

country, but the kerosene quota sanctioned to this state is less than six percent of total requirements of the State. Keeping in view the population of the state, the monthly requirement of kerosene for the state is about 67474 Metric tonnes. In monsoon, the consumption of kerosene oil goes up.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to supply maximum kerosene to the State for this month.

(vi) **Need to introduce Value Added Tax Patterns for Cigarette Industry**

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Sir, in the interim report submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee to the Government certain very important recommendations have been made, both pertaining to direct and indirect taxes. The matter has been discussed at length on the floor of the House during the Budget Session. The Tax Reforms Committee has recommended to the Government the introduction of *ad valorem* or value added pattern of Central excise duty for all commodities, though no specific mention has been made of every commodity in detail. Based on the details submitted by the Tax Reforms Committee and on the basis of the representations received from various quarters, a suggestion was made to the hon. Finance Minister to introduce value added tax pattern for cigarette industry or alternatively it could be a blend of specific-cum-*ad valorem* in public interest and from the point of view of raising more Government revenue.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to take necessary steps in the matter.

(vii) **Need for construction of a flyover at Changsari Railway gate on National Highway No. 31, Assam**

SHRI PROBINA DEKA (Mangaldoi): Sir,

the people of Assam are agitating over the construction of a flyover at Changsari - 1 railway gate on national highway N. 31 connecting Barpeta and Guwahati. This strength of road is the busiest in the whole of Assam. For want of a flyover at this railway gate, vehicles plying on the national highway No. 31 remain stranded for hours together, since the railway gate remains closed for passing trains one after another. On many occasions, it so happened that patients in critical condition breathed their last before reaching the Guwahati Medical College Changsari. The city of Guwahati is expanding very rapidly towards Changsari. The proposed IIT buildings are also being constructed near Changsari.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to make necessary arrangements for the construction of a flyover at Changsari railway gate.

12.15 hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

**Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - CONTD.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: We will have further discussion on prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country. Shri Rajveer Singh, you will continue your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I had initiated a discussion on the drought situation and today also you have ordered me to continue the discussion. Sir, even yesterday, I had submitted that we have not been able to utilise water properly. For the last ten years or so there had been some changes in weather and the percentage of rain is going down every year. We assembled to discuss the drought situation when such a situation arises. Yesterday I had submitted that even through the discussions are held in the House,

every time the problem is not being checked, it keeps growing. We have expressed our concern in the Agriculture consultative Committee and today again I would like to express my concern that drought situation would not be solved by discussions alone.

Have we devised any matter plan to check the problem of drought for the last forty-five years? I believe every year discussions are held on drought situation, then statements are being made that such and such amounts have been sanctioned to such and such state, but mere distribution of funds to various states is no solution to the problem of drought?

Even yesterday, I had submitted that rivers are in flood during rainy season the water flows to the sea and it is not utilised,

12.17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In Chair*]

remember when Dr. Rao was the Minister of Irrigation, he had prepared a plan, but it did not come out of the files. Then no Government paid my attention towards it. Misuse of water will continue until and unless we construct a water grid. The water flowing in rivers is a source of life and there will be a continuous loss of water which is an essential element of life.

Today we talk of installing small pump sets and undertaking some boring. The situation of drought has become so critical that the water in bore-wells has dried up. Likewise, tubewells are getting dried up. Pumpsets are providing useless as the water level has gone down.

I am not talking of irrigation sources alone. You will see that the tubewells have proven to be useless. Poor people somehow manage to get installed a pump-set with great difficulty. But after the passage of one year, people come to know that the water level has gone down. Then people have to spend more money to dig out of the pipes and install a new pump-set. Every year the

water level is going down. Every year the water is going down. The evil consequences that follow are scarcity of drinking water as well as water for irrigation purposes. Present situation is so horrible that water is so scarce, that even the animals do not get water to drink. Man can manage to quench his thirst by one mean or another but the scarcity of water is creating severe problems in case of animals.

