

- (iv) Fifty-fifth Report on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the forty-eighth Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Works and Housing—Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Statements showing final replies of Government on the Eighteenth Action Taken Report etc.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : I beg to lay on the Table following statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes :—

- (i) Statement showing the final replies of Government in respect of Chapters I and II of Eighteenth Action Taken Report of the Committee on the Minister of Railways (Railway Board)—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, parcel booking agencies and out-agencies to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Railway.
- (ii) Statement showing final replies of Government in respect of Chapter V and further information in respect of other Chapters of Twenty-eighth Action Taken Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Communications—Reservations for, and employment of, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Posts and Telegraphs Department.

13.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Forty-second Report

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh) : I beg to present

the Forty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report of the Committee on the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (Department of Health)—Educational facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Medical Colleges under the control of, or aided by Central Government.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported failure of Cotton Crop in certain States of the country due to continuous rains and diseases and need to compensate the farmers by Government

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported failure of cotton crop in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country due to continuous rains and diseases and need to compensate the farmers by Government.”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : Hon. Members will recall that a Motion on the same subject was tabled in this House on 18th November, in response to which I had made a detailed statement. Unfavourable weather conditions caused by heavy and intermittent rains in the months of August and September resulted in huge vegetative growth of cotton crop and also created environment conducive for the multiplication and spread of pests particularly boll worms in the States of Punjab and Haryana. The frequent rains also interfered with the conduct of timely plant protection operations. The interval between sprays had to be increased and even pesticides were washed away due to frequent rains. As a result, there was shedding of bolls and infestation

of the worms inside the bolls causing fall in production and quality.

2. Officers of the Central Government visited the affected areas in Punjab and Haryana and submitted their report. In Punjab, an area of 4.61 lakh hectares is reported to have been affected in four districts of Bhatinda, Faridkot, Ferozepur and Sangrur. The intensity of damage varies from district to district, but a large part of the area has suffered damage of 50 per cent or more. In Haryana the area affected varies from 30 to 40 per cent. There are no reports from other parts of the country about the failure of the crop either due to continuous rains or by disease except in isolated pockets in the Vidarbha and Marathwada tracts in Maharashtra.

3. After the last discussion in the House on this subject, officers of the Punjab Government were invited by the Ministry of Agriculture for discussions. They were advised to take effective measures for eradication of the pest to protect future crops and to prepare schemes for assisting the farmers in this regard and to help them to grow a pest free cotton crop next season.

4. The cotton crop is susceptible to pests and diseases and needs plant protection measures. As against the target of aerial spraying of 100,000 hectares in Punjab, the coverage during the season has been 62,148 hectares and in Haryana against the target of 30,000 hectares, the coverage reported is 48,066 hectares. Apart from this, the farmers also undertook ground spraying measures to protect their crop from the attack of pests. For increasing cotton production in the country there is a centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme, the cost of which is shared equally by the States and the Central Government. The programme is in operation on an area of 20.10 lakh ha. in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, M.P., Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and U.P. Under this programme the Central share of assistance for 1983-84 available for various activities namely, production of breeder and foundation seeds, production of certified seed and subsidies on aerial spraying, ground spraying/dusting, plant protection equipment

and demonstrations is Rs. 396.65 lakhs. For the control of pest and diseases the Central share is Rs. 45.58 lakhs.

5. There is no Central scheme to compensate the farmers for the loss of their crop by natural calamities. A pilot Crop Insurance Scheme is in operation in some of the States. However, this scheme has not been adopted in the States of Gujarat, Punjab and Rajasthan. The information received from General Insurance Corporation indicates that standing cotton crop of the value of Rs. 3.25 lakhs in six strata in Andhra Pradesh and of Rs. 5.75 lakhs in nine strata in Maharashtra, have been covered by the pilot Crop Insurance in Kharif 1983. Thus, in these two States the farmers affected by failure of cotton crop can also approach the General Insurance Corporation through the Central Cooperative Banks concerned for compensation.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Sir, at the outset, I must say that the Agriculture Minister has treated this Calling Attention in a very casual manner. The hon. Minister, at the outset in his statement has said that he has made a detailed statement on 18th November, 1983. In that statement on page No. 2062 he has said that under crop insurance cotton is not insured, while, in his present statement, in the last paragraph, he has stated that in Andhra Pradesh cotton worth Rs. 3.25 lakhs and in Maharashtra cotton worth Rs. 5.75 lakhs are insured, and these people can take the benefit of the insurance scheme. I do not know why such off-hand statements are made. Even last time when the Minister was making a statement about Maharashtra and Punjab, he said he has not got the report; then you intervened, Sir; and then he said, something may be there which is yet to come, yet to reach us. Sir, on enquiry from Maharashtra, I have been told that they have sent report about failure of cotton crop to Government of India by the 15th October 1983. Then how is it that in your statement of 18th November, you did not make any mention about Maharashtra, which information was sent earlier? Mr. Speaker, you yourself are a cultivator. Hon. Minister himself is a cultivator. Cotton is the 'cash crop' in this country. This crop fails due to excessive and intermittent rains.

Schemes formulated by Centre and State Governments have failed ; your spraying and other programmes have failed. That is why now there is utmost need for helping cotton growers in every possible way. The barest needs of the people are food, shelter and clothing. Of the 500 mills that we have, 125 mills are under National Textile Corporation and we should see that no mill is closed. We should help them run properly. I request the hon. Minister to come to the rescue of these people. For heaven's sake, don't leave it to State Governments alone ; don't be a blind or dumb spectator to all these happenings. We have seen that in Punjab when the wheat crop had failed, we had given them money from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per acre. Last time when Andhra had cyclone, we had given them money. Whenever there is a drought, we also treat it as a natural calamity. When drought can be treated as a natural calamity, why excessive and intermittent rains—that is the wording used by the hon. Minister—should not be treated as a natural calamity. This is a welfare State and in a welfare State you cannot always stick to the rules, which were framed by the British Government. Everyday you will have to go on changing these rules, because the nature of the people, the nature of the whole profession goes on changing, and you will have to face different difficulties, different calamities, and you will have to define it. If the Government fails to help them this year, I am afraid, the people who have so far been living on cash crop of cotton in Maharashtra will be nowhere, and it would not be possible for them to bring the land under cultivation next year. In Punjab, 90% of the cotton crop has been lost in more 70% area. You know better than me, Sir. In Maharashtra we know that due to frequent floods—we had floods—three times heavy rains—70 to 80% of the land has lost more than 90% of the crop. Is it not a natural calamity ? What else do you want ? What is the definition of natural calamity ?

The hon. Minister must be aware that even we have new additions in English dictionaries—Oxford and Chambers ; after every World War, new meanings were added to various words. Is it not possible for this welfare Government to add a new meaning, and a new dimension to the natural

calamity.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been added. We have had natural calamities and they have been compensated. That is what happened when the cotton and the wheat crops were hit by hailstorm in Andhra Pradesh. That was a natural calamity. The State Government had helped them and the Central Government also helped, and the same is applicable here too.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : The Maharashtra Government has subsidised upto 2 hectares. Why don't the Central Government come forward to help ? What has happened to Rao Birendra Singh ? He is a cultivator ; may be a big cultivator, but he should understand the difficulties of the cultivators.

MR. SPEAKER : He knows very well.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Who will survive if the cultivator dies ?

