

SHRI JAGAT VIRSINGH DRONA (Kanpur)

: The following items may please be included in the next week's agenda.

1. Need to find out a solution to the problems faced by labourers and to remove unemployment being created By the closure of textile mills and other big industrial units, One after the other in the industrial city of Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motion, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

12.28 hrs.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1993-94

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand Nos. 1 to 4 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Hon. Members present in the House whose

Motion Moved

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column if the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1994, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 4 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture".

Demands for Grants- 1993-94 in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 30th March, 1993		Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3		4	
<i>Ministry of Agriculture</i>					
1	Agriculture	213,93,00,000	2,26,00,000	1113,37,00,000	12,49,00,000
2	Other Services of Dept of Agri. & Cooperation	36,21,00,000	34,35,00,000	188,48,00,000	171,72,00,000
3	Department of Agri. Research and Education	71,67,00,000	—	358,33,00,000	—
4	Department of Animal Husbandary & Dairying	61,46,00,000	29,10,00,000	307,56,00,000	145,52,00,000

MR. SPEAKER: Before I request the hon. Member Shri Rajveer Singh to initiate the debate, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that the Agriculture Minister was expecting that this Demand would come up for discussion on Monday. He had some special program to attend and he sought my permission and I have given the permission. The State Minister will be sitting here and taking notes. And I hope that the written statement will be made available to the Minister and he will go through that.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri)
: I beg to move :—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

/ Failure to reject Double proposals which suggest removal of subsidies and support prices for agricultural produce. / (39)

/ Failure to provide more funds for implementing crop Insurance Scheme. / (40)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

/ Need to provide fertilizer free of cost to the small, marginal and poor farmers. / (65)

/ Need to produce more oilseeds. / (66)

/ Need to provide pension to old farmers. / (67)

/ Need to provide funds for free and modern medical treatment to poor farmers. / (68)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agriculture Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

/ Need to establish a Palm Oil Research Centre at Jalpaiguri in West Bengal / (83)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Daring be reduced by Rs. 100."

/ Need to provide more funds for the devel-

opment of animal husbandry. / (88)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be Reduced to Re. 1. "

/ Failure to supply seeds to farmers in scheduled time. / (105)

/ Failure to declare support price of jute in due time. / (106)

/ Failure to supply fertilizer to farmers at cheap rates. / (107)

/ Failure to protect farmer from very low price of their agricultural products. / (108)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

/ Need to increase the support price of jute. / (111)

/ Need to supply fertilisers to farmers free of cost. / (112)

/ Need to protect the small farmers from beg landlords. / (113)

/ Need to declare the support price of jute before the raw jute comes in the raw jute market. (114)

/ Need to introduce old—age farmers pension. / (115)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa)
: I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

/ Failure to take effective steps to prevent possible harmful effects of Dunkel proposals on Indian Agriculture. (43)

/ Failure to guarantee remunerative prices to the farmers for their agricultural produce. / (59)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to undertake "Lab to Land" scheme. / (60)

/Failure to declare support price for raw jute. / (61)

/Failure to reject Kunkel proposals which suggest removal of subsidies on inputs and support prices for agricultural produce. / (62)

/Failure to provide old-age pension to the aged farmers. / (63)

/Failure to attain self-sufficiency in food grains and oil seeds production. / (64)

"That the demands under the Head department of Agriculture research and education be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendras at all districts of the country. / (80)

/Failure set up Betel Leaf Research Centre in West Bengal. / (81)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to provide subsidy on fertilizer to the poor and marginal farmers. / (117)

SHRI SOMANATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to protect the indigenous industry manufacturing agricultural implements and equipment's including tractors from unfair com-

petition from imported machinery and equipments. (74)

demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to grant adequate relief to victims of drought and famine conditions in Bihar, Orissa and other States. / (96)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100".

/Need to strengthen the nationalized banking system and particularly NABARD to extend facilities for agricultural credit to the small and marginal farmers. / (97)

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH YADAV (Shahjahanpur) : I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to give adequate remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. / (94)

/Failure to censure crop insurance scheme throughout the country. / (95)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to supply fertilizers to small and marginal farmers at subsidised rates. / (110)

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur) : I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100".

/Need to protect the indigenous industries manufacturing agricultural implements and equipment's including tractors from unfair competition from imported machinery and equipments. / (98)

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM
(Inneranipur): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Agricultural be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to give incentives to grow more variety of Chakhao, sweet smelling black rice' and to export it in large quantity./(101)

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK
(Durgapurpur): I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agricultural be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the district of bardhaman of West Bengal. (102)

/Failure to give fertiliser subsidy to small and marginal farmers./(109)

SHRI NRIMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum-
dum): I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agricultural be reduced to Re. 1."

/Failure to increase productivity in agriculture through adequate land reforms./(103)

/Failure to provide for adequate growth in agriculture in the Eastern Part of the country. / (104)

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): I
beg to move.—

"That the demand under the Head Agricultural be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to give minimum support price to the sugarcane growers./(118)

/Failure to ensure a minimum support price to paddy growers./(119)

/Failure to procure paddy at the harvesting

timer thereby forcing the peasants to sale at a lower rate./(120)

/ Failure to extend necessary help to the drought affected people of Orissa and Bihar. / (121)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agriculture Research and education be reduced by Rs. 100."

/Need to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendras at khuda and Nayagarh in Orissa.

/Need to establish an agricultural Implementations Training Centre for women at Khundra. / (123)

/Need to establish an Institute for sugarcane growers to impart scientific knowledge to them. / (124)

/Need to establish an institute for the study of Socio—Economic and geographic reasons for natural calamity and its remedy at sambalpur in Orissa. / (125)

/Need to establish a Fishermen Training Centre at Bhusandapur near Chalk Lake, Orissa. / (126)

/Need to establish a training centre for jute growers at pattamundies Orissa. / (127)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri):
I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agricultural be reduced to Re. 1.

/Failure to provide subsidy on fertilizer to the poor and marginal farmers/(130)

/Failure to give minimum support price to the sugarcane growers. / (131)

/Failure to ensure a minimum support price to paddy growers. / (132)

/ Failure to procure paddy at the time of harvesting, thereby forcing the peasants to sold at a lower price. / (13/4)

/ Failure of extend necessary help to the drought affected people of Orissa, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. / (134)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agricultural and Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

/ Need to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendras at Bramhagiri Pipli and Ranapur in Orissa. / (137)

/ Need to establish an Agricultural Implements Training Centre for women at Puri in Orissa. / (138)

/ Need to establish an Institute for sugarcane growers to impart scientific knowledge at nayagarh in Orissa. / (139)

/ Need to establish an Institute for the study of socio—economic and geographic reasons for natural calamity and its remedy in Orissa. / (140)

/ Need to establish a fisherman Training Centre at Puri in Orissa. / (141)

/ Need to establish a training centre for the jute growers at Kendrapada in Orissa. / (142)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajveer Singh to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) Mr. speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to start the discussion.

The Congress Government has always adopted such an agricultural policy which has

always been unfavorable to the farmers. Under this policy, the farmers and the agriculture has totally been neglected and since the formation of Government under the leadership of Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao the exploitation of farmers and agricultural labourers has increased. Their condition has worsened. They have been burdened by three things. On one hand, the prices of agricultural input such as, fertilisers seeds, electricity, water, pesticides and agricultural equipments have soared and on the other hand, they are not getting remunerative price on the capital they have invested as agricultural production cost. Besides these, natural calamities like hailstorm, frost, crop diseases and drought etc. have also affected the farmers resulting in financial loss to them. This has totally broken their back. A horrible situation of drought and hunger has occurred in a large part of the country. Not only this, but the prices of several crops have dropped. The price of tobacco has fallen from Rs. 38 to Rs. 12. There is the fall of Rs. 1600 in the prices of cotton and the worst affected is paddy last year, the Basmati paddy was sold at Rs. 1500/- per quintal and this year it was sold at such low rates as Rs. 350/- Rs. 400/- and Rs. 500/- per quintal. Then farmers have incurred heavy financial loss due to this reason. Similarly prices of wheat, Till and block mustard have also fallen.

