

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER]

tion of social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community, to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: I introduce the Bill.

POLICE-FORCES (RESTRICTION OF RIGHTS) REPEAL BILL*

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Police-Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Police-Forces (Restriction of Rights) Act, 1966."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

SMALL FARMERS ASSISTANCE BILL—Contd.

(By Shri K. Lakkappa)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri K. Lakkappa on 20 March, 1981, namely:

"That the Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers, be taken into consideration."

We have got only 8 minutes left. One hour has already been extended last time, and we have got in the list about 4 or 5 Members. Is the House interested in extending the time for this Bill?

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL (ERNAKULAM): I suggest that the time be extended by another hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House has agreed that the time for the Bill be extended by another hour. Now Mr. Xavier Arakal.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: This Bill seeks mainly to achieve two objects—as mentioned in its Statement of Objects and Reasons. One is to extend the facilities provided to the small farmers, as far as finances are concerned. The second object is that marketing facilities should be provided to these small farmers. They deserve the serious consideration of this House.

Of course, we are discussing the question of agriculture, and related matters. If we refer to the position of agriculture and agricultural sector in our economy, we can see that 80 per cent of our people still depend mainly on this sector. One factor which deserves serious consideration is that though the number of agricultural labourers and households is increasing, the total land area is the same, which means that we have to confine ourselves only within the existing land area. It is imperative that efforts should be made within that area alone, to boost the production of agricultural sector. It is said that 32.88 crore hectares constitute the land area. Out of this, the total crop area is only 17.11 crore hectares—which means that the small farmers are mainly confined to a narrower area.

If we refer to the wage rates in the agricultural sector, we find that accor-

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ding to the latest report, made workers earn only Rs. 3.26 per day, whereas the female workers earn Rs. 2.28 per day. This report has also revealed that 68 per cent of the households are in debt. That means that a vast majority of this sector is in debt. Therefore, the Statement of Objects and Reasons has very clearly highlighted the seriousness of this issue. This report has also said that the average debt per household is Rs. 605/-. This reveals acute poverty and under-employment in this area. Where do they go for getting a job? Are there any existing facilities or assistance given to the small farmers? Institutional credit for agriculture and allied sectors in 1979-80 alone was Rs. 2,420 crores in 1980-81, it was increased to Rs. 2550 crores. In 1980-81, the total amount was Rs. 1500 crores for short term loan and Rs. 485 crores was for long term loan mainly through co-operatives. Now the question is who has benefited out of this long term and short term loan? That is the question which has to be gone into in depth.

Time and again, this House has highlighted the point that the loans are given to the rich and the better placed people rather than small and marginal farmers. It has also been mentioned in this Report that the commercial and regional rural banks have directly lent Rs. 771 crores in 1979 in 1980-81, that figure has gone upto Rs. 850 crores. The cumulative effect of the 6th Plan, it is said, will be Rs. 2850 crores, that is, a good portion of our money, the cumulative money from the banking system has been given to this sector. My submission is that this amount has not gone for the benefit of the deserving section of our people. Therefore, the question of proper reorientation in the matter of lending should be gone into and a proper impetus must be given to this sector especially in this matter. One thing which cannot be bypassed is that there should be a proper land-reform as well. The aim is that 18 per cent production will be increased in the agricultural sector. From 132 million tonnes, the aim is that it will go upto 150 million tonnes or 160 million tonnes. If we aim at

that, the main contributor to that production is the small farmer and the marginal farmer. But how many of them own their own land? How many of them have the pride to say that a particular land belongs to them? Unless that pride is given to them, my fear is that this target may not be achieved. I am surprised to say that 10 per cent of the poor in the lowest ladder of the population does not own even 1 per cent of the land, whereas 10 per cent of the richest section of the people own more than 60 per cent of the land. So, there is a great disparity. I know this is a State subject. But this disparity has to be removed and a radical change should be brought in in the name of land reform. So, my premise is this. The Government has earmarked over Rs. 2850 crores as a cumulative loan. But that is not going to reach the poor in the lowest ladder of the population. My figure which I had submitted before the House has clearly stated my point.

Unless there is a land reform act in every State, the facilities given by the Government are not going to reach the middle section who are suffering day-in and day-out and are toiling hard. They are not going to get benefit out of this. Only the rich and the affluent will benefit out of these facilities. Therefore, this is the time that we should look at this point and come to a conclusion whether we seriously mean to help them in the financial matters through the marketing system. During the course of the season you and I know and the whole House knows, how they sell the produce for a song because there is no proper marketing system. I am glad to say that the mover of this Bill has highlighted those points. It is high time that we think of a proper co-operative marketing system in our country. Unless we enter into that field, the middlemen who benefit from the toils and the hardwork of the farmers, will be flourishing. That has been our system, our economic system, social system. But it is high time that we changed this system and with a spirit of co-operative movement. A boost has to be given to this movement in our country. It is

[Shri Xavier Arakal]

said that 82.1 million rural households we have in our country. This was in 1974-75. In 1964-65 it was 70.4 million. An increase of 16.6 per cent is there from 1964-65. But what is the state of affairs of their rural economy? Has it improved in proportion to the increase in the number of the households? My point is, it has not. Therefore, these are the two vital areas. Firstly, we should have proper financial facilities for them and the second is that a proper marketing co-operative movement should be taken into consideration. Unless six factors are taken into consideration—high yielding variety seeds, gross irrigated areas and facilities, consumption of chemical fertilisers, credit facilities and marketing facilities, and constructive schemes and facilities including crop and cattle insurance—our rural economy and our rural people cannot improve. I hope that the Government will take a serious note of these six points and come forward with concrete suggestive proposals in the coming years.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Vijayaraghavan. You please take only five minutes because Mr. Lakkappa has got to reply and the Minister will intervene.

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Bill. At the outset I would like to say something about the burden of debt that the farmers are groaning under. It is often raised in the House that the farmers are not getting remunerative price for their produce. Particularly, distressing in the condition of the small and medium farmers. They are not able to make both ends meet. It is the founder duty of the Government to come forward and help them. Today the farmers have to pay a high rate of interest on the loan. This has really made it difficult for them to carry on. Therefore the Government has to do something to liberate them from this back-breaking burden. I would suggest in this connection

that a Commission should be set up to study this problem.

Another problem is about fertilizers and pesticides. The prices of fertilizers and pesticides have gone up by leaps and bounds. It is a problem which has affected the small and medium farmers particularly. The irony of the situation is that on the one hand they do not get remunerative prices for their produce and on the other hand they have to pay a high price for the fertilizers and other inputs. This problem has to be tackled by the Government. If you look at the industrial sector, you will find that they are able to have a decisive say in the matter of pricing of their products. Take the case of fertilizer factories, steel mills or any factory which produces commodities which are consumed by the public. The producers' representative sit with the Government and are able to influence it to have a better price for their products. But, when it comes to the question of fixing the price of Agricultural produce, nothing of that kind is done. The agricultural prices commission does not often take into account the increased cost of production, with the result the farmers do not get a reasonable price for their produce. They are being exploited by the middle men. 80 per cent of our population are agriculturists. Out of this 80 per cent the big farmers or kulaks constitute only 5 per cent. This section of the farmers is also exploiting the small and marginal farmers. Therefore the Government has a duty to protect them from exploitation. In this connection I would like to say that the agricultural prices commission should be reconstituted by including the true farmers in it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Sir, I would not take more time. I am speaking as a representative of the farmers in this country. I have to raise their voice in this supreme forum where else I will raise it?

*The original speech was delivered in Malayalam.

So, Sir, I would suggest for the consideration of the hon. Minister that the small and medium farmers who own 5 hectares or less should be given subsidy.

Another point I want to raise is about the water that is supplied to the farmers. Today they have to pay a high rate of tax on water. Sir, speaking about the tax that the farmers has to pay. I must bring it to your notice that he has to pay a large number of taxes. He has to pay agricultural income tax, water tax, professional a plethora of taxes. I want to suggest that in place of this multiple taxes single point tax should be introduced.

SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR (Trivandrum): You have organised the kisan rally. Has it not solved the problems of the farmers? (Interruptions)

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Yes, we have organised the kisan rally. I am proud to tell you that the Kisan rally on 16th February unmistakably demonstrated that the farmers from Kanyakumari to Kashmir have rallied behind our leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and they have declared their unstinted support to her. It is no use feeling jealous. They, what about you? Are not you and your leader rank opportunities? You got elected to this House in the name of Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Now you have defected to the other side. Has your leader any loyalty? If you have any courage you resign and contest again from Trivandrum. Then we can see what happens? So, better do not talk about kisan rally.

Without taking much of your time, I would say that the Government should not hesitate to come forward to help the farmers who are feeding this section. The Government is giving subsidy to the small scale industry, and many other sectors and what is more even to films like 'Sankarā Bharnna'. Therefore they should hesitate to provide subsidy to the farmers. I have already mentioned about water. The farmers have to pay a much higher rate for water which is supplied to them

from irrigation projects under the control of the Government. So, I want to say that fertilizers, water seeds, pesticides etc. should be provided at subsidised rates. Similarly, crop insurance should also be introduced.

Finally, I would say that the farmers have great expectations from the Government under the leadership of Shrimati Indiraji and the most efficient Minister hon. Rao Birendra Singh who is doing excellent work in the field of agriculture. I hope their hopes and aspirations will be fulfilled. With this hope I support the Bill and conclude.

श्री जगपाल सिंह (हरिद्वार) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करते हुए देश के किसानों की जो समस्याएँ हैं और उनकी जो हालत है, उसकी तरफ सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

35 साल को आजादी के बाद आप देखिए कि किस तरह से इस देश के अंदर डिसपेरिटी बढ़ी है। आज हिन्दुस्तान के कारखानों में या पूज्योपतियों के कारखानों में उत्पादित माल को कोमत और किसान को अपने खेत को उपज से मिलने वाले कोमत का कोई तालमेल नहीं है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस बिल के अर्ज के बाद देहात के किसानों को समस्याओं पर गहराई से विचार किया जाना चाहिए। किसान को उसको पैदावार का उचित मूल्य दिलाने को कोशिश को जानी चाहिए। देहात में धरती पर किसानों का बोझ बढ़ा है, घटा नहीं है, विभिन्न अश्वयनों से यही पता चलता है। मैं अपील करना चाहता हूँ कि विकास को तेज करने को दृष्टि से जमीन से बोझ घटा कर हिन्दुस्तान में छोटे उद्योग-धंधों को देहातों में लाना चाहिए, इससे यह काम हो सकता है। मैं अपील करूँगा कि कृषि का उत्पाद बढ़ाने के लिये और किसानों को हालत ठीक करने के लिए ज्यादा रुपया किसान के लिए रखें और भूमि-सुधार की ओर विशेष ध्यान दें। भूमि-सुधार की बात में

[श्री जगपाल सिंह]

खासतौर पर कहना चाहता हूँ, इसकी और विश्व ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए।

एक बात और मैं आपके ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूँ। पिछले दिनों कांग्रेस-पार्टी की सरकार ने एक स्कोम के अन्तर्गत शेड्यूल कास्ट और शेड्यूल ट्राइब्स को पट्टे वितरित किये थे। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि इन हरिजन-आदिवासी किसानों को, जिनको 2-3 बीघा जमीन दी गई है, इनकी हालत बहुत खराब है। वे बँल नहीं रख सकते, सिचाई की व्यवस्था नहीं कर सकते, इसलिए इस पर गहराई से विचार किया जाना चाहिए, इससे किसानों को फायदा होगा। लड रिफार्म के बारे में कहना चाहूँगा कि इसको तरफ सरकार को विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। जितनी भी कोऑरेटिव सोसायटीज हैं या बैंक हैं, जहाँ से किसानों को ऋण मिलते हैं, उनसे हिन्दुस्तान के माजिनल किसान का फायदा नहीं हो रहा है। इन संस्थाओं के कर्मचारी बाकायदा किसानों से साजिश रखते हैं। जो इंजिन बाजार में ढाई-तीन हजार का मिल जाता है, वही इंजिन दुकानदारों से साजिश करके इन सोसायटियों द्वारा 4-5 हजार में दिया जाता है। मैं अपील करूँगा कि इन संस्थाओं द्वारा दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं को सस्ता, सुलभ और आसान बनाया जाए, वरना किसान की उन्नति नहीं हो सकती। कर्जों के बारे में भी पूरे हरियाणा और उत्तर प्रदेश में देखा जा सकता है कि किसान 300 रुपए कर्जा लेते हैं और दो-ढाई साल बाद 3000 रुपए कर दिया जाता है। इन संस्थाओं द्वारा जिन किसानों को कर्जा दिया गया था, उनमें से ज्यादातर किसानों की कुड़की होने जा रही है। 14 दिन जेल में रहने के बाद भी उनकी जमीन की कुड़की होती है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि आपकी इन सोसायटीज में आर्चीटर्स और सुपरवाइजर्स के द्वारा जो लार्ज स्केल पर घाघलियाँ की जा रही हैं, उन पर गहराई से सोचिए और इस बिल के अनुसार पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में जिन किसानों पर 8-10

साल से कर्जें पड़े हुए हैं, उन कर्जों को माफ किया जाए। सीधे और अनपढ़ किसान से मनमाने ढंग से भ्रूठे लगवा कर 300 की जगह 3000 कर दिया गया है और 400 की जगह 6-7 हजार कर दिया गया है, उन कर्जों को माफ कीजिए, वरना किसान मर गया है आपके उन कर्जों के नीचे दब करके। वरना किसान इन कर्जों से दब कर मर जाएगा।

16.00 hrs.

आप मशीनें और खास तौर से ट्रैक्टर, ट्राली या और जो भी उपकरण किसानों को देते हैं उनको सबसिडाइज्ड रेट्स पर दें। किसान ज्यादातर बैंकों से कर्ज लेकर ट्रैक्टर आदि ही खरीदेगा और जमीन को छुड़ाने की स्थिति में वह नहीं होगा। मैं मानता हूँ कि गन्ने की कीमत कुछ बढ़ जाने से किसान की हालत सुधरी है। लेकिन किसान का जो शोषण होता है उसका भंदाजा मैं समझता हूँ राव साहब अच्छी तरह से लगा सकते हैं। मैं चाहता हूँ कि पूंजीपतियों की तरह किसान को भी सस्ते दाम पर बिजली, पानी तथा दूसरी सुविधायें उपलब्ध कराई जायें। उद्योगपतियों को आप कोटे देते हैं, कोयला देते हैं उसी तरह से किसान के बारे में भी आप सोचें। एक स्तर से नीचे तक के जो किसान हैं जिनको आप माजिनल किसान कह सकते हैं या और कोई पैमाना आप निर्धारित कर सकते हैं उनको सस्ते दामों पर आप उपकरण आदि मुहैया करायें। आपने ऐसा नहीं किया तो किसान की हालत गिरती चली जाएगी। 58 प्रतिशत किसान बिलो पावर्टी लाइन हैं।

जो उनकी पैदावार है उसके दाम और कारखानों में उससे बनने वाली चीजों के दामों में थोड़ा बहुत तालमेल स्थापित करने के बारे में भी आप सोचें। आज उसका दोहरा शोषण होता है। जो माल वह पैदा करता है उसको व्यापारी वर्ग या कॅपिटलिस्ट क्लास सस्ते खरीदता है और फिर उसी को पक्का बना कर ज्यादा दामों

पर उस बीज को बेच कर उसका दोहरा शोषण करता है। इस दोहरे शोषण की प्रवृत्ति को आप रोकें, इस पर आप विचार करें।