MR. SPEAKER : No one.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Is it not a fact that this Government had purchased wheat at Rs. 131/- per quintal from the farmers, and then we had to import wheat to meet the shortage, we had paid higher price as also the transportation charges. We did not say anything ; the Government did not mention anything. The Government had to do it because the people had to be saved. Here, it is more than starvation. It is starvation of their vocation, of the labour that depends on agriculture and of the artisan, who also depend on agriculture.

I would request the hon. Minister to declare this also as a natural calamity, otherwise it would be difficult for the elected representatives like us to face the people there. He must understand our difficulties and should not think that whatever we say is exaggerated. He is in the habit of telling that the State Government reports are exaggerated, as he once told me. That is not a fact. We do not exaggerate. Whatever we speak, we have to go and tell the people what we spoke and what reply we got, and we have to assure them that we are trying

to protect them. He must understand our difficulties and do the needful.

The hon. Minister was kind enough to mention last time that the recommendation of the Public Undertakings Committee that the raw cotton and the finished cotton prices should be linked up, had been accepted in principle. When this principle could be accepted, what is the difficulty if you accept heavy and intermittent rains also as a natural calamity. I want that this principle should be accepted today as a natural calamity. When he said that the parity has been accepted in principle, that should be implemented from the next monsoon.

MR. SPEAKER : That is not a question of acceptance, it is a fact.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : At the end, I would request the hon. Minister to be magnanimous as far as the cultivators, especially to the cotton growers. It is not a cotton lobby as generally people say ; it is a sugar lobby. You know these cotton growers do not have enough of irrigation. They live on rains. These rains have been more erratic. He must realise that and he must do something for the only cash crop that is available to the most of the people who have to depend on agriculture. I hope he will accept it at this juncture. Let him implement after 10 or 15 days, I don't mind.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, on the earlier occasion also I had given all the information to the House that we could gather. Even before the matter was mentioned in the House and you also gave us some directions.

MR. SPEAKER : But I am only thankful to you Rao Sahab that you got the truth. The reports first received were wrong and then you got the things due to your persistent efforts. I am happy about it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : After that Agriculture Ministry officers visited Punjab and we have got our own estimates of the damages. But even before this matter was mentioned by you, the Ministry had been writing to the States to find out as to what was the condition of the crops and to know whether we could be of some assistance. Be-

you know it very well that we have to work under certain framework of rules and norms laid down and we cannot go about asking the States to prepare the reports about damages.

Now, the Hon. Member mentioned that I once expressed a view that generally the estimates of the States about damages were exaggerated. That does not apply here because in this case there are no reports at all from the States.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : You are mistaken, Sir. I have enquired from the Maharashtra Government. They say that they had sent a report in October and he made the Statement on 18th of November.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : My information is we have not received reports from those States. What I have stated in my Statement is what is the position according to the Government. An if you have some other information, I shall have to check upon it. If there is something on the way, it might have been received after my coming to the House or even may be after a few minutes when I have dealt with this Call Attention Motion. But the information till this morning was as compiled and given by me to the House.

A question has been put with regard to the definition of the natural calamity. I would like to say this is a definition which is very well accepted all over. But there seems to be some misinterpretation of the term : and there is also probably some lack of knowledge on the part not even of some Hon. Members, but even on the part of the general public. When I said that there is no scheme for giving a compensation for loss to crop from natural calamities, I wanted to say that the crop actually damaged ; the amount of loss suffered by the farmer is not compensated. There is no such scheme under Drought Relief Operations and against floods or drought damages we give certain subsidies. We help the farmer to grow the next crop. We give money to the States to repair the works that have damaged like the roads, canals, buildings, electric installations, schools buildings, even houses. A nominal amount is given for that and the Central Government contri-

butes only its share. The State Government makes up for the rest of the expenditure and for that expenditure also there are laid out norms. We cannot go beyond that. When I say there is no scheme of compensation, I really mean that the crop damage suffered by a farmer is not compensated and I think it cannot be compensated.

MR. SPEAKER : I agree with you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : It is beyond the resources of the Government of India to compensate a farmer for his damages.

MR. SPEAKER : You are completely right. Compensation cannot be given because it is beyond the capacity of any Government to do it. It is the question of sustenance for the next crop or whatever it is. You also must have heard and I also know in my State when the crop was hit by the hailstorm, only Rs. 300 was given per acre to the farmers.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : That amount was not under the Central scheme. And that amount was given by the States.

MR. SPEAKER : Well you can coax the States. And as a relief it is also given by the Centre.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Against that, I understand, the Central Government does not contribute. When the State Government wants to compensate the farmer, for a loss of crop from hail-storm or other things, the Central Government does not give contribution. It is all out of the State revenue.

There are various schemes under which we can help the States and through the States to the farmers. We can help them to take up plant protection measures; we can give them sufficient subsidy to eradicate pests. For instance, because of this pest it is not the only crop that has been damaged. If this pest is not eradicated, then even the next crop will suffer and the intensity will be more. So, not only the cotton crop, but even the gram crop which has now been cultivated will also suffer. The same insect might damage the Gram crop also and the

farmers may be in difficulty. That is why my Ministry Officials and experts called the people of Punjab and advised them to take certain measures. We are awaiting the reaction of the Punjab Government. We have even reminded them again recently, yesterday or this morning. That is all being done. I can only assure you whatever we can do in this respect, after receiving the proposals from Punjab or Haryana or any other State for that matter, we shall take action immediately. There shall be no difficulty.

He mentioned some communication from Maharashtra. If this is the communication that he mentioned I will read it out which has been received.

“With reference to your Telegram 15-157/83 etc. of 17th November, 1983, there are no complaints till today regarding the incidence of damage by an undiagnosed disease of cotton in Maharashtra.”

This is the report from the Maharashtra Government.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : If this report was received, then why did not the Minister mention that the report we have received, but it is not in favour of the man who has raised that issue. He did not mention it. And since the report is favourable to him, he is quoting it now.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : What do you mean? I am not trying to mislead on anything. You are trying to read too much in what I have said. You should understand what is what. I said there are no reports of damage from Maharashtra, from any other State. And this is not a report of damages.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : Sir, this is about the disease. Why doesn't he understand?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : If I wanted to hit you for that, I would have done it earlier. I would have mentioned it. I said we were sincere in taking note about the damage. And where there is no damage, we

have not even mentioned there is no damage. I didn't want to take advantage of it. It is for your favour and it is for your State, Sir.

श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा (आरा) : माननीय सदस्य जब कह रहे हैं तो आपको रिपोर्ट मंगानी चाहिये ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मंगाने के लिये लिखा तभी तो टेलीग्राम आया है. नहीं तो कैसे आता ?

Do you understand English ? I have said that with reference to our Telegram after seeing this report.

MR. SPEAKER : No hard feelings.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : He should understand what I am talking about, then raise question.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY (Bombay North East) : If he understands, he would not be in Parliament.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Quite right.

This is a telegram, which is not at all relevant. In fact it would have gone against the feelings of the Hon. Member and the farmer if my Ministry had mentioned that there was no damage, this and that. We want to take notice of any damage and we want to help the farmers and the States. Therefore, you should be the last person to take exception to my not bringing this Telegram to the notice earlier because it did not need any notice. "However, the matter is being investigated, and you will be informed if there is any damage."

Now, what does it mean ? It means that there is still no damage. It means there is no report. They are not reporting any damage on account of any disease to the cotton crop.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : There is damage ; but there is no report.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : There is no damage ; there is no report.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : It is under

the Minister's consideration. The language is the same.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : No report of damage from the States.

