

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

Government of India, I urge the Government to create a Maritime Border Protection Force expeditiously, preferably under the control of the Central Government.

(viii) Need to declare Rabindranath Tagore as National Poet and preserve his literary and artistic works

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly): Sir, Article 49 of our Constitution enjoins on the State to protect every monument or place or object of artistic or historic interest (declared by or under law made by Parliament) to be of national importance, from spoliation, disfigurement, destruction etc.

But in spite of this, the literary and artistic works of Rabindranath Tagore are facing the risk of suffering distortion at the hands of unscrupulous commercial interests, after the expiry of 50 years from the demise of the world-poet when the copy right provisions cease to be applicable in this particular case w.e.f. 31st December, 1991.

In the House of Parliament on May 9, 1961 while paying homage and tribute to the memory of Rabindra Nath Tagore on the occasion of his birth centenary, he had been described as "a great personality who put India on the cultural map of the world."

Serious concern has already been expressed from several quarters regarding the possibility of commercial abuse and resultant distortion of the literary and artistic works of the versatile genius after the expiry of 50 years from his death. Some well-known organisations of writers and artists as also some eminent Tagore-lovers have demanded that Rabindra Nath Tagore be declared as National Poet by an Act of Parliament and urgent steps be taken accordingly to protect the invaluable artistic and literary creations before the expiry of 50 years from his death.

I urge upon the Government to respond

to the very justified demand for declaration of Rabindra National Poet.

13.04 hrs.

**DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1991-92**

**Ministries of Agriculture, Food and
Rural Development-Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

I now call Shri E. Ahamed to continue his talk on Agriculture.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Yesterday I was dealing with the possibilities of developing the fisheries industry in the country for which the Ministry of Agriculture has to take some immediate steps to activate the process of the industry. What I said yesterday was that India has got 29,000 Kms. of river system and 7.53 lakh hectares of potential fresh water ponds and tanks to produce fish. India has also got the potential to produce 4.5 million tonnes of fish every year. But in spite of all these facilities, the encouragement or incentives provided by the Government of India is very much inadequate. The State-wise analysis of the fish production during 1988-89 shows that West Bengal produces 5.14 lakh tonnes of fish followed by Maharashtra 3.84 lakh tonnes, Gujarat-3.81 lakh tonnes, Tamil Nadu 3.68 lakh tonnes and Kerala 3.65 lakh tonnes. These five States have been earning a very large portion of foreign exchange to this country through the promotion of marine products by exports. India has become the Seventh in the world whereas Japan comes at the top as the country producing the maximum quantity of fish. But Japan is utilising the modern techniques in fishing which India has not ac-

quired so far. India is yet to acquire sufficient and satisfactory modern techniques in fishing.

Sir, the fishing industry has not received whatever assistance it deserves from the Government of India in spite of the fact that the estimated population which consumes the fish is 56 per cent of the total population of this country. We have got very large scope for improving this industry in view of the fact that there is also an estimated growth of 0.6 per cent of fish-eaters in this country annually. The *per capita* consumption has also been estimated at 3.2 Kgs *per annum* in India. I quote all these figures in order to prevail upon the hon. Minister in charge of this Ministry that the Government should change its attitude towards the development of the fishing industry. In 1980-81 the export was to the tune of 75,591 tonnes valued at Rs. 234.84 crores whereas in 1989-90 it has increased to 1,10,788 tonnes valued at Rs. 634.76 crores. So, when a country is very much in dire need of foreign exchange, it is the duty of the Government to encourage such an industry to develop whereby we will be able to earn more foreign exchange. The lack of infrastructure facilities at different ports and the quality control are two major setbacks for the promotion of our marine products. I hope the Government of India will take care of this aspect.

Sir, the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture knows the potential capacity of Kerala in this matter. But unfortunately, 75 lakhs of people who have been depending on this sector especially the fishermen who are very much down-trodden and the weaker sections of the society, have not been given whatever they normally have to get from the Government of India under the various schemes. Their housing and other basic necessities have not been attended to by the State Governments in the right earnest. And they also face the problem of credit, marketing and several such facilities. I hope, the Government will pay necessary attention to it.

I may also bring one matter to the kind

attention of the Government that in Cochin, we have one Centre for Marine Fisheries Research Centre (CMFRC). There is another one in Bombay which has been declared as a deemed university. Why not the Government of India also consider to declare the CMFRC in Kerala to be a deemed university? There are number of other branches also connected with this and working in Cochin. Therefore, I hope and I also request the Government to consider this.

With regard to rural development, I may say, in the discussion yesterday, many points had been covered by my other colleagues in the House. I may say, in 1952, after the Community Development Programme was launched in the country, we had made efforts towards systematic integrated rural development. In this regard, I may mention the name of late Shri S.K. Dey who was really the torch-bearer for the rural development in this country. We have got many projects for the rural development such as, the Food for Work Programme which ultimately culminated into NREP, RLEGP, Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and IRDP. I do not want to take the valuable time of this House to deal with all these things. But I would like to mention one thing with respect to the rural water supply scheme. In spite of the vigorous efforts made by the Government, the Rural Water Supply Scheme has not been that much satisfactory. According to me, the Government have to pay more attention to cover our villages with safe water supply scheme. We have got many schemes like the Minimum Needs Programme, the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), and then we have the National Mission on Drinking Water (NMDW). We are still trying to cover various problem villages by all these programmes. The Government have accepted the norms to declare a village as a problem village when in a village there is no drinking water available within a distance of 1.6 kilometer. The Government claims that out of 1,61,722 problem villages that have been identified, it has covered 1,48,958 villages. According to me, this is a matter to be reconsidered and re-examined. These figures may not be correct. I hope that

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the Government will examine that with relevant data available. According to one report, what I found was, the balance of problem villages was 12,764 to be covered for the supply of drinking water. This may not be wholly correct.

I wish that the Government would examine this matter. But, one thing I would like to mention here that the Government have taken a number of steps to accelerate the Rural Water Supply Scheme. Why not the Government consider to have a statutory body like Rural Development Board, at the Central level? We have one such Board in Kerala. Because, the Government, all the time cannot say that paucity of funds stands in the way of implementing the Rural Water Supply Scheme. The Rural Water Supply Scheme was aided by LIC and other financial institutions, for which we have constituted a Board like the Water and Drainage Boards of State level Scheme. Instead of this Water and Drainage Board, why not we consider to have a statutory board at the Central level? That Statutory Board should not only be given responsibility of Complementing water supply scheme but also they should be given various other functions. We have many of such schemes, which may be looked into.

For example, apart from Rural Water Supply Scheme, the Board should also take up the Remunerative Development Scheme to be implemented in the rural areas. The grim challenge that our rural masses are facing is that they do not get or enjoy whatever the necessities the town people get. They do not have any marketing facilities; they do not have shopping arrangements; they do not have good lodging facilities. Why should we allow this disparity to continue between the urban and rural areas? Therefore, I am of the view that a statutory Board should be constituted, which would take up the responsibility of implementing development in the grassroot level Panchayats and also exploit and make use of the untapped resources in the rural areas, whereby, the pro-

posed Statutory Board will be able to take up the Remunerative Development Schemes such as - Shopping centres, market complex, car and lorry stands etc., and entrust them to the local panchayats. And the Panchayats should give them on lease, or on whatever the legal means, to the people who require such facilities. That will be a non-taxable income to our panchayats. From that non-taxable income, the Statutory Board can also take back instalments of the amount which they lent to them. If the Government allow such Boards to issue debentures to mobilise funds, it will be a good idea in the present conditions. Therefore, I take this opportunity, to urge upon the Government to consider to have a Rural Development Board at the Central level, with necessary infrastructural facilities in the States, so as to implement the rural development activities. And that will also help the Board to avail the institutional finance from financial institutions like LIC and such other financial institutions. I hope the Government will pay sufficient attention to this matter.

Before I conclude, I just would like to mention a few things about Kerala. Recently, there was heavy rain-fall in Kerala, which costed Kerala very much. A representation was presented by the Government of Kerala to the Central Government. The representation shows the alarming figures of 125 people, the toll taken in the heavy monsoon that Kerala had witnessed in the last month. The rain-fall was also unprecedented. The rain-fall data from 1st June to 12th June, 1991, shows that the figures have gone up from 92 per cent to 290 per cent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are other people who want to speak. Please conclude now.

SHRI E. AHAMED: The Government has not given sufficient assistance to the state, which had suffered heavily due to the unprecedented rain-fall. The 9th Finance Commission has allotted Rs. 31 crores to the State for carrying out relief work in case of natural calamity. But this Rs. 31 crores is a very paltry sum taking into account the

magnitude of the loss sustained by the people of Kerala due to the heavy rainfall. There is also a mention in the 9th Finance Commission Report which says that "if any region faces a calamity of such dimension and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level." We are confident that the hon. Minister will take appropriate action and as the situation demands, the Government of India will incur necessary expenditure.

Here what actually happened in Kerala is that as a result of heavy rainfall we have lost 125 people. Every district has its own share in the damage. The Government did not so far provide any assistance, if I am correct. I am prepared to stand myself corrected.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): We have cleared two instalments already from this Rs. 31 crores.

SHRI E. AHAMED : May I know the amount?

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I don't know exactly the amount, but two instalments have been cleared.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I am thankful to the Minister that at least the Government of India is taking consideration of the Kerala State to that extent. But I should say that we have lost 125 people and also 138 people have been injured due to the heavy rainfall for the last two months in Kerala. The Kerala Government has approached the Government of India with necessary data for the relief and the hon. Minister has told that they have given two instalments. But I am sure the Government will take due consideration of the request of the Kerala Government. The Kerala Government has requested for a fairly large amount taking into the magnitude of the loss sustained. I may avail of this occasion to request the Government of India to give a sympathetic consideration to the request made by the State Government.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next, Shri Birbal Ram.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JHANJHARPUR): Sir, what about my name?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yesterday there was a meeting of all the whips and the panel of Chairmen to sort out the system. Accordingly a formula has been drawn and according to that formula only any presiding officer shall have to call the names of speakers. Probably this will be briefed to all of you by the whips of the respective parties.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRBAL (GANGANAGAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Sir, agriculture is the main occupation of the people of my district. One thing that I would like to mention here is that the farmers do not get the price of their produce on time and therefore, they are forced to sell it at throw-away prices. Sir, the Government should see to it that the farmers get remuneration for their produce in time.

I would like to thank the Government for maintaining the subsidy for small farmers and for reducing fertilizer prices by ten per cent. I would also like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that the entire area stretching from Mastavali, where the first head of the Indira Gandhi Canal is located to Suratgarh, remains water-logged due to the overflow of the canal water. This has been taking place for the past five or six years. The rural areas remain water-logged as a result of this houses have collapsed and it has become difficult to carry out agricultural activities. The water-logging has also caused irreparable damage to the concrete water courses in these farms. The people are left with no means of livelihood as a result of this destruction. Government relief has been provided for the sake of it to only very few people.

[Sh. Birbal]

Therefore, I urge the Government of India to provide rehabilitation grants to those people, whose houses and water courses have got damaged and I also request the Government to convert the water-logged land into arable land by using the most modern equipments available. I also request the Government to direct the Banks and other agencies to stop collecting the dues from the farmers.

A large part of the Bhakra region in my constituency, Ganganagar gets water from the Sirhind Feeder Canal. The said canal is under the control of the Punjab Government. The Punjab Government releases only that much amount of water to the Bhakra region, which is in surplus, after all its use, as a result of which there is heavy fluctuation in the water level. This has resulted in heavy losses to the farmers of that area. The Bhakra area receives much water, when Punjab doesn't need it, but it withholds the supply, when it requires water. Consequently, the farmers on this side, thirst for water and almost every year, their crops get destroyed.

It is my humble submission that the *Bhakra Control Board should be under the Union Government*, so that the farmers of the Bhakra region of Ganganagar district don't face any shortage of water.

The Gang Canal in Sri Ganganagar district has been a very important source of water supply and has been serving the needs of the farmers, for the past sixty years. This canal has a capacity of 2750 cusecs and the part of it which passes through Punjab is badly in need of repairs and therefore is not in a position to carry water, according to its capacity. In order to meet the water requirements of the farmers, the Rajasthan Government diverted water of this part of the canal to the Indira Gandhi Canal and built a sink channel at R.D. No. 491, near Lohgarh, and this would be subsequently linked to the first head of the Gang Canal, near Sadhuwali. The Rajasthan Government has almost completed the work on its part and the Har-

yana Government too has nearly finished the work on the part of the canal passing through its territory. However, the rest of the work remain to be done by the Punjab Government. Therefore, I request the Union Government to direct the Punjab Government to close the Sirhind Feed Canal for 15 days so that the work can be completed as early as possible and the farmers utilising the Gang Canal get their due water.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also request the Union Government to see to it that the land adjoining the Indira Gandhi Canal, is distributed to the landless people at Ganganagar district. The Rajasthan Government has made some rules regarding the distribution of this land and one of them is that priority in allocation of land would be given to the local population and the remaining land would be distributed equally among the landless people of other Districts. Now, already a lot of land adjoining the Indira Gandhi Canal in Ganganagar District has been distributed among a large number of people displaced by the Pong Dam, even though as per the rules, it should have been distributed equally among the landless people of those districts, through which the canal passes. I would like to remind my friends here that it is in this district, that the Jethsar farm is located. Similarly, the Suratgarh farm, occupying thousands of acres of land is also located here. Further, thousands of acres of land is under the possession of the Forest Department in Kishanpura village, adjoining Hanmmangarh. As it is a border district, many air bases and Military contonments are also located there. Further, much land has been rendered infertile in the name of Ghaggar Flood Control Scheme. Similarly, Government land which could have been distributed among the landless has been allocated to former landlords and also agricultural graduates. Thus, we see that the surplus land in this district has been distributed to many people, under some or the other pretext. The District has given away this land for state or national interests. Consequently, only few landless people of this District have benefited from the distribution programme. Moreover, there is no special

provision to distribute land to them in the other districts of Rajasthan. Therefore, it is my humble submission that keeping these factors in mind, the Union Government should see to it that priority is given to the landless people of Ganganagar district, in the matter of distribution of surplus land in Bikaner and Jaisalmer districts. This would prove immensely helpful in solving their problems. I once again thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL (Monghur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, agriculture is India's mainstay and eighty per cent of our population is dependent on it for its survival. Unfortunately, the Union Government's policies are by and large urban oriented and not rural oriented and farmer oriented, as a result of which there is large scale migration of labour from the rural areas of Bihar, U. P., Orissa and other states to Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and other cities. In the villages, the farm labourers, the poor, small and marginal farmers remain occupied for only about six months or so. Rest of the time, they remain idle. This is precisely because we have never accorded any priority to agriculture in our policies. This is also the reason behind the growing poverty of those in the agricultural sector and the growing prosperity of those in the industrial and business sectors. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that the policies of our Government should be rural oriented, agriculture oriented and farmer oriented and for this minimum fifty per cent of the Budgetary allocations should be kept aside for agriculture.