Our friend was saying that the rainy season has set in, but has started very late. The country has suffered a loss due to the belated rains. Government should take steps to check such loss. The Agriculture Minister is sitting here and it appears to me that the lack of coordination between the various ministries is also a big reason for the poor condition of the farmers. The Agriculture Ministry will assess the situation created by the Irrigation Ministry will provide water and the Power ministry will provide electricity. The result is that the farmers' condition is that of Draupadi, the wife of many husbands. When we tell the Agriculture Minister that drought conditions have occurred, he says that he is unable to do anything as he is not getting electricity. Why is electricity not available? Power cut is resorted in villages. During the past 45 years you have not been able to generate electricity enough to meet the requirement of water of every farmer.

The Jamrani dam was proposed to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh. That proposal was approved, but it could not be constructed. At first a canal was constructed. Crores of rupees were spent on canals but the dam was not constructed because the Environment Ministry objected to it. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that if it had not sought prior permission from the Ministry of Environment then why were the canals constructed before the construction of Jamrani dam the canals are breaking down, they are drying up and their stones have reached the houses of many people. Last time when I had met the hon'ble Irrigation Ministries, he had given an assurance that the dam would be constructed. But the construction of the dam has not yet started and the water is going

waste. There will have to be proper coordination. The agriculture ministry shrugs off its responsibility by saying that the Irrigation department is not with it. A new ministry should be formed to look after the work of Agriculture and welfare of farmers. One department should be made responsible for all this. We are unhappy and pained. Today the position is that the farmer does his work by securing a loan from one source or the other and he sets a pump set by getting the boring done. The pump set fails within two years, because the water level goes down within that period and then he needs more money. The Government should not allow to take water from the upper level. If water is taken from 25-30 feet, the water level will further go down and after that water will have to be brought from 300-400 feet. The Government should get boring done for that and set up tubewells. The situation is this that the tubewells being installed with the assistance of world bank by the Government are failing. When the Government is approached, it is said that there is a paucity of funds. when we ask the Agriculture ministry to do something, the Agriculture Minister says that the Finance minister does not agree. The Agriculture Minister should tell us as to how the system will work. You are entangling us in the problem, you should rather work for the welfare of the farmers. The hon'ble minister says that there is a paucity of funds. We are paying taxes. The farmers are filling up your coffers with his hard earned money. You are wasting that money in promoting culture 5 star hotels and the farmers are not being helped. The Government and the Hon. Minister are responsible for that... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): During the time of Devilal ji farmers were allowed concession to visit five star hotels.... (Interruptions)...

THE AGRICULTURE MINISTER (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): I do not have the department of food under my charge.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: It was for the dhoti wearers that is why I have started

wearing a pant. People used to say that I wear Dhoti because I want to visit five star hotel. (Interruptions)

This is serious topic. This should not be taken lightly. It is discussed in every session but it remains restricted to the files. You came into power one year ago, what scheme have you chalked out to deal with the drought conditions? Country faced drought conditions last year also as a result of which people are passing through very hard days. Rice eaters in Delhi are facing a lot of difficulties because there has been very low production of paddy and prices of rice have gone up. The plight of the farmer has become so bad that he does not get the price of his production, he is drought stricken. If he mobilises additional resources for irrigation, he has to incur additional expenditure. The prices of Fertilisers have increased considerably, electricity is not made available, tubewells are lying idle. When electricity is not supplied, he is compelled to install a diesel pumpset. His condition has worsened so much that even the Agriculture Minister says that it does not concern his department, but it is a fact that the Petroleum Ministry has failed to supply diesel to Uttar Pradesh today. Hon'ble Minister, I invite you to visit Uttar Pradesh and for see yourself that even today there are long lines on petrol pumps in Uttar Pradesh for diesel as farmers are not getting and are planting paddy crop by installing a pump sets. Electricity is not available, diesel is not available, who should take the responsibility for all this? This is not the responsibility of the State Government, it is your responsibility. The quota of diesel of Uttar Pradesh has been reduced. Your public distribution system has failed and its consequences are being faced by the farmers. You have failed to make diesel available. The crop has dried up due to its unavailability. It is not raining enough to meet the requirement of paddy crop and, if a pumpset is installed, diesel is not available for that. If you cannot give electricity, you cannot give diesel, then why are you sitting here? You should resign forthwith and go to the people. After all you also have some responsibility for this. It is not proper for us also to decide the fate of farmers by sitting