Another question the hon. Member raised was about parity in prices. We have changed the terms of reference of the Agricultural Prices Commission. We have amended them immediately after this Government took over, in 1980. It was with a view to giving remunerative prices to farmers for their produce that we have said that parity between the prices of commodities produced by the farmer, and the prices of commodities used by him, including inputs, will be taken into account, while recommending the prices to be paid to farmers. That is a principle accepted and adopted by the Government for the first time in 1980. The Member should be happy about it.

But I have always maintained that we have not yet been able to bring about a perfect parity, because there are difficulties. It is not possible to bring parity in prices of everything. There is such a large number of commodities on the one side ; and on the other, in respect of a group of commodities, the price is fluctuating. Sometimes, they shoot up suddenly. Even the farmers sometimes sell at high prices. At times, prices go down. There is a slump in prices on account of market forces.

I have already said and assured you that we have done what we can ; we are doing what we can and we hope the Punjab Government will be alive to the danger of these pests spreading further ; and they will prepare facts and schemes to eradicate this very destructive pest. As soon as they come up with proposals and schemes, I am prepared to give assistance of my Ministry, officers, experts and scientists to the Punjab Government—if they want it—as to how to do this, what funds they need, how they should go about it etc. We shall render them all this assistance in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : Also goad them to look after the relief work also, as before, so that they can get proper assistance.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : We are

pursuing the matter. We have not given it up.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY : He is the Punjab Government. How can he hope that Punjab Government will do it ? Punjab is under President's rule.

श्रीमती विद्या चन्नुपति (विजयवाड़ा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं वताना चाहती हूँ कि किसान देश की बैकबोन हैं। अगर वे मेहनत कर के उत्पादन न करें तो हमारे खाने के लिए कुछ नहीं होगा। मगर खेद का विषय है कि हम किसानों के लिए कुछ नहीं सोचते हैं। जब हम लाइफ इनशोरेंस कार्पोरेशन में इनशोरेंस कराते हैं, तो हमारे मरने के बाद हमारी फैमिली को कुछ मिल जाता है। लेकिन अगर किसी नैचरल कैलिमिटी से किसान क्राप चली जाती है, तो पैसा न होने की वजह से वह बर्बाद हो जाता है। यह किसी एक पार्टी या एक स्टेट का सवाल नहीं है, यह सारे देश की प्राबन्धन है। अगर किसानों की उन्नति नहीं होगी, तो हमारा देश कैसे आगे बढ़ेगा ?

फार्मर्स के लिए आपने कहा है, आपके ही स्टेट-मेन्ट में है :

"There is no Central scheme to compensate the farmers for the loss of their crop by natural calamities. A pilot Crop Insurance Scheme is in operation in some of the States".

यह आपके स्टेटमेन्ट में ही लिखा है। मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि सेन्टर की ओर से कोई परमानेंट स्कीम नहीं नहीं है। टेम्पोरेरी सहायता तो देते हैं। इश्योरेंस के बारे में आपने कहा है :

"The information received from General Insurance Corporation indicates that standing cotton crop of the value of Rs. 3.25 lakhs in six strata in Andhra Pradesh and of Rs. 5.25 lakhs in nine strata in Maharashtra, have been covered by the pilot Crop Insurance in Kharif 1983."

आपके पास स्टैटिस्टिक्स तो आई होंगी। हमारे

आंध्र प्रदेश में करोड़ों रुपये का लास हो गया है। फिर आप कहते हैं :

"...in these two States the farmers affected by failure of cotton crop can also approach the General Insurance Corporation through the Central Cooperative Banks concerned, for compensation."

इसके बारे में मैं कुछ जानना चाहती हूँ जो फार्मर्स इसके बारे में जानते हैं उन्होंने तो इश्योरेंस किया होगा लेकिन ज्यादातर फार्मर्स तो अनपढ़ हैं, उनको कुछ पता नहीं है फिर वे कैसे इश्योरेंस करा सकते हैं ? इसलिए मेरा आपसे सुझाव है कि फार्मर्स के लिए एक परमानेंट क्राप इश्योरेंस स्कीम आप चलाइये और इसके लिए क्राप इश्योरेंस कारपोरेशन की स्थापना भी की जानी चाहिए।

आपका जो काटन कारपोरेशन है वह किसानों की काटन पर्चेज करता है लेकिन दुःख की बात यह है कि इस तरफ तो किसानों की क्राप के लिए कोई इश्योरेंस नहीं है और दूसरी तरफ जो काटन कारपोरेशन आफ इण्डिया है, वह किसानों से बहुत थोड़ी सी काटन पर्चेज करता है। उसकी मात्रा बहुत कम है। आपने एस० टी० सी० से टोबैको पर्चेज करवाई तो आपको बहुत ज्यादा टोबैको परचेज करवानी पड़ी ताकि किसानों को लाभ पहुंचाया जा सके। उसी तरह से सी०सी०आई० के द्वारा बहुत अधिक मात्रा में काटन पर्चेज करवानी पड़ेगी तभी किसानों को कुछ लाभ मिल सकेगा। जब काटन तैयार होती है और स्पनिंग मिल्स में जो यार्न तैयार होता है उस पर कोई लेवी नहीं है। अगर काटन में कुछ फाल्ट होती है तो उसकी वजह से यार्न भी मंहगा हो जाता है और उसका बहुत बुरा प्रभाव हैंडलूम वीवर्स के ऊपर पड़ता है। इस प्रकार से सारी बातें इंटरलिक्ड हैं।

आपने फ्लड्स के बारे में भी कहा है। फ्लड्स के बाद तुरन्त टेम्पोरेरी रिलीफ तो दी ही जानी चाहिए लेकिन कुछ परमानेंट रिलीफ की बात भी आपको सोचनी होगी। हमारी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी में फ्लड्स से करोड़ों रुपये का नुकसान पहुंचा।

उसमें टेम्पोरेरी रिलीफ तो बहुत कम मिलती है। मैंने प्राइम मिनिस्टर और आपकी मिनिस्ट्री को भी दो फ्लड टैंक्स बनाने के लिए कहा जिनसे कि 80 विलेज कवर हो सकेंगे और तीन-चार हजार किसानों को लाभ मिल सकेगा। काटन पैदा करने वाले किसान हैं, उनके लिए आपको कुछ न कुछ सोचना पड़ेगा। क्राप इन्शोरेंस कारपोरेशन खोलने के लिए मैं आपसे मांग करती हूँ। मुझे बोलने के लिए आपने समय दिया इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूँ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : अध्यक्ष महोदय, सवाल पैस्ट का था, लेकिन माननीया बहन ने और भी बहुत से मुद्दों को उठा दिया है। फ्लड कन्ट्रोल और परचेज आदि के मामले उठाए हैं। मैं नहीं समझता कि आप चाहेंगे कि इन चीजों का तफसील से जवाब दिया जाए।