12. 33 hrs

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, there is a ban on transporting agricultural produce from one part to other part of the country. During the last session, the hon. Minister had announced that this ban will be lifted, but it has not been done till now, the farmers are unable to take their produce to any part of the country. As a result of total neglect towards agriculture, the allocation given to this field has decreased from 4.2 per cent to 3.6 per cent in the annual plan outlay. For agriculture and co—operatives a provision of Rs. 3221.9 crores was made in the 1992—93 Gen-

eral Budget, but in the 1993—94 budget only Rs. 1715.9 crores have been provided. The allocation for National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is going down in every annual plan in comparison to the annual plan of 1992—93. Similarly, only 6 per cent amount has been provided for loans and electricity. There has been no considerable increase in it in the last year. This step of the government is totally unjustified towards the farmers and agriculture. The continuous decrease in the ground water level is also a matter of grave concern. Ever since the Congress Party has come to power, there has been 10 per cent difference between the estimated capacity and actual utilisation of irrigation potential. If this gap had been filled, it would have increased the food grain production. Not only our country would have become self-reliant in food grains, but it would have been also able to export then. Several big projects are laying pending and near about 70 per cent of land is deprived of irrigation. Same is the condition of forest areas also. Wherever there are Congress Governments, they have grossly violated the interests of farmers. The network of multinational companies are spreading in our country, which will create problems for the farmers. Their interests are being mortgaged in the hands of foreign powers. Due to this reason, the country is becoming dependent on others and it can jeopardise our political and social freedom.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is bad luck that our farmers are not organised today. But the day, they become organised they can revolt. Since the time this congress Government has been formed, it is not even ready to accept rightful demands. Unless such activities as sabotage, economic blockade and gherao are adopted, the Government is not able to understand the problem. So, I would like to the Government through you not to create so much problems for the farmers that they are compelled to revolt. They are already in much distress today and by bringing multinational companies in this area you are adding insult to injury. This has made the situation very pitiable.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my party and myself totally oppose the Dunkel Proposals. It is very regretful that this proposal has caused infighting among the cabinet members also. One of your Minister says that export of our country will increase with the acceptance of Dunkel proposals and another Minister says that such acceptance will destroy our country. So there is difference of opinion in the cabinet also. One Minister is opposing while another Minister is supporting the Dunkel Proposals. When there is so much differences of opinion in the cabinet itself, what right they have to remain in Government? One of the two Ministers should go. the Minister who is opposing his Government's policy should resign. If the Government is ready to accept the Dunkel Proposals, Shri Jakhâr should resign and if the Government is not accepting the proposals, Shri pranab Mukherjee should resign, as he was praising the proposals. One has to go. This should be decided. When the farmers resort to agitation for their demands, the entire Government will have to resign.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is severely affected by drought at present. Orissa, Bihar, Maharashtra and eastern part of Uttar Pradesh are affected by drought, but our Central Government decides everything in a hi—fi manner. The Prime Minister surveys a state for once and gives Rs. 10 crore, Rs. 20 crore or Rs. 50 crore. Then he goes to another state. Such hi—fi manner cannot solve the problem. There should be a permanent solution. Even after the 45 years of independence, the Government has not been able to control drought. Maximum rain water is wasted and there is no storage facility. How this will go on? This is an anti—farmer Government.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Andhra Pradesh is also severely affected by drought and the situation has come to such a pass that the farmers and agricultural labourers are forced to kill their own children. A child was killed by his mother. I can tell his name. Neither there is fodder nor water for the cattle. They are also in

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worse situation.

Mr., Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is just opposite in Karnataka. It is affected by floods, which has caused a lot of damage. On one hand, there is devastation due to heavy rains, on the other hand, there is sufferings due to drought.

When I was a small boy, I had heard a story from one of my elders. He told that when the ruler of any country is wrong—deer and corrupt, the country has to face drought. Some where there is heavy rains, drought, lands sliding or killings. It appears to me that the ruler, who is at the center, is atrocious, corrupt and wrong—deer and that is why the people of this country are facing so much problems... *Interruptions*) We have to do penance for their sins... *Interruptions*) When I say the truth, our Congress friends are greatly hurt.

This is happening only because of you. Even after the 45 years of independence, the Government has not prepared an agriculture policy. The industrial policy was formed in 1956, because the industrial houses held much influence over the Government. But I want to talk about the distress of the farmer. No such agriculture policy favoring the interests of the farmers has been formed till now... *Interruptions*) Neither our friends sit in the House nor listen to the proceedings and after that they say that agriculture policy has been formed. If it has been formed, give the detail... *Interruptions*). It is true that if we come to power, we will prepare all the policies including agriculture policy, pull out the country from all the crisis and will make it a dignified country in the world. When you are saying this yourself, are you waiting for us to come to power? ... *Interruptions*)

In the absence of agriculture policy, only 180 million tonnes of food grains has been produced in our country this year, after that too putting in a lot of efforts. We have no policy to increase the production. In the coming 6—7 years and by the year 2000, this country will need

200 to 220 million tonnes of foodgrains.

I have read the draft of the agriculture policy. I do not think that the hon. minister of Agriculture has paid any attention towards this problem. I would like to submit that this agriculture policy is unfavorable to the farmers. No facilities are being provided to them and agricultural inputs are being made costlier. In this way, injustice is being done to them. Such an agriculture policy should be formed, which favors the interests of the farmers and the country. 80 per cent population of this country are cultivators and the Government should think about them. Of this is not done, then 80 per cent population will resort to agitation, as I have said earlier also.

If such situation arises, it will not be proper for the country. we will be on the verge of starvation. There will be all ground scarcity. I will refer to famine later on. I have just now discussed about drought and flood. How long will we continue to depend on nature? I had also said earlier that our ancestors had brought rivers from mountains. But we have been badly failed even to utilise the water of those rivers properly even after 45 years of independence. When flood comes the water goes waste into the sea. sometimes ago, a scheme presented by Shri K. L. Rao, the hon. ex—Minister of Irrigation, it was mentioned therein that the Ganga should be linked with Godawri and a water grid be set up. It was a good scheme. The Government provides financial assistance of hundreds of crores of rupees to meet the crisis of drought and flood every year. That amount is disbursed too. Can a multi—purpose scheme not be formulated by the Government? The Government should set up the water grid and get it operated. Of it is operated, it will prove a remarkable source of eradicating unemployment. Lakhs and crores of labourers will get employment in this project.

Mr., Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 78 lakh hectare of land in Rajasthan, 59 lakh hectare in Maharashtra, 25 lakh hectare in Madhya Pradesh and more than 8 lakh hectare of land in Karnataka have been affected by drought. Shortage of water

in many areas of Gujarat is being experienced. The Government of Maharashtra requested the Central Government to provide Rs. 790 crore as drought relief but I feel that it has not been accorded to. What is the reason behind drought? I live in the village and realise its problems. The rivers have been flowing for the last hundreds of years. Flood comes in these rivers. What is the cause behind it. Has it been worked out? The Minister of Environment and Forests is present here. He repeatedly gives directions that trees should not be cut, but deforestation is being done constantly, the mountains have become naked. Plantation of new trees is not being done. With the result, when trees are cut, more soil submerges in the river with flow of water as there is no means of retaining the soil. It causes accumulation of silt in the river. As a result, the river end becomes shallow. If it rains a bit or flood comes, the water flows in the fields and houses and ruins the property and life. I hope that he will not do so because it is beyond his power. To save the billions of rupees of the country from wastage, big and small rivers should be desilted. Desilting will provide employment to the poor and give relief from flood also. We will get rid of flood for ever. The silt removed from river bed can be used for other purposes. The water will not be wasted here and there. It is an ambitious plan. If it is introduced, the Government will not have to donate billions of rupees in the name of financial assistance time and again. I don't want to mention the name of any State. Some states always remain interested only in getting relief funds either in the name of flood or in the name of drought. It has made them inefficient and inactive and they don't want to do any work. If you introduce a good scheme, people will get employment and it will pave the way of prosperity for the nation. I would like that the Government should ponder over my suggestion seriously.

Last year when there was hailstorm at the time of Holi festival the hon. Prime Minister had said in the House that this time Rabi crop was good. In response to his comments, I told that was heard that he was a big farmer and had maximum land holdings. We read in newspa-

pers that his land is being covered ceiling. Someone calls it a land scandal. Someone says that some thousand acre of land is under the possession of the Prime Minister. I don't know about it. But it appears to me that the Prime Minister does not know anything about the farmers. After Holi when I saw red clouds in the sky with thunder I remarked in this very House that there was likelihood of hailstorm and rains and it happened so. Crops in Maharashtra, M.P. and U.P. were hit by hailstorms and frost. 136 villages of two districts were ruined in M.P. It has caused loss to Dataganj in Badaun district and Binaural Legislative Assembly area. It destroyed the crops. As a result of it the people are on the verge of starvation. The Minister of Agriculture has assured us in this House that the Government will provide assistance to them. I would like to say that a meager amount of Rs. 200 or Rs. 250 or Rs. 500 as financial assistance to the victims will not serve their purpose. However even the same amount was not given to them. I don't know which committee will decide it. Hailstorm and frost hit the fate of farmers. There is no yardstick for giving assistance to them. If there is a loss of 10 quintal or 1 quintal or 100 quintals, Rs. 250/- is given as assistance. The Government should lay down some norms for it.

