would like to say that we are giving this grant and farmers have taken up this task and are trying to help the country. You give Rs. 100 for canal or for dam; now for changing the irrigation system, we are providing Rs. 50. It is a new option and we all should publicise the utility of this new system.

The second thing is about providing improved variety of seeds. Selling of improved variety of seeds is a good thing. It will change the fortune of farmers and make them prosperous. Therefore, I would like to educate the farmers. *(Interruptions)* We are trying to find out proper method of providing improved seeds. We can develop improved quality of seeds and export those. One of my colleague used to say that it is really disturbing that we do not have the seeds developed by us. I told him that there is no such situation now. We will never tolerate that freedom of farmers be snatched. Now our farmers can grow seeds, change it and sell it in the market. Now it is up to the buyer, he can buy inferior or improved seeds. Now in case the inferior quality of seeds are sold by authorised dealer, the dealer will be punished. *(Interruptions)* Now you do not worry about the multinational companies. They can come here only under the provisions of law. They will not be permitted to rule here. The interests of the farmers will be protected at every cost. *(Interruptions)*

Now, I would like to say something about Local Institution Farming. We are trying to include farmers in our march towards progress. We also intend to correct our terms of trade and remove the imbalances in commercial trade. We invest less money in agriculture, especially public spending has declined. Perhaps industrial sector provides more money and thus people are going there. There should be some policy for it. We cannot succeed in any field until the farmer has enough grain in storage. No policy can be successful without this. What happened in 1990-91, you had to import 31 lakh tonnes of wheat and foreign exchange worth Rs. 1500 crore was spent on it and gold was mortgaged for it.

Today we need 14 million tonnes of grain for storage and we have 3 crore 60 lakh tonnes of foodgrain for storage. You can do whatever you like to do but the farmers have produced it for you. *(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. You can see these figures. I am giving the correct figures. We are trying to encourage farmers by boosting their will power and production capacity. *(Interruptions)*

We will also make arrangements for storage because it is very essential. Funds will be allocated for it separately. You might be remembering that when farmers were encouraged, they changed the scenario of foodgrain production in the country. Presently we have a huge stock of foodgrains whereas earlier we had to import from other countries. I can provide you all the figures by which you can study about the minimum support prices. You can point out the lacunae in it, and that will be removed. Support prices will be fixed after adding all the expenditure incurred and profit of the farmers. Minimum support price is fixed for protecting farmer and he can sell it at higher rates also if it is available anywhere. The support price for cotton was fixed Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1300 whereas it was sold at a rate of Rs. 2400 per quintal. This year wheat would have been sold at a rate of Rs. 250 per quintal if its support price was not fixed. We will also fix the support price for Jute. Last time Rs. 20 crore were allocated for it and this time also we are going to do that and ask the procurement authorities that why jute is not purchased. It is

biodegradable, it is not harmful and in later stage mixes in the soil. We have to discuss this matter with our friends in textiles industry and ask them to use jute in making bags for fertilizer, cement and other goods.

16.42 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

Alongwith it, I would like to say something about milk production. We have to protect the species of our cattle, which is special and not available anywhere. So it should not be wasted. We have to select and improve these species through hybridization. We have to do much in this field. Instead of Rs. 4.00 crore at present Rs. 1300 crores have been allocated for it. As a result of our efforts instead of 17 million tonnes, 63 million tonnes of milk was produced this year and will increase upto 72 million tonnes in the coming three years which will be the highest in the world. But we are not going to stop here only, we have to make much more progress in this field because it is the best way of removing poverty. Employment can be generated through it will less investment. We would like to make all these arrangements. Your suggestions in this regard will be considered. (Interruptions). Rajveer Singh ji has interest in this field, he can give suggestions on it, we will consider them. Public Investment is also to be encouraged. I would like to say that in the field of setting up factories Rs. 35,000 crores were to be invested in the Agriculture sector. An agreement was made to set up about 2800 plants in the field of food processing which will be set up for floriculture, production of mushrooms, live stock and fisheries. In context of saying that we are not paying attention towards production and protection of foodgrains. I would like to say that it is not so. The income of farmers can be increased by boosting production of foodgrains. We can export the foodgrains when we will have it in our homes. How we can export foodgrains when we have it shortage in our own country. We will try our best that shortage of foodgrains never occurs. You can see that instead of 50 million tonnes, 190 million tonnes of foodgrains has been produced this year and its credit goes to the farmers, scientists and all of you. In place of 12 million tonnes of oil seeds, 22.3 million tonnes of oilseeds have been produced. There is a shortag of pulses, a technical mission has been set up for this and all the concerned institutions have been told to make research for new and improved varieties of seeds for pulses because present varieties of seeds give less production.