श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (मधोपुरा) : मैं लकप्पा जी को समय पर इस बिल को लाने के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ। उनके धैर्य की मैं दाद देता हूँ। रूलिंग पार्टी का सदस्य होने के बावजूद भी मैं समझता हूँ कि सही मंशा से वह इस बिल को लाए हैं वना रूलिंग पार्टी के सदस्यों का यह तरीका रहा है कि वे घड़याली आंसू हो किसानों के लिए बहाते रहे हैं। 15 फरवरी को किसान रैली हुई थी जिस पर देश का तीन सौ बराड़ रुपया खर्च हुआ और बीस लाख के करीब लोग उसमें सम्मिलित हुए जिनमें से मुश्किल से पांच प्रतिशत ही किसान रहे होंगे। फिर भी इसका नाम किसान रैली दिया गया। ये पांच परसेंट किसान भी इस आशा से आये थे कि कुछ उनको मिलेगा। यहाँ सक्षम सरकार है, बहुमत वाला सरकार है लेकिन हुआ क्या? केवल छोटी योजना डिसबस हुई और उनके लिए कुछ नहीं किया गया। न बिजली सस्ती देने का प्रबन्ध हुआ, न खाद के दाम कम किये गये और न ही पानी के। किसी तरह से किसी चीज के दाम कम करने की बात नहीं की गई। जो उम्मीद लेकर वे आए थे वह उम्मीद ही रह गई और निराशा हो उनके हाथ लगी। निराशा भी ऐसी जिसका कोई अंदाजा नहीं। अब लकप्पा जी जो बिल लाये हैं इसके लिए मैं उनको धन्यवाद देता हूँ और चाहता हूँ कि कृषि मंत्री उनके लिए कुछ न कुछ अवश्य करें और इस बिल को तो कम से कम स्वीकार कर ही लें।

छोटे और सीमान्त किसान सब से ज्यादा आज परेशान हैं। हमारे देश में करीब सत्तर प्रतिशत किसान अस्सी प्रतिशत में से इसी कैटेगरी में आते हैं। उनकी

अगर तरक्की होती है तभी मुल्क तरक्की कर सकता है, उनकी तरक्की पर ही मुल्क की तरक्की निर्भर करता है। बागजों पर तो आप ठोका करते हैं कि उनको आप ऋण भेज देना चाहते हैं; दूसरी सुविधायें भी उपलब्ध करना चाहते हैं लेकिन कुछ होता नहीं है। जा गांव में रहते हैं या बलाकस में रहते हैं उनको शायद इसकी कुछ जानकारी भी होगी और शायद उनका थोड़ा बहुत इंडायरेक्टली इसका पता भी लग जाता होगा। कहने का तो आप लोग उताव देते हैं लेकिन वह बेचारा इतना परेशान होता है लोग को प्राप्त करने में कि पैस देने के बाद भी दसियों दिन और महीना महीना भर परेशान होने के बाद अन्त में वह हाथ जंड़ देता है और कह देता है कि उसको लोन नहीं चाहिये। कृषि मंत्री जो क्लेम करते हैं कि वह इसी वर्ग से आते हैं। अगर यह सही है और वह इनके लिए कमिटेड है तो उनको कुछ करना चाहिये और देखा चाहिये कि इस तरीके से उनका एक्सप्लायटेशन न हो।

सबसिडो को बात को आप देखें। अभी माननीय सदस्य ने ठोक कहा है कि आज इंडस्ट्री को तरह तरह की सबसिडोज बिजली पर तथा दूसरी चीजों पर दी जाती है लेकिन हमारी बदकिस्मती है कि हम को कोई सबसिडो नहीं दी जाती है। जो उसे चाहने पर भी, कागज पर भी कि कहते हैं कि देना चाहते हैं, लेकिन आज तक कोई सबसिडो नहीं मिलती है चाहे बीज की हो, खाद की हो या बिजली की हो। कोई सबसिडो तो आप दें। आज हालत यह है कि जिस समय वह पैदा करते हैं तो उनको इंडस्ट्रीस सेल करना पड़ता है क्योंकि उसको दूसरी चीजें खरोदने के लिये तुरन्त पैसा चाहिये। इसलिये लाचार हो कर कम दाम पर बेचना पड़ता है। और वही चीज बड़े व्यापारियों के पास चली जाती है तो तिगुने, चौगुने दाम बढ़ जाते हैं। मंत्री जो का ध्यान इस तरफ ख्यास कर के दिखाना चाहता हूँ कि कुछ

[श्री राजेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव]

उसके लिये हो सके तो करें, जिसके लिये सरकार कुछ करना चाहती है और बार-बार कहती भी है। केवल कहा ही न जाय बल्कि सर जमोन पर भी उतारा जाये।

उपाध्यक्ष जी, आज मुल्क में छोटे माजिनल फार्मर्स को हालत का ज्यादा अनुभव किया जा सकता है बजाय बयान करने के। और अनुभव ऐसे लोगों को ज्यादा हो सकता है जो खेतों करते हैं। इसलिये मैं कृषि मंत्री जो संकहंगा कि उनके लिये कुछ करें। वास्तव में 16 फरवरी को जिस तरह का इन्होंने नकशा बना रखा था और बार-बार कहा भी लेकिन करना नहीं चाहते थे। 16 फरवरी की बात जब उठायी गई तो कहा गया माननीय चरण सिंह ने भी रैली किया था। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि चौधरी चरण सिंह जनता पार्टी की सरकार से उस समय बाहर थे। वह बताना चाहते थे मोरारजी भाई को कि हमारे पीछे यह शक्ति है हमें इग्नोर करोगे तो तुम नहीं चल सक्ते हो। लेकिन आपको किस को दिखाना है? आप दिल्ली के लोगों से पूछें तो वह इतनी गाली देंगे कि तीन दिन तक उनको न बस मिले, न दूध मिला और न पानो मिला, न दफ्तर जा सके। इसलिये मंत्री जो से कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह का कोई काम से कम तमाशा न करें, हकीकत से जिसका कोई वास्ता न हो। इसलिये यदि आप कुछ करना चाहते हो तो यह बिल उसी स्पिरिट में आया है और मंत्री जो को इस स्वीकार करना चाहिये और उस किसान के लिये जिसकी दुहाई देते हैं, जिसके लिये कुछ करने का यहां पर बार-बार दावा करते हैं, उसकी भलाई के लिये इस बिल को मान लें। यही मेरा निवेदन है।

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत (अलमोड़ा) :
उपाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय लाकप्पा जी को साधुवाद देता हूँ और

वास्तव में जो बिल लाए हैं वह उनकी अपनी नीति, मंशा और उनकी पार्टी की भावना, दृष्टिकोण और घोषित सिद्धान्त के अनुरूप है। आज हमारे देश की जनसंख्या का बड़ा बड़ा प्रतिशत माजिनल फार्मर्स, स्माल फार्मर्स और फारमिंग लेबरर्स का है। मैं समझता हूँ कि कुल कृषकों का 85 प्रतिशत से अधिक हिस्सा इस तरह के छोटे फार्मर्स का बनता है और इनकी दशा वास्तव में दयनीय है। यही कारण है कि प्रारम्भ से देश की स्वतंत्रता के दिनों से कांग्रेस का यह दृष्टिकोण रहा कि किसी तरह से भूमि सुधार कानून को अमल में लाया जाये। और देश की स्वतंत्रता के बाद कांग्रेस की सरकार है, चाहे केन्द्र में हो या प्रान्तों में हो, उन्होंने ईमानदारी के साथ भूमि सुधारों के कानून को लागू किया। और यही कारण है कि हम दो प्रकार के माजिनल या स्माल फार्मर्स को देखते हैं। एक तो वह जिनको पारिवारिक परम्परा से जमीन मिली है और दूसरे वह जिनको लैण्ड सीलिंग के द्वारा जमान मिली है। इस तरह के फार्मर्स एक करोंड से भी अधिक होंगे। और भूमि सुधार के बाद इन कृषकों की दशा सुधारने के लिए, चाहे पंडित नेहरू का नेतृत्व रहा हो या श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी का नेतृत्व हो, कोई एजेन्सिज का निर्माण किया गया जिनके माध्यम से इस तरह के किसानों का आर्थिक स्थिति को सुधारने का कोशिश की गई है। और यही कारण है कि विगत दिनों किसानों का एक अद्भुत मेला और समूह दिल्ली में जमा हुआ और उन्होंने अपनी निष्ठा कांग्रेस के प्रति और इंदिरा जी के प्रति और पार्टी ने जो उनके लिए किया है, उसके लिए अपनी श्रद्धा व्यक्त करने के लिए यहां आये। हो सकता है कि मेरे मित्र को राजनीतिक दृष्टिकोण की दूषित भावना के कारण कुछ उसमें और अन्यथा दिखाई देता हो। लेकिन मैं यह समझता हूँ कि यह किसानों और हमारी सरकार के