Secondly, I would like to say that in states like Bihar as a result of heavy rains and the consequent erosion, lakhs of acres of land get submerged in the Ganga water and there are no specific schemes to tackle this problem. Although crores of Rupees are spent annually for flood relief, no effective step has been taken so far to check these recurring floods. For example, about 25-26 years back, 5,92,421 hectares of land was under cultivation in the Diyara region of Monghyr district, but today only 26,609

hectares is under cultivation. Now, within these 25 years, a large chunk of land, about 90 per cent or so producing a variety of crops like wheat, grams, mustard seed etc., has submerged under the Ganga water. Obviously, the faulty policies of the Government are responsible for this situation. Similarly, the Tal region of Monghyr district has an area of 104372 hectares but irrigation facilities are available only for 1630 hectares. From this, we can assess the situation in the whole of Bihar and the rest of the country. Barring for Punjab, Haryana, Western Uttar Pradesh and a few Southern states, the condition in the rest of the country is almost the same. Therefore, it is essential that there should be a co-ordination committee to deal jointly with the irrigation and power problems faced by the farmers. Unfortunately, so far we haven't made any progress in this direction. Over the years, mafia groups have emerged to usurp the money set aside for rural development, irrigation, agriculture, power, co-operatives etc., There Mafia are hand in gloves with the bureaucrats in the Agriculture, Power and Irrigation Departments. Thus we see, the emergence and rapid growth of a new class of 'Bureaucrat-Capitalists' alongside the Monopolists. This has not only led to a virtual economic loot of the country, but also doesn't bode well for our democracy. If development and economic progress are our objectives, then we will make foolproof arrangements to prevent the Mafia groups from usurping the money allocated for Agricultural and other developmental works in the rural areas. We will have to make arrangements to accelerate the the pace and development. Therefore, I request the Union Government to take the necessary steps to effectively check corruption. The country has achieved self-sufficiency in grain production, especially in Rice and Wheat production, yet the prices of these commodities are showing an upward trend. The lack of coherent policy in this regard on the part of the Government is to be blamed for that.

Similarly, the Public Distribution System in the villages should have been strengthened long time back, but we have miserably

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failed in that direction too. In states like Bihar, Sugar and Wheat are the only two things that are available through the Public Distribution System and even then, sometimes people get nothing except sugar. Kerosene oil is available rarely. In states like Kerala, about 23 items are made available through the Public Distribution System. Similar arrangements should be made in other states also to improve the standard of living in the countryside. There has been a sharp fall in the production of oilseeds and pulses. It is clearly mentioned in your Report that the production of pulses has shown a decrease from 18 lakh million tonne in 1988-89 to 16 lakh million tonne in 1989-90. Similarly, oilseed production has shown a sharp decline from 13.8 lakh million tonnes in 1988-89 to 12 lakh million tonnes in 1989-90. Thus, we see a sharp fall in the production of both these commodities and the most important reason is that Fertilisers, Diesel, Power and Water are not made available to the farmers at subsidised rates. Consequently, the prices of these commodities are sky rocketing. Therefore, the Government should provide incentives to the farmers to correct this anomaly.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, secondly, if arrangements to prevent floods in areas like the Diyara region in Monghyr district are made, the area can produce two or three crops a year. Moreover, if irrigation facilities are made available, lakhs of tonnes of pulses cereals, mustard seeds etc. can be additionally produced. You can become self sufficient in edible oils and can save more than Rs. 1500 crores which you spent on import of edible oils. What's more, you can even export oil and earn valuable foreign exchange. Therefore, it is my humble submission that if such arrangements are made, we can increase our production.

I would like to tell you my experience. About 26 years ago, when I was a child, the people in the villages, especially the landless labourers used to take 'Sattu' as their food and the 'Sattu' was made of grams. A lot

of effort had to be made in its preparation, but today that 'Sattu' is not available in the villages. On the contrary, they are very much available in the cities. My question is whether why such a situation has arisen. It is precisely because the village produce goes to the cities. Thus, consumerism has become the order of the day. It doesn't benefit the labourers or the farmers, both small and marginal in any manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to say something with regard to our cattle wealth. There are not enough grazing grounds in the villages for the cattle. The small and marginal farmers, who also rear cattle, suffer the most, in this regard. Why is it so? It is not because no steps have been taken to improve the standard of living in the rural areas of Bihar, nor due to non-implementation of crop-sharing laws in the state, but because the delimitation (land ceiling) laws are yet to be implemented properly. Even now, there are people, who possess thousands of acres of 'Benami' land. This is one major reason behind the growing unrest in Central Bihar and other areas. It is also responsible for the growing criminalisation and the increasing popularity of the Naxalite Movement. The root cause of all this problem are these 'benami' lands and the Government should acquire these lands and distribute it among the landless. Therefore, what I want to say is that although land reforms have been specifically mentioned in the Ninth Schedule, the reality is something different. To cite an example, there is a village by the name Kilkari in our district, where the farm labourers have got deeds for crop sharing, but the officials in the administration are always on the side of the big landlords. Not only this, these poor labourers are also harassed, by imposing sections 144, 145. Thus, they are deprived of land. The Union Government should provide all possible assistance to the Bihar Government in this regard and issue directions to all the State Governments to strictly implement land reform laws including crop-sharing laws, for only then, our poor farmers would be able to possess land of their own and have enough grazing grounds for their cattle.

This would also have helpful in increasing our cattle wealth.

Bihar also produces a large variety of fruits and vegetables, but the absence of loan facilities etc., from co-operatives are proving to be obstacles in this direction. Therefore, it is my humble suggestion that co-operatives should not be left at the mercy of the bureaucrats, rather, they should be placed under the control of the co-operative committees in the villages. Further, these committees should be given more powers, and also financial assistance to enable them to purchase directly seeds, fertilizers etc., only then the poor farmers would be able to invest in fruit and vegetable cultivation and subsequently increase production.

I would also like to say a word with regard to crop insurance. In Bihar, fires caused by the heat wave during the 'Vaisakh' season, destroy Rabi crop on a large scale, but the farmers do not get compensation in proportion to their loss. Lakhs of tonnes of foodgrains are either destroyed by fire or floods. In such an eventuality the farmers should be compensated under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, sugarcane too is extensively grown in our State. It is said that during the British Rule, the Government used to pay advance money to the sugarcane growers so as to encourage them to grow more sugarcane which could be used to produce more sugar for being taken away to the European markets. But the position in the post-independence period is that arrears amounting to crores of rupees are due to the farmers who produce sugarcane and supply the same to the mills. The Government is not able to pay even the price after the supply what to talk of giving advance money. Sugarcane used to be extensively grown in our Monghyr district. Even now, it is grown in a wide area, but no incentive is given by the Government. The Government says that its reserves of foreign exchange have touched the bottom. If Government could give incentive on cane cultivation and increase sugar production, foreign exchange could be

earned through export of sugar. But due to wrong agricultural policy, production of sugarcane is going down as there is no incentive to the grower. Therefore, I would urge that the Government should pay advance money to the sugarcane grower so as to encourage him to bring more area under cane cultivation. If cane production goes up, sugar production also goes up throughout the country. Then surplus sugar can be imported to earn foreign exchange.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is already over. You please complete it within one minute.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to take two minutes more to mention two points with regard to application of science in agriculture. Firstly, there should be a 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' at the block level. I know that Krishi Vigyan Kendras are not there in all the districts in the country at present. But still I would demand that these kendras should be set up in every block. Secondly, the degree holders which Agricultural Universities produce acquire these degrees simply to get jobs. They must be sent to the fields of the farmers to acquire practical knowledge of agriculture. In the absence of such a field training, they cannot acquire practical knowledge with the result that they look for jobs in banks and elsewhere. I want that the Government should formulate such a policy under which agricultural graduates from all agricultural Universities in the country are deputed for acquiring practical knowledge on the fields of medium, small and marginal farmers so that they could have a close liaison with the real producer. On the one hand it will create interest in them to work for agricultural progress and on the other it will help in solving the problem of unemployment.

In the end, I would say that the Government should evolve a policy under which land reforms in the real sense could be

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brought about and students of agricultural universities should be asked to work with the actual farmers. Besides, fertilizer, seed and other inputs should be made available to farmers at cheap rates so that the migration of our Youth force from the villages could be checked and they get employment in the village itself. This will help in solving the problem of unemployment. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI TARA SINGH (Kurukshetra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on these Demands. In fact, this is my maiden speech in this august House. I rise to support these demands. Today morning, I went through the previous proceedings of the House as I could not attend the sittings for the last two three days. I find that some of my friends in the opposition, especially a lady Member had severely criticised the agricultural policy followed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Most humbly I would like to say that the work relating to cultivation is not too easy to be understood by everybody living in cities. I think the progress made by our country in the field of Agriculture during the last 40-45 years of post independence period is commendable. I have no matching words to praise it. I am 62 years old and I vividly remember the pre-partition days. I belong to an agricultural family. We used to grow 4-5 maunds of wheat per acre in one fields. Gram too used to be sown but the crop entirely depended on rain. If rain God was kind, we did reap some harvest, otherwise not.

Just now, some of my colleagues mentioned about barley SATTU and gram Sattu. I am reminded of the days when we used to eat sattu duly soaked in pitcher's cold water added with jaggery. An intake of such SATTU in the morning was enough to last as whole day's diet. But those status are no more seen nor are the people who used to eat sattu. Now-a-days if somebody is offered sattu to eat, he would not be able to digest it.

So far as our progress in the field of agriculture is concerned, there are no two opinions about the fact the we have made tremendous progress as a result of the policies of the Congress Government. I remember the days when we used to go around the world with a begging bowl to get foodgrains for feeding our countrymen. And what did we get red wheat, rotten one. We had to eat it, because there was no way out. I am myself a farmer and I can say that the fields on which not a blade of grass grew are now giving an yield of 50 maunds of wheat and 70-80 maunds of rice thanks to the consistent efforts of our agricultural scientists and the useful work done by our agricultural universities. now the farmers can raise an inter crop of sun flower between the two principal crops. i do not say that our agricultural revolution is complete. No, we have yet to go a long way.

I come from Haryana. The farmers of Haryana have used. The tubewell water and canal water for irrigation so extensively that ground water level which at one time was highest in the State has dipped too low to sink more tubewells in Haryana in future. This is the opinion of the agricultural scientists.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I am talking of agriculture, I can say that agriculture is not a self dependent department. It is linked with irrigation and electricity. The wise is one who thinks not only of today but of 20-40 years ahead. Last year one foodgrains production was 170-175 million tonnes. Now efforts are on to surpass this figure. I take pride in saying that in view of the fact that 33-34 per cent population of our country live below poverty line, our Government headed by our Prime Minister decided that 50 per cent of planned expenditure would be incurred on agriculture and rural development. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this announcement is indeed commendable and has been made very timely. But we need practical hands to implement this announcement. Instead of confining themselves to their officer, they should go to different areas and villages to find out what type of soil is

there, what is the deficiency in them, what nutrients do they require and at what times.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Minister of Finance who has taken care of small and marginal farmers. Please listen to me. I am not fully satisfied with what he has done for them, but he did take care of them and this is good. At the same time, I must point out that a poor farmer has to waste a day in the queue to get a bag of fertilizer. Sometimes, even one bag is not supplied to him after a whole day's waiting. Today, even a labourer in Haryana gets Rs. 40 per day as wages. You can imagine the condition of the farmer who owns only 2-4 acres of land and has to devote entire day for getting one bag of fertilizer. Sometimes, the police resort to lathi charge to control the crowd and the poor farmers are forced to make retreat. Therefore, the Government must pay attention to make the distribution of fertilizer a smooth affair.

Hon. Shri Jakhar has made a timely announcement that the stocks of fertilizer lying in stocks at present would be distributed at the old subsidised rate.

14.00 hrs.

It is very easy to say that things are improving, but who is there to bring about this improvement. There is no utility of the fertilizer which the farmer is getting at present because it adulterated. 50 per cent of it is dust. Exposed to water, it has lost its utility. Quality fertilizer has gone underground. My constituency consist of three districts. I have personally visited all the three districts and made complaints about the disappearance of the fertilizer. I would urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture that whatever policy we may formulate, it needs iron hands to implement the policy or the scheme because the shopkeepers and stockists are so callous that they do not take pity on poor farmers.

I am indeed proud of our farmers that they have increased the agricultural production through hard labour. Every year, we hear that the rains have been deceptive, the

supply of electricity has also been erratic, yet the agricultural production exceeds the previous year's mark. Credit for this goes to the farmer. One of the farmers told me that when he undertakes sowing of his fields, he does not mind pawning his household utensils or wife's ornaments. He puts everything at stake for the sake of his crop. Such is the attachment of the farmer with occupation. you can well imagine what befalls him if he is not given encouragement. I do not want to mince words to say that even if a farmer raise four thousand maunds of food grains, his economic condition does not charge for the better as he has no bank balance nor he is able to build a big house.

I am myself a farmer-cum-advocate. My land is in district Karnal. Canal water is available there for irrigation and electricity is also there. Crop yield too is good, but when I open the account register, I find that the cost of input and output is equal. In such a situation, the Government must think that the farmer who toils all day in the field should get some profit from his production ultimately.

