

for the last 4 years in Punjab and for two and a half years in Kashmir. Three families have been living under one single tent and dozen of families under a single roof for two and a half years now. Private family life system has been breaking apart.

Punjab and Kashmir migrants have been sitting on an indefinite Dharna at Boat Club for the last many months. The Government should immediately hold negotiations with their representatives in this regard and fulfil their reasonable demands. I urge upon the Government to rehabilitate them as soon as possible on semi-permanent basis. They should be given loans from banks so that they can maintain and feed their families.

(iv) Need to exclude Jute from the purview of Essential Commodities Act

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the procurement Corporation of India in Bihar is less as compared to the quantity procured by Jute Corporation of India in Bihar, Bengal, Assam and Orissa last year. Eight crore farmers cultivate jute in the country but presently the jute producing farmers are suffering losses because they are not getting reasonable prices. The prices of jute was Rs. 600 to Rs. 800 per quintal last year which is only Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 at present.

Jute was brought under the purview of Essential Commodities Act, 1962 and it was implemented in 1978 which is present in the schedule. There are lakhs of jute suppliers but its consumers are just 7 or 8 business houses. Then what is the justification of bringing it under the purview of Essential Commodities Act?

By showing that their companies are running in loss, a large number of mill owners not only evade taxes but also do not pay the unsecured credits. Instead, they do not pay the Government dues as well by just showing their unit certificates.

Therefore, the Government should exclude jute from the purview of Essential Commodities Act.

(v) Need for simplified laws and rules/regulations for small scale industrial units

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): Sir, the small private limited companies and small industrial units (SSI) are required to maintain a lot of records and submit numerous returns to various Central and State Government authorities under the Factories Act and Companies Act. The managements of these units are forced to devote considerable amount of time and energy for complying with the various provisions of the Factories Act. Hence, there is need to enact a simplified act and rules for small private limited companies and SSI units. Similarly, the companies Act and rules should be simplified in respect of small private limited companies that is companies having a paid up capital of Rs. 25 lakh or less. Since owners of small scale private limited companies and SSI units are personally incharge of factory operations, in a number of cases the owners are prosecuted and heavy fines are levied even for trivial violation of the stringent rules and regulations. The harassment of entrepreneurs should be eliminated through simplified rules and regulations.

(vi) Need to construct a new railway overbridge of Mulamthuruthy - Ernakulam Road, Kerala

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): There is immediately need for an overbridge for Railways at the level crossing in Mulamthuruthy on Mulamthuruthy-Ernakulam Road. There is a lot of traffic on this road. Besides, any trains I request the Government to construct a Railway overbridge here.

(vii) Need for completion of project for construction of diversion Barrage at Neradi, near Srikakulam during Eighth Plan itself

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam) Since ancient days, waters of

[Dr. Viswantham Kanithi]

rivers and rivulets were being harnessed for agricultural purposes in our country. After the advent of science and technology, better and permanent methods have been adopted to improve the quality and quantity of the agricultural produce.

Even though there has been persistent demand for more water for irrigating more areas in the District of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh for the past so many years, the much needed Vamsadhara irrigation system is yet to become operative. Srikakulam is a backward district of Andhra Pradesh. Though the Chief Executives of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa agreed for the construction of diversion barrage at Neradi as early in 1961, till now, only its left main canal has been taken up and it is in the final stages of the completion. The second phase consisting of the important Reservoir and the right main canal is yet to be cleared and commissioned. The cost of the second phase has gone up from around Rs. 80 crore to Rs. 480 crores in the last 30 years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to ensure early completion of the project for the construction of diversion barrage at Neradi.

- (viii) **Need to supply adequate quantities of Kerosene Oil and LPG to Sikkim basing the allocation of these commodities in 1991 Census**

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): There is acute shortage of kerosene oil in the State of Sikkim. This is due to the supply of insufficient quota of kerosene oil to Sikkim. The present quota is based on 1981 census when the population was slightly over three lakhs. This quota too fluctuates. As a result, consumers are experiencing great difficulty. Similarly, LPG is also in short supply. Wood fuel is not sufficient to meet the demand as the State Government is committed to preserve forest and maintain ecological balance. In view of the acute shortage of kerosene oil and LPG, I would

request the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to base the allocation of these commodities on the basis of 1991 census which shows the population of Sikkim well over four lakhs. Also the supply of these commodities needs to be regular. Regular supply of kerosene oil and LPG in adequate quantity in ensuing winter would go a long way to minimise the hardship of the people of Sikkim.

14.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Flood Situation Caused by Recent Cyclonic Storm in Bay of Bengal-Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further discussion regarding flood situation caused by the recent cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and relief measures undertaken by the Government.

Shri Dattatraya Bandaru.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was mentioning that the recent cyclonic storm has caused much damage to the crops of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. In this connection, I appeal to the Government to waive the agricultural loan given to the farmers. Last time, when this cyclonic storm occurred and it had caused much damage to the crops of the farmers, the Government waived the loan given to the farmers at that time. But it has not been implemented properly because of the pact between the Union Government and the State Government. So, I want that there should be rescheduling of the loan and instructions should be given to NABARD in this connection; and the share of the State Government should also be minimum.

Since cyclonic storms are recurring in most of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly 13 districts including Rayalseema and other backward districts