जहाँ तक पैस्ट का सवाल है, मैं पहले ही बहुत चिन्तित हूँ क्योंकि जब तक किसान और राज्य सरकारों की सारी एजेंसियाँ मिलकर और केन्द्रीय सरकार इसका मुकाबला करने के लिए तैयारियाँ नहीं करेंगे, जैसा मैंने पहले ही कहा है और भी ज्यादा नुकसान हो सकता है। अभी वह कीड़ा जमीन में घुस गया। कपास की लकड़ी में चिपटा हुआ है और अभी वह बीज के अन्दर घुस गया। यदि उसको जलाने और पूरे तरीके से नष्ट करने का इन्तजाम नहीं किया गया, चाहे दवाइयों से, तो बहुत नुकसान हो सकता है। किसानों को भी इसके बारे में समझाना पड़ेगा। किसान ईंधन की कमी होने की वजह से इसकी लकड़ी को इकट्ठा कर लेते हैं। पंजाब में आपको पता ही है कि वहाँ ईंधन की बहुत कमी है, क्योंकि वहाँ पर जंगल नहीं हैं, इसलिए बेशुमार इसकी लकड़ी इकट्ठी कर ली जाती है। वहाँ कीड़े पैदा हो जाते हैं और खेतों के अन्दर पहुंचने शुरू हो जाते हैं। हो सकता है कि दूसरे प्रान्तों में भी पहुंच जायें। इसलिए हम खुद चाहते हैं कि पंजाब और हरियाणा में जहाँ यह कीड़ा पहले ही काफी नुकसान कर चुका है, अगली फसल को खराब न करे। दूसरी जगह न सगे और दूसरी जगह न फैलने पाए। इसके लिए

हमने पंजाब के आफिसर्स को एडवाइज किया है कि आप बीज तबदील करने की स्कीम बनाएं। बीज डिजीज रहित अच्छा बाहर से लायें। जिसमें पैस्ट न हों। वह अच्छा बीज किसान को दें, उसको पहले दवाओं से तैयार करें। हो सकता है कि अगली फसल के लिए ऐसी स्कीम बनायें कि नया बीज किसानों को दें और जो इफैक्टिव बीज है, उसके बदले में किसान को दूसरा बीज दें। लिए हुए बीज से तेल निकाला जा सकता है और दूसरे कामों में आ सकता है। इसके लिए भारत सरकार सब्सिडी देने के लिए तैयार की गई है। इसी तरह से प्लान्ट प्रोटेक्शन के लिए पैसे की कमी नहीं रखेंगे, यदि कोई इन्तजाम करना चाहे। लेकिन यदि आप चाहें कि पंजाब सरकार के बदले कृषि मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार, काम करे, तो वह यह काम करने से रही।

आन्ध्र प्रदेश बहुत खुशकिस्मत है, वहाँ कोई कीड़ा नहीं लगा है। वहाँ से कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है। दो राज्य—महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र प्रदेश—में क्राप इन्शोरेंस स्कीम में काँटन को भी कवर किया हुआ है। जैसा मैंने स्टेटमेंट में कहा है कि 325 लाख रुपया इन्शोरेंस स्कीम के तहत आन्ध्र प्रदेश के अन्दर प्राप्त हुआ है। इसका मतलब यह है कि आन्ध्र प्रदेश में यह स्कीम लागू है।

एक माननीय सदस्य : कुछ ही डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : कुछ ही डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में सही, लेकिन कुल सवा तीन लाख रुपया ही प्राप्त हुआ है। इसका मतलब है कि किसान दिलचस्पी नहीं ले रहे हैं। बरना सवा तीन लाख रुपया कोई मायने नहीं रखता है। मैंने बताया है कि महाराष्ट्र के अन्दर कितने ही ब्लॉक्स के अन्दर यह चालू है। वहाँ से भी ज्यादा रुपया प्राप्त नहीं हो रहा है, सिर्फ 5 लाख 75 हजार रुपया प्राप्त हुआ है। महाराष्ट्र भी काँटन प्रोड्यूसिंग प्रान्त है। कुल नौ ब्लॉक में से पौने छ लाख रुपया प्राप्त हुआ है, इसका मतलब है कि किसान इसका फायदा नहीं उठाना चाहते हैं। इसकी दो वजह हो सकती हैं कि—एक, राज्य सरकार इन्टरेस्ट नहीं ले रही

है। दो, हो सकता है कि किसान यह समझता है कि किसलिए प्रीमियम दिया जाए। हो सकता है, भगवान न करे कोई नुकसान हो। यह पैसा फिजूल में ही जाएगा और वह आराम से बैठा रहता है। जब नुकसान हो जाता है, तो शोर मच जाता है। इसमें कोई ज्यादा बताने की बात नहीं है। माननीय सदस्या ने जो जानकारी चाही है, वह मैंने दे दी है।

श्री रामसिंह यादव (अलवर) : अध्यक्ष जी, माननीय मंत्री जी ने कपास में डोडा कीट से जो क्षति हुई है, उसके सम्बन्ध में विशेष रूप से पंजाब में क्षति का विवरण दिया है। उससे प्रतीत होता है कि वास्तव में कपास के किसानों का बड़ा नुकसान हुआ है। देश का जो किसान है, वह अपनी पूरी फसल का पूरे वर्ष का अनुमान लगाता है और यदि दूसरी फसल में घाटा हुआ, तो उसको जो कैश क्रोप होती है, उसके माध्यम से उसकी पूर्ति करता है, जब वही फसल नष्ट हो जाती है, तो किसान के पास उसके सरवाइवल के लिए कुछ नहीं रहता है। वह आगामी फसल क्या बो सकेगा और कैसे अपने परिवार का निवर्द्धन कर सकेगा, वे सब प्रश्न उसके सामने उगस्थित हो जाते हैं।

इस संबंध में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो फंक्ट्स दिए हैं, उनके अनुसार पंजाब के अन्दर 1 लाख हैक्टेयर के अन्दर हवाई छिड़काव का लक्ष्य था लेकिन केवल 60 हजार हैक्टेयर क्षेत्र में ही छिड़काव किया गया। यह अपने आप में एक कन्ट्रीव्यूटरी नेगलीजेंस है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो लक्ष्य आपने रखा था, उसको पूरा न करने का क्या कारण है और यह पूरा क्यों नहीं हो सका है। इसका कारण आप ने बार-बार वर्षा होती रही, यह दिया है लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि एरियल स्प्रे के लिए यह कोई उपयुक्त कारण नहीं है। यदि अधिकारी कुछ सावधानी बरतते, तो यह क्षति न होती। कपास में कम से कम चार से लेकर छः बार तक स्प्रे होना चाहिए और आर स्टैन्डर्ड के मुताबिक स्प्रे नहीं होता है, तो लाजमी तौर पर उसमें कीड़ा पैदा होगा और वह हुआ भी है। यह आपने स्वीकार किया है कि

आपने जो लक्ष्य रखा था, उस लक्ष्य के अनुसार आप छिड़काव नहीं कर सके और इसके लिए उत्तरदायी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट और हमारे यहां के, केन्द्र के अधिकारी हैं। केन्द्र के जो अधिकारी हैं, उनका काम सर्विलेंस का है और सुपरवाइजरी उनका काम है और यदि वे उसको पूरा नहीं करते हैं, तो कन्ट्रीव्यूटरी नेगलीजेंस उनकी हुई है। इसके लिए क्षतिपूर्ति कौन करेगा और उसकी क्षतिपूर्ति करने के लिए आपने कोई स्कीम या योजना सोची है क्योंकि यह चीज पहली बार सामने आई है कि 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा फसल नष्ट हुई है। आपने इस बात को स्वीकार किया है कि 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा फसल नष्ट हो चुकी है और अगर 50 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा फसल नष्ट हो जाती है, तो कैमिन कोड के अनुसार आप किसानों को कम्पेंसेशन देंगे। किमान किस तरह से जीवन निर्वाह करे, इस बात को आपको सोचना चाहिए।