The plants of these seeds are prone to disease and provide less income to grower and thus farmers avoid growing pulses. Therefore, I would like to make it a profitable crop because no one wants to bear losses. How we can hope it from farmers that they will grow a crop which do not give them profit. Farmer is not slave to anybody. He is independent and will choose a profitable job. I would like to say that he should be given profit for growing foodgrains; horticulture, pulses and oilseeds. From 10 millions, our production have reached to 14 1/2 million and we will achieve our target of 15.5 million this year. We will have improved seeds also.

I have already told about credit. We wanted to raise it and law is being brought to this affect. This Bill is lying pending with the Law Ministry. I would like to provide much more rights

to cooperatives so that they may be able to bear responsibility. There should also be a provision for elections but some hurdles are in it and I want to remove them. We have introduced open market system. Now you can take your procedure anywhere in the country. Farmers can take their produce from Punjab to Madras or to any other state of the country. They are free to do so. I would also like to say something about crop insurance. We have a law in this regard. We have discussed this issue in cabinet committee. Earlier there was a proposal of Rs. 10,000 but I would like to raise it. I am concerned about it. There are many hurdles in it and I seek your help for it. While formulating the agriculture policy, we invited all the agricultural institutions, scientists, Members of ruling and opposition parties and Chief Ministers so that no one could say that it is my policy. Your opinion and suggestion regarding it will be considered. We have more number of persons in our country and this manpower should be utilised. We have raised the wages. It has been raised by 20 per cent but it is not enough. In Rajasthan the wages are Rs. 60 per day and during the precure season of work it increases upto Rs. 100 per day. I would like to provide the due share to the farmers and labourers. If you will not give labourers their due share, you cannot work.

Iqbal had put down : "Us khet Ke Har Khosh-e-Gandum Ko Jala Do, Jis Khet Se Dahkan Ko Mayassar Na Ho Rot". We are talking of putting a ceiling on land holdings. It should be implemented where it has not been done so far. This is what we want.

[English]

SHIR ANIL BASU : You are talking here about the land reforms and the Land Ceiling Act. But the Punjab Government has very recently withdrawn the Land Ceiling Act..(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I have ascertained it.

There is nothing like that.

[Translation]

We will see to it, don't worry. In the Agricultural Policy we have provided that the farmers cannot have more land than what is fixed in the Land Ceiling Act. But the farmers would be extended all benefits available to the industry. Agriculture has not been accorded the status of an industry. But all facilities and benefits have been provided to the farmers. They are exempted from Income Tax, Capital Gains Tax and Estate Duty. A farmer toils in his farm throughout the day. He would hold you responsible for his plight. You are businessmen and lawyers. The farmers should be given assistance to enable them at least to earn their livelihood. They should get a chance to improve their lot.

We want to improve the condition of the small and medium farmers. Their plight has remained unchanged over the years. For this, I am seeking financial assistance from World Bank, Industries and Reserve Bank. The Agricultural Ministry is also providing financial assistance from its own resources. We are organising them into cooperatives. By packaging his produce, the farmers can make more profits, through value addition. Perishable items should be preserved. We want to improve the condition of each and every one.



They have high expectations from us. If their expectations are not fulfilled now, it would take another 50 years. From environmental point of view we are taking certain remedial steps for water recharging and to prevent desilting. If you have any suggestions in this regard, I am ready to listen to you. With this, I conclude and thank you for listening to my views attentively.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I want an assurance from the Minister. Would you incorporate our constructive suggestions, given during discussion, by rising above party politics?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : We are discussing agricultural policy not politics..(Interruptions).

Day before yesterday, while speaking in the Rajya Sabha, one of our colleagues made certain remarks which pinched me immensely. Some gentleman made certain remarks here also. I told him that I want to change the condition of the farmers. Why do you abuse me? I want to provide all facilities to the farmers. Like all of us, the farmers also have been born as human beings. We want to give the farmers their due. What if you have come into money. This does not make you a king. Though vanquished, you are still full of airs. They have made a mockery. Am I a football to be kicked hither and thither? ... (Interruptions) With this I conclude

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Report is laid on the Table of the House.