here in this air conditioned hall and in the offices. The farmers are leading a very miserable life. Tomorrow the country will be on the verge of starvation. Although this is correct that if the production of wheat goes down the Government will get an excuse to import it. Some people will earn profit in this business. It seems that they have hatched a plan to kill the poor farmers and consumers of this country. You import at the rate of Rupee 41/2 per kg i.e. four hundred and fifty rupees per quintal while you procure it from the farmers of the country at a rate of Rupee 260 a quintal. After all, what the wrong has done the farmer of the country. My friend is saying that they have increased that prices slightly. The increase might have been effected to justified the rate of Rs. 450. But the increase is not enough to meet his requirements. You seem to be the more well wisher of farmers of foreign contries than the farmers of the country. This will not do.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to request the Government to chalk out a master plan to deal with the drought conditions, under which a parliamentary committee and a committee of experts should be formed and a fresh discussion should be held on the report of the Doctor K.L. Rao and that report should be implemented. In this way, the farmers will be benefited.

In the end, I would like to say another thing. This discussion should be taken seriously. Work should be done on a war footing basis to tackle the drought conditions. If the Government does not work in a war footing basis to deal with the drought conditions, it will fail in its attempt. The rainfall is decreasing, every year. One cannot say anything about the next rainfall. That is why I request you not to leave us at the mercy of the weather. The farmers of this country should not be left at the mercy or vaguries of nature. You are making much progress and has made a lot of development. How long will you continue to depend on Nature? You should ask your scientist to develop seeds for a crop which may needs less water. Now a days farmer has to water the wheat crop five or six times? Have you

able to develop such a variety of seed which may have to water only twice. Can you not develop such a seed, which may need less water? Today, there are many high yielding varieties of seeds which need more water and fertilisers. I would like to ask the Agriculture minister to make clear asto what ICAR is doing, which is like a white elephant for the Government. What has it done? How many varieties of seeds has to developed, so far? No new seed has been developed so far, which may need less water. You are talking about the achievements made during the last five years. Those achievements are so poor that it is shameful even so talk about them. The hon'ble minister will say that he has been occupying this portfolio only for the last one year, but what has been his achievements in one year?

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I shall not say much about I.C.A.R. but I shall only say that those who are scientists there should develop such Varieties of seeds which may need less water so that water is saved. Recently, I was reading in the newspaper and this issue came up in the House as well, that the Urban Development Minister has said that more drinking water cannot be supplied to Delhi. So you do not have enough water, you can neither supply water for drinking nor for irrigation. So this Government is, Government without water. In my views the Government which cannot supply water, should drown itself in a handful of water.

ONE HON. MEMBER: They do not have even that much of water.....

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: One of my friend is saying that they do not have that much of water to drown themselves. That is why a simple speech will not do as they say that minister has made a very forceful speech. The minister is an expert in giving a reply. But after the debate, this matter should not be treated as closed. That, I shall request you to direct the Government to prepare a master plan regarding this. So long as we do not make efforts on a war footing, the farmers and the people of the country will not be benefited. The producers as well as the consumers of India are

unhappy, that is why a master plan should be prepared to remove their difficulties.

[English]

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kurnool): Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the drought situation prevailing in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This was mainly due to the late commencement of the monsoon in which only 50 per cent of the area was sown. Nearly 12 districts have been affected by this drought situation, as per the information of the State Government. The first district which was affected is Mahbubagar and the second district which was affected is Nalgonda.

