

12.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

FOURTEENTH REPORT

SHRI BANSI LAL (Bhiwani): Sir, I beg to present the Fourteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighty-third Report of the Committee on Public Undertakings (Fifth Lok Sabha) on Indian Dairy Corporation (Ministry of Agriculture—Department of Agriculture and Cooperation).

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

THIRD REPORT

SHRI RAGHUNATH SINGH VERMA (Manipur): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on petitions.

MR. SPEAKER: Now matters under Rule 377. Smt. Gurbrinder Kaur Brar.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing without my permission will go on record

12.12 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) WATER LOGGING IN MUKTSAR TOWN, DISTRICT FARIDKOT, PUNJAB.

SHRIMATI GURBRINDER KAUR BRAR (Faridkot): Sir, waterlogging and salinity in soil is a national problem which is faced in many parts of the country and needs the attention and help of the Central

Government for its solution. Removal of water logging and salinity in soil will help in increasing agricultural production in the country.

One such area which is beset with problem of water logging is the town of Muktsar in Faridkot district. Pilgrims in arge numbers visit this town while touring shrines associated with the lives of Sikh Gurus.

The soil around Muktsar is eminently suitable for cultivating the American variety of cotton. But because of the water logging problem, a large number of cultivators are experiencing difficulties in growing this variety of cotton. With the elimination of the water logging problems, the American variety of cotton will once again be cultivated extensively in this area bringing economic benefits to the poor cultivators.

Unfortunately, Muktsar presents an unpleasant appearance during most part of the year. Several areas in the town and the approach roads are water logged and the underground water level is only six feet below the surface. The whole area is contaminated and becomes a breeding ground for mosquitoes and poses a health hazard to the people of the town.

The water logging problem of the town requires both short-term and long-term schemes to solve the problem. The short-term solution include installation of pumps at several locations which can constantly pump-out contaminated water into the 'Nalaha' and disinfecting the area. The long-term solution also involve laying down proper drainage lines which can drain out the water from Muktsar and surrounding areas throughout the year and in particular during the rainy season.

The Government is requested to give earnest attention to the water logging problem of Muktsar town and