One thing that I want to tell the hon. Minister of Agriculture is that the conditions in the rural areas now-a-days are such that once the boy passes matriculation or B.A., he does not want to work in his fields. Instead he is ready to accept a job of Rs. 400-500 per month. The reason is that he does not find agriculture a gainful employment at all. He thinks that his children will not be able to get education and his status will not rise. I have been an advocate for 25 years and on the basis of my experience I can say in this House that the tenants for whom I won the cases and got them 5-6 acres of land allotted from land lords did not cultivate this land even for two years and reverted to their old livelihood. They prefer working as daily wage labourer than to cultivate fields... (*Interruptions*) ... I can understand what you say, but a farmer with a landholding of 5 acres has no future in agriculture... (*Interruptions*)... I am more progressive than you and, perhaps, more concerned about farmers than you but I do not want to pay lip sympathy. What I am saying is that the tillers who were allotted 5

[Sh. Tara Singh]

acres of land did not do cultivation for more than a year. He simply sold it away and preferred to work as a daily wage labourer. I know that a daily wage worker who has 2-3 or 4 working hands in the family returns in the evening with a income of Rs. 200 to 300, whereas not even a medium farmer with a land holding of 10 acres can earn this much money daily. That is why I say that the boys of even well to do farming families do not prefer to adopt agriculture as profession as it is not profitable.

14.00 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Many hon. Members have pleaded here in favour of an agriculture policy, but the previous two Governments did not do anything practical, though their propaganda machinery was in top gear. They made big promises, viz. that the loans of the farmers would be waived; that remission would be given in the payment of electricity bills and what not. Their list of promises contained as many as 65 such promises. But what happened ultimately to those promises? The farmer who did not need a tractor purchased one. The farmer who did not need a tubewell bought an engine. The result today is that their lands have been hypothecated and no bank, no society, no shopkeeper is ready to lend them money. Such so their pitiable condition. If someone is really concerned about them, he must go and see what we have done for them. My submission to the Minister of Agriculture is that a situation is created to enable the agriculturists to purchase tools, fertilisers and seeds after taking loan on easy instalments. Mostly of the agriculturists do not get neither seeds nor fertilisers in time. I request the Minister of Agricultural to frame a policy for their assistance so that they can live with some dignity after taking loans.

The Agricultural Prices Commission is playing a very commendable role in the Central Government these days. The Com-

mission tried its best to ensure a price to the agriculturist which enabled him to lead a better life but it has not been possible as yet. You might have seen that wheat has been purchased from the agriculturist at the rate of Rs. 220-225 and flour is sold at the rate of Rs. 5 per kilo. Just now one of my acquaintances was telling me that when he goes to the market to sell vegetables it is sold at the rate of Rs. 1.50 per kg. but the same vegetable is sold at the rate of Rs. 5 per kg in the Vegetable Market. Who is to blame? As I said already that unless the problem is dealt with iron hand it wont be solved.

I would like to say a few words about Waste Land. Much of the land in this country is un-inhabited. Waste Land Development Boards were constituted to convert uninhabited land into inhabited one and these were provided sufficient funds also. I have gone through the Report concerning these Boards. The Comptroller and Auditor General has criticised these boards severely alleging that these boards have not functioned properly. The Government should pay some attention to this problem also. The land which is near the city and belonging to the agriculturists is purchased from them after giving them some kind of temptation. This way, they are bereft of employment on the one hand and on the other hand the colonisers sell the land in crores which they buy for song. My submission to the hon. Minister of Agriculture is that a law may be enacted to stop such practice so that fertile land is not purchased by colonisers.

Agriculturists have a problem of production, pricing and distribution also. An agriculturist grows foodgrains with his labour and hardwork but in return he does not get his due. He is getting far less prices for his produce. The produce should also be distributed honestly. People living in cities devour all the earnings obtained from the produce of the rural people. All of you are aware of the fact as to what does a poor man get for his produce. As I have said earlier that agriculture and water are co-related. I belong to Haryana, SYL Canal Scheme is going on for so many years. Indiraaji presented an award

to this scheme. This scheme was taken up 6-7 times from 1983 to 1991. In Haryana the entire Canal has been constructed but 5 per cent of its work in Punjab still remains to be done. In Punjab, sometime the Chief Engineer is shot dead and at other time somebody else is killed so that the waters of Punjab do not flow into Haryana. That is why 3 lakh cusecs of water cannot flow from there to this region because there is no arrangement of flow of water from there. Because of the shortage of water there is a loss of 8 million tonnes of foodgrains. In the absence of such arrangements the whole water flows to Pakistan, and neither Punjab nor Haryana is getting any benefit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude my speech within a minute. There is Hathnikund barrage which was previously called Tajewala barrage. Since Western Yamuna and Eastern Yamuna canals were constructed long back, their life is over now. It has developed cracks. For the last 22 years our brothers from U.P. are promising us regularly but they don't allow us to construct the barrage. There is a proposal to construct a barrage over Hanthnikund and Tajewala barrage has developed a crack. If it is flushed away due to floods any time the entire agriculture of Haryana will be destroyed. Therefore I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to extend some help in this case. Not only that, in 1972 it was decided under the Chairmanship of Shri K.L. Rao, the then Irrigation Minister, that Haryana would construct Hathnikund and Uttar Pradesh would construct Okhla barrage and both would bear expenses jointly. Haryana constructed their Okhla barrage, but when it was the turn of U.P. they began to show reluctance. That project is incomplete. I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to take immediate steps in that direction.

I would like to say few words about Thermal Power. The Yamuna Nagar Thermal Power Plant is pending for the last 15 years. We have purchase 1200 acres of land for the same, and sufficient machinery is ready for it. Negotiations with Japan and Canada have been finalised but this project is still pending in Delhi. I would request the

hon. Agriculture Minister to extend us some help.

One point more, and then I would conclude my speech. An agriculturist cannot have his both ends meet unless he has some alternative source of income, and dairy is an alternative source of income to him. When he will have some spare time he can run a dairy and can rear cow, buffalo etc and can earn something from that dairy to meet his daily expenses.

With these words, I am extremely thankful to you for given me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI SHIBU SOREN (Dumka). Mr. Chairman Sir, I stand to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Today we are having a debate to think over the agriculturist of our country and the people living in villages. Jharkhand area of Bihar is full of forests. The land there is uneven and small rivers are flowing and we have seen and experienced till today that whatever schemes were prepared for the welfare of agriculturists could not be implemented. In our area it was first of all decided by the Agriculture experts and officials that there should be lift irrigation for irrigation purposes. Lift irrigation work was started in rivers but the condition was such that even after the construction was complete the electric pump was not installed. Even when the electric supply was available, pumping sets were not provided nor the minor canals were constructed at all. And after 4-5 years have elapsed the officials said that the scheme would not prove a success in this area because it is a hilly area. The most successful thing is the construction of large dams. That could not serve any purpose. Hundreds of dams have been constructed in our area. The dams are not constructed for irrigation purposes. People give in writing that these dams would serve the purpose of irrigation, but the dams generated electricity only. Due to construction of big dams for the generation of electricity villages get submerged and land is sunk. Therefore we are not able to get any electricity nor any water

[Sh. Shibu Soren]

for irrigation. We don't get anything in the name of irrigation. Such is our condition. Big dams and lift irrigation have proved useless. When the issue of construction and digging of wells is discussed an amount of Rs. 18-19 thousand is allotted to us. Only one type of well known as "Jaldhara" is dug and the Government invests Rs. 40 thousand in it. This is the difference, with all that the well is useful and there are small ponds here and there. Experience in Dumka district has shown that such ponds are highly useful. Small ponds should be developed and wells constructed. Electric pumping sets should also be installed.

Electricity and agriculture go hand in hand, our country is short of nothing. For the generation of electricity we have got coal and rivers available here but of no avail. We are in utter darkness. We regularly give suggestions for the construction of small power houses near the collieries, but it is not done. We people have lost hope and a stage has reached that we don't get anything, though we have got the maximum resources here. Justice is not done to us. What can we do further. Everything is lost in the name of irrigation. We do not have enough land, agriculture or big agriculturists. Only agriculturists having 2-3 or 5 acres of land are left here and these people are far from rules and laws. We want that the Government should drop bigger plans and construct well and develop only small ponds. Major plans do not solve our irrigation problems and these involve heavy expenditure alone. Rates are going up day by day, and no work is being done. The Government is not able to provide money in time for the construction of dams. With the result hundreds of crores of rupees go waste. The situation with us is that dam is constructed but canals are not constructed. Therefore the Government should pay attention to the construction of wells and development of ponds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to dwell on one more point. Huge amount of the Central Government funds are spent in the

name of development of Adivasis and Harijans in our country but it does not reach the people. The money is siphoned off while in transit, the expenditure is shown on paper. The money is sanctioned on paper and even distributed on paper. That is all. It does not reach the villages. Is there any remedy? We are used to such things now because we have been witnessing all this since long. We know that we won't be getting any financial help. So many goats, cows, oxen were distributed under I.R.D.P. but not even a single cow is found in the villages. All the animals are distributed *en route*. Wild goats ought to have been distributed in forest areas, but the officials said that long legged goats should be brought from cities for distribution. These city goats could not survive in forests. Only one goat is distributed and one hundred goats are shown on paper. Such are the rules of the Government as well as such are the officials to execute these rules. How could these people be set right. That is why we are feeling like slaves even after independence. It gives us tremendous pain to find all these irregularities in our own government. We do not have roads in our villages now-a-days, how is the development possible? The Government has spent crores of rupees to set up Krishi Bazars (Agriculture Markets). There are Krishi bazars everywhere. But when there is no agricultural production, what is the use of Krishi Bazar. Houses worth crores of rupees have been constructed and left vacant. Now these houses are giving way. There is no use of these houses. Krishi Bazar Samiti has been formed, but what is being done there? Influential people have constructed godowns there. If Krishi Bazar Samiti functions among agriculturists it can be of some use.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are Adivasi people. In our area the condition of adivasis and non-advasis is the same. In certain matters we are being divided, in a way that the well will be allotted to Harijan-Adivasi and not to backward, or forward. Condition of Adivasis and non-Adivasis is alike. Why is the number of wells, ponds etc is reduced, there should be certain rules for it. All the schemes taken up for Harijans-Adivasis so

far have proved a failure. The benefit is not at all visible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, industries were set up in our area, but we have been reduced to mere beggars. Our land has been taken away. Villages have been uprooted but outsiders have been given jobs and even contractors are outsiders. Well is dug on the land belonging to us, but somebody else is its contractor. This way there has been no development of the village at all. Tenders are pending for 10 to 15 years and roads have not been constructed. The footways of yore were good but these have been demolished and there are ditches everywhere. We have got sufficient stone and sufficient labourers but with all that the roads are not constructed. Such is the condition of our area. The only solution is that the money should be spent directly on a particular work for which it is given so that the benefit reaches us. We are also ready to extend help. We are ready to help the Government. But the plans meant for the villagers should be completed. The plans should not remain on paper only.

Today, a large number of roads where heavy vehicles like trucks, buses etc. move have been lying in bad condition. Ramgarh-Bokara road is one of them. Though the land of this area is extremely fertile yet the people of that area are unhappy. It has become very difficult to find out a solution to this. Therefore, the Central Government will have to think over it. Agricultural land of the people was acquired by the Government, so much so that they were deprived of their jobs for setting up mineral factories. After all what will they do?

Besides agriculture, forests also play a vital role in our life. Adivasis primarily depend on forests and cattle for their livelihood. Forests which have been a major source for the fodder of the animals, water, fertilisers etc., are being destroyed. The forest department acquired the agricultural land in the name of afforestation. It has caused a heavy loss to the poor, Harijans and Adivasis. The officials of the forest department have not only been acquiring the agricultural land but

on the country have also been levelling charges against the innocent people and putting them in jails. The land where there are no forests, should be given to the poor people. The Central Government and not the State Governments have the responsibility to look into the matters related to forests. That land should be allotted to the poor. The Harijans and Adivasis residing near the forests are being deprived of the land they had. In view of these circumstances how it will be possible for them to do agriculture. On the one hand the government talk of developing agriculture, but on the other it acquires the farmers small lands. The farmers have very small lands, Therefore, there is need to construct ponds in every district for fishery and animal husbandry to enable them to earn their livelihood. The officials should have a direct link with the villages where Adivasis live, they should meet the needs of Adivasis in every village. Our people are ignorant of the law, they are illiterate and thus they are deprived of their rights. The Government should be cautious in enforcing laws, only then the poor will be relieved of tension and enjoy their rights. Those people have been deprived of social respect. The rural areas have very little road and school facilities. These factors have been responsible for the turmoil and agitations taking place in the country; it is the main reason that people are being killed and they are killing others. It would be a great achievement on the part of the Government if the poor get their rights and security. But it is not being done. People in Adivasi areas have great dissatisfaction. They have so far, been deprived of what they deserve as per the prevailing law.

Sir, with these words I conclude.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget presented by the Government is primarily for the benefit of big farmers; it does not favour the small and medium farmers. The Minister of Finance granted subsidy in respect of fertilisers, however, the poor and marginal farmers will remain deprived of its benefits.

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B.D.O. and some other officials in collusion with the Panchayats are issuing marginal farmers certificates to the big farmers. In this way the poor have not been getting the benefits they deserve, they have been deprived of the benefits of the subsidy which have given by the Govt fertilisers because these fertilisers are being sold in black market thus corruption is prevailing everywhere. The hon. Minister himself belongs to the class of farmers. We too are small farmers. Therefore he will have to think for the benefit of the poor farmers if at all agriculture is to develop. He should adopt such measures as the poor and marginal farmers may be able to get the benefit of the subsidy given on fertilisers. As per your target, 17.50 crore tonnes of fertilisers will be produced this year but 75 per cent of the total land is still unirrigated. Since independence our agriculture has been depending on rainfall and the measures taken to reduce this dependence have been proved inadequate. Variations do take place in agriculture. You will find that the production of foodgrains has not been increasing. The economic review conducted by the Government in that respect shows that irrigation facilities are inadequate. It won't do without making improvements in it. There are a number of big projects in Bihar. Kosi project and Gandak project have been initiated by the Britishers, but still these are incomplete people in the whole of Bihar have been demanding or the modernisation of Triveni and Sone canal but the Government of Bihar is incapable to implement those projects. Lands of farmers were acquired when these projects were launched but no proper arrangement has been made to irrigate the land in those areas. It starts from Champaran and ends at Sahrasa. Bihar is divided into three parts. Punjab and Haryana claim to have made significant development in agriculture. The hon. Minister of Agriculture should pay his attention towards the inadequate irrigation facilities in Bihar. If adequate irrigation facilities are provided in our state, I can assure that it would produce sufficient foodgrains which may fulfill the requirements not only of the state but can

provide to the other parts of the country also. You will be surprised to know that even at present Champaran produces about 100 tonnes of paddy per acre..... (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHARI: Everything is possible if you rise to the occasion. But all of you are sleeping.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR: Podukhe is a place in the state which produce rice. It does not require ghee, because it has its won flavour and also oily. That area falls in Champaran. Adequate Irrigation facilities should be provided there. Floods hit that area every year, a huge amount of money has already been spent there but of no use because it was not invested properly. Crops worth about Rs. 600 crores are damaged every year. Since independence all the money spent there to prevent floods has gone waste. One of the hon. Members of Lok Sabha has proposed a multidimensional plan, which would not only prevent floods but also be useful for irrigation and would help to generate about 4000 M.W. of electricity. The Government should take this plan into consideration. The scientists and technicians should be directed to evaluate the scheme and also make suggestions. They must find out the ways and means as to how this scheme can be fulfilled. It can be fulfilled of an agreement between India and Nepal takes place and dams are constructed at high places. Only then irrigation is possible there. Irrigation would help to prevent floods, generate electricity and also provide water for irrigation. Therefore the Government should take this plan into consideration. Agriculture is not possible without water, both are deeply related. The condition of minor irrigation is also not good there. The Government have been providing pumping sets to small and marginal farmers. but the reality is that there is entrence bribery. I do agree than we are also to be blamed for our incapability and inefficient machinery. Though the pumping sets are provided in the names of Harijans but the factual situation is that they go to the people of upper castes and landlords who misuse them as a means of earning money.