Even during the normal commencement of the monsoon, from the district of Mahbubnagar where Nagar Kurnool, which is my Parliamentary constituency, falls there will be lot of migration of labour or different parts of the State and to the country, in search of their livelihood, leaving their old parents there and without the essential commodities to them to live on. This is all due to lack of rainfall. Only ten to twenty per cent of the area is sown in Mahbubnagar district and lot of crops are drying up for want of rainfall. Most of the people are migrating to different parts of the State and this has been become a chronic habit of the people of this district.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice that in the district of Mahbubnagar, there is neither surface water resources nor there is any ground water resources. Unfortunately, through the Krishna river is passing through this Mahbubnagar district, there is no source of using that water for irrigation in the Mahbubnagar district.

Sir, I, therefore, request through you, the Central Government to find out the chronic drought affected districts of the State and provide amenities to face the drought situation on a permanent basis rather than attending to the drought situation temporarily.

As you know, there is no source of water for irrigation. I, therefore, request the Central Government to find out a way to establish some small scale industries in the Mahbubnagar district and to go in for a research and development centre from the Agriculture Ministry, so that they can find out variety of crops, fruit-bearing trees and horticulture etc. which can be established in the district and that way, this drought which is continuously affecting the district, causing lot of problems can be avoided.

Yesterday while speaking on the drought situation of Andhra Pradesh the hon. Member from Telugu Desam Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde told that the State Government and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh are not doing anything on the drought relief measures. In this regard I would like to bring to the notice of the House that as long back as 2nd May of this year the Secretary of Agriculture, all the Departments of Agriculture, with the assistance of the Agriculture University, have drawn up a contingency plan to tackle the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.

A continuous review is being done under the Secretary Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh. As a matter of fact the Relief Commissioner of Andhra has visited Nagar Kurnool Parliamentary Constituency of Mahbubnagar district. He has also visited a number of drought affected district. The Secretary of Agriculture has visited Nalgonda district which is affected very much. For that matter the Secretary, Agriculture is planning to visit the Mahbunagar district on the 30th.

The State Government has already intimated the drought situation of the State to the Central Government on the 10th of July giving particulars to the Union Agriculture Ministry. But unfortunately a wrong information is given to the House saying that the State Government has not intimated to the Central Government about the situation prevailing in Andhra Pradesh. Continuously the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Relief, the Secretary of

Agriculture are monitoring and reviewing the situation. They are touring the districts which are affected. All the affected districts are visited by these three officers of the State Govt.

On 17th of July the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh called for a review meeting where he reviewed all the Departments, not just Agriculture but all the Departments, and has given instructions to take appropriate steps to tackle the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh. When there was scarcity of water in Andhra Pradesh, the State Government had released Rs. 10 crore to provide drinking water.

As you know, there is Rs. 80 crore provision at the State Government's disposal to spend for giving relief to the people affected by drought and other natural calamities. From that the State Government has been working. My request to the Central Government is to find out the chronic drought affected districts of the State and find out a permanent solution by establishing small scale industries, going in for irrigation facilities which will provide some sort of a permanent solution to the backward and drought prone districts of the State.

I convey my thanks for giving me a chance to being the drought situation of my State to the notice of the august House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: (Barasat); Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India remained an idle spectator, callous and indifferent when a vast part of our country was under the spell of - let me use the phrase used by the hon. Minister himself I will take recourse to that again - rare severity. Of late, this has been a new phrase which we have been taught. Severity and now he adds rare to it.