There is one remedy. Though I criticise it but give some constructive suggestions too. If you do not agree to my suggestions. Then you will be looser. To meet the crisis of hailstorms, frost and natural calamities why the crop insurance scheme is not being introduced. The Government has introduced collective crop insurance scheme. In case of individual loss, the farmer does not get anything. Until and unless the entire village comes under loss, an individual's loss is not considered. The Government says an interesting thing. If a motor is damaged in your city, it cannot be claimed unless all the motors of entire city are not damaged. Is it any rule being followed in General Insurance? Does it apply in the case of motor vehicle insurance? In the case of motor vehicle insurance, if a window is damaged, it is compen-

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sated and if the entire vehicle is theft, full insurance is given. But in the case of crop insurance, no claim will be paid unless the entire village suffers the loss. That is why I would like to say that individual crop insurance scheme should be introduced. The payment of his premium should be made from land revenue. Because the farmer is illiterate. He does not know the expiry date of his premium. He does not know as to when he has to deposit his premium. Thus, the Central Government or the State Government should take the responsibility of payment of his premium. The Government should introduce individual crop insurance scheme and take the land revenue as his premium.

Secondly, I would like to highlight one thing and I have already said it earlier two-three times. The Government spends billions of rupees on family planning. Slogans such as 'Do ya Teen Bus' 'Ham Do-Hamare Do' are raised. I support family planning. Along with family planning we should introduce agricultural planning. Today we are not having agricultural planning. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. State Minister in the Minister of Agriculture. That it is tendency of the Indian farmers that they grow the same crop as they consider it as profitable. When wheat is produced, it is produced everywhere. Some days ago the price of Basmati paddy was Rs. 1500 per quintal. It tempted farmers to grow paddy more and more. When the crop of paddy was reaped, its price went down for two reasons. The first was your inefficient policy. The Government banked on transportation of wheat from one state to another. The second reason was excessive production. It has caused reason loss to the farmer. The price of Basmati paddy was Rs. 350-500 per quintal which was sold at the rate of Rs. 1500 per quintal earlier. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to introduce agricultural planning. The planning of agriculture can be done. The Government should conduct a survey in this regard. The Government has its won Machinery from the level of

President of India to Chowkidar of Gram Sabha. The Population of the country is expected to be 80 crore or 90 crore or 100 crore in future. How much quantity of wheat, pulses, edible oil and vegetables would be required to feed this population. On the analogy of feeding the future population, should be decided as to how much hectare of land should be cultivated for growing wheat, paddy, sugarcane or other items. Without doing agricultural planning, the country, consumers and farmers will not be benefited. The farmers is a lay man. He does not know the tricks of the trade. Through you, I would like to request that the Government should consider it seriously.

Now I want to touch upon the weak points of the Government. This year an amount of Rs. 300 crores is outstanding against the Sugar Mills of U.P. because the mills did not pay the price of sugarcane to farmers. When our Government was there in U.P. and Shri Kalyan Singh was the Chief Minister, I am talking about M.P. alone. I am not referring to Madhya Pradesh and other States. My colleagues would tell about it and provide necessary statistics also about them.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): You will speak about opium.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: No. No- I will not speak about opium. I know that you in a great need of opium.... (Interruptions)..... We are under a spell of intoxication of patriotism whereas you under influence of foreign countries.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : There is more demand of opium in U.P.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Buta Singhji, you are an experienced person, you would definitely taken 'Bhang' when you were laying a foundation stone. 'Bhang' was being offered there.

SHRI BUTA SINGH: I am bringing it to your knowledge. What are you talking. Why do not

you feel angry.

SHRI RAJVEERSINGH: No, No-- I am not feeling angry.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in 1991 it was the Government of B.J.P. in U.P. and Shri Kalyan Singh was its Chief Minister. In the beginning of the season of sugar factories he declared that no sugar factory will run unless arrears are paid to the farmers. He had not allowed sugar factories to run. The Government of M.P. had shown courage and the entire payment was made to farmers. For their Sugarcane. Only then, sugar factories were allowed to run. Full payment was made. Shri Kalyan Singh would proved to be the first Chief Minister in India who had sent Sugar Mill owners to jail for not giving the price of sugarcane to the farmers.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): He is true to his name.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: He has worked for the welfare of farmers. Forgive me- when V.P. Singh was speaking at Ram Kola I had asked that he was habitual of taking Coca-Cola. The agitation at Ram Kola was not launched by farmers but by outsiders. The farmers did not have any arrears with the mills in Ram Kola... (Interruptions) You have mortgaged your mind. Therefore, you cannot understand it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, more than three hundred crore rupees of farmers are outstanding against the Sugar factories. But it is unfortunate that this amount is outstanding against the Government sugar factories. The amount is not outstanding against the private sugar mills. The private sugar mills can be serve warrants if they fail to make payments. But can warrants be served on the hon. Minister of State or the hon. Minister or Agriculture.

13.00 hrs

Can warrant be served on the Union Government? How can the arrears of the farmers be

recovered from them? The farmers are in a very miserable condition. Their arrears must be paid to them.

Sir, with regard to sugar I would like to make another submission that the Union Government has formulated a policy of delicensing and is also abolishing practice of issue licences. Through you, I would like to ask as to why sugar factories have not been delicensed? Today farmers are helpless and they have to sell their sugarcane to private crushers. For two reasons it is not in our interest. They do not get their price and the sugarcane is crushed in private crushers. It lower the production of sugar. The average production is less, and results in the loss to the country. We can make sugar with sugarcane, but if it is crushed in private crusher for the same yield we would require two or three times more quantity sugarcane. Thus would be a national loss. I, therefore, urge to delicense sugar factories and modernise, old factories whose average capacity has deminished. New Plants should be installed and it should be ensured that no sugar factory having a capacity of less than 2500 tons should is set up.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I cannot understand why the Central Government shows step motherly treatment to Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that if more sugarcane is produced and modern sugar mills are set up, we will not more have to import sugar. When sugar will not be imported the Public Accounts Committee won't have to work very hard. I have the report referring to a big sugar import scandal. Whenever sugar is to be purchased or imported there is always a big scandal. I would like to point out that this is the 45th Report of the Public Accounts Committee which states the Ministry of Food undertook an investigation into a tender on August 23, 1989. It is disappointing to note that at a crucial time when proposed was being made just during the introduction of the telex machine went out of order and the investigation proved futile. The committee do not agree with the reply of the Ministry at all that it had fixed or put the sealed

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locks to ensure that nobody meddles with the message. But when the seal was broken in the morning of the 25th August, it was found that paper role was missing in the night. The Committee are of the view that it gives the indication that the action was taken in a casual manner if not in evil manner... (Interruptions) Whenever import is made the bungling will take place... (Interruptions) It is the responsibility of the Government. Shri Salmanji, machines went out of order during your tenure only. This is the report and I do not know more and I would like to quote the report given by the P.A.C. "The Committee are of the view that if the officers concerned of the Ministry of Food had taken proper precautions, the gigantic wasteful expenditure in import could have been averted. The Committee strongly disapproves it and condemns the Ministry of Food for not chalking out viable plan and not making concrete efforts and for not adopting an coordinated approach on the issue of import. The Committee would like to emphasise that in view of the gravity of the issue a high level enquiry should be held through an independent agency to fix the responsibility for the delayed import of sugar and the financial loss suffered as a result thereof".