आपने केवल पंजाब और हरियाणा के बारे में मंशन किया है कि पंजाब में यह लक्ष्य था और इतना नुकसान हुआ और हरियाणा में इतना लक्ष्य था और इतना नुकसान हुआ है। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान में भी कपास की फसल पैदा होती है लेकिन उसके बारे में आपने कोई हवाला नहीं दिया। राजस्थान में भी कपास के बोने वाले किसानों की बहुत बड़ी क्षति हुई है और गंगानगर जिले में कुछ पैदा नहीं हो सका है। आपने इसी सदन में जवाब दिया है कि राजस्थान के अन्दर कपास की पैदावार और दूसरे प्रान्तों के मुकाबले में किसी तरह से कम नहीं है। आपके स्टेट मिनिस्टर साहब ने जो लोक सभा में इस बारे में जवाब दिया है, उसको बताना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने कहा है :

Statement showing State-wise production figures during 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83

इसमें पंजाब के अन्दर आपने लिखा है कि 1982-83 में 11 लाख 50 हजार बेल्लस पैदा हुए; हरियाणा में 6 लाख 50 हजार वेल्स कोटन के पैदा हुए और राजस्थान में 5 लाख 50 हजार वेल्स पैदा हुए। इस तरीके से आप देखें कि

राजस्थान के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में यह फसल उगाई जाती है और खास तौर पर जो सिंचित कमांड एरिया है, राजस्थान केनाल से जहां पानी मिलता है और जहां पानी से सिंचाई के साधन मौजूद हैं, वहां पर यह फसल बहुत अधिक मात्रा में उगाई जाती है। इसलिए मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि केवल दो प्रान्तों का ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे भारत-वर्ष में जिन-जिन प्रान्तों में कपास की फसल उगाई जाती है, वहां पर किसानों की फसल का जो नुकसान हुआ है, उसका भी विवरण देना चाहिए था और उन लोगों की भी मदद करनी चाहिए।

इसके लिए बहुत पहले 1976 में आपने नेशनल कमीशन आन एग्रीकल्चर बिठाया था। उस कमीशन ने अपनी यह रिपोर्ट दी थी कि जहां पर भी आप फटिलाइजर यूज करेंगे, वहां अगर फटिलाइजर अधिक मात्रा में यूज होगा तो उसमें कीटाणु अधिक पैदा होने की संभावना होगी। यह कमीशन ने आपको पहले ही बताया था जिसके बारे में आपके मन्त्रालय को सोचना चाहिए था।

I am reading from part X of the Report :

"The new cropping patterns and the luxuriant growth of plants, induced by the use of fertilisers and irrigation have created tremendous pest and disease problems. The control of pests enables a crop to yield its maximum within the limitations of its environment. The absence of such a control, the degree of damage inflicted on the crop determines the quantum of its yield, which may vary from poor harvest to none at all. Because chemicals have proved most effective against pests, they have received by far the greatest attention."

इस रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है कि यह जरूरी नहीं है कि पुअर हारवेस्ट हो, यह भी हो सकता है बिल्कुल ही पैदा न हो जिस तरह से पंजाब और दूसरे क्षेत्रों में बिल्कुल ही कपास पैदा नहीं हुई है। आप तो कहते हैं कि 50 परसेंट हुई, लेकिन वहां के किसान से पूछिए, वह आपको बताएगा कि

जीरो परसेंट हुई है। फटिलाइजर के बारे में इस रिपोर्ट में है कि इससे अधिक तरह की बीमारियां पैदा होंगी। एक कीट टोडा पैदा हो जाता है जो कि पूरी फसल को ही खा जाता है।

इसके अलावा माननीय मन्त्री जी ने अपनी असमर्थता जाहिर की कि स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स अगर नहीं करतीं तो हम क्या करें। मैं निवेदन करूंगा कि आपके पास इस बारे में पूरी शक्ति है, आप अपनी शक्ति का इस्तेमाल क्यों नहीं करते? आपको सारी पावर्स हैं। आप स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स को जो यहां से हिदायत देंगे वे उनका पालन करेंगी। आप किसान का हित देखते हैं, आप किसानों के संरक्षक हैं। आप किसानों के अधिकारों और हितों के लिए हिदायतें दीजिए। अगर वे उनका पालन नहीं करती हैं तो यहां पर पार्लियामेंट है, हम सब लोग यहां पर हैं। माननीय अध्यक्ष जी की अनुमति से हम यहां पर सवालात कर सकते हैं, आपकी नीति पर हम विचार कर सकते हैं। इसलिए आपको जो पावर्स दी गई है उनका आप इस्तेमाल कीजिए। एग्रीकल्चर कमीशन ने पहले ही कहा है कि सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को पावर है। आपको मोरल, लीगल और इयूटीफुल तरीके से भी अधिकार आता है। इसलिए कोई स्टेट गवर्नमेंट आपके पास यदि रिपोर्ट नहीं भेजती है तो आपको उससे रिपोर्ट मांगने का अधिकार है। अगर कहीं किसानों की बोनाफाईड क्षति होती है तो उस क्षति की पूति किया जाना जरूरी है। उसके लिए आप उनको अपने कांफिडेंस में लेकर परामर्श दे सकते हैं, विचार कर सकते हैं।

माननीय अध्यक्ष जी, नेशनल कमीशन की इस संबंध में जो रिपोर्ट है, उसमें उसने सुझाव दिया है। मैं इस बारे में पैरा 49.1.5 उद्धृत करना चाहता हूँ—

Chemicals are able to save a crop from pest attack only when applied in time.

केवल स्प्रे तभी कामयाब हो सकता है जब समय पर किया जाए। इसलिए कमीशन ने यह भी कहा है—

"The chance of damage caused by possible epidemics can be definitely minimised. The network of the surveillance organisation should be as widespread as possible and cover important crop areas of the country with appropriate liaison between the States and the Centre. The training of personnel and methods to be followed should receive careful consideration."

इसलिए माननीय मंत्री जी, कमीशन की रिपोर्ट में भी यह आशा की गई है कि आपका मंत्रालय स्टेट्स को आदेश और निर्देश देगा और एक लायजॉन रखेगा। अगर किसानों के प्रति उनका कोई उपेक्षापूर्ण व्यवहार है तो उसके बारे में आप सुधार करवायेंगे।

मुझे आशा है कि किसानों की जो वहां क्षति हुई है, उसके लिए उनको मुआबजा मिल सकेगा, उनकी क्षतिपूर्ति हो सकेगी। इसका तरीका निकालना आपके हाथ में है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : माननीय स्पीकर साहब, एग्रीकल्चर तो सबजेक्ट है। जैसा कि आमरेबल मेम्बर ने भी बताया, मेरे मंत्रालय का तो काम मंत्रणा करना, सुझाव देना, कोऑरडिनेशन करना, स्टेट्स की मदद करना, मोनेटरिंग करना है। यह सारे काम एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के अन्दर आते हैं।

आनरेबल मेम्बर ने पूछा है कि राजस्थान का कुछ नहीं बताया? अगर वे पूछना चाहते हैं तो वहां का भी बता देता हूं। जहां नुकसान हुआ है, वहां का मैंने बता दिया था। राजस्थान में दस हजार हेक्टेअर में स्प्रे करने का टारगेट था।

14.00 hrs.