As a matter of fact I have got certain information gathered by a non-governmental agency which is generously relied upon. According to that over 70 million people and 18 million hectares of crop area spread over seven States were under the grip of severe drought. The drought caused

a loss in terms of kharif foodgrains and the loss is placed at Rs. 3000 crores. For cash crops like cotton and oilseeds, it is estimated to be of the order of Rs. 5000 crores. Therefore the magnitude of the crisis is to be properly understood and it is to be taken into account that it not only been severe, but it has also been a rare severity. The problem has been made all the more critical because of the new economic policy thrusts of the Government. This is not the time for me to discuss the economic policy of the Government, but so far as the sufferings due to drought of the people are concerned I would only mention that the Eighth Plan - as far as we could know - has given a relatively lower priority to the agricultural growth; it has given a relatively lower priority to the rural development and poverty alleviation. If the Eighth Plan gives low priority to these areas - areas of agricultural growth, rural development and poverty alleviation - naturally it is a matter of grave concern for the people who understand the economy of our country to the least extent. The present Budget policies are also causing great hardships to the people because there has been less allotment in these areas. There has been severe cut in certain areas which directly concern the people who are living in millions in the rural areas and who have become the victims of this drought. Therefore this matter is very serious one, in this respect.

I am very much concerned about the attitude of the Government of India towards the State Government in respect of giving financial aid to them to meet the drought situation. On the 9th July this year, a question was raised in this House and the hon. Minister was very kind to give a very detailed answer to this, I found from that reply that several Governments have requested the Government of India to provide financial assistance to meet the situation arising out of the drought condition in their States. The State of Gujarat requested for Rs. 650 crores of Central assistance; Karnataka requested for Rs. 50 crores only. This is the amount that they wanted. Kerala requested for Rs. 138 crores; Madhya Pradesh requested for Rs. 295 crores; Maharashtra

requested for Rs. 789 crores; Manipur requested for Rs. 3.15 crores and Rajasthan requested for Rs. 1.71 crores,

This is the request made by these State Governments affected by the drought for getting the Central assistance. But, what has been done so far? Respected Agriculture Minister was very polite, but frank. I quite appreciate his frankness. He said politely that the Ninth Finance Commission has given an Award and according to that Award, Calamity Relief Fund has been created; it has already given certain amount for these State Governments also; therefore, whatever might be the drought, whatever may be the extent of natural calamity. Whatever may be the extent of fire, whatever may be the woes, anxiety, difficulty and misery of the people, nothing can be given; and that the Central Government will not and shall not give any money to any of the drought-affected States. We are also very much concerned about this attitude of the Central Government. Ultimately what has happened? The State of Gujarat has been given Rs. 63 crores by way of advance by way of advance plan payment and advance instalment of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). In the case of Kerala, it is Rs. 17 crore, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 20 crore and Maharashtra Rs. 33 crore. I have already mentioned what has been the requisition made by these State Governments. I plead that this strait-jacketed formula formulated by the Ninth Finance Commission should be reviewed. This is unworkable. This is inhuman.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Parliament will be with you because there cannot be a calamity. You cannot just calculate the calamity in terms of your kitty. What is your kitty? You cannot expect the nature will be so kind to have the calamity designed according to the kitty. Therefore, I strongly feel that it should be on record. If he has not yet reviewed, then it needs a review. I hope the House will be with the Agriculture Minister. I should not say that we should wait for the Tenth Finance Commission. The Central Government must take into account that there should be central assistance extended to the affected States.

Here he has introduced an element to answer. Some State Governments will be given some assistance by way of advance payment for CRF and by way of advance payment towards the Plan - that too on the condition that the State Government has to prove that there has been drought and drought has been of rare severity. It should not only be severe but it should be a 'rare severity'. Who is there to know that there is a rare severity. What is the criterion for determining severity, rare severity and less severity? Therefore, this is very very indifferent and callous. I think, the Government should take note of it. The House should take note of this indifferent and callous attitude towards the suffering millions in different States of our country.