..(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : I want to seek one clarification. From the 4th March, 1992 to 8th March, 1995 what steps has the Government taken to implement the points mentioned in the Draft Policy? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Shall I spell out the achievements without listening to you?

SHRI ANIL BASU : I am asking this because all the reports of the Planning Commission are publicly opposed to the hon. Minister. (Interruptions)

Shri Amarpal Singh. (Interruptions)

Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Our achievements are as tall as Qutab Minar .. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, how much time is allotted for this discussion?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted is four hours. Shri Amar Pal Singh to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is a predominantly agricultural country and agriculture is the backbone of our country. I congratulate Shri Balram Jakhar for placing before the House the agricultural policy. In

this regard I would like to make certain suggestions.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have three categories of foodgrain seeds in the country : Breeder, Foundation and Certified. The cost of preparation of Breeder and Foundation seeds is high. But for Certified seeds it is low. The farmers have yet to be accustomed with use of Certified seeds for three reasons : Seeds are adulterated, is more costly and its availability is not regular. If the Government makes Certified seed available at cheaper rates like the ordinary seed, then there would be no adulteration, nor would the farmers have any hesitation in sowing them. And within these limited resources, the foodgrains production would rise by 15 percent.

The agricultural policy mentions of giving an impetus to agro-industrial units. But, the agricultural policy does not envisage and concrete plans to achieve this. Without establishing a network of agro based industries it would not be possible to provide remunerative prices to the farmer so far their produce. On the one hand, we take of liberalised economic policy, but on the other hand, agrobased industrial units are in the fetters of licence system, like the Sugar industry. It is a great irony that sugar can be imported under OGL, but the sugar industry has not been delicensed. And the small scale sulphur khandsari units have not been given permission for installing vacuum peny. The sugar industry in the country can utilise only 33 percent of the sugarcane produced by the farmers. I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister that, he should take the initiative in having all agro-based industries freed from the purview of licence system. Also, to encourage agro based industries, interest rates should be further reduced and comprehensive tax concession should be given. The important point I would like to make in the House, is that, in the small khandsari units, the recovery percent is only 6.5. If permission is given for vacuum peny the recovery would increase to 9 per cent. This would not only save national loss by three per cent, but employment avenues would increase in the rural areas. Energy would not be needed. These units would produce their own energy as per their need. After their permission the sugar production would be to the tune of two crore tonnes and we would be in a position to export sugar.

There is large scale production and consumption of potato in our country. But whenever there is a bumper potato crop, the farmers do not get remunerative prices. My suggestion is that like foodgrains, the Government should announce support prices for the purchase of potato also.

The Agricultural Policy includes land reforms. But even today, there are large tracts of waste lands in every part of the country. No concrete efforts have been made to make it cultivable. If the Government is unable to make these lands cultivable, then it should allot these to the progressive farmers so that they would make these lands cultivable on their own. I would like to give an example. Te progressive farmers from Punjab and Haryana, have not only made the waste lands in Terai, Uttar Pradesh, fit for agriculture, but today Terai is in the fore front of agricultural production in Uttar Pradesh.

17.00 hrs.

There is a great scope for large scale production of good quality Basmati rice in our country. And there is scope for

large scale export also. To enable the farmers to sell this type of rice at good prices, my suggestion is that the Minister should ensure that Basmati rice is made levy-free and rice thrashers upto 10 H.P., for the farmers should be delicensed. In this way, the production of Basmati rice would go up, exports would rise and the farmers would earn more.

In our country, states quarrel over drinking water, whereas for want of inadequate utilisation of river water, water of the rivers of Punjab flow down to Pakistan. The excess water is not utilised. To achieve this more canals could be constructed in Punjab and in other parts of the country. This would ensure better irrigation in Punjab and other parts of the country. In the Agricultural Policy, a time bound programme should be made to arrange for irrigation throughout the entire country. And a mandatory provision should be made in the agricultural policy for supplying 12 hours of uninterrupted power to the tube-wells. If, even after the interference by the Centre the State Government is not in a position to provide uninterrupted power supply for 12 hours daily to the farmers, it should be ensured that the farmers be given the right to seek compensation for the loss suffered due to the fault of the State Governments, through the Consumer Forum.