पारस्परिक प्रेम का आपस में भावान-
प्रदान था ।

आज यह बात मैं यहां पर नहीं कहना चाहता था, लेकिन हमारे मित्रों ने इधे यहां उठाया है । इसलिए विवश हू । जहां तक सीमान्त कृषकों का सवाल है उसके दुःख और व्यथा के लिए हम, हमारी पार्टी और हमारी सरकार सभी दुःखी हैं । इस साल के बजट में इसी तरह किसानों की दशा को सुधारने के लिए बहुत सारे प्रार्थना-जन किये गये हैं । वित्त मंत्री ने अपने भाषण में कहा कि 5,000 रुपए तक का ऋण किसानों को दिया जाएगा और उस पर किसी तरह की जमानत उनसे नहीं ली जाएगी ।

मैं भाई जगपाल सिंह और श्री यादव जी की बात से सहमत हू कि जो हमारे इस तरीके के प्रार्थनाजन है वह स्टेट्यूट बुक में रह जाते हैं, वास्तविक रूप में घरातल पर नहीं उतर पाते हैं । बैंकों से ऋण देने की बात है, हमने बजट में इसका प्रार्थनाजन कर दिया है लेकिन वास्तव में जो बैंक गांव में काम करते हैं, वह साधारण आदमियों से उन्नत नहीं है, उनके कल्याण के लिए काम नहीं करते हैं । आज हमारी बैंक प्रणाली इतनी दूषित हो गई, है इसमें इतनी कमिया है कि स्माल फार्मर बैंक का दरवाजा खटखटाता रह जाता है उसको समय पर ऋण नहीं मिलता है । या तो उसे टाउट के चक्कर में पड़ना पड़ता है या ब्युरोक्रेटिक सैट-अप के चक्कर में पड़ना पड़ता है या जो अपनी कर्मशान लेते हैं, उनके चक्कर में उसे पड़ना पड़ता है । किसानों को जिनता ऋण दिया जाता है, जितना उसे कागज में मिलता है, वास्तविक अर्थों में उतना उसकी जेब में नहीं जाता है ।

मैं समझता हू कि हमारे रूरल बैंकिंग सिस्टम को सुधारने की जरूरत है, इसकी

कमियों को दूर करने की जरूरत है । हमारे माननीय कृषि मंत्री को चाहिये कि कुछ ऐसी क्रेडिट एजेंसीयां देहां शुरू करवाये जिनके सामने लक्ष्य हो, जो एक उद्देश्य को लेकर, भावना को लेकर ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में काम करना चाहते हैं । जब तक आप ऐसा नहीं करेंगे, मैं समझता हू कि वास्तविक अर्थों में किसानों की खेती का और उनके भाग्य का हम सुधार नहीं कर पायेंगे ।

जिस बात की मैं माननीय कृषि मंत्री के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हू, वह यह है किस हमारे इस तरह के किसानों को सिचाई की सुविधायें नहीं मिलती हैं । जो पानी के हमारे छंटे-छंटे क्षेत्र है, उनको टैप क के किसानों को पानी की सुविधा दी जानी चाहिये, चाहे भूगर्भ में पानी हो या बाहरी स्रोत से हो, उनके लिए टाइम-बाउंड प्रोग्राम के अन्तर्गत कार्य होना चाहिये । जब तक हम ऐसा नहीं करेंगे, मैं समझता हू कि उनकी माला हालत में सुधार नहीं लाया जा सकता है ।

हमारे जो कम्युनिटी डेवलपमेंट ब्लॉक्स हैं, उनके माध्यम से भी कुछ इस दिशा में किया जा सकता है, लेकिन आज इनके अधिकार सीमित हो गये हैं । प्रान्त की सरकार को कहा जाना चाहिये कि कम्युनिटी डेवलपमेंट ब्लॉक के अधिकारों को बढ़ाये और उन के सामने लक्ष्य रखे और जितनी भी ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाली एजेंसीज हैं, उनको चाहिये कि वहां के ब्लॉक डेवलपमेंट आफिसर की मार्फत कार्य करें, और उनको इन कार्यों को सुपरवाइज करना चाहिये । यह की क्षेत्रीय समितियां उनके कार्यों का विवेचन करें । होता यह है कि जो रिपोर्ट सरकार के पास आती है, वह गलत होती है, वास्तविकता कुछ दूसरी होती है । जब तक स्थानीय आधार पर सुपरविजन नहीं

[श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत]

होगा, मैं समझता हूँ उन लोगों की कल्याण योजनायें सफल नहीं होंगी ।

भाई लक्ष्मण जी जिस उद्देश्य से जिस बिल को यहां पर लाये है, कि किसान जितना पैसा अपनी खेती पर खर्च करता है, जितने उसके अपरेशन के टूलम हैं, सीड्स हैं, पैस्टोसाइड्स हैं और मार्केटिंग के मामले हैं, उनका रिटर्न उनको नहीं मिलता है । ऐसे फार्मरों के लिए चाहे आप सब्सिडी के माध्यम से करें या कोई ऐसा दूसरा तरीका निकालें जिससे उसकी अपरेशनल कास्ट उसको मिलनी ही चाहिये ।

इसके अलावा कृषि के समवर्ती क्षेत्रों को डेवेलप करना चाहिए । जैसे, छोटे किसानों को बागवानी, सब्जी-उत्पादन और फल-उत्पादन के लिए प्रोत्साहित किया जाए और उनके उत्पादन के लिए मार्केटिंग की व्यवस्था की जाए । ऐसी मार्केटिंग एजेंसीज स्थापित की जाएं, जिनसे किसानों को अपने उत्पादन के अच्छे दाम मिल सकें । इसके साथ ही रोड्स और कम्युनिकेशन का इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर प्रीएट करना चाहिए, जिससे किसानों को नवीनतम भावों की जानकारी हो सके और वे अपने उत्पादन को मार्केट तक पहुंचा सकें ।

किसान दुग्ध-उत्पादन का धंधा अपना सकें, इसके लिए उन्हें अच्छी नस्ल के पशु प्रोवाइड किए जाएं और उनके आस-पास डेयरी संस्थाएं खोली जाएं, जिससे उनकी माली हालत में सुधार हो सके और वे अपनी रोज-मर्ती की आवश्यकता की चीजें तथा इम्प्लीमेंटस आदि खरीद सकें ।

हम सब लोग किसान हैं और कृषि के महत्व को भी समझते हैं । आज

देश का आर्गनाइज्ड सैक्टर हमसे बहुत कुछ प्राप्त कर रहा है । चाहे वे सरकारी सेवाओं में काम करने वाले लोग हों या फैक्टरियों इत्यादि में काम करने वाले लोग हों, हमने उन्हें कई तरह की कनसेशन दे दी हैं । इसके अतिरिक्त कृषि के क्षेत्र में बड़े किसानों के लाभ के लिए कुछ किया जा चुका है । मगर आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि छोटे किसानों के लिए भी एक ऐसी योजना को कारगर ढंग से इम्प्लीमेंट करने की कोशिश की जाए, जिससे उनका वास्तविक अर्थों में लाभ हो सके ।

मैं समझता हूँ कि इस बिल का उद्देश्य सरकार का ध्यान इन दुखी, दीन और अकिंचन लोगों की तरफ आकृष्ट करना है । सम्भव है कि इस बिल में टेकनिकल आधार पर कई कमियां हों । हो सकता है कि मूवर महोदय अपने बिल को वापस ले लें, लेकिन जो भावना और मंशा इस बिल की है, मुझे आशा है कि सरकार उसको हृदय-गम करेगी । उन पर सख्ती से अमल करेगी ।

