

(iv) *Subsidy to onion growers*

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The crop of onion has been cultivated over large areas of the districts Alwar, Bharatpur and Jaipur of the Rajasthan State; Mahua, Bhavnagar and other parts of Gujarat State and the Nasik region of Maharashtra State: Onion seed is very costly and there has been much escalation in its price this year. It had cost Rs. 3500 per acre to the farmer. This crop needs watering at least 8 to 10 times. The crop requires three dosages of fertilizers. Labour component is comparatively very high for this crop. The most critical and unfortunate incident of onion crop is that as soon as the crop is harvested, it must be taken for marketing within a week's time. Otherwise the produce would be spoiled. Thus, the farmer cannot store it and he has to undertake a distress sale. The Government of India did not allow export of onions during the harvesting time this year. Consequently the market price of the onions had been very low during the harvesting period i.e. during the months of November and December 1982 and January 1983. Farmers had sold their produce by that time. Each and every producer of onion crop had suffered a loss of Rs. 2000 per acre this year because of low price of the produce in the market. The Government of India did not allow export during the harvesting period. The Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, allowed export of onions in the first week of February, 1983 through NAFED, STC and private traders; and they had earned a good profit too. Onion growers have suffered huge losses. I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to compensate the losses incurred by the farmers by subsidising them at the rate of Rs. 1500 per acre for the area over which they have grown the onion crop this year.

(v) *Allotment of Funds for development of National Highways in Orissa*

**SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Bilaspur): The State of Orissa is lagging far behind than the other States in the country as far as National Highway network is concerned. Against an all-India average of 19 KM National Highways, Orissa has only 9.5 KMs of National Highways. 6 National Highways, i.e. N.H. 5, 6, 42, 43, 5A and 23 pass through the State of Orissa. The total length of the National Highways in Orissa is only 1650 Kms. The development of the National Highways in Orissa to the required standard could not be done due to the inadequacy of funds.

The Government of India has taken up the programme for the all-round development of Scheduled Castes and the tribal-populated backward States. Orissa is such a backward State where scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes comprise a very sizeable population of 40 per cent of the total population. Therefore the State of Orissa deserves special consideration for the development of the National Highways, which are generally passing through tribal districts.

The proposal of the State Government to construct a National Highway between Orissa and Madhya Pradesh via Konarak, Phulbani, Balangir and Kalahandi should be implemented during the Sixth Plan period without fail and the work in this connection should be started in the current financial year. In spite of repeated requests from time to time, the Government of India are not allotting the required funds for the development of National Highways. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India that the allocation of funds for the development of National Highways to the State of Orissa should be enhanced soon.