

[Shri Jangbir Singh]

The Government of Haryana is making all efforts to help the farmers but the lack of resources renders it helpless.

Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that adequate electricity supply should be provided to Haryana at concessional rate and to set up a power generation plant, adequate central aid should be given and besides it the construction work of S.Y.L. Canal should be completed soon.

(iii) Need for taking up Restoration Work and proper Maintenance of Tipu Sultan's Fort at Belthangadi (Karnataka)

[English]

SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA (Chikmagalur): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the dilapidated condition of Jamala Bai Gadai Fort, which has historical importance, located at Belthangadi Taluk, Dakshina Kannada District, Karnataka and it comes in My Parliamentary constituency, Chikmagalur.

Jamala Bai was mother of Tipu Sutan, erstwhile King of Mysore. He built this fort on a huge monolith stone and named it after his mother. This is one of the tourist attraction spots, drawing thousands of tourists every year. But this is now in a very dilapidated condition.

I urge upon the Government to direct the Archaeological Survey of India to take up restoration work and regular maintenance of the Fort.

(iv) Need to Commission Radio Station at Nasik in Maharashtra early

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Sir, it is learnt that Nasik Radio Station is technically ready. However, there is no staff available there at the moment. As Nasik is growing industrially and agriculturally besides having a large number of educational institutions, this Radio Station will be of immense use for the farmers, industrialists as well as the students. Delay in commissioning this Radio Station will be detrimental to the people of the area and would affect developmental activities there.

I urge upon the Government to ensure early commissioning of radio station at Nasik and recruit the required staff there.

(v) Need to create Additional Storage Space at Godowns of FCI and to arrange for Timely Transportation of Procured Foodgrains from Godowns

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Central Government towards the inability of the Food Corporation of India to provide enough covered storage to procure rice and other Kharif foodgrains. This has led to distress sales by farmers for lack of covered storage space. Another factor causing lack of space for rice and Kharif foodgrains storage is slow movement of procured wheat from the godowns of the FCI and thus there is not enough storage space available to the FCI in several States. The FCI is unable to move the procured foodgrains out of its godowns due to low offtake by consuming States as well due to railway transportation difficulties.

I urge upon the Government to draw up plans for movement of procured foodgrains in FCI godowns and create additional storage space, so that there is no distress sales by farmers.

(vi) **Need to Provide Compensation to the Cotton Growers of Ferozepur and Faridkot Districts in Punjab Whose Crops Have Been Hit by 'Leaf Curl' Disease**

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, it is learnt that agriculture experts of the Punjab Agriculture University, Ludhiana have come to know by an on-the-spot inspection of cotton crops in Ferozepur and Faridkot districts of Punjab that an epidemic disease which is called 'Leaf Curl' has broken out, which has no remedy except to destroy the crop by burying the infected plants in the earth. The Government should come forward to rescue the farmers of these districts by compensating them, as the farmers will have to bear the heavy losses due to this epidemic disease.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to immediately look into the matter and provide adequate relief to the farmers of these districts.

12.46 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL
OF NATIONAL HOUSING
POLICY—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up the next item — further discussion on National Housing Policy.

Shri Krishna was on his legs. He can start now.

AN HON. MEMBER: What!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Krishna was on his legs.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Jorhat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, resuming the debate from where I left yesterday, I reiterate that the National Housing Policy, with all its objectives, right strategies and pious wishes, when set against a bleak and grim housing scenario, is no solace in the face of overwhelmingly inimical ground realities. Not that there is something wrong or deficient with the National Housing Policy. But it has the untold stories of its past failures and the present state of helplessness.

Being one of the basic necessities, next to food and clothing, and closely linked to socio-economic development, housing is one of the few targets that we have set for the year 2001, but most elusive and, I am afraid, will remain a far cry from attainment of the target till a couple of decades next century.

The Resolution on Global Shelter Strategy adopted by the United Nations in November, 1988 calls upon the different State Governments to formulate a National Housing Policy to achieve the goal of "a roof over every head by the year 2000". This target is now too high to be achieved by many developing countries and India is no exception to that. There is no doubt that it is mainly because of the population boom which always upset our planning perspective in the last three decades. And, at the same time, it is our failure to assess the population situation properly that now a situation has arisen where