श्री मधुसूदन बैराले : (अकोला) : सभापति महोदय, इस सदन के समक्ष जो विधेयक प्रस्तुत किया गया है, उसके पीछे जो भावना है, मैं उससे शतप्रतिशत सहमत हूँ । मैं माननीय सदस्यों का ध्यान इस बात की तरफ आकृष्ट करन चाहता हूँ कि इस बिल पर विचार करते हुए दो पहलुओं का ध्यान रखना चाहिए । एक पहलू तो इस बिल में साफ-साफ लिखा है : जिन किसानों के पास-पांच एकड़ इरिगेटिड लैंड या दस एकड़ ड्राई लैंड है, उनकी तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए ।

मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर पांच और दस एकड़ के फर्क को थोड़ी देर के लिए अलग ही रख दिया जाए, तो इस मुल्क के काश्तकारी के क्षेत्र में एक बुनियादी सवाल यह है कि जिन किसानों की खेती को पानी मिलता है और जिनकी खेती सूखी है, उनमें ही अंतर बढ़ा जा रहा है। जिन किसानों की खेती को पानी नहीं मिल सकता है और जिन्हें साल भर आसमान से बरसने वाली बारिश पर अवलम्बित रहना पड़ता है, उनके लिए खेती एक बहुत मुश्किल मसला बन गया है। वे लोग साल में सिर्फ एक फसल उगा सकते हैं। उनका सीजन सिर्फ चार महीने का होता है और आठ महीने उनको दूसरा कोई काम नहीं होता है।

मैं कृषि मंत्री जी का ध्यान ड्राई लैंड वाले किसानों की तरफ आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। वे लोग साल में सिर्फ एक फसल लेते हैं। आप कल्पना कर सकते हैं कि जिन लोगों की साल में ड्राई कल्टिवेशन में एक फसल होती है, वे साल भर अपना गुजारा कैसे कर सकते हैं। इस लिए इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि उन्हें दो तरह से मदद दी जाए। एक तो इस बात की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाये कि उनकी खेती में से ज्यादा पैदावार कैसे हो, और दूसरे, जो अनाज वे उत्पन्न करते हैं, उसके उचित दाम उन्हें मिले।

जिस राज्य से मैं आता हूँ महाराष्ट्र वहाँ अधिकतर कल्टिवेशन ड्राई लैंड पर होती है। वहाँ एक योजना बनी थी, जिसमें बताया गया था कि 2800 करोड़ रुपये चौदह साल में खर्च करने के बाद भी स्टेट में सिर्फ 26 परसेंट जमीन इरिगेटिड हो सकती है। इसका मतलब यह है कि बाकी की जमीन ड्राई रहने वाली है और हमारे मुल्क में ड्राई जमीन

का मसला कृषि संरक्षण के सामने एक बड़ा कठिन मसला है। ऐसा मैं मानता हूँ। एक ही इलाज है। उन को जो दाम दिये जाते हैं वह देते वक्त उन को अच्छे दाम दोजिये। लेकिन जहाँ तक मैं समझता हूँ जो उन की फसल पर खर्च होता है उतना दाम उन्हें मिलता नहीं है। मैं उदाहरण के तौर पर सिर्फ एक क्राप का जिक्र करूँगा जिसे काटन कहते हैं। कपास का हाल यह है कि काटन की परचेज प्राइस और फिनिशड प्राइस की प्राइस में इतना अन्तर पड़ जाता है कि शायद एक एक मीटर पर दस-दस रुपये का मार्जिन होता है ऐसा मुझे शक होता है यदि कपास की कोमत एक क्विंटन की 400 रुपये होती है, उस के हिस्से से निकाला जाय तो 9.65 के० जी० के लिए जिस में से सौ मीटर कपड़ा बनता है उसकी कोमत 144 रुपये 56 पैसे होती है, उस हिस्से से जब कपड़ा एकल-मिल निकलता है तो उस को कोमत 22 रुपये 99 पैसे होने चाहिए लेकिन वह 40,45 और 50 के ऊपर हो जाती है यह फसला क्यों रहता है इस का जवाब आज तक मुझे नहीं मिल पाया।

मैं सिर्फ इस तरफ इतना ही ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूँगा कि जो सूखी खेती करते हैं उनकी समस्या दिन प्रति दिन बढ़ती जा रही है दस एकड़ में से कोई भी पांच आदमी की फैमिली साल में एक फसल ले कर और आठ महीने खेती को खाली रखकर जिन्दा नहीं रह सकता। इसलिए इसका एक ही इलाज है, जैसा कि बिल के एम्स एंड आब्जेक्ट्स में बताया गया उनको दूसरा कोई उद्योग उपलब्ध कराने का प्रबन्ध कर दिया जाय जब तक उन्हें दूसरा एम्प्लायमेंट नहीं दिया जाता तब तक उनके लिए अपनी जीविका निर्वाह करना कठिन है वह उद्योग जानबूरे धालने का हो या दूध का हो या जिसे

[श्री मधुसूदन वैराले]

हम एग्रीकल्चर बेल्ड इंडस्ट्री कह सकते हैं, वह उन को जब तक नहीं दी जाती तब तक इस मुल्क में उन का जिन्दा रहना बहुत मुश्किल होगा।

इस बिल के निमित्त से मैं सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित करना चाहूंगा कि इस मुल्क के अंदर मेजारिटी आफ कल्टीवेटर्स जो सूखी खेती करते हैं जिन को साल में एक ही फसल लेने का मौका मिलता है उन की आर्थिक हालत की तरफ ज्यादा से ज्यादा तज्जुह देने की आवश्यकता है। उन आवश्यकता को यह बिल स्वीकृत करके पूरा करते हैं या नहीं, यह दोषम महत्व का प्रश्न है ऐसा मैं मानता हूं प्रथम महत्व का प्रश्न यह है कि इस मतले पर सरकार विचार करने के लिए और खास ध्यान देने के लिए तैयार है या नहीं। जहां तक मैं समझता हूँ। कांग्रेस सरकार की यह नीति रही है और आज तक महतारी आन्दोलन के द्वारा हम ने इन किसानों की ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद करने की कोशिश की है लेकिन अब इसका मौका आया है आज तब हम जानते मदद करते हैं वह सहायनीय है, कृषि मंत्रालय के हम उन के लिए आभारी है। लेकिन अब वक्त आया कि इससे भी ज्यादा मदद की जाय और उसमें कृषि उद्योग से भरपूर ऐसा एक नया कार्यक्रम दिया जाय। यह कार्यक्रम यदि नहीं दिया गया तो आप ने देखा कि ये सूखी खेती करने वाले लोग ज्यादा से ज्यादा शहरों की ओर जा रहे हैं, शहरों की आबादी बढ़ती जा रही है और वहां उन्हें कोई काम धन्धा नहीं मिल पाता।

इसलिए मैं ज्यादा दका न लेता हुआ सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर आकषित करना चाहूंगा कि जो सूखी खेती करते हैं उन को हम सेल्फ सफिशियेट स्व-निर्भर नहीं कर सकते हैं। वे स्व-निर्भर नहीं रह

गए हैं। इसलिए आवश्यकता है कि सरकार उनकी तरफ ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान दे। जो साल में तीन चार फसलें लेते हैं उनके मुकाबिले में जो सिर्फ एक ही फसल साल में ले सकते हैं। वे सरकार की सहायता मिलने के ज्यादा हकदार हैं, यह मैं इस बिल के सम्बन्ध में बोलते हुए बतलाना चाहता हूँ मुझे उम्मीद है कि सरकार इस ओर ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान देगी और सूखी खेती करने वाले किसानों के सवालाल को हल करने में ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद करेगी। धन्यवाद

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad that a number of hon. friends have taken part in the debate. I am very grateful to Mr. Lakkappa who has brought this Bill before this august House for consideration. Today also Shri Madhusudan Varirale, Shri Harish Rawat, Shri Jagpal Singh and Shri R.P. Yadav have made many valuable suggestions. Though it is not possible for me to deal with all the points raised by the hon. Members, I have noted down all the suggestions made here, and these suggestions will receive the due consideration of the Government.