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have quoted from the report. Now the question is who made the import? Why it is done by the State Sugar Corporation and not by the State Trading Corporation? Why outsiders were invited? Why tenders were invited from independent suppliers? All such kinds of bungling are there. Whenever there has been any import, be it the import of wheat, of the Bofors guns, or that of the A.B.B. Engines, bungleings have been committed. Sometimes, it seems to me whether I should call this Government of my colleagues, the congress Government or the Bungling Government. There are bungleing everywhere. How many J.P.C. would beset up? The J.P.C. on Security Scam is yet to submit its report. In the meantime new scandals are taking place. Had there been no need of import, there would not

have been any scam and had there been no scams the money of the tax payers would not have been wasted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to demand the Government to raise the Production of sugarcane, provide facilities to farmers, pay their arrears and delicense the sugar factories so that new sugar factories may be set up and production of sugar may be increased in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was announced that wheat purchasing centers would be opened all over the country and wheat would be purchased from the farmers at the rate of Rs. 330 per quintal. But today purchasing centres have not been opened in more than half of the places and where these have been opened there are no sacks at those places. At some of the places there are no weighing machine and at some places where wheat has been purchased, the cheques issued to farmers are not being encashed by the Banks, there is no money. The farmer who pay commission, their cheques are encashed. I would like to state that if funds are not available, why purchasing centres have been opened? If the Government did not have the capability, why this drama was enacted. If the farmers take their wheat to the centre they do not find any weighing machine etc., and they have to come back with their load on bullock carts to their villages. At the place where wheat is purchased, cheques are not enacted. Such irregularities are taking place in purchasing centres. I want that the Government should investigate into these issues and improve the condition.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue of cash crop was raised here. Mentha Ferugreck is produced in large quantity in our area i.e. Bareilly, Badaun, Rampur, Moradabad, Pilibhit etc. and probably Farrukhabad district, Shri Salman might be knowing about it. At present neither there is latest machine available for its distilling, nor its rate has been fixed. The farmer is suffering. I would like to ask the hon. Minister

and the officials of the Ministry of Agriculture to collect information regarding the latest machines which have reached even in Taiwan. Fenue agree is very essential for the country. It can be exported and foreign exchange can be earned. It is used in medicines also. It is used in preparing medicines like vicks and other cough drugs. The latest technique should be imported for this. The condition of farmers is very miserable. There are some more crops like coriander Seed, Isabgol, Asgandh whose export can earn foreign exchange. But no attention is being paid to those crops. Attention need be paid to it. Today the grapes-cultivators are in a very bad condition. Grapes are being sold at the rate of Rs. 3 per kilogram in Punjab and Haryana, but if you go to Krishi Bhawan, you will have to purchase it at the rate of Rs.5 per kilogram. The consumers are provided at higher prices. The main reason behind the deterioration of the economy of the country is that the producers do not get remunerative price and consumers have to purchase it at higher price. The middlemen make money. Attention has to be paid to this aspect.

The recent hailstorm and downpours have adversely affected several crops. Just now my hon. Colleague was talking about opium. The area under opium has diminished by 50 to 80 per cent. The cultivators won't get license for the next year and they would be called thieves. Opium is the source of Foreign Exchange earning. This too needs to be considered.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: I am very much fond of the seeds of opium.

SHRI RAJVEERSINGH: The opium seeds and poppy sees are very much liked by people. In Bengal its husk along with poppy seeds is boiled with tea which causes intoxication.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: I have told that he is interested in opium-seeds whereas I am interested in poppy seeds.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, I would like to speak something regarding fertilizer. It has become costlier now a days. In 1950-51 its consumption was 0.69 metric tonne which has reached upto 135 million metric tonne in 1991-92. The use of fertilizer has gone up because the agricultural production has increased. Our Government has withdrawn subsidy on fertilizers under the pressure from World Bank and Dunkel. The Government throughout the world are providing subsidy in their respective countries and America, who has pressurized India to withdraw subsidy, provides maximum subsidy to farmers in its own country. The sad thing is that farmers in our country donot get subsidy and fertilizer has become costlier for them and even it is not available in the market. Mr. Nitish has raised a point in this House about adulteration of salt in fertilizer, which was supported by me. I would like to say that measures should be taken to control such adulteration. One method for this may be that arrangements made for selling fertilizers in 5 kg. or 10 kg. sealed packs. I think that mini packs will not contain adulterated fertilizers. People in our country are very clever, they mark every packet with "Made in U.S.A." and their U.S.A. may be Ullahas Nagger. Today the situation is so much serious that adulterated fertilizer is being sold in open market. This adulterated fertilizer is being sold to farmers not at lower rates but higher rates. What would happen this adulterated fertilizer would render the land barren. Fertilizer factories are being closed down in India. The condition is that, in 1991 fertilizers worth Rs. 1721.35 crore were imported and in 1992 they were imported of the value of Rs. 2266.21 crore which means that it has registered an increase of 31.70 per cent. The import is going up to the extent that our fertilizer factories are on the others in the country are on the verge of closure. This will increase unemployment and import in the country. Has the Government decided finally to hand over India to Dunkel, then the situation will be quite miserable. The Government has not taken the matter of fertilizer subsidy seriously and it has not restored subsidy. If farmers do not get fertilizers at lower rates, the agricultural production will

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fall. I think the Government has a plan to reduce agricultural production and then boost imports and generation scandals. A serious thinking should be given to it. The standing committee on the Ministry of Agriculture has suggested that subsidy on fertilizers be restored and fertilizers made available to farmers at lower rates, otherwise the situation will deteriorate further. While concluding I would like to say that there are no irrigation of facilities and the Government has not included the provision for small irrigation in the current year's Budget. Does the Government want the small tubewells that were installed for farmers are not at all installed. There is no mention of it in the Demands.

There is rampant corruption in implementation of schemes under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Such corruption should be checked. He has said that 60 per cent funds should be spent on labour and 40 per cent on equipments. Bricks are used in laying brick lines villages. The brick line costs rupees forty while labour charges are rupees eighty. For laying eighty bricks rupees eighty goes towards labour charges and out of which rupees 50 are grabbed by the official in connivance with village head. Who do so by way of voucher. If the village head refuses to produce such voucher, he is dismissed. The Government should chalk-out and implement such schemes under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as may be utilized properly. Therefore, the Government should give a rethinking to it because the implementation of such schemes leads to corruption. If an honest official produces correct vouchers, he is warned that he is not needed there. I am submitting all this, because the Minister of Rural Development is sitting here

In my constituency, student had submitted their these is to I. B. R. I. institution. Surprisingly the thesis were plagiarised and replaced by an officer there. The boys were lucky as they had the original sealed copy of the thesis with them, otherwise they and their guides would have to go to prison. And that officer was

promoted. Please look into it also.

In Badam district, the Department of Agriculture had allocated funds to construct roads and bridges under Dacoit Elimination on Scheme. I had gone there recently and met officials who told me that the roads and bridge are ready but the approach road to link the road with bridge has not been sanctioned by the Ministry of Agriculture. When the Government has already spent crores or rupees on this project, it is not allowing the approach road to be constructed by not releasing a sum of rupees forty-fifty lakh and thus the public is not getting any benefit of it. I praise the agriculture Minister, in whose tenure this scheme was launched but it should be completed at the earliest. The funds allocated for such works under Dacoit Elimination Scheme in Badaun district should be utilized properly.

I oppose all these demands and make a demand that all the facilities being provided to industries should be given to agriculture also. Farmers should be given remunerative prices for their produce in accordance with the cost incurred and at the same time the increased rates of fertilizers, electricity, water, pesticides and agricultural implements be reduced to minimise the cost. Agricultural products should be linked with the Price index. Small and medium low-cost irrigation projects should be given priority and pending major irrigation projects should be completed at the earliest. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented to provide compensation for damage caused to crops by natural disasters. For assessing crop damage, each crop of each farmer should be made the base. Ban on transportation of food grains should be lifted and the whole country should be treated as a single zone for the purpose of food grains transportation. Proper arrangement should be made immediately for fodder and drinking water in the drought afflicted states. The Central Government should provide adequate financial assistance so that large scale relief works may be started to save people from dying of hunger. Law made centuries ago should

be changed to increase the amount of relief. Weavers should be encouraged. Dry farming should be promoted and research into this field should be conducted to plant crops in the areas which have no irrigation facility. Dunkel proposals should be rejected immediately, otherwise the country will be ruined.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with these words I conclude. In thank you a lot for providing me an opportunity to speak and I thank all of you who have listened to me.

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject relating to the farming community.

This Government is going to complete its two years in June, 1993.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Devegowda, you can commence it after lunch. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.20 P.M.

1321 hrs

The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for Lunch Till Twenty minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

1427 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-Assembled after Lunch at Twenty-Seven minutes Past Fourteen Clock

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER - in the Chair)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)

1993-94 - CONTD.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Devegowda.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to you for having given me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the vital demand which is relating to agricultural sector.

Sir, this Government is going to complete its two years' term on 19th June, 1993. In the last two years, I am closely watching how this Government is taking keen interest to help this unorganised sector. This is one of the major rural sector comprising about 70 per cent of the population, but in all the three budgets which they have presented before this House, I am sorry to say, the Government has not shown any keen interest. In the first budget, we demanded the Government to agree to constitute a Committee to go into pricing policy of fertilizers. They have agreed. Ultimately, a portion of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee which suited the Government was accepted and the fertilizer decontrol was done. Subsequently what had happened? Everyone of us know the implication.