The last point it about the public distribution system. I think the Government should take note of it. It is going to collapse because of the wrong policy pursued by this Government. The offtake from the PDS is increasing. I have got figures to substantiate it. The off take of foodgrains by the public distribution system during the eleven month period ended February last was of the order of 17.3 million tonnes against 13 million tonnes during the previous corresponding period. There has been a larger amount of offtake from the public distribution system in the current year because there has been a rise of prices in the open market. Last year the offtake was of about 14 million tonnes. Now in the eleven month period, it has been 17.3 million tonnes. Therefore, there has been an increase in offtake of more than three million tonnes.

On the other hand, what has been the procurement? The Agriculture Minister should be concerned that there has been a decline in the procurement for feeding the public distribution system. Just for his information, I want to say that the procurement of foodgrains during the eleven month period beginning April 1991, declined by 21 per cent to 18.1 million tonnes compared 22.9 million tonnes procured during the previous corresponding period. The result is that the Central pool has only 13.4 million tonnes of foodgrains in stock as on 1st

March, 1992 compared to 18.8 million tonnes on 1st March, 1991. I think, the Government has now come to the conclusion that the Government would import more than 4 million tonnes of foodgrains from outside the country. Here, an important point has been raised. Sir, I will conclude in one or two minutes. The Government should understand this point. If you feel that the Government should not understand, then what shall I do? I will be happy if you could contradict what I am going to say. A contract had been entered into wherein imported wheat would cost the Government Rs. 5260 per tonne where as domestic cost will be cheaper at Rs. 4410 per tonne. When higher price is given to the India farmer which will cost them Rs. 4410 per tonne, they have contracted to import wheat from outside at the cost of Rs. 5260 per tonne. why? The Government should make it clear as to why foodgrains are being imported at a higher price than the indigenous price. The Government does not come out with full facts. I want to know the facts.

My last point is about starvation deaths. There have been starvation deaths in Tripura, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

AN HON MEMBER: There were no starvation deaths in Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: All right. I know that the Government of MP has denied. The Government of Orissa denied two years ago about starvation deaths but subsequently, the High Court gave a judgment accusing or fixing the responsibility upon the Government officials. Whatever might have been said by our Chief Minister, the fact remains. Defend our Government. It is your duty to defend our Government. But you should also understand that if this is the procedure adopted by the Parliament that there will be an impartial agency to go into the facts as to whether there have been starvation deaths or not, then there is no future for the poor. There have been starvation deaths in several States which has been established by non-fiscal agencies, by evidence given even by a Press including that of Tripura. Would the Parliament remain silent? Would the Parliament remain indifferent and callous on

these starvation deaths which are taking place in increasing number in different States of our country, even though the State Governments deny? Therefore, Sir, it is a suggestion from me that some kind words should fall from your lips so that the Government can fulfill its responsibility and I think the Parliament should constitute a committee of its own to into the case of starvation deaths. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD (Salampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost all the Members of the House have expressed their concern over drought situation since yesterday. However, it appears that the hon. Minister of Agriculture is not at all concerned about it. Had he been concerned, or even aware of the factual position, he must have had declared all the areas as drought affected are from where the reports to this effect have come. But this Government has always been following dual policy. The way of providing compensation to the big capitalists is some what different while the way of providing compensation of the poor farmers is different. The Government adopts the indifferent attitude in providing assistance to the poor farmers in case of fire, flood or drought. Earlier the farmer grew crops to fulfill his own needs but now he grows to fulfill the requirements of the whole country. The hon. Minister must have been very well aware of the drought affected States. The hon. Member have already mentioned about them. Today, thousands of people and animals have died and crops have damaged due to drought. But our Agriculture Minister is unaware of the situation. At the moment, he is not in a position to give the statistics in regard to the number of people and animals who died and the crops damaged due to drought. The great poet Tulsidas has said, "Ka Varsha Jab Krishi Sukhane" It means "what is the use of rain when the crop have already dried up"