Hon Member Shri Lakkappa has moved that the 'Small Farmers Assistance Bill' providing for the grant of loans and subsidies to small farmers be considered for enactment by this House. The Bill states that at present small farmers are faced with financial problems and are finding it difficult to secure loans to meet the cost of farming operations and to sell their produce at remunerative prices. The Bill seeks to help the small farmers in regard to their financial and marketing requirements.

At the outset I would like to say that the Government appreciates the sentiments behind the Bill and is very much alive to the problems and needs of the small farmers and other weaker sections of the society.

As the House is aware, the Prime Minister has repeatedly given expression to the Government's resolve to deal sympathetically and speedily with the problems of farmers. Over the years, several steps have been taken to improve the availability of resources to small and marginal farmers to enable them to undertake viable productive economic activities. The Small Farmers' Development Agency, as you know, has now been merged with the more comprehensive Integrated Rural Development Programme which has been extended to all Blocks in the country with effect from 2nd October, 1980. As I have stated yesterday also, a massive amount of Rs. 1500 crores has been provided for this programme in the Sixth Five-Year Plan and this will be supplemented by institutional finance, the quantum of which, we hope, should be three to four times of the provision for subsidy. In the Sixth Plan, besides the IRDP, several other programmes, as the hon. Members know, like the National Rural Employment Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme and the Desert Development Programme have been included to meet the economic and infrastructure requirements of small farmers and other weaker sections of the society. Large outlays have been provided for all these programmes, and the total public sector investment in the rural development sector during the Sixth Plan will be nearly Rs. 5000 crores in addition to an investment of about Rs. 6,000 crores in the agricultural sector. The Government is also fully conscious of the important role that financial institutions have to play in the upliftment of the weaker sections. Many banking practices and procedures have been relaxed and simplified to ensure quicker and larger flow of institutional finance to small and marginal farmers.

However, Sir, there are complaints of difficulties still being faced in the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers. We do not deny that the small and marginal farmers are not facing any difficulty. I do appreciate the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members of both sides of the House.

Steps are being taken to rectify the situation. It is expected that agricultural credit advances by cooperative and commercial banks will reach the level of Rs. 5,415 crores in 1984-85 as compared to the anticipated achievement of Rs. 2,550 crores in 1979-80. The programmes and measures which I have outlined will, I hope, re-assure the hon. Members of the Government's commitment to the welfare of small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections of the society.

In the course of the discussion on the Bill, hon. Members have raised many important issues and have made valuable suggestions, all of which will receive the Government's earnest consideration. I will now attempt to deal with some of these points separately. Mr. Lakkappa and several other hon. Members have pointed out that flow of credit to small farmers is not satisfactory. I would submit before the House that the position is that Government is fully aware of the need to direct credit towards the weaker sections of rural society, which includes small and marginal farmers. Based on the recommendations of a Working Group set up in March, 1980 to report on the modalities for the implementation of the 20-Point Programme banks have now been asked to ensure that 50 per cent of the advances in agriculture go to small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers by 1983. The Government has decided that by 1985, 40 per cent of the total lending by public sector banks should go to the priority sector as against the earlier target of 33-1/3 per cent. As a result of reorientation of policies and procedures, short and medium term loans advanced by the cooperative credit structure to small farmers, as a percentage of total lending to the agricultural sector rose from 27.8 per cent in 1973-74 to 40 per cent in 1977-78. In the case of the commercial banks, the increase in agricultural lending to small marginal farmers was from 28.1 per cent to 38.4 per cent at the end of March, 1979. Out of the total outstanding loans of Regional Rural Banks amounting to Rs. 168.4 crores at the end

[Shri Baleshwar Ram]

of March 1980, an amount of Rs. 148.4 crores that is, 88 per cent had been advanced to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers etc. The Sixth Plan, that is, 1980—85. . . .

PROF. N. G. RANGA: What is the number of small and marginal farmers to whom credit is given?

SHRI BALESHWAR RAM: I am coming to that.

The Sixth Plan 1980—85 contemplates effective credit planning involving earmarking of credit for various categories of the rural poor.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of bank branches in rural and semi-urban areas. As on 30-6-1980 commercial banks had 15,101 rural and 8,078 semi-urban branches; of these 2,735 branches were of Regional Rural Banks. The process of branch expansion in rural areas will continue.

Now, I am coming to Prof. Ranga's point.

Loans to the extent of Rs. 140.95 crores spread over 20,85,407 borrowal accounts had been advanced till 31-12-1979 under the Differential Rate of Interest Scheme with rate of interest of 4 per cent.

The Government of India has decided to establish the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development which will function as an apex refinancing institution for agricultural and allied activities.

Sir, Sarvashri Sudhir Giri, Jaipal Singh Kashyap and Viridhi Chand Jain during the course of the debate made two suggestions regarding rate of interest on loans to small and marginal farmers. One suggestion is that interest-free loans should be provided to small and marginal farmers. The other suggestion is that all loans to small and marginal farmers should be at Differential Rate of Interest scheme rates, that is, 4 per cent. I would like to point out that small and marginal

farmers are already being given loans at concessional rates of interest as compared to other farmers. It would greatly affect the viability of credit institutions if all small and marginal farmers were to be given interest-free loans or even loans at 4 per cent rate of interest.

Several hon. Members pointed out about inadequacy of marketing and communication facilities in the rural areas. For putting an end to various marketing malpractices the Government of India has been insisting on the setting up of regulated markets. Almost all the States have enacted legislation for regulated markets. The few remaining States and Union Territories are also being persuaded to do so.

The Government of India provides assistance to the State Government for creation of facilities like auction platforms, office, godowns, drinking water facilities etc. in selected regulated markets, terminal markets for fruits and vegetables, rural primary markets and wholesale markets in backward areas.

We also have a scheme for establishing a national grid of rural godowns for agricultural produce. The main objectives of the scheme are—

- (1) prevention of distress sale;
- (2) ensuring remunerative prices and easy credit to farmers.

For the period, 1980—85 an outlay of Rs. 17.50 crores has been proposed for the purpose.

Creation of an effective rural roads network is one of the important components of the Minimum Needs Programme. The Government of India has decided that all the villages having a population of over 1500 and 50 per cent of the villages having a population between 1000 and 1500 will be connected by all weather roads by the end of 1990 and 50 per cent of this target will be achieved during Sixth Plan period 1980—85, for which a provision of Rs. 1165 crores has been made.

Shri Lakkappa and Shri R. L. P. Verma referred to the Agricultural Prices Commission and said that there are no representatives of farmers. As hon. Members are aware, the APC is an Advisory body. As per the terms of reference the APC has to make recommendations for evolving a balance in the integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall need of the economy, safeguarding the interests of both the producer and the consumer.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): The consumer is getting the upper hand all the time.

SHRI BALESHWAR RAM: Before making recommendations the APC obtains information on various cost aspects from State Governments and other interests. The Commission also holds meetings with the representatives of various State Governments, farmers' associations and other interests (*Interruptions*) and labourers also, before making a recommendation of price policy for a particular commodity to the Government.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: One Randhir Singh is not enough!

SHRI BALESHWAR RAM: As I said, the APC is only an advisory body and the final decision regarding the pricing policy is taken by the Government. As hon. Members are aware, the minimum support price of wheat that the Government has recently announced is higher than what was recommended by the APC itself.

At present, the APC has four members and one of the members is a representative of the farmers and consumers. Chaudhuri Randhir Singh is there. (*Interruptions*) This is the present position. Sarvashri Mool Chand Daga and Girdhari Lal Vyas said that the benefit of crop insurance scheme has not been provided to farmers. I would like to clarify

the position. A detailed plan has been drawn up in this regard. A pilot crop insurance scheme has been in operation in the States of Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal since 1979-80. The proposals for extending this scheme to a few more States during the Sixth Plan are under consideration of the Government. A provision of Rs. 20 crores has been made in the Sixth Plan for crop insurance. You know this is a very big scheme. There are various difficulties involved and it is not possible to cover the whole of the country under the scheme and that is why pilot projects are undertaken. So, I have to bring this point for the information of the House. Then, Sir, Mr. Sidnal and some other friends said that Government must constitute some engineering group who should go round and mark places where underground water is available and open dug wells should be dug there. The Central Ground-Water Board, is the apex body for the groundwater investigations, exploration and evaluation and they are carrying out systematic hydro-geological surveys and exploratory drilling in various parts of the country. In addition to this, the State Governments have their own ground water organisations which are doing detailed surveys and development of ground-water. There is a centrally-sponsored scheme to assist the State Governments to strengthen these organisations. Since the work of exploration and surveys is being done by the Central Ground-water Board and the State Governments as I have stated earlier, it is not considered necessary or practicable to form an Engineering Group to go round and mark places where ground-water is available, and dug wells.