Now, I would like to again say how this Government has taken a callous attitude towards the farming community. In the last budget various concessions were given only to the affluent sections of the society and not to the farming community except a reduction of the excise duty on the tractors which are above 1800 cc and the tractors which are below 1800 cc have not been touched. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister, while replying to the general discussion on the budget, had said that the Prime Minister is considering to give certain concessions as far as the fertilizer prices are concerned. All of a sudden, what made the Government to reconsider the question of reducing the prices of fertilizer to give some concessions? It is because that all these friends who have got various political ideologies have shown their bit of mind and said that this time they are going to move a cut motion to see that the Government agrees to reduce the fertilizer prices. So, now, at this stage I would like to make an appeal to all

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sections of the House, irrespective of the political parties, and to such of those Members who are really interested in uplifting the farming community to forget the party alliance; let us not think about that for the time being. At the time of voting you take your own stand. I am not bothered. But I know sincerely that everyone of those ruling party Members who come from rural areas are also equally interested to see that his farming community is given its proper due share with these few words I would only appeal to every one of the Members-senior and junior Members-to bestow their thoughts not that I am the only person who is fighting the cause of the farmers as there are several leaders also. I only appeal to their conscience in this regard to see that in these three years' Budgets what they have said and what they have done to the farming community. If it is not to the extent required, then you revise your stand and see that the pressure is built and it pressure is mounted against this Government headed by Shri Narasimha Raoji and see that some of the concessions are given to the farming community.

While participating in this discussion on the Demands for Grants of Ministry of Agriculture, I would like to place my demands on behalf of the farming community for the consideration of this House, and through this House for the consideration of the Central Government - so-called 'Central Government'.

My first demand is the establishment of a National Agricultural Developmental Financial Bank at the National level and also in all taluqs Branch officer. My second demands is the creation of a single-window agency for all types of loans which are basically needed for the farmers which should be given by one agency that is the National Agricultural Rural Bank that is going to be established at the taluq level. My third demands is providing a pass-book-cum-credit card to each farmers. My fourth demand is that the bank credit in agricultural sector must be enhanced from the present 15 per cent to 30

per cent. My fifth demand is that the rate of interest must be 9 per cent in stead of the 15 to 18 per cent which is now charged by the banks.

My sixth demand is that the agricultural trade policy must be framed immediately. My seventh demand is regarding structural reforms for the agricultural sector which should be announced immediately. My eighth demand is that electricity must be made as the first priority in the agricultural sector and all the irrigation pumps must be energised on a top priority basis. My ninth demand is that all villages, irrespective of the population, must be provided with all-weather roads before the end of the year 2000 AD. My tenth demand is that all underground water - wherever the geologists say is available - must be provided to the lands possessed by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the end of 2000 AD with a time-bound programme and the expenditure of these schemes should be met by the grants given to the Welfare Department.

My eleventh demand is that wherever the underground water is available - on the recommendations of the geologists - should be made available to the lands possessed by the backward classes by 2000 AD. We have formulated a scheme called 'Ganga Kalyan scheme' in Karnataka and we have implemented it. I have written letters to the hon. Finance Minister and hon. Prime Minister. But they said that it is upto the State Government. Can we not announce it as a national programme? I am only making these passing remarks so far as these two demands are concerned. It can be treated as a national programme and seen that these programmes are implemented for the welfare of the backward classes and the Scheduled Castes.

My twelfth demand is that waiving of loan in the Agriculture Debt Relief scheme upto Rs. 10,000 which was announced in 1990 and this should be implemented without showing any discrimination between the national banks and cooperative banks as a one-time concession. I do not want that the loan should be waived

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every year.

My thirteenth demand is that the Coffee Act must be amended from compulsory pooling system to optional pooling of coffee from the coffee growers.

My fourteenth demand is that piped water supply for drinking purposes should be provided to all villages under NRWS and CRWS and mini water supply schemes before 2000 AD.

My fifteenth demand is to remove all types of duties, State taxes for all agricultural implements including power tillers even upto 1800 K.V. and also for pesticides.

16. To reconsider the existing import policy of fertilizers which will destroy the domestic fertilizer factory and ultimately the Indian farmers had to depend only on imported fertilizers;

17. All the villages including hamlet villages must be electrified during the Eighth Plan period;

18. Fifty per cent of the seats in professional colleges must be earmarked for the actual cultivators, land less, labourers and rural artisans who actually stay in the village by providing reservation to each category by amending the Constitution;

19. The subsidy component must be restored to boost agriculture to meet out the domestic needs by 2000,; AD;

20. National Agricultural Policy must be announced without further delay;

21. Major irrigation projects costing more than Rs. 1000 crores must be funded by the Central Government;

22. The Dunkel draft should be rejected;

23. The remunerative price to the farmers must be given by taking abnormal increase in the input cost;

24. Compulsory insurance scheme must be introduced for landless agricultural labourers by providing fifty per cent premium amount by the Government of India; and

25. The Export Promotion Council must be headed by a farmer. Who is committed to the farmer's community. These are the demands I am placing before the House for its consideration and ultimately through you, I appeal to the Central Government to look into this matter. And if these demands are really genuine demands to help the farming community, let them take some steps to see that these demands are fulfilled by the completion of the second year, that is, by June 19. I do not think there will be any danger to this Government before 19th June because one of my friends has already declared that if the fertilizer rates are going to be reduced, we may think of helping and saving this Government. I have it at that stage.

I will next go to some details of these issues of structural reforms. I will go one by one to the 25 demands. Whatever little contribution I can make to enlighten the House and also to make this Government to realise where we went wrong, I will try to give my views on the structural reforms.

The Central Government claim for removing all shackles through the new Economic Policy, market economic liberalisation, de licensing, amendment to the MRTP Act etc. But they have done it only for the industrial sector. Some of those people have been really enjoying the benefit for the last seven Five Year Plans, in the last 47 years after Independence. But all these structural reforms or the economic reforms or the export policy changes or whatever it may be, it is only having an eye towards those people, and these changes have been made for these people. I would like to ask this Government what are the types of structural reforms

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they have thought over for these farming community. You are amending the MRTP Act. The industrialists can make any amount of investment, industrialists can make any amount of profit. So, there is no restriction for these people. Unfortunately, for the people who come from the rural areas or the people who are actually the tillers of the soil, they have got all restrictions. They cannot hold the land more than ten acres or whatever it may be. Land Reforms Act has been implemented and in some States there may be a little bit of lapses. I do not want to enter into that controversy at this stage.

There is no ceiling on income so far as these oppressed sections are concerned. There is no income ceiling as well as ceiling on urban land or the urban property. It is just an eye wash. But you have enforced ceiling on agriculture property because they are not the organised people, they cannot through the so-called representatives who come before this House where they expect what these friends are going to do something. That is what they are expecting sitting in the corner of the country. This is the real position. I am only just narrating how things are moving in this Government and in what direction the Government is going.

About lending also, I would like to make a mention. Farmers have to go from pillar to post. Various types of financial institutions have been created for financing the farmers. But to what extent are we going to give the financial assistance? We have included the agricultural sector as a priority sector. Only 15 per cent of the bank deposit is going towards the farming community. The agricultural sector contributes about 32 per cent of the GDP whereas the loan or the bank advance is only 15 per cent for this so-called priority sector. So far as industrial sector is concerned, it comprises of only 18 per cent of the population and their contribution in terms of GDP is hardly 26 or 27 per cent. They will get about 40 per cent of the bank loan. I am just giving a comparative figure. Again, even to get this 15

per cent, he has to go to land development bank, central cooperative bank, rural cooperative bank, commercial bank and so on. He has to go to various types of banks. He has to again grease the palm at various levels starting from village accountant, BDO, bank manager and so on. With this 47 years of experience, that some of the Members in the Cabinet have, even the Prime Minister himself is there in this House for 30 years, with this vast and rich knowledge and experience can he not find out a solution to the problems of the farming community like creating a single window agency for the so-called farmers. If the industrialist comes in first class suits, tie, brief cases and so on. And a farmer cannot come to a Minister in such a well-dressed manner because and if he sits on the chair in the office of the Prime Minister, the chair will become a little spoiled. That is the situation of the country, whoever may be the Prime Minister. I am not bothered about it. Can we not get a single window agency system? This is the irony today. If you give a pass book cum a credit card you can, in that pass book cum credit card, enter the property which he holds and the market value of the property, out of market value, 50 per cent of loan or whatever it may be is his eligibility which he can be mentioned in the third column, in the fourth column the loan he can draw and the balance amount can be entered. Whenever he wants loan, entry should be made. Only one or two such legislative measures should be taken. That is for the purpose of loans drawn by the farmers on the credit card should be entered as charged. Unless he gets a clearance certificate from the competent authority, he is not entitled to mortgage or sell his land. That is one legislation which should be brought about.