The Government should set up a machinery to supervise these matters.

Land in Bihar is fertile. The Government should chalk out a plan to make proper use of water resources in the State. Irrigation is badly required in the Central part of Bihar and Chhota Nagpur in plateau region of Bihar. Besides, there are many other potentialities in Bihar. There are a number of tanks lakes etc particularly in northern region of Bihar and if they are developed properly they can be of great use in fishery. For the last three years a disease break out in fish every year and there has been no way to check it. Fishermen are ruined this way, they have no other means of livelihood and thus they are in great difficulty. Therefore some provision should be made to provide facilities for fishery in Champaran and also in the northern region of Bihar.

The hon. Member Km. Uma bharati has also proposed that plans should be chalked out for providing benefits to small farmers, so that the production capacity of the farmers may increase to enable them to cross the poverty line.

Generally the cooperative societies function properly in the country; but in Bihar these societies are under the control of a few people and they are looting the farmers. Therefore my submission is that cooperative societies should be set up in such a manner as the small and marginal farmers get its membership; rather they should be in majority there and have active participation in the administration of the Cooperatives so that they can enjoy all the benefits of the societies.

You must be aware that mangoes of good qualities, particularly, Makda and Jarda which are considered to be the best qualities are produced there. Besides, Lichi is the famous fruit of Bihar and it is also sent even to Delhi. There is no industry for the purpose of mango processing. How development will take place if processing units of mango, lichi and other fruits are not there. These fruits are perishable. Therefore the Government

should pay attention to it. I do not propose that all these units should be set up in public sector. My submission is that the situation would become grave if increase are not given to set up such units in Bihar.

Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I would like to point out a few things. In the first place, I may mention that no attention has been paid to agricultural labourers in the Budget. You know that the about 3/4 of the total number constitute small farmers and agricultural labourers. In view of this an agitation is being launched to provide necessary facilities to the agricultural labourers and to enact laws for their welfare. Agitation is going on but the Government have, so far, not taken any initiative to enact laws in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even today the agricultural labourers get approximately 3 kg of foodgrains as wages and if they refuse to take it they are beaten and insulted. Therefore the Government will have to think for the welfare of this class. I appreciate the work of Indian Agricultural Research Council. But today the situation is that inspite of the efforts made by the Council their research in regard to pulses and oilseeds has borne no fruit. I would like the Government to provide special concessions to the scientists conducting research for developing new varieties of pulses and oilseeds, so that they take interest in their work. Otherwise it would be difficult to achieve the production target of 150 lakh metric tonnes of these crops because no research has been carried out in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, research has been conducted in regard to animal husbandry, it is appreciable. I do not say, but there are persons who say that Agricultural Research Council is nothing more than a white elephant. As per the Council's report their work is appreciable though it is not my personal assessment. But there are certain Administrative shortcomings in the Council and one of them is that the scientists are not getting good incentives. An Indian scientist Dr. Khurana who has gone to America conducted valuable research there because he

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has got proper incentives in America. Similarly the Government of India should also give incentives to the Indian scientists so that the problem of shortage of pulses and oilseeds may be dealt with. It is very essential for the development of agriculture.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to submit that dual policy in regard to the subsidy given on fertilisers would be of not use. In the end, I would like to point out that the number of sugar mills in Eastern Champaran district, prior to independence, was only three; and no fourth unit has been set up so far. The sugarcane production per hectare in Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu etc. is comparatively less. Only one research council is there in Pusa. Why the Government do not set up these centres in every district. Unless it is not set up in every district, it would not be possible to conduct the proper study about the soil and the climate. If it is set up in every district, it will enable the farmers to get the benefits of the development that takes place in agriculture. It is very important that the farmers do get the benefits of the development. Therefore my submission is that there is only one agriculture centre in Piprakothi area and that centre exists there from the British period. I would like to urge up on if the soil of Champaran which is very fertile, it is very essential to set up an Agriculture University there. Besides the University, a sugar mill should also be set up there because the production of sugarcane is in abundance. The fact is that the sugarcane produced in Champaran is exported to Nepal and thus cause a heavy loss to the people. They have to sell their sugarcane produce at cheaper rates. There has been a long standing demand to open a sugar mill in Champaran district.

In the end I would like to submit that the work of extracting oil from the husk has been expanded. A factory for this purpose was proposed to be set up, however, the matter has been lying unattended. The Central Government cannot shirk their responsibility by saying that this is the responsibility of the

State Government. It is not possible for the Government of Bihar to implement the Kosi Project, to undertake the modernisation of Sone Canal and to develop the Gandak command area due to lack of funds. The Central Government is also to be blamed for this. You are also somewhat guilty in this regard and now, if you want to bring efficiency in your Ministry and want to make the country self-reliant in every field and an exporter, you will have to pay attention to these points. I believe that the work of your Ministry will go on smoothly and you will make progress in fulfilling your aims. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. The policies of this new Government are anti-farmer, anti-poor and anti-villages. This is a minority Government which is like a dying patient living on oxygen. Its decision to bring about radical changes in economy of the country will disrupt the socio-economic condition of our country for a longer period. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new economic policy of the Government consists of devaluation of rupee, concessions for export and new capital oriented industrialisation. A confrontation has been going on for long between the cultures of industrial producers and agricultural producers in this country. But this Government has brought both of them on a decisive point. I am raising this point, because this Government has given a clarion call to adopt the industrial culture and that is why I am saying that the policies of this Government are anti-farmer, anti-farm labourer and anti villages. For the last 40 years, the Congress Government has been making internal preparations to put the rural culture to an end. The previous Congress Government was not able to declare it formally but the present Government has done so. Mr. Chairmen, Sir, I have drawn your attention to this point because through you, I would like to tell the Government that if we give serious thought to the prevailing circumstances, we are getting prepared mentally for a large scale war like that of mahabharata in our society which is

not visible today. Sir, when there is bloodshed on earth, then there is strong outcry. Ours has been an agriculture-oriented country and it is so today also but 80 percent people of this country, who depend on agriculture, do not get a balanced and wholesome diet. This is the reason why they do not keep good health. It is not visible. They have no resentment. Today they need develop resentment in them. Mr. Chairman, Sir, that is why I have submitted that there is going to be a strong outcry in the country. Today, there is Patna-Bandh in Bihar in protest against the dual policy followed by the Government regarding fertilizer prices. I think the entire country is going to witness a rebellion because the farmers will rise against their exploitation due to this dual policy. That is why, I have said that mahabharata like situation has arisen, i.e., rural India versus urban India. This Government has already made a beginning of this war with its attitude and policies. I also know that all the capitalist forces of the world are helping the Government through the World Bank and the Government has taken this step on the advice of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. By giving a loan of 7 billion dollars, these forces want to prove that they can uproot the traditional rural culture of our country once and for all.

The Government of India has made this announcement by taking loan from those capitalist forces. But the other side of the Mahabharata is also there. 75 to 80 per cent population of this country lives in villages. They are poverty-stricken and are forced to lead a hapless life. They have no organisation and that is why, they are still unable to fight. This war of Mahabharata is going to take place between the capitalists, who have been given concessions to earn more profits, and the common man who has to earn his two square meals. Today a war is going on between both the sides. The ruling party is assured of its victory. But I would like to say that though all the internal and outside forces are certainly helping them, the deprived category of farmer will not be a mute spectator for long. One day or the other they will

also lift arms as Arjun lifted his Gandiv in Mahabharata and this work has already begun in Bihar. Soon, it will spread to other states also. A war is going to take place in the entire country against the anti-farmer policy of the Government. The time will tell who is going to win this war the farmers, the villages and 75 per cent of population living in them or the World Bank, the loan giving capitalist forces and the IMF.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit here as to how the farmer is being exploited today because of agriculture being neglected. Agriculture has been neglected in the matter of bank credit. NABARD is the only agency to advance loans and credit facilities to farmers whereas there are a number of large investment organisations like IDBI, ICICI, IFCI to advance loans to industries and industrialists. In 1987-88 NABARD gave only a term-loan and long-term loan of Rs. 14,468 crore. As per the national accounts statistics of that very year, the capital formation in agriculture was only of Rs.8000 crore. It gives two conclusions - the first is that the capital investment in the agriculture sector was quite inadequate. It is clear from the statistics of the NABARD that out of money fixed for agriculture a sum of rupees ten thousand crore went presumably into the non-agricultural sector and in 1988, the capital formation was only of Rs. 800 crore and in 1989-90 it was zero. Secondly, the Government has hit the farmer by giving very low procurement prices for his produce. I think a number of hon. Members of this House represent the farmer class and therefore, they are aware of the prices for which farmers sell their produce to the middlemen. There is a wide gap between the prices of the produce sold to the village mandi or middlemen by farmers and the prices of factory goods. Dr. Lohia had once said that there should not be a gap of more than one and half of the total cost of production between the prices of agricultural produce and factory goods. But today the goods produced in factory which the farmers use cost ten times more. This gap in prices amounts to exploitation of the farmers. The procurement prices of the produce of the farmers is very low.

[Sh. Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to a study conducted by economists, the farmers had incurred a loss of Rs. 45 thousand crore in the seventies. In eighties, the prices of industrial goods had increased manifold and the exploitation of farmers continued. In 1981, the income of people engaged in industrial production was Rs. 10,851 and the income of farmers was Rs. 3000 and that of farm-labourers was Rs. 1703. This exploitation of the farmers and agricultural labourers is intolerable. Nearabout 12 lakh farm labourers have migrated to other parts of the country from Bihar particularly from North Bihar. They have migrated to Assam, Punjab, Delhi and Haryana with the result farming work in Bihar has been adversely affected. Today, agriculture has become a profession of loss. The people who feed the nation are leading a very miserable life. Late Chaudhary Charan Singh had said that this country would remain hungry, till the farmer was in distress. Mahatma Gandhi had said that the real India lives in villages, not in Calcutta and Bombay. But the situation today is that the farmers are being hit hard from all sides.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as fertilizer is concerned I would like to submit it to the hon. Minister who is great sympathiser of the farmers, that I was not surprised when the Finance Minister said that farmers will be compensated for the increase in fertilizer prices by way of increased support price of their produce. But when I read the same statement made by the Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jethar in the newspapers I was surprised. For once, I can accept the hon. Finance Minister's view, because I did not have much hope from him, but to think of the Agriculture Minister saying such things, when he is a great sympathiser of the farmers, is quite surprising. I would like to ask him how is he going to compensate the small and marginal farmers, who with much difficulty produce foodgrains for their own consumption and have no surplus foodgrains to sell in the market. You are a great sympathiser of the farmers and as you are sitting here. I hope that you will answer me also in your

reply. The small farmers are not getting the support price. Villages are situated at a distance of 60 to 70 k.m. from the cities. The godown of Food Corporation of India is usually situated at the district headquarters. How can a small farmer take his produce to the godowns, who has no truck, no tractor and no proper transport facility? He does not have employees also. Would he cover the distance of 70 kilometres through a bullock-cart to take his produce to the FCI godowns? It is not possible for the marginal farmer also. And it is being said that they will be compensated by way of enhanced support price for their produce. It is true that marketing yards have been developed at some places in Punjab and Haryana. It is possible there that the farmers can get some increased support price. But there also the farmers are exploited by the middlemen and therefore, they are not getting any support price for their produce. For buying essential commodities they had to sell their produce at any time. While sitting in air-conditioners, we can discuss a lot on this issue, but unless we discuss the results, nothing is going to benefit the farmers. I would like to submit that this dual pricing policy of fertilizer has given rise to corruption. When the small farmer approaches the block development officer, he insists on a receipt from a land record official, but when he approaches the concerned official, he finds that more than 5 acres of land has been shown in his name. The reason is that mutation of names in land-records is not done, due to which the small farmers have to face a lot of practical difficulties. But the big farmers are easily given receipts. The block development officer identifies them as marginal farmers and therefore, they get fertilizer. In this way black marketing is being encouraged and a lot of corruption is taking place. Poor farmers are not getting fertilizer in time, due to which, the production is adversely affected.

During his speech, the hon. Finance Minister has recognised fertilizer as an input in agriculture though it is some sort of capital investment. In 1980, the consumption of fertilizer was five and a half million tonnes, which increased to 22.7 million tonnes in

1990. As a result, there was production of 170 million tonnes of foodgrains in 143 million hectares of arable land in our country. Whereas in China there was as much as 360 million tonnes of foodgrain production in 100 million hectares of arable land. It means that in our country per capita availability of foodgrains is 200 k.g. and in China, it is 330 k.g. Even today, we are far behind than other countries and then we say that our foodgrain production has increased. The population of this country will be 100 crore in the year 2000.

Thus, the country will have to produce 300 million tonnes of food grain to meet the requirements of its 100 crore population. However, according to the Planning Commission estimates, the country needs to produce only 240 million tonnes. They want to keep our population, our coming generations, hungry and starved and they are making efforts in that direction.