Now, Shri Rajagopal Naidu and Shri Chintamani Panigrahi have stated that Government should provide funds for the development of land to allottees of banjar and ceiling land. I have to submit for the information of the honourable House

[Shri Baleshwar Ram]

that the Central Government and the State Government provide assistance to the tune of Rs. 1,000 per hectare as grant to the allottees of ceiling surplus land to make the land productive. So far, Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 15 crores had been provided to the State Governments. There is a provision of Rs. 60 crores for the scheme in the Sixth Five-year Plan. The question of extending the scheme to areas excluded from its scope is under consideration. Due to constraints of resources it will not be possible at present to extend the scheme to allottees of land other than ceiling surplus land. At present the position is this.

The State Governments are not in a position to provide financial assistance to the land owners who have got surplus lands. Due to the financial constraints, it is not possible at present to provide financial assistance for 'banjar land' and all that. This is the position.

Again Mr. P. Rajagopal Naidu and Mr. Jaipal Singh Kashyap have mentioned that unless subsidiary industries are taken up by the small farmers, they will not be able to become economically strong and self sufficient. This is a very good point and I do agree with these views. There is no doubt about it that these ancillary industries should be set up for small and marginal farmers because they are living below the standard.

In the I.P.D. programme there is an industry, services and business component. It is expected that every year 10 lakh families of the rural poor, mainly under the rural artisans sector, would be benefited under the programme. Apart from this the national scheme of Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment provides to equip the youth with technology to enable them to be self-employed. An amount of Rs. 480 crores has been provided to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in

the Sixth Five Year Plan for promoting Khadi and Village industries which will provide employment to 50 lakh persons by the end of Sixth Plan as against 29 lakh persons at present.

Mr. K. Lakkappa and Mr. Rajagopal Naidu and some other friends pointed out that the Government of India must constitute a high-level body to go into the problems of poor farmers. In this connection I would like to submit that the Sixth Five Year Plan places great emphasis on the alleviation of poverty. Major elements of the Plan strategy in this regard include programmes for transfer of assets, skills and technologies to the identified rural poor, employment generation programmes for wage employment and self employment, and a vastly expanded minimum needs programme. In order to consider various aspects of these programmes, an expert group has been set up in the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, Member, Planning Commission, who is a renowned scientist and a very eminent person. In view of the above, it may be necessary to set up another high-level committee.

I would also like to deal with two important issues arising from the Bill. The Bill also proposes the setting up of cooperative societies for rendering assistance to small farmers for marketing their produce. I would like to mention that the cooperative sector is already helping small farmers in this regard. There are at present 3370 primary marketing societies including 550 special commodity marketing societies organised at mandi level. 173 central marketing societies (excluding cane supply societies) mainly at the district level, 27 apex marketing federations at the State level and national agricultural cooperative marketing federation operating through 31 branches at the national level. Special cooperative organisations have also been established to meet the special needs of tribals.

The Bill defines 'Small Farmers' as one whose extent of agricultural land is 10 acres or less of 'dry' land or 5 acres or less of 'wet' land. As per the definition adopted for the IRB programme, a small farmer is cultivator with a land holding of 5 acres or below. According to the last agricultural census (1970-71), there were about 70 million operational holdings, of which about 50 million were holding upto 2 hectares. Out of 70 million, 50 millions are either small farmers or marginal farmers. With the administrative and financial resources available since the introduction of SFDA in 1969-70 we have been able to assist so far only about 1 million families per year. It would be necessary to assist farmers having less than two hectares first before considering, extending the present facilities to farmers holding ten acres as suggested in the Bill. Our anxiety is to first assist the poorest among the poor; therefore, it is not appropriate to bring farmers holding 10 acres of land with the small farmers category.

As I have already indicated the Government has taken a number of steps to resolve the difficulties faced by small farmers and other weaker sections in the matter of financing their economic activities and selling their produce at remunerative price. Of course, the Government is aware of the fact that much more remains to be done. The Government will, therefore, continue its efforts in this directions and will keep the position under constant review. I would, therefore, earnestly request the hon. Member, Shri Lakkappa to withdraw the Bill with the leave of the House.

With these words, I conclude and I am very thankful to you for giving me this much time.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I am very happy that my hon. friends and colleagues from both the sides who participated in the debate on my Bill, *Small Farmers Assis-*

ance Bill, have widely appreciated and supported the principles contained in this Bill. I had introduced this Bill in this House and had sought the blessings of this House, so that we ameliorate the condition of these poor people.

In this context, I would like to state that we have to see to the condition of the small farmers and the situation prevailing in the country as also have to keep in view the socio-economic changes that are taking place in the case this vulnerable unorganised sector of small farmers and marginal farmers.

The reply given by the hon. Minister indicates that the Government is very keen in this regard. Our leader has taken a lead in introducing the land reforms. Of course, my friends opposite were telling that the Bill has been brought about in order to shed crocodile tears. It is not crocodile tears, it is not for sentimental sake. It is the real problems of the farmers, that have compelled me to bring this Bill and focuss the attention of this House to this. I know who are the people who shed crocodile tears. They came to power, but ran away lock, stock and barrel. They were entrusted with the responsibility, but they could not run the Government and ran away. The magnitude of the problem has to be understood by this House, the sovereign body. This issue has been discussed many times. An hon. Member has quoted certain figures. In this context, I would also like to quote certain decisions and conclusions drawn very recently by the Estimates Committee. It gave out the situation that has prevailed in this country and the resources mobilisation and the pattern of distribution to the small and marginal farmers of this country. The Estimates Committee of Parliament in its Report. The Action Taken by the Government on its earlier recommendations regarding credit facilities for the weaker sections, has deplored

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

what is called the back-flow of bank resources from the rural to the urban areas. Eighty per cent of the representatives both in the Legislatures and in this August body are backed by these poor farmers and marginal and landless farmers, who are unorganised and belong to vulnerable sections. They demand the sovereign body to assure them their due facilities which are not being given to them and are being given to the other 10 or 20 per cent of the people who are in the organised sector.

The Opposition tried to exploit the Kisan Rallies that had been taken out. Instead they should have come together to find out the real solutions and to ameliorate conditions of these poor farmers who are unorganised and who are victims of violence and other things in the country. It is the first time in the history that our Government and our leader has brought about a revolutionary change in the land reforms and with the 20-point programme brought about socio-economic changes in this country. In view of these it is necessary for our Government to see that follow up actions are taken to see that the resources and funds are made available to the 80 per cent of the people who come in the unorganised sector i.e. the poor and marginal farmers.

The Committee has correctly underlined the major distortion in the present pattern of sectoral distribution of resources and stressed that equal importance must be given to the proper deployment of resources among different sections of the population in the rural areas, an aspect which is generally ignored. It is necessary for the banks to step up their advances for the agricultural and other productive purposes in the villages and improve the credit-deposit ratio of their rural branches. They have also to ensure that the

borrower belongs to the desired category. Any laxity in this regard would lead to appropriation of the facility by the well-off sections as has been the case over the years. This is the situation that prevailed in this country. The Hon. Minister has stated certain figures. I would like to say that the simple demand from all sections of the House even during the discussion of the Budget and also on agricultural demand was that the crop insurance has to be organised. The Report has clearly stated that only Rs. 20 crores have been earmarked and it will not cover even two per cent of the farmers. Today the farmer is gambling in the Monsoon and the vagaries of nature. Moreover, there are several categories of farmers in existence in India. It is because of the lack of these facilities which we should provide that in certain areas, including the Rayalaseema belt, the entire population of the farmers does not have even three months of agricultural work. Reason is everything is seasonal in agriculture. To-day, even in such horrid zones, no programmes have been provided, even though we have taken steps as per what the plan envisages, and even though credit facilities have been provided for. To-day, there is no single agency to provide facilities to the farmers—small and marginal. The cooperative sector is providing loans to-day, not to the farmers, but to the traders. The traders are grabbing the major portion of loans given through societies. It has been stated by the Estimates Committee that a major portion of the money allocated for the farmers, has been taken away by people in the urban areas.