The hon. Minister himself is a farmer. So he should know the problem of the farmers. Nowadays, the farmers are facing a typical problem, They are unable to get diesel and



petrol for their pumping sets. It is not a matter for which the Central Government or State Government, may be accused. What is the alternative left with farmers, if the State Governments cannot provide diesel or petrol at the time of severe drought. In that situation, the farmer becomes helpless and frustrated, where the Government tube-wells are installed their drains are damaged. When he goes for water power is not available for most of the time. On papers the work regarding the repairing and construction of drains is done but in fact, the work does not even take material shape. The concerned officials embezzle the funds. When there are floods, the officials get a large amount of funds sanctioned in the name of relief work but the work is done only on papers. If the hon. Minister is really a farmer and the well-wisher of farmers, he must understand their problems. I feel that in Delhi water is wasted just for luxury purpose while in rural areas the crops are dried up for want of water. When the Members of the House express their anguish over the starvation deaths due to drought situation, the Government refutes the charges and the doctors certify that those deaths were due to certain diseases and not for want of water and these deaths are not starvation deaths.

Even the big cultivators who engage field labourers to work in their fields are also finding themselves in a difficult situation. How can they engage the labourers when they do not have water in their fields. In such circumstances, the field labourers fail to earn their livelihood and thus they are forced to move to cities on large scale to earn their livelihood. The field labourers work in the fields to look after their families. Such a severe drought, forces them to move to cities thus making the rural areas completely deserted.

In addition to all these problems, your distribution systems is also defective. The supply of commodities right from sugar to kerosene through Fair Price shops is totally discriminatory.

13.00 hrs.

The Government has never taken measures to rectify the distribution system. As per the information available to me throughout the Government of Uttar Pradesh, diesel quota has been curtailed. So far as the total process of providing relief at the time of drought is concerned, it is also defective. The eastern region of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are hit by drought. The rain was very scanty and thus there is no scope of good crop. However, in future there is every likelihood of flood, and when there will be floods, then the plans will be prepared. The officials will visit the affected areas and make the estimates of the total loss and the whole process will remain only in papers. The procurement prices of the wheat fixed by the Government is not remunerative and its result is that the wheat is not reaching at the purchasing centres in adequate quantity.

The Government itself can make an assessment of the quantity of the food grains that has reached at the purchasing centres. The farmers do not supply the wheat to the centres perhaps because they have to supply it at the rate of Rs. 275/- per quintal. While the Government imports the same from Canada, at the rate of Rs. 526/- per quintal. Despite this, it won't be justified to blame the farmers for not supplying wheat to the purchasing centres. Is it not an act of extracting commission?

Through you, I would like the hon. Minister of Agriculture kindly to issue directions to ensure the supply of electricity to farmers round the clock. So that the country may be protected from drought and starvation. I directly level the allegation of taking commission on the hon. Minister and would submit to him that if he is really a farmer, and has kind feelings for the farmers in real sense, he must give directions for 24 hours supply of electricity to the farmers. All the damaged drains should be repaired. On one hand people are suffering due to drought, while on the other hand, they are being asked to pay the dues; the Government should stop all the recoveries and make

provision for the livelihood of the unemployed youths labourers running from villages to cities for the purpose.

I hope that the hon. Minister of Agriculture would protect the farmers of the country; and if you fail in doing so, the victims would raise their voice against him. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 14.00 hrs.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then Adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the Clock.*

1405 hrs.

**The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at five minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock**

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up the papers to be laid on the Table.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**Review on the Working of and Annual Report of Salar Jung Museum Board for 1990-91 and statement for delay in laying these reports etc.**

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): On behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum Board for the year 1991-91.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi

and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum Board for the year 1990-91 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Salar Jung Museum Board for the year 1990-91.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above  
[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 2350/92]

**Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) (Union Territories) Amendment Rules, 1992 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) On behalf of Shri Kamal Nath, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) (Union Territories) Amendment Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 379 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1992 under sub-section (2) of the section 53 of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT2351/92]
- (2) A copy of the Hazardous Wastes Management and Handling Amendment Rules, 1992 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 380 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1992 under section 26 of