The second thing is, whatever loan he is going to get by producing that credit card that amount should not be misused. To that extent, we must make certain legislations to prevent these misuse of loan or he may transfer the property to plug that loophole you can bring the legislation. It is not so difficult. Any farmer who purchases a land, whatever is the type of loan

whether it is for a sugarcane mills or else, he can go to the bank and produce the credit card to show that he has got the provision. The Government has given the indication about his borrowing capacity limits. What has happened to it. Can we not do that much? Is it so difficult? I am only giving certain important views for the consideration of the Government. What is the rate of interest that we are going to charge on the employee for house loan advance, for car purchase? They have to serve, they have to implement your policies which are going to be framed sitting in this august House. They have to implement it. So, what is the rate of interest that you are going to charge for the loan that you are going to advance to purchase a car or to purchase a house or to construct a house? Is it eight or nine per cent? Why do you not apply the same principle in the case of farmers? Why this discrimination? For the promoters who are going to export, how much are you going to charge? Is it eight or nine per cent? May I ask you a straight question? Why not these poor people be given this loan at the rate of nine per cent? There is no mind, there is no will. You want only their votes. This is only a lip sympathy. You go on fooling them, exploiting their ignorance. That is all what I can say. And I will tell you, now-a-days, the youngsters in the villages who are unemployed graduates, unemployed educated people, they have already started rethinking about the credibility of the political parties and about their political leader. Beware of these things. It is no so simple. In the name of Madam Gandhi, they might have come to power; in the name of Rajiv Gandhi, they might have come to power. After the assassination of Madam Gandhi, they might have come to power with sympathy votes, after the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi, they might have come to power. But let me warn you that here afterwards, the death of any political leader will not be going to create any sympathy. Mind it, you have to prove that you are for this neglected society, unorganised society. Otherwise, they will become your own number one enemies and they will destroy you. Remember these words. You cannot go on fooling them, you cannot go on exploiting them.

I have already told you that the quantum of loan must be increased from 15 per cent to at least 30 per cent. 70 per cent of the people who are really dependent on agriculture, whether he is a rural artisan or whatever he may be. Can you not increase it by another 15 per cent? I would like to ask you this question. Please, for God's sake, do not take it lightly. The things are not so simple. I am also in public life for the past 30-35 years and I know what the ground reality is. You cannot, here afterwards, take it so lightly.

What is the trade policy on agriculture today? Last year, the cotton that has been produced is about 119 lakh bales. And this year, it may be about 124 lakh bales. What is the quantum of export that has been made? Last year, it was 0.77 lakh bales and this year we have exported about 4.26 lakh bales. Why? Even today, the export or the import will be dictated by the so-called industrialists-the Textile Mill Owners. What is the domestic consumption of the cotton? It may be about 111 lakh bales. If I am wrong, you try to rectify me and tell me where I went wrong. Our internal consumption in all these textile mills will not be more than 111 lakh bales. When you have produced 124 lakh bales of cotton, why have you not allowed them to export it, why have you put the restrictions and for whose benefit? Is it for the benefit of the growers or for the benefit of the factory owners, to whom you are indebted for some reason or the other? I do not want to enter into these things.

Karnataka, as your good self knows, is a major cotton producing area. There, what this Cotton Corporation of India is doing? There is so much of agitation there. These organisations are just like white elephants. What are these organisations meant for? In Karnataka, your party President also went there, three people died in firing. When I went there and asked the Cotton Corporation of India's agent or representative, they say that they have no machinery, they have no funds and they have nothing. So, they cannot purchase anything. This is the answer that we can expect, the poor farmer can expect from an agency which has been created

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by this very same House or by the Central Government to go to the rescue of the farmers when a distress sale is going to take place. Last year, the cotton rate was Rs. 1,800 per quintal and this year it goes down to Rs. 900-1,000. Are we not really interested in this community, in this section society? I am honestly telling this. Our hon. Minister of State for Agriculture may equally interested. But, unfortunately, there are various shackles. What I say is that these shackles have to be removed. So far as this industrial sector is concerned, those shackles have not been removed.

I do not want to unnecessarily waste the time of the House. Normally, I do not waste the time of the House. Even in Question Hour, whatever questions that I frame they will not come in Ballot. They will not come due to my bad luck. The Ballot is one of the testing yards for our luck. That is why, normally, I do not speak. I am a backbencher. So, you may please permit me to speak for some more time.

With regard to silk, what is the state of the sericulture growers today?

I think he is dealing with commerce formerly. I do not know about the new arrangement.

Where is the need for us to import silk from China? China wanted to ultimately control the silk market. Let me be very plain. They want to destroy the sericulture growers in India and then subsequently they want to control the entire market. This is the trade secrecy. Today, because it is cheap, we are getting that and showing to the country that we have brought down the silk sari rates, the fertilizer rate etc. When I go to the next item, then I will tell you how you have brought down these rates. When they have permitted to import gold, all of sudden, everybody started telling that the gold rate has come down. Even village ladies, they started purchasing gold for their *mangal sutra*. What has happened now? All of a sudden, it spurt up.

You cannot fool this House. Let me be very plain on this. Please stop this. The importing of silk from China will be at the cost of the Indian sericulture growers. Karnataka itself is producing 80 per cent of the silk. Your good self knows about it. Today, they are on the streets. Why the Government is so callous, indifferent? For what purpose, the Government is going to import this silk from China? Once for all, you must declare in this House that you are not going to import silk from China for the sake of the sericulture farmers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There was also a delegation from Karnataka which had met the commerce Ministry people.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Yes, Sir. An all party delegation went there. I do not know but I read it in the newspapers that the Government of India did not show proper courtesy. That was a Press report. I do not know about it because I was not in the spot when the incident took place.

In Haryana, they will grow only two lakh tonnes of potatoes, whereas Karnataka is producing seven lakh tonnes. But the number of cold storage facilities in Karnataka is hardly eighty, whereas in Haryana which is producing only two lakh tonnes of potatoes, they have got 129 cold storage facilities. I am not going to think in terms of this part of the country or that part of the country. Every part of the country should equally prosper. We are interested in the welfare of the country. Nobody should be treated in a step-motherly manner. I am just mentioning how Karnataka is treated differently so far as this issue is concerned. This is one aspect.

With regard to grapes, the Youth and Parliamentary Affairs Minister from Maharashtra who was here sometime back and who has gone just now Let Maharashtra friend should not mistake the same type of grapes are being produced in Bijapur, Bagalkot, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Raichur. Fifteen thousand Five hundred tonnes of grapes Maharashtra was able to export last year and poor Karnataka farmers, who have

no voice and they suffered. Mr. Chandra Prabha Was Sister, your voice should not be in the party meetings only; your voice should be heard here also. You must be more vocal here. You have become already the Chairman of a Standing Committee and you should not be bothered about further prospects. At the time of voting, you may vote in favour of your party. Shri Sidnal is one of the seniormost Members. We must be more vocal. Otherwise we will not be heard. Unless we cry, the Government is not going to bother about Karnataka. I only cited these two issues.

About the import of fertilizer, three days back our Finance Minister was saying that DAP rate has come down. It will come down; but at what cost? What is the burden on the foreign exchange that too you have earned by getting the loan? Yesterday also he has gone with his team to get the loan. Heaven is going to be brought down to the earth only for the sake of industrialist and not for the sake of agricultural sector; they have to remain where they are; that is their fate.

Almost all the factories, whether DAP or other type of fertilizer, have come to a stage of total liquidation. So many people are searching for a party to dispose of the factory, but nobody is there to take it. The great NRI Shri Mallya took the Mangalore Chemicals and Fertilizers; I do not want to go into the details. Today the situation that is prevailing on account of the import of some of these fertilizers may have temporary impact and it will be an artificial benefit to the farming community. After two or three years they will dictate terms. Not only we have to spend money for bringing fertilizer, but also there will be fall in food production. Other than Manmohan Singhji, I have gone through the articles of so many experts. No doctor will have a similar opinion in so far as the diagnosis is concerned. As per the Government estimates, about 23.76 crores of Indians, representing 29.9 per cent of the population are living below the poverty line. Of these, 19.59 crores are living in the rural areas while 4.17 crores are in the urban areas. All these data are there; I do not want to repeat them.

The next thing is, according to the bank, the poor remained highly vulnerable and may be adversely affected by the number of components essential to the reform package. This is not going to be accepted by Shri Manmohan Singh because his approach is different; he is full of thoughts; he has served the World Bank; he has served a finance Secretary; he has served as Financial Adviser. I am an ordinary farmer, not a Khulak. Here in the northern belt Late Chaudhary Charan Singh was branded as a khulak, a caste leader. I may be branded as a caste leader; but I am not bothered. It is to destroy a person who is going to fight the cause of the farmers. I have sufficiently experienced the difficulty of the media destroying a person who is going to fight for the neglected class.