17 hrs.

With wide disparities in the rural sector no facility provided for its development can reach the weaker sections in the required measure without special efforts to pursue this

objective, and bank credit cannot be an exception to this rule. It is only when the pattern of land ownership has been radically transformed, that this special effort can be dispensed with. The emphasis the Committee has laid on the deployment of funds generated in these areas largely on their development will, no doubt, evoke considerable and justified criticism. While it is important that the requirements of these areas are properly met, how can they be allowed to pre-empt the surpluses arising from their development only for their growth, without detriment to national interests?

This is a very important document which has been discussed. The data finding committee has come to the conclusion that the entire system of releasing loans by these banking institutions is not properly organized. It is not enough that we allot funds at the national level. We should see that the funds percolate through these agencies in a proper manner. Therefore, we have to see that the provision of loans and facilities to small and marginal farmers is organized in a proper manner by the existing agencies.

Our friend has stated that he has allocated funds to different sectors. He has said that the Plan envisages allocation of Rs. 5 crores for this purpose. But it is distressing to see how the money provided to these institutions has been spent. I hope the hon. Minister will understand the significance of this.

The Working Group on integrated rural development made a quick assessment of the achievements and the impact of this programme, whose report identified 130.56 lakhs of small and marginal farmers in the project area. As against this, the number of beneficiaries was estimated to be only 9.95 lakhs. It came to about 10 per cent of the small and marginal farmers identified.

So, there is a step-motherly attitude even to-day. The bureaucracy which functions at the head of these institutions is also not helpful to the poor farmers. Even the banking system which has to provide facilities through these agencies has to be streamlined. It must also be seen that the rules and regulations governing the payment of instalments which obstruct easy flow of money to kisans, are suitably modified.

Similarly, the cooperative societies at the lower level are not providing any facilities. Different categories have been envisaged. Even in States the facilities to be provided to the farmers have been divided into various categories. The cooperative banks are not functioning in consonance with the national plans, and the benefits which were planned to be given, have not been given to the farmers. It varies from State to State, as far as the small farmers and the marginal farmers are concerned. Even a proper evaluation has not been made. These small and marginal farmers in the dry area have no employment. Therefore, I want to know whether any financial institutions has come forward to organise an agro-based industry to meet the situation. 80 per cent of the farmers' sons are not only unemployed but they have become anti-social elements because they have no work for 9 months in a year. Therefore, it is very necessary that the plans prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture and the facilities and the advances given by these banking institutions are properly organised and channelled. It is very necessary for the Ministry to see that all the agencies should work properly and help the small farmers, the marginal farmers and the agricultural labour. They should be organised at the Government level to see that these facilities are not exploited by the middle men, to see that these facilities are not exploited by bureaucrats, to see that these facilities are not exploited by any other class. They are the people who are the backbone of this country, who are not only the supporters of the democracy but also the protectors

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

of the democracy and the functioning of the democratic system.

The opposition is taking advantage out of this and they want to exploit them for their own political purposes and other purposes. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that, whatever we have envisaged in the plan, it is properly organised through a single agency.

We are asking for a separate fund for agriculture. A separate fund has to be created at the national level. This agricultural fund has to percolate through a single agency. Which should function properly throughout the country. This is a simple thing that has been envisaged in this Bill so that the small and marginal farmers should get not only benefits in a proper manner but they are not exploited by any other agency in this country also.

Therefore, it is very necessary that all the States should be instructed in this respect. The Central Government has also to see that a high level body consisting of Members of Parliament should also be there. Various suggestions and methods which have been suggested by several members in this House have to be respected in letter and spirit.

My friends have mentioned about APC. It has been working for a long time, but it has not represented the real character of the kisans in this country. No small farmer has been represented in the APC. The other day, I was speaking on the subject. It is only the bureaucrats who operate it, calculate its economy and other things. It is controlled by the bureaucracy. I am glad that the Minister has understood that. I am also glad that the Government has taken steps in this direction. Mr. Swaminathan, our eminent scientist is going to investigate all these things. I want to know whether the hon. Minister has any responsibility to see

that the Members of Parliament should also represent the kisans and the organised sector should also be included, including the opposition. I do not mind about their inclusion. There is no politics involved so far as kisans are concerned. Absolutely, there is no politics. If they want to involve politics in this, it means they want to exploit the innocent farmers. When once the innocent farmers understand what our Government policy is and when these finances percolated to the farmers than they will understand that that they cannot be exploited any more, they will be satisfied. Therefore, under these circumstances, the reply given by the hon. Minister is not a very interesting reply. It is not an encouraging reply even. And Members have suggested—many of them have varied experience in this field—building of infrastructure, building of roads, digging of wells, giving easy instalments even for digging wells etc. The Government has to organise the documentation system, survey system and even the structure and the characteristics of the soil of the various States and how the people, the farmers, the kisans are living in the rural areas and how their agricultural operations are going on and they do not have facilities for storage, they do not get remunerative price, marketing facilities. All these things are allied subjects. Also, horticulture and the agro-based industries have to be organised. Even banks are not giving loans. There are no banks in rural areas. Special Banks have to be organised to look after the problems of the Kisans. Therefore, I would like to stress this point and explain this point. I hope that the hon. Minister would agree with me I want to say that he must give a categorical assurance. All these problems concerning the small farmers and as far as the problems pertaining to the various developmental activities and welfare activities of kisans are concerned, we want a categorical assurance so that he will take these farmers—this unorganised sectors—into confidence and

to see that 80 per cent of the budget allocation of the various sectors, whether it is for industries, or railways or transport or power, will be incorporated in one single agency and the money allotted by all the financial institutions should percolate through that one single agency and it should be streamlined to meet the challenge. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to give a categorical assurance. Then only I may be able to withdraw the Bill. Unless he gives such an assurance I cannot withdraw the bill, because it is appreciated by one and all and there are no politics involved in this and even the Opposition is agreeable to these things. Our Government has taken many steps. Our Government has got abundant faith in the small farmers. Lot of schemes are envisaged for allocation of funds.

Therefore, this agency should be created to meet the challenge. I had brought this Bill on these principles and I hope and trust the hon. Minister would give not only an assurance but see that it is implemented in letter and spirit of these principles.

SHRI BALESHWAR RAM: I have already replied to most of the points raised by Mr. Lakkappa in my speech. I had mentioned earlier that Rs. 5,000 crores have been provided for rural development and Rs. 6,000 crores for the agricultural sector in the Sixth Five Year Plan. So, he did not notice that I had mentioned that Rs. 5,000 crores were allocated for the small farmers.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I had mentioned it.

SHRI BALESHWAR RAM: I have noted down the points. I must appreciate the sentiments expressed by Mr. Lakkappa.

I have replied to most of the points raised by him and I have noted down the rest. All the points raised by Mr.

Lakkappa will receive due attention of the Government. With these words, I would request Mr. Lakkappa to withdraw the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope you are withdrawing. Mr. Lakkappa, are you withdrawing?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the grant of loans and various subsidies to small farmers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I withdraw the Bill.

17.15 hrs.

PENSION BILL

SHRI V. N. GADGIL (Pune): Sir, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to provide for the grant of pension, gratuity, dearness and other allowances and benefits, payable by the Central Government to its employees or their dependents on retirement, voluntary or otherwise, or on the death of the Government servant and for other matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Sir, this Bill has a chequered history. An exactly similar Bill was introduced by me when I was a member of the other House. It was Bill No. 28 of 1973—word for word, the same Bill. Subsequently it lapsed on my becoming Minister of State. After the Janata Party came to power, again an exactly similar Bill was introduced by me in the other House. But the attitude of the Janata Party was

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.