I do not want to get into the data in detail, but one thing that I would certainly like to point out is that the Government is making a loud noise about record grain production etc., but what is the position of those items which are consumed mostly by people living under the poverty line? Agreed, that rice and wheat production have gone up, but the production of grains like maize, coarse grain Millet and 'Maruah' has been showing downward trend. The production of these grains was 33.9 million tonnes in 1983-84, and now in 1990-91, it has come down to 33.3 million tonnes. These are the figures shown by the Government and not prepared by me. The statistics are those of the Department of Agriculture and Co-operative, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. Thus, we see that you are not sincere about it, you are not making any efforts, to increase the production of these grains. Rather, you are contributing towards decline by neglecting it. The Production of grains, consumed by about 40% of the 80% of our population residing in the rural areas, is on the decrease. You loudly proclaim that we are the well-wishers of small and marginal farmers that is why, I made this submission before you.

I would like to bring to your notice one unknown fact. Why the Government is forced to raise the fertilizer prices, time and again? Due to the mismanagement and incompetency in running fertilizer units, the cost of production is very high. Moreover, in India, we are using such technology in which the cost of production is very high. There was a time when two or three factories could be set up with a meagre investment of rupees one crore but today the Government is sitting up a fertilizer unit, in collaboration with the Italian firm Sam Progetti with an investment of Rupees 100 crores and from this, one can very well understand the compulsions of the Government. When such a huge investment is involved, it is but natural for the fertilizer prices to go up. I have raised this issue here, precisely because I want to know the compulsion of the Government, which forces it to raise prices?

If the expenditure due to subsidy on fertilizer has gone up from Rs. 604 crore rupees in 1980 to Rs. 4542 crores in 1990, the poor farmer is not to be blamed for it. The Government and the owners of the fertilizer units are responsible for it. In fact, it is their collusion, that is responsible for this situation and it would be nothing short of injustice to put the burden of subsidy on the farmers head.

I would like to submit here that, there is a great scope for the food processing industry in northern Bihar from where I come. 'Makhana' an ideal fatless food is produced in large quantity here. In fact, no where in the world, except in the Darbhanga and madhubani Districts of North Bihar, this particular crop is produced. The 'Mallahs' who produce this crop, are a poor lot, and they have to put in a lot of efforts in this task. They sell it for Rupees 40/- per kilogram but in Delhi it is sold for Rupees 140/- per kilogram and it fetches about Rupees 1100/- per kg. in the international market. If this is processed and exported, the country will earn valuable foreign exchange. 'Makhana' production is one of the most important agricultural activities of northern Bihar. As I mentioned earlier, this crop is exclusively produced in two or three

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districts of northern Bihar. One is Madhubani, from where I come, other is Darbhanga and it is also produced in Saharsa district. It is a fatless ideal food and that is why I request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards its food processing. As I had said earlier, land reforms cannot take place and land related problems cannot be solved unless some basic/fundamental changes are made. According to the Congress policy, tiller shall be the owner of the land. Unless this is translated from theory into practice, land reforms won't take place. Therefore, fundamental changes are very much essential for land reforms.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the House, towards certain issues involving the State of Bihar. There is a proposal to open four Agricultural Science Centres in Bihar while in Haryana, already sixteen such centres have been opened and four more are on the cards. Thus, Haryana is going to have 20 centres, while Bihar will have to remain contented with seven. This anomaly needs to be looked into. A proposal to open Agricultural Science Centres at seven places viz-Barh, Harnot, Chhokra, Dumrao, Jumai, Khudavasanpur, Chiyangi and Palamau has been pending before the Union Government for a long time. The Government, it seems, has no intention to accept the proposal. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to accept the proposal sent by the Bihar Government, after a through survey. This should be done without delay. Keeping in mind the situation in Bihar. I would also like to say a few words, with regard to the 'Char-land' in north Bihar. About 20 lakh hectares of land is affected by water-logging and this includes Madhubani, Saharsa, Darbhanga, Chhokra, Vashali, Muzaffarpur, Samastipur and Champaran districts. About two lakh hectares of land is affected by water-logging in each of these districts.

15.12 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

By 'Char land' we mean, water-logged land.

In these areas, the farmers don't get any grain at all. Unfortunately, no special agricultural technology has been developed to solve this problem and save the land from water-logging. I request both the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Government of India to develop a special agricultural technology by which water logged land can be made arable. There is one area where about four lakh hectares of land is water logged and similarly in the Tal-Mal area at Mohkama, large areas of land remains water-logged. Apart from this, I would also like to mention here that South Bihar is undergoing a serious drought condition. I request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards this area as well.

Now, I would like to give some suggestions. I request the hon. Minister to seriously ponder over the issue, before replying to the debate (*Interruptions*) I feel that the Government should accept these suggestions. If the Government has the courage then let it declare that ownership of the land would go to the tiller if the Government brings forward a legislation in this regard, we are all prepared to support I am confident that the entire House would whole-heartedly endorse any pro-poor, profarmer legislation, brought forward by the Government. The hon. Minister should introduce a land Utilisation Bill, under which if the tiller whether he be a small farmer, or a crop sharer, pays an amount to equal to ten times, the amount of land revenue, then the ownership of the land should belong to him. The tiller can be saved from exploitation by Feudal landlords, only if he is given ownership of the land. There is no other option. My other suggestion is that land revenue should not be levied on those farmers, who don't get any profit from cultivation due to problems like, floods, hail-stormes, drought, water shortage etc. At no cost should land revenue be imposed on these lands which are affected every year by floods, drought etc. (*Interruptions*) The Government should pass the necessary legislation in this regard, keeping in mind the miserable condition of our farmers.

Land revenue should be levied on only those farmers, who own more than 6.5 acres of land (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have suggested this because (*Interruptions*) farmers are the only people who succeed in fulfilling their target. (*Interruptions*) Now, if you look at the Engineers involved in the Rural development work, you will find that they build three kilometres of Road and take money for Five kilometres, but if the farmer owning five-acres of land doesn't plough, doesn't make arrangements for its irrigation, for fertilizer, for pesticides, then he would be the loser. If there is on group or community which can be termed as the most honest in the country, then it is the farmer. They break their backs to make two ends meet. Therefore, it is my humble submission that land revenue should be imposed only on those, possessing more than 6.5 acres of land. Moreover,, the Government should introduce a one-window system, under which the method of giving loans by Government agencies, for development of cottage industries and for increasing agricultural production, should be made easier. This should be done on the lines as the facilities are made available to entrepreneurs and industrialists. The method of lending should be made easy and convenient.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should take a firm decision on providing remunerative prices to the farmers especially those who produce cash crops. Fifthly, I would like to submit that agricultural produce like potato, get rotten and unfortunately, there is no cold storage, even in one block of Bihar. Although, a lot of money is allotted for the purpose of building storages, every year farmers have to suffer heavy losses due to non-availability of such storage facilities. Therefore, cold storages should be set up in all the blocks. It would help the farmer immensely in preserving his produce. Sixthly, Government should set up camps in all the sub-divisions to determine cases regarding consolidation of land, transfer etc. on a war-footing.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also urge upon the Government to take stringent action against land-grabbers. These people grab land in the name of building Hanuman

temple, Ram Janaki temple etc., (*Interruptions*)

If land distribution had taken place properly, the condition of our farmer would not have been so miserable, as it is today. Even after forty years of independence, our farmers remain an under privileged lot. Had land distribution taken place properly the lot of the farmers would have been much better.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Fari-dabad): What did you do during these eleven months, when you were in power?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: First, you look into your own record of the part forty years. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should take a serious note of this matter. They have 200 acres of land in the name of Ram-Janaki temple. Similarly, they have grabbed a large chunk of land in the name of Hanuman temple. The Government should take over this land and distribute 15 acres per head among the landless people. Similarly, the Government should strictly implement land reforms laws and take over surplus land from big landlords and distribute it among the landless. Only then can some radical, some fundamental change take place. Therefore, Government should spare no efforts to implement land reforms laws, and seise land from land grabbers.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Why are the land reform laws not being implemented in Bihar.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: In Bihar, land reforms are being implemented.

(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, lastly, I would like to say a few words regarding floods. Sir, the states of Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam and Western U.P. are regularly affected by floods. This is a question involving agriculture and every year crops in lakhs of hectares of land, are destroyed by these floods. Some rivers emerging from Nepal are play-

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ing havoc in north Bihar and other areas. Today, about four crore people of Bihar are affected by these floods. Silt in the rivers emerging from Nepal like Kosi, Kamla Balan, Gandak, Advara Samooh, Bagmati, Bhotohibalan etc. are creating a lot of problems in North Bihar. The Government should hold high level talks with the Nepalese authorities in this regard and Multi-purpose dams should be built in the catchmen areas of Nepal. High-level dams should be constructed. This would not only prove helpful in checking the recurring floods, but also help in producing the much-needed electricity. Today, the country produces about 65,000 Megawatts of electricity and if few more dams are constructed over Kosi, Kamla-balan, Bagmati, Advasa Samooh, rivers in India and in Sisapani and Noonthar barah regions in Nepal, the total output of hydro-electric energy would be 30,000 Megawatts. This hydro-electric power would not only be cheaper but also help the farmers to set up cottage industries, which in turn would eliminate rural unemployment and poverty. Unemployment is largely responsible for poverty. Thus, construction of high level dams in northern Bihar would not only prove helpful in generating hydro-electricity, and flood control, but also save crores of rupees spent annually in flood fighting operations and relief and rehabilitation works. Some people have got habituated to this annual affair of providing relief etc., and the genuinely affected people, the poor and the exploited do not benefit in any manner from these operations. Therefore, the Government should immediately withhold money allocated to these operations and also discontinue the on-going operations. Instead, it should utilize this money to set-up multipurpose projects and find permanent solution to the flood problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, about 12 lakh agricultural labourers from northern Bihar have migrated to other places. Similarly, about four lakh labourers have migrated from eastern U.P. This trend should be checked and the only way out in this regard is to make

agriculture more attractive. This calls for the construction of high level dams. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to felicitate the hon. Minister of Agriculture and his officials, for they are in some or the their way related to Agriculture. Now, I would like to say something with regard to my state. I come from Himachal Pradesh, which is a mountainous region and apple and potato are its Chief produce. Literally no development work is taking place in its far-flung areas. What's more, we do not even get the support price fixed for apples because the State Government is not paying any attention towards it.

When the Congress Party was in power in the state, it used to pay Rs. 2.75 (per kilo) as support price to the farmers, without receiving any assistance whatsoever from the Central Government. The B.J.P. which is at present holding the reins at powers, had promised at the time of elections that they would give a support price of about seven rupees. They even took Mr. I.K. Gujral from Delhi, for their election campaign and he canvassed for the B.J.P. throughout the State and gave similar assurances. If you have any doubts in this regard, you can listen to these speeches, in the tapes, that I have with me. They had made fall promises about uplifting the farmers.

The opposition always accuses the Congress Party of giving a raw deal to the farmers, but I feel that they are not aware of what they are saying. The farmers of Himachal Pradesh are a hard working lot. If you look at the work done by farmers in the mountainous regions, throughout the country, whether it be Nagaland, Mizoram Sikkim or U.P., you will find that the farmers of Himachal Pradesh have done the Maximum plantation. This has checked soil erosion and the economic condition of the people have improved. All people accept it. But I would like to know the outcome. They have not fulfilled any of the commitments made in Himachal Pradesh. I want to mention that an

agitation was launched in Himachal Pradesh on a large scale with regard to procurement price of apple. They demanded the same procurement price of apple that was given by the previous Government. In my constituency Simla, three boys named Govind Thakur, Hira Singh Thakur and Tara Chand were done to death. Their only fault was that they had raised the issue that the farmers should be given remunerative price. Today, they are saying that Congress had done nothing for them.

The population of our country is 85 crores. Presently we are not importing foodgrains. Its credit goes to the Congress Government. Congress ruled the country for forty year and has made the country self reliant in foodgrains. They are saying that nothing has been done. New varieties of seeds are being introduced and researches are for the being carried out benefit of farmers. The best scientists are there to guide them. Every person Poses to be a great scientist and finds faults with everything. The suggestions which we make regarding development of our area (Interruptions) .

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Just now he had said that their Government has brought a revolution in the field of agriculture. But, their Government have not yet formulated any agricultural policy.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not a point of order.

[English]

Please do not interrupt, the speech, Otherwise, you will be wasting lot of time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Did you formulate agricultural policy during 11 months of your rule? You took persons from here and there and made a person

Prime Minister. B.J.P., C.P.I., C.P.I.(M) was combined and National Front was formed. The National Front Govt. ruined the country and gave ten thousand rupees as loan to those who had helped the Govt. (Interruptions) In some cases they even waived of loans to the tune of ten thousand rupees. Have you ever done anything for the poor and the Harijans and Adivasis..... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Yes, we did something for the farmers but not for Tatas and Dalmias

(Interruptions)

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Please listen to me and let it go in record (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt. Shri Sultanpuri, kindly address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: I would like to say that they have revolutionary thinking and wish to take the country forward. We want to take it to the 21st century but they want to lead it to the heaven..... (Interruptions) An hon. Member has just said that the Congress Government is in minority. Why all of you sitting in the opposition do not form majority Government? You are not willing to take the country forward. Ten to twelve parties are sitting in a vehicle. Each party wants to go in a different direction. Some want to go Bengal and some where else. They are talking about the farmers but they do not know the facilities that are to be given to the farmers. There is nothing relevant in whatever has been said on this subject. Instead of talking about the methods to be adopted to increase the production they have only criticised each other. (Interruptions) They are not aware of the sacrifices made by Nehruji, Indiraaji and Rajivji. They do not have any policy (Interruptions) By preaching the name of God Ram Shri Advani has

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become the leader of the opposition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You speak on the Demands of Agriculture.

[English]

Hon. Members, please do not interrupt., When I am on my feet, I request you to sit down.

[Translation]

I urge the hon. members that their respective whips have all names on the list. They need not take the trouble of coming near the Chair. They can ask their Chief whip about their names. How long will the Chair go on telling about their names in the list? Chief whips have prepared the list. Members should contact their respective whips to know whether he has put their name or not in the list. If Hon. members continue coming to the chair it would cause obstruction in the functioning of the House. As such, with folded hands, I request the members to enquire about their turn from their respective whips. I will strictly follow the list. In case any Member has to take a flight, I can call his name first otherwise I shall strictly follow the list.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: I would like to point out that the rains in Himachal Pradesh cause soil erosion. Fertile soil is carried to the plains through rivers. I would urge the Govt. to pay attention to the problem of soil erosion in Himachal Pradesh and step up efforts to check the same. The flow of the rivers in our area is increasing rapidly and attention should be paid to that aspect also. Some irrigation schemes should be formulated. On account of it the area under irrigation in hilly regions have decreased. I urge that initiative to formulate lift irrigation scheme should be taken. The norms set by us do not caters to the present needs. You have decided to take only more than 2 thousand hectares area of land under the scheme. As I had said earlier that the State Government is very weak. It does not work but gives

only false assurances. Like the Ministers in the Centre, they also give false assurance that they are on the job and it will be done soon. In this way a span of five years passes and nothing concrete comes out of it. As such provision of funds should be made so that the farmers living in the hilly regions are benefited by the lift irrigation project. Tanks should be constructed to store rain water during monsoon so that this water can be utilized for irrigation purposes.

