

declining year after year and consequently the production of sugar has been decelerating. The decline in sugar production was of about one million tonne during the year 1993-94 as compared to that of 1992-93 and 3.5 million tonne as compared with the production of 1991-92. The gap between the demand and supply of sugar has been widening and consequently the Government had to import sugar to meet the demand. Hence, it is imperative to maximise the production of cane.

The main reason for the deceleration of the area of sugarcane cultivation is that sugarcane cultivators have not been paid remunerative price for their produce.

The sugarcane cultivators have been demanding remunerative price for sugarcane and the factories have been rejecting their demand. In Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu, the sugarcane cultivators have stopped supply of sugarcane to the E.I.D. Parry Sugar Factory of Nellikuppam by demanding price at the rate of Rs. 100 per quintal. The factory have rejected their claim relying on the statutory minimum price fixed by the Government of India.

The demand of the sugarcane cultivators is genuine.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to increase the Statutory Minimum Price of sugarcane to the level of Rs. 75/- per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5 per cent.

(iii) Need to take Adequate steps to check air Pollution in the National Capital Territory of Delhi

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (BERHAMPUR): Sir, I wish to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

The entire city of Delhi due to alarming rise in air, water and noise pollution, has been hit by serious health hazards. While all kind of pollution has affected the healthy life of denizens of the city, air pollution has assumed grave dimensions; major sources of this pollution are vehicles, thermal power plants, industries and domestic coal burning. An estimated 2000 metric tonnes of pollutants are emitted in the atmosphere everyday in Delhi. As high as 1063 metric tonnes of carbon monoxide are emitted daily, followed by nitrogen dioxide 323, hydrocarbon 320 and sulphur dioxide 179 metric tonnes, according to a report.

No concrete steps are being taken to check air pollution in Delhi. Most of the vehicles plying in the city particularly DTC buses, do not observe any pollution control norms, resulting in increase in pollution in entire Delhi. Unless immediate steps are taken to check the pollution, the inhabitants of the city may fall prey to serious diseases like asthma, cancer, T.B. etc.

I request the Central Government to take adequate steps to check air pollution in Delhi expeditiously.

(iv) Need to ensure early supply of diesel for use of farmers in Moradabad-Bareilly and Kumaon regions in U.P.

(Translation)

Shri Rajendar Prasad Sharma (Rampur) : Sir, the farmers of Moradabad-Bareilly and Rampur, Moradabad, Bareilly and Nainital districts of Kumaon Mandal in Uttar Pradesh are facing grave crisis for sowing rabi crops due

to acute shortage of diesel for the last one month. Since the supply of diesel to Bareilly and Moradabad depot has been stopped, the diesel pumps have almost dried up. No improvement has been made in this regard even after being written to the Government. It is learnt that the Ministry of Petroleum holds the railway department responsible for this shortage. In such a condition the farmers are distressed because it is likely to affect the forthcoming crops badly. The shortage of water in the last stage of the monsoon has already affected agriculture. In the wake of imposition of heavy additional tax on diesel by the Government of Uttar Pradesh the difference between the rates of diesel in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi have widened immensely. It has resulted in the acute shortage of diesel in U.P.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to supply diesel immediately to meet this grave situation and to order a thorough enquiry into the main reasons of the above crisis.

(v) Need for early clearance to Adhabara Flood Control Project of Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI (SITAMARHI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Sitamarhi district bordering Nepal is the most backward district in Bihar. Crops on considerable portion of this area are destroyed and life and property ruined due to flood every year for want of proper reservoir and embankment on Andhabara group of rivers. The Government of Bihar had five years ago sent a proposal to the Central Government for the construction of Adhabara Flood Control Scheme Phase I, Adhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase II and Andhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase III alongwith the proposal of three schemes to construct embankments. The Adhabara Flood Control Schemes Phase I is pending with the Planning Commission. Only after the clearance is given to the above schemes, the construction of proposed embankments and waterways would be taken up.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to ask the Planning Commission to clear the schemes for Adhabara Flood Control Scheme, Phase I immediately.

[English]

(vi) Need to provide Financial Assistance to State Government of West Bengal for opening Training centres for the Development of clay handicraft of Krishnanagar

SHRI AJOY MUKHPADYAY (Krishnanagar): Sir, I would like to raise the following matter of public importance under Rule 377.

The clay handicraft of Krishnanagar in West Bengal is famous for its high degree of craftsmanship. This is one of the oldest cottage industries of the country, which earns some foreign exchange also. But the industry is gradually on decline for want of proper attention.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to