In the Agricultural Policy, the Minister has made a provision to insure the crops against loss due to floods and draught. This is a commendable step. To guard against floods and draught and to safeguard the loss to farmers through these calamities, my suggestion is that, all the rivers of the country should be linked together. As mentioned in the Garland Canal Project, placed before the Government for its consideration. During his tenure the then Irrigation Minister, Shri K.L. Rao too had mentioned this project. There should be no hindrance in the free movement of agricultural produce and agro based products through out the contry, as mentioned by the Minister. If a State Government restricts the free movement of agricultural produce, then provision should be made to withhold the entire Central assistance to such state.

By acquiring agricultural land, the farmers are rendered unemployed. By not paying adequate compensation timely, greater injustice is done to them. And, income tax is applicable on the amount paid as compensation. I would suggest to the Agriculture Minister that the unemployed farmer should not be subjected to income tax. Income tax is meant, for the employed, not for the unemployed persons. The Minister has referred to this in Para 11 of his agricultural policy, which is not clear. I demand that this should be made crystal clear and such farmers should not be brought under the income tax net.

Emphasis has been laid in the Agricultural Policy on horticulture, floriculture, sericulture and on plantation of medicinal herbs and plants. These are specialised agricultural products which would benefit not only the nation but would bring more profits to the farmers. There is an immense scope for the export of these products in the nation. But this is not being exploited fully. In his agriculture policy, the Minister has outlined a plan to train the farmers. My suggestion is that, the farmers should be trained at the block level and imparted knowledge pertaining to entire export procedure and on the exportable items. So that the farmers get right prices for their

exports. At present, the middlemen corner a major portion of the farmers' earnings.

In 1952, the per capita daily consumption of lentil was 75 gms. But it declined to 35 gms in 1995. About 23 million hectares are under lentil cultivation. Per hectare lentil production is 550 kg. Hitherto, lentil cultivation is mostly in low irrigated and unirrigated lands. To increase the product of lentil, its cultivation should be done in irrigated land also. If the Minister wants to increase the lentil production by bringing irrigated land under its cultivation, then the support prices should be hiked adequately. In the past weeks, the Minister has hiked the support prices of lentil by Rs. 40 per quintal. This is made quote. Due to shortage of lentil, the consumer has to buy it at Rs. 30-35 per Kg. If the Minister hikes the support price of lentil to Rs. 1200 per quintal and if the availability of Certified seeds is increased, then the nation would become self-sufficient in the production of lentil within two years. And lentil would be available to the consumers at Rs. 15 - Rs. 20 per kg.

I would like to make one more suggestion. A provision should be made to give all the State and Central farms on contract to the progressive farmers for the cultivation of lentils only.

By increasing the cultivation of groundnut, mustard, and sunflower, the country can become self-sufficient in oil seeds production. Till 1950, our country used to import large quantities of oil seeds. Our present production is only to the tune of 54 lakh tonnes. The remaining 11 lakh tonnes is imported. I would like to make a suggestion to the Minister that along with the cultivation of groundnut, mustard, sunflower and soyabean, cultivation of palm oil should be increased in Kerala, Andaman and in Tamil Nadu — like Malaysia and Indonesia — and palm based oil mills should be set up.

The hon. Minister has made a large provision for grants for irrigation through sprinkler system.

But as it involves sizeable labour cost, small and marginal farmers cannot use it, while due to availability of better photo synthesis and nitrogen from atmosphere, there is great potentiality of high yield per acre. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to enhance the land ceiling, in the interest of the country, from 12.5 acre to 20 acre. It will save water, energy as well as increase per hectare yield.

To make rural life more attractive and normal, the provision of educational and medical facility at rural level itself, has been mentioned in para 14, of Agriculture Policy. My suggestion for the purpose is that concrete plans should be chalked out and I think that for rural development, the expansion of solar energy is very necessary. Therefore, for the development of solar energy in rural areas, a separate cell should be constituted in the Ministry of Agriculture.

There should be atleast two farmers as members of committee on Support Prices and while estimating the cost of crop, the expenditure and investment made by the farmer on seed, fertiliser, labour, transportation, cost of the land and interest rate on bank loans for this investment till the harvesting of the crop should be taken into account and then the support price should be determined.

I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his idea of giving agriculture, the status of Industry. I have one more suggestion to make and that is that farmers should have a Pass Book and they should have facility of availing bank loans on reasonable interest rate without mortgaging their crops. With these suggestions I fully support the Agriculture Policy.