Along with this, I would also like to state that the Public Works Department does not give any compensation to the land owners from whom land is acquired to construct roads. The result is the farmers have to wait for 10 to 20 years for getting compensation. But the farmer does not get any compensation from the Government. The Government should follow a time bound scheme to give the compensation to the farmers. If the State Govt. does not pay the amount within the stipulated period the Government should seek report in this regard from the State Government as to why compensation has not been paid for the land acquired for constructing roads. I want that compensation should be given to them. In case there is pan city of fund with State Government, it should be provided sources.

The cash crops which strengthen our economic situation are bungled by the middlemen when brought to the markets. When produce is brought to Azadpur market it is entered in a register and its prices are assessed and fixed and the same people who fix the prices buy the produce. They also maintain a charity fund. Out of this fund they send messages to the farmers that their produce has been sold at such and such rate. The Minister of Agriculture is present here. We seek protection from him. He should protect the farmers from the middle men so that they are not exploited. Besides a point was raised with great force about the sale and purchase of farmers' land. Land worth crores of rupees is purchased from farmer at throw away prices in Haryana, Delhi Himachal Pradesh. No MISA of D.T.R. is imposed on them. Cases should be filed against those

who manage to purchase lands of the farmers at very low rates. They should be prosecuted under the same law which applies to the hoarders. They are exploiting the farmers. As such I request that the land belonging to the farmers should be protected and they should also be safeguarded against exploitation because if they do not have land they would be totally ruined. If there is no law already then a special law should be enacted to protect the farmers against exploitation.

Mr. Chairman Sir, so far as question of loans is concerned, whose loans have been waived? Loans of those persons have been waived off who neither pay back to the shopkeepers nor to the villagers from whom they take loan. The scheme was excellent but under the scheme who have been benefited. If at all, you were to extend benefit, it should have been given to all those who were facing economic crisis. The people engaged in agriculture are facing problem. They are not given loans either by cooperatives or banks of M.C.L. In the august House we assert that we have worked for the cause of the farmers and benefited them but the fact remains that nothing has been done for the farmers. I would like to tell all hon. Members present here that the farmers have not been benefited at all and this has caused tremendous loss to the nation which is very difficult to tackle.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sultanpuriji, kindly wind up.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Apart from this when Devi Lal ji was the Deputy Prime Minister, it was said that 50 per cent of the budget has been earmarked for the farmers. At that time also I was a Member but how much was spent for the farmers and the poor? All this fund should have been spent for the benefit of the farmers and in fact it should be raised even to 60 percent. We have been ignoring the farmers even till date. This amount should be spent to uplift the farmers. Today, the farmers are awakened and they are aware that they are not getting the remunerative price of their produce. It was said in this House that it will

benefit the small farmers but it is not so. Only the big farmers whose sons are holding presetigious posts like I.A.S. will get the benefit and the landless labourers neither have the land nor their children on high posts. As such, I want that land reforms should be undertaken, the landless should be given land and the entire surplus land should be distributed among landless labourers so that the poor farmers are benefited. Many of the land belonging to the members went to the tillers because such was the law and they ultimately became the owners of that land. In this way both the members and farmers became prosperous. In Himachal Pradesh the land reform has been done very well and as such in this state everyone became owner of the land. Shrimati Indira Gandhi distributed 5-10 bighas of land in the entire country. It was a time bound programme. But in many states the poor did not get their share of land. I would like to make a request through you to make provisions to help them get loans. The Centre should find out from the State Government as to how many people have been given land by the state Governments and how many of them refused actual possession. We should pay attention to give land to the poor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday I was told by a person that you do not look after the interest of the farmers. You spent most of your time in Delhi. You are a very old Member. I would like to tell you that I am a farmer, a Harijan and a very poor person. I always try to highlight the problems of the villagers. I have been elected as a member of this House through their support. When they bring their hardships before me I raise it before the House. I want to ask you as to why you favour certain people. We all share the same rights as Members of this House. We cannot gain anything by hurling abuses at each other. I strongly oppose the policy of opposition. The sole objective of their policy is to bring bad name to Congress. But this will not bring bad name to Congress. On account of our efforts the farmers are progressing today.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sultanpuriji kindly

wind up. You have already taken 25 minutes.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: I want to point out that Congress is the only party which can keep the country united. We have seen the other parties. How can they benefit the farmers? They do not know how to lead the nation. They do not have any ideas to keep the country united. I would request you to support Congress to keep the nation united. The country has made much progress under the guidance of Indiraji and Rajivji and it will progress further under the guidance of our present Prime Minister. I hope that you will support us and in case you decline to do so you will find that the so called minority Congress Government will keep the country united and work for the cause of farmers. All other parties will fail. I oppose all the criticism of Congress Government made by the other parties and conclude.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Honourable Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great pleasure that the honourable minister of Agricultural has decided this time to give new dimensions to our agriculture because India is an agricultural country and its entire national economy, entire life, our society and culture are based on agriculture. But, in fact, the way the budget has been presented is very distressing. If anyone is a victim of it, if any one is attacked by it, if any one is stabbed in the back, if any body's agricultural potential has been eroded on account of it, I am sorry to state that it is none else than the Indian farmer. The Finance Minister's decision to withdraw the subsidy on fertilizer under the new fertilizer policy has broken the back of the farmer.

Hon'ble Chairman, Sir this time, the Government of India has made a provision of Rs. 5 crore only for providing subsidy on fertilizer to the farmers in Rajasthan. It is proposed to provide uniform assistance to farmers whether they belong to Haryana or Punjab or Rajasthan where they possess 10 to 20 acres of unirrigated land. I would like the Agriculture Minister to review his decision. The meagre amount of Rs.5 crores allocated to Rajasthan out of Rs. 450 crores

of subsidy to help the marginal or poor farmers is too little keeping in view, the backwardness and lack of irrigation facilities in the State where the farmers always look towards the Rain God for their crops. There is drought for two years in every black of three years and there is rain only in one year. Only one crop is sown there and that too depends upon the rain. If the criteria of providing subsidy to the farmers remains the same as it is in the case of the farmers of Haryana and Punjab, it would be unjust, inappropriate and a great set back to them; especially when the Agriculture Minister himself hails from Rajasthan. He is very much familiar with the land, the problems and the desert of Rajasthan. I would like to request him to review his decision and to allocate at least Rs. 50 crores instead of Rs. 5 crores to Rajasthan for fertilizers subsidy and make an immediate announcement to this effect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you mean to say that the share of Haryana and Rajasthan may be reduced so as to increase the share of Rajasthan.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: No there is no need to reduce the share of Haryana and Punjab. We do not talk of reducing anyone's share. These States must be given their due share. But the criteria should not be the same for the irrigated land and the unirrigated land where no facility of irrigation exists and only one crop grows in a year. We have formulated a definition for marginal as well as poor farmer, we need to bring a change in this definition. We cannot bracket our Nathu Ram and Ram Niwas with Devi Lal and Bansilal. In Haryana it is a battle among Lals like Devi Lal, Bansilal and Bhajan Lal.

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURAL (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): They are all men of the masses.

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: They are all power energy. Haryana has already developed a lot, and now it is very much prosperous and we are proud of that. We do

not want its share to be reduced.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'the next thing I want to discuss is a bout cultivation. As an honourable member from Himachal Pradesh has already said that unless a marginal or landless farmer is provided land, unless the land reform laws are implemented in toto, the Indian peasantry cannot prosper. Sir, the 'Zamindari' System has been abolished from our country long back, either in 1955 or 1950, but the situation is still the same and the landless farmers running into lakhs are starving.

Mr. Chairman, when I was the Chief Justice, I came across a case in which a farmer had to stragulate his wife to death in the face of starvation as he could not provide even two square meals for ten days continuously. The wife asked the husband to kill her so that she was no more there to see both of them dying of starvation. The husband stated in the court that wherever he went he did not get any job, any food or any alms. So he killed his wife. Special provisions will have to be made for such a desert area where alms is not available to farmers.

The condition of our agriculture is very miserable. While making his budget speech in the House, the hon. Minister of Finance said that our economy was shattered due to waiving off loans. I was distressed to hear it. I was distressed because before stating this he did not bother to go through the Congress mainfesto for Rajasthan in which they had made an open offer to waive loans up to Rs. 15,000 in place of other party's offer to waive loans of Rs. 10,000. Due to all this our economy suffered many set-backs in last 40 years, our balance of payment deteriorated, our foreign exchange reserve went on exhausting. For all this, we had to sell our gold and the country turned insolvent. Thereafter, the entire burden was put on the farmers alleging that the country has been ruined due to waiver of loans. It is indeed a serious matter. On the one hand, we grant crores of rupees to big capitalists like Tatas and Birlas in the name of sick industries and on the other huge scandals take place in national-

ised banks. Recently, a scandal took place in the Punjab National Bank. The scandal that took place in the Bank of Baroda was also brought before the House. In this way the Government of India had to suffer losses to the extent of crores of rupees in every transaction, but on question of waiving of a small amount of Rs. 10,000 for farmers, our hon. Minister of Finance was not agreeable. I am greatly disbessed to learn it.

Our country is primarily an agricultural country where industrial policy is liberalised, and the industries are given opportunities to squander huge sums of money.

In our country what happens is that every industrialist diverts the funds meant for the development of his industry to other purposes, exploits the labourers and the consumers as well and thereafter declares the industry as sick. Thereafter, he transfers the industry to Government and the Government in its turn invests crores of rupees to revive all those sick industries. There are lakhs of such industries in the countries. But when the question of waiving loans for a meagre sum of Rs. 10,000 for the farmers camp up, the hon. Minister of Finance expressed great concern for it. I feel that, there is a need to think over it deeply. I would like to express my thanks to the Chief Ministers of Haryana and Rajasthan who launched the loan waiver scheme in respect of the farmers and wrote-off loans as per norms fixed by the Central Government. This scheme benefited the poorest of the poor who were poor to the core and who had no property worth the name except their family farmers. The loan waiver scheme was introduced with a view to combating drought and this scheme was highly beneficial to drought victims who had suffered for years and were reduced to skeletons. Everybody will feel pity to see their condition. Their condition can be described in following words:

"Unchi dhoti, adhkhole paon, kandhe per gaz bhar ka tukra,

Sir per pagadi, kar mein lakdi, tan ka kapda chithda-chithda.

Khane ko muthi bhar dane, thukrata mal-khajanon ko

[Sh. Guman Lal Lodha]

Apni dhoon mein almaston sa hansta
jag kei deewanon ko.
Dhee-dheee karta puhchhein marod,
bailon ki chalta sawdhan
Uske swar mein chhip ker chup see
hans padti hai srijani ajaan.
Khai-khadde, nad-nalon kei, sukhetalon
ke beech-beech
Peechhe chalta, age barhta, dheethe
bailon ko kheench-kheench.
Apne kheton mein ata hai kandhe per
hal ka bhar liye
Abhilasha ka unmad liye, jag ki asha ka
pyar liye.
Kheton ki dhool bawandar wan, swagat
kame ko aati hai
Choo ker ooske pad-padmon ko, phir
keton mein bichh jaati hai.
Dharti ka antar chir-chir, pug-pug per
beekhra beej-beej
Sardi-Garmi barsaton mein apne
Shramkan se seench-seench
Jag ki aasha ka chitrakar hariyale chitra
banata hai
Hitte poudhon kei saath-saath Uska
manas lehrata hai.
In hariyale chitron se woh jag ke prish-
hon ko rangta hai
Per apnee rangne prishthabhoomi ko
nahin shesh kooch barta hai
Maya ke pyase jamindar, bhukhe baniye
sab chheen chheen,
Kutton sei thookra dete hain, kaudi-
kaudi ko been been.
Apna sarvaswa lootakar jab apni kutiya
main aata hai
Nanhei bacchonk ko nirakh-nirakh, drig
mein aansu bhar lata hai
Jo kuchh rookha milta-khata, do-do din
ka langhan karta
Apne tanah mein ganthein de-de, pa-
shu-bachhon ka palan karata."

Mr. Chairman, Sir the farmer goes to his field under heat and cold, when the urbanites make enjoyment in their airconditioned rooms. The urbanites start clamouring for electricity when electricity goes off for even five minutes. But the farmer works in his field under extreme heat and produces

foodgrains. I would like to say a few words in the honour of that son of the soil who provides a us food to eat.

"Jo jag ko ann pradan kare, jag usko
hee thookrata hai
Uskee haddi ko noch-noch, jag vaibhav-
bhawan banata hai
Who charanon mein mastak rakhta, jag
thukrakar itrata hai
Uske chhithron mein aag laga, jag
hansta hai muskarata hai
Jag ke joothan ke thal bhare chhitra ker
pheink diye jate
Roti khatir riv-riv kar uske hain bacche
mar jate.
Uskee tootee khatiya, bartan, kutiya,
chhappar beche jaate
Kaudi-kaudi sood are, antadian sei
kheench jaate.
Doorbal tan khali hath chala, peeda
posse milnei aatee
Sardi-garmi mein mazdoori thoda sa
saath nibha jaatee.
Phir wohi ghatayen sawan kee ghang-
hor garajti gheer aatee
Jag kaa sara apman bhool ooskee
aasha feer balkhatee.
Lahara kar jag ki khushian phir uski
palkon men chhip jaati,
Uske adhron par wohi hansi, phir wahi
bhavna bas jaati,
Majboori detee gala ghont, nirdhanata-
nagin das jaati,
Bhavi Jeevan ki asphaltaon, kunthaon
men kas jaati.
Bhari man hathon se thame dharti ka
beta chal parta,
Dag-dag bharta, rukata, chalata, girta,
uthta, aage barhta.
Maati se itna pyar use, maati ke bina no
rah paata
Ab maati me mil, phir na kabhi torega
maati se naata."