I have to touch one or two other points. Three days back in Madras edition of *The Financial Express* the World Bank report was published from Washington. What is the actual situation? In Argentina, Brazil, India and Mexico less than 3 per cent of the domestic price is the subsidy component whereas in East European countries 49 per cent of the domestic price and 84 billion dollars is the subsidy. In USA it is 30 per cent of the domestic price and 35 billion dollars. These are the masters who want to preach and advise us not to give subsidy, which is going to help the rich farmers. So you want to act in accordance with you maters' direction only to get a temporary financial help. I tell you, they will not leave you; they are going to ultimately destroy the nations's economy. You remember these words.

15.00hrs.

(SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA in the Chair)

Madam Chair person, I make an humble appeal to you to give me a little time. So far as crop insurance is concerned, it is at deadlock for the last 15 to 20 years. What is the type of crop insurance you are going to introduce? All these years here and there was something no trial

[Sh. H.D. Devegowda]

basis. Why not we evolve a policy? Whether it is dry area or wet area, for the actual cost of cultivation including the cost of input and the labour cost, plus 20 per cent return; for that amount can you not have the insurance? Can you not insure the crop? Whatever it is, whether dry crop or wet crop, can you not bring a policy which is going to help the farming community as a whole? Please apply your mind in so far as this crop insurance is concerned.

Madam, you are fighting for the cause of the labour class who is one of the organised sections of the society. So far as the landless labour in the rural area is concerned, they are not organised. Your goodself also knows it; your party is trying to organise them. But unfortunately we are not able to succeed in organising these 29 per cent landless labours who are spread over various villages in the country. This is the present situation.

Can we not introduce a voluntary insurance scheme or a compulsory insurance scheme for them? We are giving provident fund for these working class. 50 per cent is borne by the management and 50 per cent by the workers. Like that 50 per cent of the premium on the insurance should be paid by the labour and 50 per cent by the Government. Can we not introduce a scheme called Voluntary Insurance Scheme or Compulsory Insurance Scheme for the agricultural landless labourers? Is it not possible to see that their condition is improved? You should apply your mind towards this neglected section.

About irrigation, three days back on Sardar Sarovar Project there was a statement. Unfortunately I see Agriculture is bifurcated. For irrigation there is one Minister, for Cooperative there is another Minister, for Fertilizer there is a third Minister. Late Shri Jagjivan Ram was holding the entire portfolio. Anyway, it is up to the leader; it is his prerogative.

I would like to say only one word of caution. Unless you fully utilise whatever water is available which can be used economically, that too in a time-bound programme I will tell you that agriculture will not be a remunerative profession. Because it is subjected to various types of havocs in this country. You must at least make announcement that any project costing more than one thousand crore rupees will be funded by the Central Government in addition to the State Government. They should be shared; whether it is 50-50 or 60-40 ratio; whatever may be the ratio; the Government of India must also involve itself in funding these projects.

I went to USA and went through various irrigation projects. The Federal Government, the Provincial Government, Financial Institutions, various agencies fund a project. Ultimately they will recover the money in such a manner as the situation is prevailing in that country. I do not want to go into the details of all these things.

That is why I am saying this. Now, since the World Bank has backed out, whatever may be the reason, the Government of India has now taken a decision to do it along with the three State Governments. It is a welcome decision. Like that, I would like to ask this. The Karnataka State Legislature has passed an unanimous resolution to fund the Upper Karnataka Project which has been cleared by the Government of India. There is no problem about that. Your own party has passed an unanimous resolution; it is not my party, my party was there for hardly five years. Karnataka has stood with Congress, whether it is divided Congress or undivided Congress. In the last ten general elections, Karnataka has stood with these people; and they have passed an unanimous resolution to fund the Upper Krishna Project which was cleared by the Central Government. But, nobody bothers now. At the time of voting they will come because Karnataka in their vote bank. But, now it has shaken. Now, it has shaken and you must be careful. It is not so easy. So, I only appeal to the Government.

Shri Shukla is very clever; he did not want this Demand to be discussed. I know how he is handling. At the appropriate time, I will say what I want to say.

About sea erosion, we have submitted a project for Rs. 150 crores and not for one rupee. This is the fate of Karnataka. Kerala friends are here; how much money they have got, I know. I am not jealous; but, I do not know what has Karnataka done. Karnataka's biggest mistake was sending you people here with blind belief that you are going to help them. Please make note of these words.

Lastly, it is not a question of confrontation. I do not want any unnecessary confrontation with the Government. But, I would like to say these words. Before, I announce my next programme, if this Government is not going to take decisions on the demands which I have placed before this House- through this House, to the Central Government!- I will give a call to the farmers of this country. Irrespective of their caste and religion, to have a peaceful demonstration, whether it is the case of interest or creation of a bank or single window agency, like this, I have placed 25 demands. If this Government is not going to take steps to implement some of these decisions before 19th of June 1993, when you are going to complete your two year term, I will give a call as a small farmers, as a representative of the farming community, to the farmers of this nation.

There are some representatives, I know, who say that Dunkel Draft is very good and we must accept it. There is a demonstration and counter-demonstration. Madam Chairman, your good self has argued here as to how it is going to harm the farming community. I heard your speech. I was so enamoured to hear your speech. You have advanced your argument as to how it is going to destroy the farming community. But, outside, one of the farming community leaders say that it is going to help the farming community and we must accept the Dunkel proposals. I will tell you one thing. In Karnataka, after June 19th, if these demands are not going

to be looked into seriously by the Government of India, I will take some decision; we will start peaceful agitation. It will start from Karnataka; we are going to picket all Central Government Offices; we will start our struggle.

With these words, I warn the Government; let them not take it lightly; let them not think that Devegowda's is the only lone voice, what can he do? , the Election Commission has de-recognised the party, there is no symbol, what can he do?, he is a lone man. But, I know that there are thousands of Devegowdas in Karnataka; there are lakhs of Devegowdas in Karnataka. Remember these words. We will prove, how it is going to have an effect in the whole electoral system in the coming elections, if they are going to ignore the demands which I am going to place before this House for consideration.

With this warning, I would like to conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI A VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur):
Madam Chairman, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

During the last 45 years, the country has made tremendous progress in the field of agriculture and irrigation. The first Prime Minister of our country late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru has given top priority to agriculture and it was his endeavor to make the country self-reliant, in the matter of foodgrains. It was for this reason that several dams and several projects were set up in the country.

Due to the efforts of the Congress Government, today our country is self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains. You are aware that the farmer is the backbone of the country. But, he is neglected by both the State and the Central Governments regarding remunerative prices. It is true that the farmer has no association or trade union spirit; and agricultural sector is unorganised sector. The position of the farmer is very miserable; and it is true that farmer is born in

[Sh. Venkata Reddy]

debt, lives in debt and dies in debt. The Government has withdrawn the subsidy facility on fertilizers, pesticides and the Government has also removed the controls.

The prices of fertilizers and pesticides have gone up abnormally; and the cost of labour and cultivational costs have also gone up abnormally. The price of groundnut has fallen down to Rs. 700 or Rs. 750 from Rs. 1200 or Rs. 1300; the price of sunflower has fallen down to Rs. 800 from Rs. 1000/- the price of cotton has also fallen down to Rs. 800 and Rs. 950 from Rs. 1500. The farmers are finding it very difficult to dispose of their stocks even at the prevailing price and the crop produced is lying for want of purchase at the remunerative price.

Therefore, the farmers are very much agitated; and they held *dharmas* and *hartals* in Anandapur District. Farmers have borrowed loan from banks and moneylenders who are putting a lot of pressure on farmers for the repayment of loans. I learnt reliably that they are going to commit suicide in order to get over the difficulty when they are unable to bear the situation.

I understand that APC fixes the prices, support prices for agricultural commodities. I think that the APC Members have no knowledge of agriculture and agricultural commodities. APC has fixed the support price of groundnut at Rs. 750 per quintal and sunflower at Rs. 800 per quintal. The cost of production of groundnut is double than the cost of sunflower seeds, whereas the APC has fixed the support price of sunflower at Rs. 800 per quintal, much more than the groundnut seeds which shows their ignorance of this. It clearly shows that they do not have any idea about the cost of production of each crop. Government is collecting thousands of crores of rupees on the agricultural commodities towards Central Sales Tax and State Sales Tax whereas the contribution of the Government towards the farmer is negligible compared to the services

that are being rendered by the Government towards the industrial sector, public undertaking, welfare scheme, etc. Unless the Government takes proper measures to safeguard the interest of farmers, there is every possibility that production of agricultural commodities will steeply fall down which will have an impact on the consumers' price and Government's economy in the near future.

