

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

rates and guaranteed employment for all. These demands are genuine and reasonable in view of the steep rise in the prices of essential commodities on the one hand and the enormous rate of profit being earned by the employers on the other hand.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make statement in the House in this matter.

(iv) NEED TO STOP RECOVERY OF LOANS AND STAY OF LEGAL PROCEEDINGS LAUNCHED AGAINST THE UNITS ESTABLISHED BY UNEMPLOYED AGRICULTURE GRADUATES.

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal): Under Rule 377, I am making a statement.

In 1971 Government of India had launched a scheme to provide employment to educated unemployed agriculture graduates and engineers to develop Agro-Industry in the country through Agro Service Centres and other schemes prepared by the Government of India.

Most of these units had been sponsored by Government of India and schemes made thereof were implemented by respective State Governments. The Union Government also promised loans by nationalised banks with only 5 per cent interest and many other facilities.

However, despite the project reports prepared by the state units of Agro Industrial development corporations, many of these units were not found feasible specially. The entrepreneurs were not given full loan equipments and facilities by tractor units in many cases.

As a result many of these units became side units within 6 months or a year or two, thus became unable to repay loan instalments. As a result the nationalised banks had begun recovery and launched criminal proceedings in the courts. Thus many of these

entrepreneurs now are facing trouble and harassment as their hypothecated land and assets are being auctioned by the Banks through courts.

Representation by the entrepreneurs regarding their difficulties and requesting for relief such as rephrasing the repayment instalments, permission to sell out tractor units, refinancing, take-over of these units by State Agro Industrial Development Corporations etc. were having no effect and neither Banks, the Union Government nor the State Government were accepting the responsibility of the Scheme.

Now it is for the Government of India to intervene to stay loan recovery and legal proceedings and also to help these entrepreneurs by taking over these units by the Agro-Industrial Development Corporations of the respective State, rephrasing the repayments, refinancing the units, subsidising the interest rate etc.

(v) HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TINNED BABY FOOD.

SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE (Bombay North Central): Contrary to the tall claims made by manufacturers of baby foods, multinationals and indigenous, for popularising their products through advertisements, experts have concluded that there is no substitute for mother's milk.

Mother's milk is the healthiest, cheapest and most complete food for baby. It has unrivalled nutritive value and immunises infants against diseases. Even women who are sick and pregnant produce good milk.

On the other hand due to illiteracy and ignorance of hygiene, non-availability of clean water, bottles and nipples, babies fed on baby foods suffer from diarrhoea and other diseases.

Number of surveys have revealed that poor women can produce 400 ml.