(Poverty-stricken farmer, toiling through-out life, does not lose heart, always marches ahead, loves the Mother Earth, lives for it and dies for it.) Such is the poor farmer of Rajasthan for whom I appeal to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture for sympathy, mercy and sensibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Guman Mal Lodhjee, your time is going to be over. Please conclude now.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have warned me to conclude—but if I continue to narrate the pathetic condition of farmers, my anguish would be stronger. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a specific point. I cannot go in detail for the time is short. Hon. Minister of Agriculture knows it fully well that animal husbandry and agriculture go together. Both the works go together not only in my area but also in the whole of India. Agriculture along with animal husbandry provides the means of livelihood to millions of people in the country. I would like that animals be saved by all possible means. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through a news-item the day before yesterday that a very large slaughter-house, named, Al Kabir is being constructed in Hyderabad where one lakh eighty thousand buffaloes would be slaughtered every year. Its job would be to run the trade of beef instead of buffaloes in connivance with Middle East and Germany only for making profit.

16.00 hrs.

I would like urge the hon. Minister to pay his specific attention to the issue. I had talks with the former Minister of Agriculture who told me that India is the richest country in the cattle-wealth. In 1951, our cattle wealth was 430 where as today in 1991 it is only 202, and in 2011 it would be only 20. I would like to give comparative statistics of the world. India has 271 of cattle wealth against the population of one thousand, in Argentina it is 2089, in Australia 1365, in Columbia 917 and in Brazil 718. Similarly, There are 118 goats against one thousand in India while in a country like Somalia it is 3264. Government may compare these figures. We have only 62 sheep against population of one thousand while it is 23,528 in New-Zealand, 7878 in Uruguay, 7671 in Austria, 1083 in Argentina and 1222 in Africa. If our cattle wealth go on declining and slaughter-houses growing, the time is not afar when humans alone

would be left here and all the animals would be extinct. That situation will arise because humans are be having like animals. I am not talking merely of cows but of all the animals. There are 2800 mechanised slaughter-houses working in the country. There is a slaughter-house in the Bombay too. I have been to the place where 40 thousand animals are slaughtered there which are quite healthy and milch. Even the oxen, which can be utilized in fields, are got branded as sick by giving a petty amount of Rs. 10. The leg of some animal is broken and is slaughtered in the name of its being sick. Why is all this done? 59,508 tonnes of meat was exported in 1981. Today, Indian cows and oxen are butchered in slaughter-houses just to mint money. We should do something to save animals not only out of mercy but for the sake of agriculture, for everyone knows it well that ours is an agriculture oriented nation and cows and oxen are the backbone of the nation.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister to ban the construction of Al Kabir, the biggest slaughter-house, where machines have been installed in 41 acres of land and 8 lakh animals are to be killed every year. Previously, when it was installed in Maharashtra, there was an agitation in Bhiwandi in which five persons were killed and the slaughter-house was closed. Similarly, there was such proposal in Karnataka also but when there was an agitation, the proposed slaughter-house was closed. Our Prime Minister hails from Andhra Pradesh. I appeal to him to take step to ban the slaughter-house in all his sensibility in the interest of our cattle-wealth and agriculture.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Where is it being constructed?

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Since its head office is in Delhi, and agitation was launched in Delhi. The slaughter-house is in Hyderabad.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have said that it is being constructed in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: It is the slaughter-house which is in Andhra Pradesh, but its headquarters is in Delhi. It is in Delhi where all sort of unscrupulous and corrupt practices are indulged in just for minting money. Therefore, I appeal to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who has been described by an hon. Member from Himachal that he is a learned person and as I myself know that he is a scholar, to impose a ban on slaughter-house for the protection of cow, for mercy to all living beings and in the interest of Agriculture and get it closed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have received a representation in connection with Andhra Pradesh today itself. I had no knowledge of it as yet. I live near it in the city of Hyderabad. I have been told today itself that it is to be started in Pattancheru, 30 k.m. away from Hyderabad, as I have been informed today from the people of the place. We shall look into the matter and take appropriate action.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Many many thanks to you.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture.

After independence if there is any field in which we have made remarkable achievement that is agriculture and for this achievement our farmers and agriculture Scientists deserve congratulation. The country which was hitherto depending upon other countries for its foodgrain requirements has now achieved self-sufficiency. It is a major achievement.

16.07 hrs.

[**SHRI RAM NAIK** in the Chair]

Though our farmers make constant efforts to increase agriculture production yet they have made remarkable achievement in those States where the State Governments have

taken keen interest in it and Punjab and Haryana States can be placed under such category. But as you know that topography of the country is not uniform. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture toward Adivasi areas. Fortunately or unfortunately, the technology which has brought about a revolutionary change in agricultural sphere in Punjab or Haryana is being practised in all parts of the country without taking soil, rain or other factors into consideration. There are two main Adivasi areas, one is Eastern and the other is Western. There should be a separate agriculture policy for the development of agriculture in Adivasi areas with a different approach and strategy in view of their topographical conditions.

Course cereals have an important place in Adivasi areas but very little effort has been made for increasing their production. Though the Ministry has mentioned about maize in the report but much has to be done for the development of other coarser cereals like 'Kodon'. Therefore, I would request that a separate policy should be formulated for the development of coarse cereals in Adivasi areas with a different approach and strategy.

Generally, Adivasis live in hilly and forest areas where irrigation facilities have not been provided. In Adivasi areas, small pools and tanks can be the only source of irrigation. Therefore the Government should prepare a separate package programme for these areas. Due to non-availability of irrigation means, the available water resources in these areas cannot be properly utilised. Therefore, I would say that a package programme for constructing pools and tanks should be drawn to make optimum use of available water. More emphasis should be laid to tanks and lift irrigation system because big dams cannot be constructed there.

In the annual report of the Ministry more importance has been given on the construction wells and for this purpose a provision of Rs. 200 crores has been made and the expenditure on this head would be borne by the States and the centre on 50:50 basis.

Wells are not successful everywhere particularly in Adivasi areas. Even then more thrust is being given on digging of wells and targets are being fixed. I know about my constituency that a target of digging 200 to 250 wells has been fixed for each block. In this regard I would like to say that digging of 200 to 250 wells for a BDO is not possible and funds share also misused. I think that in this regard one area differs from the other. Therefore, I would like to say that wells should be dug in those areas where they are successful and for other areas some other arrangement should be made.

Livestock is the backbone of the rural areas. In this connection I would like to say that much more has to be done in this direction. In the annual report of the Ministry there is a reference to the veterinary hospitals which were 14,700 in 1984-85 and now their number has risen to 19,200 in 1990-91. Similarly the number of primary health centres and mobile dispensaries which was 19,200 in 1984-85 has risen to 20,800 in 1990-91. There is no doubt about the fact that the number of veterinary hospitals has increased but the main problem is that medicines are not available. My suggestion is that instead of opening new Veterinary hospitals more attention should be paid towards the availability of medicines so that livestock could be saved from diseases. More opening of veterinary hospitals will not serve any purpose. Because these hospitals where they have been opened are in pitiable conditions. Neither doctors nor medicines are available there. In this regard I would say that mobile dispensaries would be much useful in Adivasi areas. Therefore, I would submit that provision for such mobile dispensaries should be made for Adivasi areas so that adivasi people could avail of its benefit.

There are certain animal diseases about which you have also mentioned in the annual report. It has been stated that vaccination for the prevention of foot and mouth diseases are given to cattle. In 1989-90 61 lakhs animals were given such vaccination which has risen to 90 lakhs in 1990-91. But I think it is also not enough and the Government

should make arrangement for more such vaccination so that cattle could be saved from such fatal diseases. In the report, there is also a mention about the problem of fodder. The Government has opened seven fodder centres i.e. in Jammu Kashmir, Haryana, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and West Bengal. I think fodder centres should be opened in all the states and particularly in those areas which have maximum forest covers and where the main occupation of the people is rearing of cattle. The number of fodder centres should be increased so that fodder problem could be solved. If the Government makes proper arrangement of fodder for milch cattle and other cattle, milk production could also grow up.

In the annual report it has been mentioned that palm oil production would be encouraged. A committee under the chairmanship of Shri K.L. Chadda, Deputy Director, Indian Institute of Agriculture Research has been entrusted to promote palm oil production in 5.75 lakhs hectares of land in nine states. Palm oil is a most important item after Soyabean towards which the Government should pay more attention but till now only 9 two states i.e. Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have been adopted for it. Therefore, I would request that Madhya Pradesh and particularly Bastar district should also be included. Adivasi areas where forest are available should be adopted for palm oil production and that would prove to be very helpful in solving the problem of edible oil in the years to come.

You have just mentioned about shifting cultivation. In this regard I would like to say that the Government has concentrated mainly on North-Eastern states. Though the Government has made certain efforts in this direction yet wholehearted efforts have not yet been made. The efforts are not being made to regulate shifting cultivation. For this purpose also Madhya Pradesh and Orissa have been left. There are three districts in Madhya Pradesh namely Mandla, Bastar and Sarguja which have not yet been surveyed for this purpose. Similarly, no such

[Sh. Arvind Netam]

survey has been conducted in my home district, particularly in Ambujpai area. Where people do shifting cultivation. People in these areas mainly depend on shifting cultivation and no concrete efforts have been made to check it. Therefore, I would like to say that a separate programme should be drawn to help Madhya Pradesh Government to regulate shifting cultivation in Bastar district.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the Agriculture Universities in Madhya Pradesh. There are two Agriculture Universities in Madhya Pradesh one in Raipur and other in Jabalpur. I know that agriculture university plays a very important role in the research and development of agriculture in the State, but it is bad luck that in our State Madhya Pradesh, there is negligible contribution of the agriculture university and a lot of stories of corrupt practises in the university publish in the newspapers. It is also true that today this university has become an arena of politics. I want that the Government should review the roles of the agriculture universities in the States and persuade these universities to work in the proper direction. Regarding the agriculture department in Madhya Pradesh, it is very essential that lowest level employees should be trained properly. Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gram-Sevak is the lowest unit of agriculture department. I do not think they are provided proper training and orientation course due to which, they are not able to work properly in today's changed circumstances. Those Gram-Sevaks, who were appointed many years ago should be given training and orientation according to the present situation so that they can have information about new diseases in plants. Today, if we ask Gram-Sevaks of our area about any new disease, they only say that there is a disease but they are unable to give any further information regarding the type or remedy of the disease. In such situation, the farmers had to depend on others, instead of the department. Therefore, it is very necessary that the Extension Officer and the Gram-

Sevak should be given proper training.

The last point, which I would like to submit is regarding the Indira Awas Yojana. I don't know to which Ministry it is related. I am saying it from my own experience that a lot of houses have been constructed in the tribal dominated area of my district. But in many such areas, residents don't want to live in pukka houses. Therefore, the houses constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana in my district are unutilised. Therefore, some changes should be made in this regard and the State Government should be instructed to review the position in view of the fact that these houses are not being utilised. These people should be provided land sites and funds so that they can construct their houses according to their need. Particularly, this concession should be given in the tribal areas, so that there is proper utilisation of funds. Otherwise, under this scheme only funds will be spent on the construction of houses and there will be no utilisation of these houses and in the end, they will crumble down. Therefore, some change should be made in the working of Indira Awas Yojna. Wherever this scheme has become unsuccessful, attention should be paid towards its reasons and necessary changes should be made. Efforts should be made to give new direction to this yojana.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, very little time has been allotted for discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. More time should be given for it. Ours is an agriculture based country. Therefore, we should have an agriculture policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, ours is an agricultural country. 70 percent population of our country depends on agriculture. It is also true that true India lives in villages and villagers are the backbone of this country. A lot of schemes are made today for national development but it is not possible, until there are schemes for agriculture also. The nation can

never be prosperous, unless schemes are chalked out by the Government to remove the poverty of the farmers. It is useless to talk about the prosperity of the country, without the prosperity of majority of the country who live in villages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the villages of our country had produced a lot of patriots, brave men revolutionaries and great leaders. Today also, most of the jawans guarding the country come from rural areas and defence officials are from urban areas. If the urban people possess a lot of knowledge, the villagers have a lot of feelings and emotions. If a decision is taken without keeping in mind the emotions of the villagers, it will harm the interests of the country. The development of nation is only possible with the improvement of condition of villagers and improvement in agricultural sector.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers are not being benefited much by the present process of foodgrain production and by the modern implements being used in farming. Most of the factories manufacturing these modern implements are situated in urban areas. Manufacturing of these modern implements of agriculture has encouraged the industry but it has also increased unemployment in villages. Due to unemployment the burden on land in terms of persons deployed on it also increases. Where only 2 people are needed 4 are employed on it. If small industrial units are set up in the villages, it will help in lessening the burden on land. On one hand, it will provide employment to the unemployed on the other hand the situation of farmers will also improve. Gandhiji's philosophy regarding agriculture has been abandoned. The history of the last 40 years is the proof as to how much work is being done according to the views of the Gandhiji regarding the development of villages. The miserable situation of farmers will prove how this Government. Which make tall claims of following the philosophy of Gandhiji actually follows him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, foodgrains are the basic necessity of life. It is ironical that the

farmer who feeds the entire nation, is leading a miserable life. Non-provision of facilities to the farmers is against the Gandhian Philosophy.

There are a number of policies in our country as industrial policy, import-export policy, credit policy and foreign policy, but is there any policy for farmers? No attention has been yet paid towards it. Whatever efforts had been made in the name of development, they have been done on paper only. Therefore, it is necessary that an agriculture policy should be chalked out for national development.

The foodgrains production can be increased by utilising the water, fertilizer and sun given by nature, in a well planned scheme and it will improve the condition of farmers also.

The foodgrain production can be increased by making schemes for construction of ponds, dams on rivers and power stations for generating solar energy. The production will naturally increase with the timely arrangement of irrigation facility for the farmers.

The agriculture planning will have to be given top priority while making other plans. Such planning should be made which may encourage agriculture and it can be actually implemented. While making the agriculture planning, the intention should be to make it useful for the next 20 years and it should be implemented with military discipline. The farmers should be given timely loans seeds, water and fertilizers. No carelessness should be shown in this regard. This will certainly increase the production.

A 'Farmers Decade' should be observed in the entire country from 1991 to 2000. What cannot be achieved during the last 40 years should be done now and a new record of maximum production of foodgrain should be set up in the world.