There is every need for the intervention of the Government. The Government should purchase sunflower, groundnut and cotton through NAFED, NDDB and NCDC. The remunerative price of Rs. 1200 for groundnut, Rs. 1000 for sunflower and Rs. 1500 for cotton should be announced. In this regard along with some other Members if Parliament I met hon. Agriculture Minister and also the Prime Minister and explained the situation. I hope and trust the Government will do justice to the farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMPUJAN PATEL (Phulpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that you have given me opportunity to express my views on the Budget, particularly relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. When the hon. Minister of Finance presented the Budget he stated that farmers are the backbone of this country and that India is predominantly an agricultural country and farmers have strengthened the economy, but grants for the development of agriculture are so meager that one feels anguished. Madam, 80 per cent of the population lives in villages and even today their primary occupation is agriculture. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the steps taken by the Government which are detrimental to the interests of farmers and agricultural workers. In 1992-93 Budget the Government allocated Rs. 2099 crores for agriculture and this year the Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 2436 crores for this purpose. Although it appears that the allocation has been increased but infact percentage-wise the allocation is less as compared to last year. Madam, the Minister of Agriculture is himself a farmer.

I do not know whether he is satisfied with this allocation, but it is essential for him to understand all these factors. Only 452 lakh hectares of land is irrigated out of 1847 lakh hectares. The remaining 1395 lakh hectares is unirrigated. Farmer toils hard in the fields but even then he is unable to get two square meals a day. We have to give thought to it. Even then many of our agricultural scientists say that farmers are leading a comfortable life. I feel that the people who want to convert their black money into white say that taxes should be imposed on agricultural income.

Madam, I dare say there is no farmer who can earn Rs. 60,000 from one *bigha* of land. Agriculture is not that profitable. A person who says this, does not know anything about agriculture.

Madam Chairman, farmers should get quality fertilizers irrigation facility and quality seeds and pesticides if agriculture has to progress. The irrigation facilities provided by the Government are insufficient. The means of irrigation are canals, wells, rivers and tubewells. Tubewells do not work because of erratic power supply. Consequently, irrigation suffers and so does agriculture. The canals do not have proper water supply. When the crops are about to be harvested, then water flows in the canals.

I would request the Minister of Agriculture to take up the matter with the Minister of Water Resources in order to ensure the availability of water supply in canals and electricity for tubewells on priority basis.

The rain water is not properly utilised because the farmers do not construct ponds and Government also does not pay any attention to it. The money given for construction of ponds is not properly utilised. I would like that the grants for construction of ponds should directly given to the farmers.

The hon. Minister of Water Resources hails from Madhya Pradesh. I think this step

should be taken in Madhya Pradesh because lot of land is lying unutilised there. If ponds are constructed, the receding water level could be checked.

There are many discrepancies in the system for giving loans for irrigation. I have drawn the attention of the House to this matter previously also. In the case of loan for tubewell the cheques are given and then a slip is issued that the equipment should be bought from a said shop. In the open market the tubewell which costs Rs. 10,000 is available at that shop at Rs. 13,000. In U.P., cheques are issued in the name of the shopkeeper. This way or that way the same situation arises. I would like to submit that loan should be given straight way to the farmer.

A tubewell can be installed at the cost of Rs. 30,000. The Government gives a loan of just Rs. 15,000 and lot of objections are raised before it is sanctioned. The farmers suffer because of corruption. I would like to submit that the Minister of Finance should discuss the matter so that the mediators are removed and farmers get the loan.

If anybody want to but a truck he has to fill a form worth Rs. 100 and he can easily get a loan of Rs. four lakh. But if a tractor has to be bought then fifty per cent of the loan is to be deposited as registration fee.

Agriculture Cost and Prices Commission decides the support prices keeping in view the cost of production. I would like that Agricultural scientists and farmers should also be associated with the Commission so that the reality comes to light. The cost of the produce should be fixed at par with that of agriculture farms. But it is unfortunate that this factor is not taken into consideration. When procurement from the farmer is to be done the support price is Rs. 330 per quintal but when the Government has to import foodgrains, the Government is ready to pay even Rs. 526. It is an irony that Government is not ready to pay the actual price to the farmers of the country. If the situation continues, foreign

[Sh. Ram Pujan Patel]

countries would become economically stronger while the farmers of our country would be in a deplorable financial condition.

In point 14 of the Budget speech it has been mentioned that it is the policy of Government not to place administrative restrictions on the Governments of agricultural products within the country. Farmers must get the benefit of the market price of commodities. The hon. Prime Minister has assured that movement of foodgrains would not be restricted. I took up the matter with the Minister of Food also. He also stated that no restriction has been imposed on the movement of foodgrains but in practice the contrary is happening. Even today, they become the victims of food-inspectors and police. They harass the small traders. They exempt those who bribe them. The Government should immediately inform all the district officers that as a policy nobody is harassed. If someone is caught indulging in harassment his services should be terminated. Only then the interests of the farmers can be safeguarded.

Madam, farmer can produce paddy but he has no right to process that. If he installs huller he is challaned. This legislation is wrong. If a farmer produces some thing he must have the right to process that.

This problem is not yet solved. The Najor of the militant force is still there. It is claimed that he is maintaining in Bangladesh and other areas.

I would like to draw your attention towards a special report. A study by Marketing and Business Associated reveals that though the country produces four crores tonnes of vegetables and two crore eighty lakh tonnes of fruits every year only ten per cent of the total is processed. Most of the vegetables rot here whereas 70% of the vegetables produced in foreign countries are processed. There is urgency to pay attention towards this otherwise all

farmers will lag behind. The Government always makes loud claims but there is a difference in what it preaches and what it practices. The study reveals that vegetables worth Rs. 3000 crore rot every year. Government should pay attention towards it.

At present, the production of potatoes is very important for the country. In 1990-91 a total of 15205.6 tonnes of potatoes were produced. Only 60 to 70 percent of the total production was consumed. That means about thirty per cent got rot. The Government does not have any storage facility for it. I would like to submit that potatoes should be exported and farmers should be benefited through food-processing.

The Government is aware that in Farukhabad and Allahabad the production of potatoes is maximum but no food processing plant has been opened there. I would like to submit that a survey should be conducted there. Mahatma Gandhi wanted to open cottage industries in villagers. It would provide ample employment opportunities for the people and the people would be benefited. Proper attention must be paid in this direction.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards an urgent matter. The Government has withdrawn subsidy from fertilisers. As a result the farmers have also reduced the use of fertilisers. Even the Government has admitted this. The Government stated in reply to understand question No. 6267 dated 21.4.93 that the sale of Ammonium phosphoate and Muriate of Potash declined by 30% and 55% respectively during Rabi 1992-93 as compared to Rabi 1991-92 due to decontrol and consequent rise in their prices." It was further added that "adverse impact on the production of foodgrains during Rabi 1992-93 has not been felt".

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to say something more on this subject?

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL: Yes, Sir. still I have a lot to say.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the discussion will start on the Private Member's Business. You will be given a chance to complete your points

when the discussion starts.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): Will the discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture continue after Prime Minister's Business is over?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I don't think.

15.31 hrs

[English]

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twentieth Report

SHRI P. KALIAPERUMAL (Cuddalore): I beg to move:

"That the House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1993".

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twentieth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 28th April, 1993".

The motion was adopted

15.32 hrs

RESOLUTION *RE*: CREATION OF NEW
STATES OF UTTARANCHAL AND
VANANCHAL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Maj. Gen. (Retd). Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri was on his legs last time. Nine minutes are left out of the time allotted

to this Resolution.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): You extend the time by two hours more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the time for this Resolution be extended by two hours more?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time for this Resolution has been extended by two more hours. Now you can start speaking.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD). BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, on 19th March, 1993, I had started discussion on the creation of separate States of Uttaranchal and Vananchal. I had spoken on a few points on that day. I am repeating them briefly. I had stated as to why creation of Uttaranchal and Vananchal is necessary and as to what are the problems of Uttaranchal. I had expressed in detail that the main problem of the region came to a standstill in the absence of a separate State. I had also stated that creation of separate State is necessary because of its topographical reason. Its climatic, cultural, economic and social conditions are different from the plains. If you go through map of India you will find that separate states have been created for all the time border areas from Kashmir to the extreme east. A separate state has not yet been created for these 8 hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh. It being a border area should also be developed as a separate State. A propaganda is often made that there will be no feasibility in Uttaranchal. In this regard I had stated in detail that there are sufficient natural resources in Uttaranchal and this new State will definitely be viable. Today, I would like to present some other points before you. The first point is as to why a separate Uttaranchal State should be created. The first reason is that the people of the region are suffering economically and politically in the absence of a separate State. I would