

12.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

FOURTEENTH REPORT

SHRI BANSI LAL (Bhiwani):

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

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

THIRD REPORT

SHRI RAGHUNATH SINGH

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

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

(Interruptions)**

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

12.12 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

[Smt. Gurbrinder Kaur]

the surrounding areas and draw up both short-term and long-term plans for its early solution.

(ii) DRINKING WATER SUPPLY IN MADRAS

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR (Dindigul): Sir, the problem of augmenting drinking water supply in the cosmopolitan City of Madras is a matter of all-India importance and requires the attention of the Central Government for evolving a practical and viable scheme for its solution.

In this context it may be mentioned that the Veeranam Scheme was prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 28 crores, out of which Rs. 11 crores have already been spent.

It is, however, understood that instead of implementing this economical and practical scheme which would have brought the much-desired relief to the City of Madras, the authorities have prepared a highly inflated Kattalai Scheme at an estimated cost of Rs. 459 crores. Apart from the colossal financial implication, this would affect the agricultural production in the State, as it would take away valuable land. That is the reason why it has been opposed by the farmers of all sections.

I therefore call upon the Central Government to take interest in the problem of augmenting drinking water supply in Madras City and help the State Government to evolve and implement a practical and viable scheme in this regard.

(iii) MEASURES TO CREATE MORE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN WEST BENGAL

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, the problem of the unemployed in the State of West Bengal is so acute that all the developmental measures sponsored by the State Government will remain unimplemented unless the Central Government comes forward to step up their investment in the State for the establishment of new industrial units in the Central Sector. Therefore, the people of West Bengal are agitating

for the last few years for new Central Investment in West Bengal. And, for that purpose, I urge that the Central Government should set up a Major Ship Repair Complex, a Ship-building Yard at Haldia; expand the refining capacity of the Oil Refinery at Haldia, establish a coastal-based Steel Plant at Haldia, expand the steel-making capacity of the Durgapur Steel Plant, Alloy Steel Plant, Indian Iron and Steel Company; and establish new units in West Bengal by Bharat Electronics Ltd., the Central Chemical and Pharmaceutical units; and the Circular Railway in Calcutta. From a perusal of the Sixth Five-year Plan (1980-85) document of the Planning Commission which has been recently discussed at the meeting of the National Development Council held in New Delhi, it transpires that despite repeated requests, the demands of the State of West Bengal have not received due consideration.

For the last 14 years, except the Metro Railway, there were no major Central investment in West Bengal. Moreover, whatever Head Offices of the Central Government were there, uncalled for moves to shift Head Offices from West Bengal are going on. May I ask the Government why the whole Eastern Region is neglected by not giving proper attention to the problem? The highest number of educated unemployed is in West Bengal. But, what is the Central Government doing? Instead of solving the problems they are putting hurdles and interfering in the State matters—whether it is on the Food-for-work programme, or in the educational institutions.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to sanction the project considering the huge unemployment situation in the State of West Bengal.

(iv) REPORTED FALLING OF TREES IN DELHI

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT (Rajgarh): I wish to bring a serious matter of public interest to the notice of this august House and for quick action by the Government.