और राजस्थान ने ये रिपोर्ट हमारे पास नहीं भेजी है कि कितना उन्होंने टारगेट एचीव किया है। अगले साल के लिए 10 हजार हेक्टर में स्प्रे करने का टारगेट रखा गया है। तो यह टारगेट हमेशा फिक्स होता है, इस बारे में सलाह की जाती है।

इस बारे में पूरी स्कीम है। एरियल स्प्रे के लिए साढ़े 37 रुपए फी हेक्टर सबसिडी दी जाती है इसमें 50-50 परसेंट शेयर सेंटर और स्टेट का है। ग्राउन्ड स्प्रे के लिए 15 रुपए फी हेक्टर सबसिडी दी जाती है। इसमें भी 50-50 परसेंट शेयर स्टेट और सेंटर गवर्नमेंट का होता है। इसी तरह से इक्विमेंट्स के लिए 25 फीसदी, कास्ट इक्विपमेंट्स के लिए फार्मर्स को सबसिडी दी जाती है। इसके अलावा और चीजें भी हैं। सौंड के बारे में, डेमास्ट्रेशन के बारे में ये सारी चीजें की जा रही हैं। मैं इस बात को फिर कहूंगा कि इसका फायदा उठाना ज्यादा स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर निर्भर है। मालूम नहीं माननीय सदस्य ने किस आधार पर यह कह दिया कि कांट्रीब्यूटरी नेगलियेंस भारत सरकार का है। अगर वहां कोई टारगेट पूरा नहीं हुआ है तो भारत सरकार जाकर किसी के खेत में जबरदस्ती तो स्प्रे करा नहीं सकती। किस प्रकार कांट्रीब्यूटरी नेगलियेंस समझ रहे हैं। जब स्कीम है, टारगेट कायम किया हुआ है, सबसिडी देते हैं और अगर टारगेट पूरा नहीं हुआ तो क्यों नहीं हुआ, यह भी पूछा जाता है। ये सारी बातें होती हैं।

दूसरी बात मैं बता देना चाहता हूं कि इस बार जहां नुबसान हुआ है वह बारिश ज्यादा होने की वजह से हुआ है। पत्तों और पौधों का फँलाव इतना हो गया और इसमें 5 बार स्प्रे करना पड़ता है, लेकिन स्प्रे के बीच-बीच में बारिश इतनी हुई कि दवा धुलती रही।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आठ बार स्प्रे करना होता है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : आप ठीक कह रहे हैं, क्योंकि आप खुद काटन ग्रीअर हैं, आपको सारा तजुर्बा है। सारा काम ठीक से करने की पूरी कोशिश की जाती है लेकिन कुदरत के साथ लड़ाई इतनी मुश्किल होती है कि इन्सान काम-याब नहीं हो पाता। इसी तरीके से पंजाब और हरियाणा के अन्दर हुआ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जानता हूं इसलिए इस्तजा

करता हूँ कि उनको देखें।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : जरूर देखेंगे।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh) : I think, the statement is very very unsatisfactory. I also charge that the Ministry is guilty of concealment. This is the second statement that the Minister has made. In the first statement he said that the damage caused was to the extent of 15 to 25 per cent. Sir, since you had the direct information, therefore, you said that that was a totally wrong picture and you directed the Minister to send a team on the spot to find out the real situation. Now he says in the second statement that in Punjab they suffered more than 50% loss. What do you mean by 'more'? According to my information in certain areas the loss is to the extent of 70 per cent and in certain others total damage has been caused.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. I can give you the exact figures. In one district the damage was 75 to 80 per cent in about 90 per cent of the area.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : They are guilty of concealment because they are totally unsympathetic towards the farmers. I hope, Rao Sahib will not get angry. I am not making any personal charge on him. But the Ministry's total approach is unsympathetic towards the farmers. I am sorry to say that he is making a statement like a helpless Minister. He says: "What can I do; it is for the State Governments?" If you cannot do anything, then what for you are here as Agriculture Minister? In that case, you just wind up the Agriculture Ministry. Even the work of coordination is not being done properly. There is no proper policy, no guidelines to the States. He has expressed a pious wish that they have advised the State Governments to take certain measures, bring pesticides, bring certain plants which have enough resistance to face this American Ball worm and now it is for the State Governments to act on it. Does he know that by the end of this century our need will be of 105 lakh bales. Today we are producing about 80 lakh bales. If the situation remains the same that if this kind of worm

attacks the crop, financially the farmers will stand nowhere, then how are they going to produce more cotton in this country which we will need? This is a national demand and need that by the end of century the country needs 15 to 16 per cent more production. But if this situation remains, then my fear is, cotton production instead of increasing may decrease. If the State Governments are not fully conscious of their national duty and national demand, is it not the duty of the Central Government to sit with them, have a proper planning, work out a proper scheme and accordingly they should act? The Minister says that they have no compensation plan and if the State Governments do something, they do not know: it is their duty that they are doing. You have said, Sir, that when there is a hailstorm, certain State Governments give Rs. 300 per acre as help to the farmers so that they can do their cultivation in future. The Central Government should have sided with them and said that this policy should be a national policy. If the State Governments are willing to do that, the Central Government's share will be that much. Why not this policy is being finalised at the Centre? Why not the Minister take initiative? The Central Government must act as a leader and not as an adviser. When 70 per cent of the population depends on agriculture and the entire base of our national economy is on agriculture, then this kind of approach that it is for the State Governments to do it and that the Centre will not come in the picture when the States take some initiative, is not a correct approach.

My information is that this year this misery of the cotton growing farmers of Punjab and Haryana was because there was a peculiar kind of American ball worm attack. The pesticides did not have enough resistance. Even the spraying that was done, did not have enough chemical strength to face this attack. Are you doing any arrangement for the future? Are you going to give them stronger spraying inputs so that in future they can get rid of this disease? You are giving the information that this worm is everywhere—attached to the wall, main tree, parks and soil. If that is the position, what are you doing? You are saying: "Let Punjab and Haryana Governments import or make arrange-

ments." If they are able to make arrangements, then what for you are here ?

Another charge that I am making is that this is also a very wrong picture which has been given. It is not that against 1,62,000 hectares spraying has been done. Punjab has fixed a target of 2,50,000 hectares for spraying. As against that they have done spraying only in respect of 62,000 hectares. This comes to only 25 per cent of the entire target which was fixed for Punjab.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : You are confusing hectares with acres. It is 250000 acres.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : What I am saying is, your target has been achieved only to the extent of 25 per cent. Please take note of that important point. In Haryana as against 80,000 spraying has been done only in respect of 53,000. That comes to about 60 per cent. Who is responsible for this ? Is this Government not responsible for this ? And who is going to suffer ? It is the farmers who are going to suffer because of the laxity on the part of the Haryana Government and Punjab Government.

Another thing is that the detection of the disease was so much delayed that by the time the major steps were taken, the crop was badly damaged. Not only that. The diagnosis was also faulty. Mr. Minister, will you please tell us what diagnosis has been done, whether you have asked any research institute or organisation or whether you have sought the help of any other organisation that at the proper time the diagnosis should be done and proper spraying facilities should be provided ? This has not been done and I do not think that the Government has any desire at the moment to take certain steps in this direction.

Another thing is, he said that those State Governments which want to compensate are free to do that. It means the Central Government has no responsibility and about those States which do not want to compensate, it will not be the concern of the Government of India.