**17.08 hours**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri P.M. Sayeed to lay a copy of the statement on crime situation in the country.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

##### Crime Situation in the Country

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Sir, I beg to lay a copy of the statement on the crime situation in the country on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

During the course of proceedings in the Lok Sabha on 31-7-1995, the Hon'ble Speaker had directed that a report should be laid on the Table of the House on the crime and law and order situation in the country. The Hon'ble Speaker had also directed that the report should *inter alia* cover the number of crimes, convictions, crime-prone areas, crime against women, agriculturists, labourers, industrialists, business people, politicians and others.

The Hon'ble Members are aware that 'Police' and 'Public order' are included in the State list (List - II) of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India and, as such, the matter of registration, investigation and detection of crime is entirely the concern and responsibility of the respective State Governments. The Central Government does, however, monitor the trends and developments in the law and order situation, crime, matters relating to communal harmony, atrocities against weaker sections of the society and internal security of the country. The statistics relating to crime are collected from all the States and Union Territories, aggregated at the national level and analysed against figures in the past to ascertain the trends prevailing in the country.

An analysis done by Government of the trends of crime committed under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Local Acts and Special Laws (L&SL) reveals that :

(i) The incidence of total cognizable crimes (IPC and L&SL) increased by 27.2 per cent in 1993 over 1983, with a compound growth rate of 2.5 per cent per annum. As many as 54,33,574 cognizable crimes were reported in the country during 1993.

(ii) Incidence of IPC crimes recorded a decrease by 3.5 per cent in 1993 compared to the previous year. Correspondingly, incidence of L&SL crimes recorded an increase by 6.9 per cent compared to the previous year. The consistent trend of increase by varying degrees in IPC as well as L&SL crimes of the previous years recorded a change in 1993 towards decrease.

(iii) In all 16,04,895 IPC crimes were reported in the country during 1994 against 16,29,936 in 1993, thus establishing a welcome decline of 1.5 per cent, compared to 3.5 per cent decline in the previous year.

(iv) A total of 32,63,347 L&SL crimes were reported in the country during 1994 against 38,03,638 in 1993 providing a substantial decline of 14.2% in such cases. The rate of these crimes also declined from 430.4 per lakh of population in 1993 to 362.6 per lakh of population in 1994.

(v) During 1994, Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest number of cases of 'Murder and its attempt', 'Culpable Homicide not amounting to Murder', 'Kidnapping & Abduction', 'Robbery', 'Theft', 'Criminal Breach of Trust', and 'Cheating', while the maximum number of cases of 'Rape', and 'Burglary' were in Madhya Pradesh. The highest incidence of 'Dacoity' and 'Counterfeiting' was in Bihar and Maharashtra, respectively.

In so far as the law and order situation and the internal security scenario are concerned, during 1994-95, major security and law and order challenges emanated due to the externally-guided insurgency in J&K, the subversive activities of the militant groups of the North-East, extremist violence, particularly Bihar and Andhra Pradesh; communal, ethnic and political tensions and organised agitations of diverse groups. The conditions in Punjab continued to improve and in Assam, the ULFA menace was largely contained. The communal situation, though volatile, remained under control. The volume and level of extremist violence continued to decline for the third successive year.

(i) The quantitative decline in communal violence since March 1993 continued during 1994-95. However, the communal atmosphere remained vulnerable, mainly because of increasing fundamentalist activities. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, West Bengal, Karnataka and Maharashtra were the main contributors of violent communal incidents. Communal violence was far less in the urban areas. On the other hand, during 1994-95, almost 51% of the communal incidents occurred in rural areas.

(ii) The volume of violence arising out of caste tensions remained at about the same level in 1994 as in the preceding year. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu continued to be among the most affected states. In UP, the State Ordinance (July 15, 1994) providing for 27% reservation in educational institutions for OBC students, in addition to 23% reservation for SC and ST students, led to a number of protest actions by other communities in the plains. The agitation over the issue in the hill districts of the state gave a fillip to the movement for the creation of 'Uttarkhand'. Orissa registered an increase in the number of caste-related violent incidents due to conflicts between Kondhs and Panas (SC) in Phulbani district, which claimed 18 lives in 64 incidents. In Bihar, caste remained a vital factor in every sphere of life. The recent Assembly elections (March/April, 1995) in the State, brought caste tensions to the fore, which were reflected in several intercaste clashes.

There were 766 caste-related violent incidents, claiming 216 lives and resulting in injuries to 1,506 during 1994, as against 726 incidents with 191 casualties and injuries to 1,427,