Another thing, which is a very sorrowful

affair, is that the Minister says in this House several times that demands have been made stating that 'we are still the victims of natural calamity.' Natural calamity unfortunately does the biggest harm to the agriculturists, to the farmers. Is it not the responsibility of the Government, really speaking, to step in at a proper time to help them ? I am asking : Will the Government not give this assurance that whatever the area, wherever the damage is done, the Government will immediately provide cheaper credit facilities, not at the normal rates, but at cheaper rates, to the farmers and the Government will soon go to those areas as they go to the cyclone-affected areas, set up their camps, control rooms, and help the farmers in building their houses, in providing certain financial help ? Whatever area is affected, whether by pesticides or by bollworms or by hailstorm or by anything at that time the Government should go to those areas and try to help the farmers, identify their needs, identify immediately the possible steps which have to be taken so that the farmers can be helped.

He says the crop insurance scheme is a failure. After 35 years of our Independence, and this demand has been made from the very beginning, it is a sad affair that in States like Maharashtra only 9 blocks have been taken up and Rs. 3.5 lakhs have come from the crop insurance. This is the information. If I add both, it is less than Rs. 10 lakhs that has come from the whole country. This is the information, if I am right. It means it is not popular with the farmers, the farmers are not coming forward. What has the Government done ? We know in this country many things are not popular with the farmers. The use of fertilizers was not popular with the farmers ; they were not going to the bank and taking credit from the banks was not popular with the farmers ; the life insurance was not popular with the common people in this country.

But did the Government not do this ? They used their entire machinery. They made them understand the benefit of those schemes and the farmers started adopting these. I want to know why this kind of approach has not been adopted by the Government of India ? They should in a big way launch a national campaign, ask

their State Governments, their Block Officers, their District Officers, even the whole organisation to go to the farmers. But they must assure them that while their crops will be ensured, they will be really benefited and necessary steps will be taken. What is the fear? The farmer learns everything from his own experience. When there is so much bureaucratisation, so much harassment, the farmer feels more hesitant when he goes in for a new scheme. I therefore, demand that the Government must formulate national policy of the crop insurance. The Government must formulate a policy—wherever so much damage is done—33% at least, Government will make special schemes to help the farmers so that the future crops of the country may not be further damaged and the farmers should be in a position really to sow his crop and also take necessary steps for future cultivation.

If you see the statement of the Minister, the total statement lacks full information. His team went to these two States—Panjab and Haryana. He has said that the team went, advised and came back and reported to the Minister. I would like to know—have they advised you to take certain effective steps? This new disease which has come, which has done damage in Panjab and Haryana, God forbid, may not spread to other cotton producing areas of the country. To-day, the damage is less if you see the total production of the country. To-morrow it can be enormous if the disease spreads to the other States of the country. What steps are being taken to prevent it? You have to see that this disease does not travel to other areas.

Shri Ram Singh Yadav has quoted from the Report. He says even the use of fertilizers has got certain elements which is responsible for this kind of disease. If this is the finding, what steps are being taken so that the fertilizers are free from this kind of element so that they may not contribute to the disease?

Another thing which I am demanding is that the Government of India must change its attitude towards the farmers to say that they cannot compensate 100% for the damage done to the crops. Nobody in this country is demanding that you should com-

pensate 100%. But to-day this is a very basic fundamental right of any citizen in this country—if the damage is done on such a large scale, then he must have the right from the State for his livelihood—at least substantial help so that he may not be totally uprooted. Every citizen is free to live on his own living. But there are countries which are giving unemployment allowance. Who does not know that there are so many countries like America giving unemployment allowance of Rs. 2800/- per month. Italy, France and U.K. give from Rs. 1500/- to Rs. 1800/- per month. We have not been able to do so in our country.

I am pointing out to the fact that it is to-day the responsibility of the State that they should look to the miseries and they should take steps to remove the miseries of the citizens and farmer is one which really needs the most because it has been the most neglected sector of our country. When I am talking of the cotton growing farmers this applies to all the farmers—either they grow wheat or paddy or sugar cane or anything. Therefore, the Minister will kindly decide for a proper national policy and should take initiative that these are the schemes with which the Central Government has come out and the State Governments must apply them. He says, if the State Government is not functioning, what can I do?

Do you not remember, when your own State Governments were not procuring wheat even the Prime Minister had to go to Chandigarh? She told them that they must procure. You cannot be a helpless Minister. But he is telling that the State Governments are not doing this. I am only sending directions and they are not doing according to my directions. This is not the proper attitude.

Sentiments have been expressed here. It is not a question of prestige. Had you not pointed out, I am sure the team would not have gone. Had the team not gone I am sure in the record of the Lok Sabha the damage would have been only 15% and 25%. Once it comes from the mouth of the Minister, nobody can help the farmers. There is a tendency always in the Government officials—at the grass roots to minimise the loss of the farmers. The farmers have been

really weeping. Their biggest harassment is—whatever the damage is caused, the local machinery always minimises the loss so that they may not be entitled for certain concessions. This is the situation. When the Minister makes a Statement, I would like to know, will you take some action, at least against the officers who were guilty of supplying the wrong report to this House? I know the Minister will say, at that time we had only this information because the estimate was being made. And now the latest estimate has come, therefore, I have come with this second statement. You can always find ways and means to escape the things. But the question is, if this kind of shelter is given to the officials also then in the ultimate analysis it harms the interests of the farmers.

In conclusion my request to the Minister is that he must call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of the States. I know that many Agriculture Ministers may not be able to take the decisions. If necessary, let the Prime Minister also sit with the Chief Ministers of the States and formulate a proper policy for helping the farmers of this country and in getting a proper price. He was saying that farmers have to spray for five times, even upto eight times. If they have done upto eight times, 50% or more crop by then is gone. The cost has gone much higher after having done spray eight times. After having lost more than 50% of their crop what will be their financial condition? Their financial burden will break them totally. Are you going to give at least in these areas more substantial subsidy or higher price, keeping in view that their cost has also gone—higher cost on account of eight times spraying and also their production has been damaged more than 50%. These are the things which I think Minister will take into consideration.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : राव साहब, मेरे ख्याल में इसके बाद और कोई है नहीं, श्री अमलदत्त यहां हैं नहीं।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : इकट्ठा कर लेंगे।

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER (Durgapur) : Since another Minister Shri Krishna is here, may I...

Please sit down.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : हलधर जी मेरे नाम धारी हैं, यह मुझसे ज्यादा तेज रह जाते हैं, मैं क्या कर सकता हूँ ?

राव साहब, मैं आपके नोटिस में लाना चाहता था, आपने बहुत किया, मेरे कहने पर इन्कवायरी करवाई, वरना मामला वहीं रह गया होता।

एक तो आपने कहा कि इत्तिला ऐसी आई, उसकी आप खिचवाई करवाना जिसने रिपोर्ट भेजी थी। अब पंजाब में सरकार तो है नहीं, गवर्नर का राज्य है, आप इसको देखें।

दूसरे, मैं अभी 17 तारीख को वहीं गया था, उस इलाके में देखकर आया हूँ किसानों की हालत। उन्होंने बिल्कुल हरी फसल उजाड़कर काट रखी है और उसमें गन्दुम बो रहे हैं। किसी-किसी का एक एकड़ में बीस किलो भी नहीं निकला है।

This is my personal knowledge. I have visited and seen them weeping. They have come to me. As a representative of the constituency, I also represent them. I represent not only as Speaker of the House but also representative of the people.

मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ कि आपसे मुझे पूरी आशा और उम्मीद है कि आप उन पर डंडा घुमाएंगे और वे उनकी मदद करेंगे। अगर उनकी मदद नहीं की जाएगी, तो आगे काम बिल्कुल नहीं चलेगा। आठ दस बार स्प्रे किया गया है। सरकार ने तकावी लोन आगे दिए हैं, मालिकाना माफ किया है। लेकिन आदियाने, स्प्रेडिंग और कम्पेन्सेशन के बारे में काम अभी नहीं हुआ है। अगर नहीं होगा, तो मामला पतला होगा। आप बुला कर करवाएं। कोई वजह नहीं है कि किसान के लिए काम न हो। फैक्टरी और गोडाउन वगैरह तो सब इनशोर्ड होते हैं, उनको मिल जाता है। किसान बेचारा कहां जाएगा? नैचरल कैलैमिटी किसी के बस की बात नहीं है। इसकी भी इनकवायरी कराएं कि दवाई ठीक थी या नहीं।

अगर बच्चा दवाई नहीं लेता है, तो उसकी

सेहत के लिए उसको पकड़ कर दवाई दी जाती है। अगर कोई नहीं करता है, तो कम्पलसरी तौर पर करवा दीजिए।

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : One thing more, Sir. This Punjab really accounts for 50 per cent of the total production in North India. If Punjab is affected, you can imagine other parts of the country.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : उन्होंने स्टेटिस्टिक्स दिये हैं कि 2 लाख 91 हज़ाड़ एकड़ में 75 परसेंट से ऊपर नुकसान हो गया है। मैं फिरोजपुर की बात बता रहा हूँ। आप इमको देखें।

श्री चन्द्रदेव प्रसाद वर्मा : आप यह भी कह दीजिए कि जिन लोगों ने गलत रिपोर्ट दी है, उन्हें दंडित करना चाहिए।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने पहले भी कह दिया है कि जिसने गलत रिपोर्ट दी है, उसे खिचवा दीजिए। कैसे इतने कलस हो सकते हैं कि इतना नुकसान हो जाए और कहें कि कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ है।

श्री जगपाल सिंह (हरिद्वार) : अगर मंत्री महोदय ने नहीं किया, तो उनको कौन देखेगा ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह बड़े तगड़े मंत्री है।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Chandrajit Yadav pleaded for the cause of farmers and made several suggestions. But the way he was trying to pick out holes in the statement of the Government and the policies of the Government, it appears that he lost sight completely of what I have stated earlier and also he has lost sight of the Constitutional provisions that "agriculture" is a State subject. The Central Government cannot move into the area to take up the duties of the Agriculture Department of a State. He said that the Central Government should take initiative. This is exactly what the Central Government has been doing. I mentioned so many Centrally-sponsored schemes. They were framed at the initiative of the Central Government. Otherwise, they would not have been called the Centrally-

sponsored schemes. We are taking all initiatives. This is what is being done. The way he was arguing, I presumed, he was more a lawyer than a farmer.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : I am both.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Well, I do not know. But this is not a case for argument as a lawyer. We all feel the same—about the difficulties of the farmers.

I have given information as far as it could be collected and was available to me. Now, he himself said this. He put words into my mouth—the earlier information was this and the later information is this. What else can be done ? We had to get information from the States. We don't have any Patwaris. The survey is done by the Patwaris at the village level. Then, it is collected by the Kanungo, circle, Tehsildar—all block-wise. Then, it is compiled and then the State Government furnishes.

I cannot make a rough assessment and be guilty of misleading the House for giving wrong figures. For that also, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav will be very well prepared.

But what I have said before and now is on the basis of information. (*Interruptions.*) I have never said that everywhere the damage is 50%. It is all very well understood. In my earlier statement, I said, in some places, it will be 100%, as you remarked. In some place, it is 25%. In other places, it is 50%. In some places, it is 50 to 75%. We have tried to get district-wise and block-wise figures also if you are interested. There is an area of 5,000 acres affected where the damage is up to 25%. Then, in 4,724 acres the damages vary from 26% to 50%. In another area of 5,77,957 acres, the damage reported is 51 to 75%. There is also an area where the damage from 76 to 100% has occurred and that is also quite substantial. It is 5,65,996 acres. I cannot vouch-safe the veracity of these figures. After all, when all these assessments are done hurriedly, you will understand nothing perfect can be obtained. And, therefore, to say that this is not being done, that is not being done in spite of the best efforts that the Government of India in my Ministry is, I think, rather

unjust.

Mr. Chandrajit Yadav also mentioned the point made by Mr. Ram Singh Yadav that there is some report that fertilisers aggravate diseases and pests. There is no scientific basis at all for this opinion. The fertilisers do not aggravate pests or diseases. It can be something else, may-be the excessive vegetative growth attracts moths, worms and insects. That might be due to that. The fertiliser always helps the crop growth if properly used. It increases the yield. It will be a very wrong impression if carried to the farmers. Our fertiliser's consumption also might be affected and that will not be in the national interest to spread beliefs like that which have got no basis whatsoever.

I have stated in detail that to help the farmers to eradicate pests, we have got the scheme. We want to look after this problem particularly where it has occurred. Subsidies are available. Credit is also made available. Farmer's interest is also sometimes remitted where there is acute damage to their crops. All these schemes are already in implementation under the Government of India. We have drought relief scheme, flood relief scheme, and other pests and diseases and damage occurring from that. But all this will depend upon the State Governments formulating some proposals. I said, we have advised them to formulate certain types of proposals. Mr. Chandrajit Yadav was not perhaps very attentive when I disclosed this. When I said, the danger is from this and from that, it was not that I was only trying to inform him as to how this pest can cause damage. I was trying to say that we are aware of all these things and they have got to be tackled. Credit will also be made available. Subsidies on seeds are also available. Better seeds will also be provided. Chemicals also will be provided. And, as suggested by the hon. Speaker, we shall also try to see whether there was another factor responsible for this damage wherein the chemicals used were not of the standard quality. It is because, we try to control the quality of the pesticides and fertilisers also. But there is no such report so far. But it is very obvious that because of the incessant and intermittent rain and the

weather conditions and the growth of plants has been so big, this pest occurred. We are trying to meet this menace and, I hope, effective steps will soon be taken.

The hon. Member, Mr. Chandrajit Yadav, quoted some wrong figures. I want to put the record straight. He said that in Haryana, the area covered was very much less than the target and, in Punjab, it was very much less than the target. In Haryana, whereas the target was 30,000 hectares, the area covered is 41,000 hectares.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : This is mentioned in your own statement.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : They have exceeded the target. I want to know where from did you get your information. In Punjab, as I have already said, the target was 100,000 hectares but the achievement was 94,000 hectares. There was not much gap between the target and the achievement.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV : In your statement, you have said 62,000 hectares in Punjab.

14.36 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

BRENTFORD ELECTRIC (INDIA)
LIMITED
(ACQUISITION AND TRANSFER OF
UNDERTAKINGS) BILL*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We now go to the next item ; Bill to be introduced. Shri S.M. Krishna.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI S.M.
KRISHNA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Narayan
Datt Tiwari, I beg to move for leave to in-
troduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition
and transfer of the undertakings of the Brent-
ford Electric (India)-Limited, with a view to
securing the proper management of such