The national crisis can be averted by increasing the foodgrains production to meet

[Sh. Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh]

the requirement of the increasing population. We should make our position so strong in the matter of foodgrains that we do not have to take loan to meet the foodgrains requirement of the country. We should have the aim of reaching the world market. The income from the agriculture sector should be reinvested in it and in the development of backward areas. Those who do not own land should be given employment by setting up small industrial units in the villages. Remunerative prices should be given to the farmers and godowns should be constructed in the villages so that the farmers are not forced to resort to distress sale. The procedure regarding grant of loans to the farmers from rural banks should be simplified.

A campaign should be launched to save forests from being out and also for afforestation. Such plants should be planted which will provide fruits as cheap nutritional food to the poor. More pastures should be developed and the scheme for increasing fodder production should be implemented.

Facilities like medical care, education, water, electricity and transportation should be provide in villages also. An educational institution should be set up at Panchayat level to provide farming knowledge to the highly educated unemployed in the villages. A scheme should be made to send the expert farmers abroad to gain knowledge about the farming technology there.

Under the process of foodgrains production, the fertility of a land can be increased by leaving it vacant for some time and then cultivating it. A scheme should be made after carrying out special research in this regard.

Proper compensation should be given to the farmers if their land is taken for other purposes. Arrangements should be made or imparting them knowledge of animal husbandry, poultry and horticulture to the farmers so that they can run them properly.

The farmers should be free to take their produce from one state to another and sell it. This will bring unity and if any toll tax is taken in this regard, it should be removed. Public Distribution system should be extended upto Panchayat level and effective steps should be taken to remove the corrupt practices plaguing the system.

Crop insurance scheme should be made. There is an insurance scheme for the foodgrains kept in godowns, but there is no scheme for the crops standing in the fields. Therefore, a crop insurance scheme should also be made in this regard. This is an useless Budget for the farmers. The total allocation for farmers is only Rs. 3085.41 crores. In view of the fact that 70 percent of the population is involved in agriculture work, this amount is inadequate. At least, its double should be given and the provision should be of 15 percent in the Budget as 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture. Therefore, this amount should be doubled. 15 percent of the total allocation should be given for agriculture. For the production of certified seeds and to strengthen the certified seeds Organisation at the State level, minikit programme should be popularised. Very little allocation has been made in the Budget for this purpose. Also, very little allocation has been made in the Budget for the programmes of increasing the production of pulses and oilseeds. Present budget allocation regarding pulses and oilseeds is only to the tune of Rs. 30.5 crores and Rs. 83 crores respectively. This amount should be increased at least upto Rs. 500 crores. A subsidy of Rs. 4000 crores is being provided. Subsidy should be given for agriculture only. At least an amount of Rs. 1000 crores should be provided in the form of subsidy in fertilizers to the farmers. It should not be given to the factory owners. It should be directly given to those farmers who buy fertilizers. There has been a 30 per cent increase in the prices of fertilizers. It should not exceed more than 10 per cent. The prices of fertilizers should be uniform for all categories of farmers. If the Government does not want to reduce the prices to 10 per cent, the price of fertilizer should not exceed more than 20 per

cent. The farmers should be kept in mind, while fixing the prices. No policy can be fixed by ignoring the small farmers as well as big farmers. A farmer who owns 10 acres of vine yards, sugarcane fields and 1/2 acre of tea garden may have equal income to a farmer having 40-50 acres of rain fed area. Acreage of land holding should not be the basis of determining the amount of subsidy to the farmer. Therefore, there should be a uniform pattern of providing subsidy.

Sindri and Talchar etc., the places where fertilizers are produced.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken twenty five minutes, please conclude.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Subsidy given by the Government is inadequate. It would provide at the most 10 per cent relief to the farmer. My second point is that a very meagre amount of Rs. 134 crores has been allocated for various purposes like - the development of cooperative sugar mills, cold storages, cotton industry, fish industry and soyabean crop; for the upliftment of weaker sections and for the promotion of export and import. The amount should be increased to at least Rs. 1500 crores. Each cluster of 15-20 villages should be provided with the facilities of storage and cold storage. Also the market facilities should be provided for these villages. Land Development Bank provides the facilities of loan to the small and medium farmers but for the purpose of digging wells purchasing motor-pumps, tractors, pair oxen etc. but for this purpose mere an allocation of Rs. 40 crores has been made in the Budget which is quite insufficient to meet the loan requirements of the farmers. Therefore this amount should be increased to the extent of Rs. 40 crores.

Presently, the Crop insurance Scheme covers the crops of rice, wheat, oilseeds and pulses. It should be extended to cover maximum number of crops. The present budget allocation of Rs. 62 crores for the dairy development should be increased to Rs. 100 crores.

For the provision of water sheds in the rainfed areas, a budget allocation of Rs. 170 crores, has been made during the current year. But it is quite inadequate to meet the requirements of such areas. I did not find even a single line of description in that regard in the library. I could not gather any information as to what development was taking place in regard to the water-sheds. The Government should therefore pay attention to it. The report that is provided by AFCC proves to be wrong. We are unable to get the report. I would like the Government to pay attention to it.

Drains have been wrongly laid. Instead of laying them from a lower level to a higher level these lines should be laid from a higher level to a lower level. Therefore the Government should take corrective measures to lay them properly.

[English]

SHRI PALA K. M. MATHEW (Iddukki): Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me the opportunity. Because of paucity of time, I shall confine myself only to some of the most basic points which I would like to raise.

As we are discussing mainly the Demands for agriculture, I feel that it is necessary that all of us should make an introspection about the acts of commission and commission during all the past years after independence. We have made tremendous achievements and progress certainly during the last 44 years after Independence. This is all the more true, when we make a comparison with the so-called revolutionary countries outside. Our achievement of 44 years compared with the first 44 years of these revolutionary countries is far superior, greater and higher. But in spite of this, our Five Year Plans have not been giving sufficient attention and sufficient care to agriculture. We know that macro-economic stabilisation could be possible only by placing agriculture on the commanding heights of our economy. That has ~~totally~~ been neglected. I would like to substantiate this by pointing out an example from our Budget. Out of the total Central

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Plan outlay, (which has already been pointed out here) of Rs. 42969 crores, only Rs. 18168 crores (that is, 23 per cent) has been allocated for agriculture. This is very scant and insufficient and as has already been pointed out, it should have been around 50 per cent of the total outlay. Now, I have said that we have to make an introspection. This is mainly to rectify and correct the mistakes that have already been made during the course of the past Five Years Plans.

Now, in order to stabilise and also to take very progressive steps in the realm of agriculture, we have to take a very holistic view as well as make a thorough study of the problems connected with agriculture and consider all the ramifications and implications of the subject as a whole.

How can we regenerate our agriculture? This is the most important problem that the nation is confronting with today. Economic regeneration can be achieved only through the growth and development of agriculture on a very systematic way as well as on a large scale. We know that agriculture is the livelihood of 70 per cent of the work force in India and it contributes to 35 per cent of the net national income. It also accounts for a major chunk or a sizeable share of the country's export earnings and provides raw materials for many of the industries. This shows how important is agriculture in the total system of our country. But inspite of all this, we are neglecting this sector in a high-way.

Now Sir, as on today, we are giving more importance to the cultivation of irrigated areas. We have, in fact, reached a state when we should give more importance to cultivations in rain-fed areas also. 70 per cent of the total cultivated areas are rain-fed areas and many of our cash crop are grown in these rain-fed areas. So, we have to give more reliance and more stress to these cash crops cultivation in rain-fed areas. A large portion of cash crops like rubber, cardamom, pepper, tea, coffee, coconut etc. are culti-

vated in rain-fed areas and not in dry lands. The growth rates with regard to production and productivity of these important crops are now slower and lower. Agriculture, as result of this, has reached a stage where we should take more care of cultivation in the rainfed areas.

In Kerala, the farmers are victims to the vicissitudes and vagaries of nature, because most of the cultivation takes place in rainfed areas. Therefore, a programme for a comprehensive watershed development is an imperative as far as Kerala is concerned. This should include proper management of rain water, land development, use of improved variety of seeds, etc. I am not going into all the details. I reiterate that a comprehensive project for watershed development in the rainfed district of Idukki, which happens to be my constituency, should urgently be taken up with the assistance of the World Bank. This will help reverse the man-made ecological degradation of land. It would also protect and develop agricultural land which is presently subject to erosion, floods and drought. The national watershed development programme for rainfed agriculture should take initiative for this immediately.

The Central Sector's investment in Kerala is generally very low. Out of a total Central investment of Rs. 82,150 crore in the country, only Rs. 1,307 crore (comprising 1.9 per cent) was allocated to Kerala in the year 1988. In 1990 it was Rs. 1,701 crore which comes to 1.5 per cent only. This is because no new projects either in agriculture or in industry have been established in Kerala. All proposals for expansion, addition or development are also pending decision.

In 1990, when Maharashtra got about Rs. 20000 crore, which forms about 17.6 percent of the Central Sector Investment, Kerala got only 1.5 per cent. Madhya Pradesh got 11 per cent - Rs. 12,480 core; Andhra Pradesh got 11,400 crores of rupees which is about 10 per cent and West Bengal got Rs 7084 crore, comprising 6.25 per cent. These are only some of the examples and compared to the allocation for these States, the

allocation for Kerala is very low. The Central Sector Investment in Kerala is quite disproportionate to the contribution that Kerala is making to the national exchequer through export trading of cash crops, NRIs constructions, export of marine products and so on and so forth. This must be rectified.

One of the most serious problems now confronting the peasants in Kerala is the non-issuance of title-deeds to the peasant settlers. This must immediately be dealt with. This problem requires urgent action. The Government of India has accepted, in principle, the proposal of the State Government that the occupation of forest lands prior to 1.1.1977 should be regularised. The State Government asked the Government of India earlier in 1986 for their concurrence under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 to issue title-deeds for 28, 588 hectares as revealed in the joint preliminary verification of the officers of the Revenue and Forest Departments. Concurrence is still awaited.

The former Minister of Forests and Environment, in a reply to the State Government said in January 1991 that the High Court has stayed all proceedings regarding assignment of forest land. As a result of this, the matter is kept in abeyance. The Kerala High Court in its final judgment in 1991, has made it clear that the forest land could be assigned after observing the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. On the basis of this Judgement, the Revenue Secretary, Government of Kerala has written to the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Forests and Environment for sanction for the assignment of the forest land as per the provisions of the said Act. Sir, I am mentioning this a little bit elaborately because this is a problem which has been agitating the minds of the Kerala farmers for more than a decade. That is why I am stressing on this point. I request that the concurrence be given by the Centre immediately for the assignment of *Pattas* to the settlers.

Now I want to say a few words about natural calamities. My friend has already spoken on it and I am not going into the

details of the matter. But I want to mention only one point. Crops in 1,50,000 acres have been totally damaged and the loss is estimated at Rs 65 crores. Partial damage to crops comes to around Rs.30 crores in another 160000 acres. This is all because of the floods, land slides and so on. The calamity relief fund provided, for the State of Kerala, in the Budget is only Rs. 31 crores. This has to be increased at least up Rs. 100 crores.

I request that a team of the Government of India including representatives of the people should go over to Kerala immediately, meet the affected people and peoples' representatives in the panchayats, District Councils, Legislative Assembly and assess the damages and then make recommendations to the Central Government.

In Kerala there are problems connected with the Coffee growers also. One of the most important thing that the Government should do is that they should explore all possibilities of increasing the export of coffee to countries like U.S.A., Japan and Russia.

Gautemala Cardamom which is very cheap and which is produced on a very large scale is smuggled into India via Nepal. This is affecting our Cardamom growers to a large extent. This smuggling in of Cardamom should be stopped and a Cardamom Crop Insurance Scheme should be made. There should also be a provision for help in case of diseases and ruin by flood or drought, production loss, plant loss etc.

At the moment the rubber price is not remunerative. In view of the increase in the prices of in-puts and labour charges etc there should be a cost study to fix the minimum price of rubber.

I would say that it should be fixed at Rs.27 per Kg.

A majority of peasants in Kerala depend on pepper cultivation. It is sold at about Rs 3000 per quintal. I would request that the minimum support price should at least be

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fixed at Rs. 6000 per quintal and there should be compensation for pepper cultivations ruined by quickkilt and fleabeetle. Also rehabilitation arrangement should be made till the new plantations begin production. Help in the form of advance or subsidy for re-plantation must also be provided to them.

Sir, the question of increasing the prices of these cash crops as well as improving the lot of the farmers should be taken up urgently and very seriously by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki) Mr. Chairman, Sir,.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted to your party is already over. Therefore please conclude within 5-7 minutes.

SHRI RAM SAGAR: Thank you. I would not take more than 5-7 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to thank you for the opportunity you have provided me to express my views. Ours is an agricultural country and this Parliament is the Supreme body in the country. 43 years have passed since we got independence but we have not formulated any agricultural policy so far.

A few days ago a question in regard to agricultural policy was raised and the Government proposed to formulate a policy in this connection - but what policy should be formulated? My suggestion is that if the Government really wants to do something concrete in this regard, a committee of the representatives of all political parties should be constituted. The suggestions offered by the farmers should be taken into consideration by the committee and the recommendations made by the committee in this regard should be taken into consideration while formulating the agricultural policy.

Sir, the matter of concern, at present is,

how much attention is paid in the House to the matters related to the farmers. Recently, many Members from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar raised the question in regard to drought problem. I would like to know the policy formulated to utilize the land which has been left unirrigated due to drought situation.

Sir, my submission is that a demand has been made to provide grants to the farmers for agricultural purposes but the prices of fertilizers on the other hand, have been increased due to which the farmers have to run to the lekhpal to get the papers of the record book to purchase the fertilizer at the same old rate. They have not only to spend Rs. 15-20 to get those papers but also to face a lot of difficulty by standing in a long queue. The Government have increased the prices but how will corruption be checked? Proper scheme has not been formulated for this purpose due to which the farmers have been facing a lot of difficulties.

Sir, the pressure on agriculture has been continuously increasing and that in turn has been giving rise to unemployment. The Government of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav had prepared an army for the purpose of land reforms in Uttar Pradesh. On fertile, uneven and waste land have been lying useless in forests; and that land can be reformed and given to landless farmers for agricultural purposes, it will provide them employment and the farmers, in turn, will strengthen the country. In this manner they can lead a better life.

Sir, so far as irrigation is concerned, whenever natural calamities arise neither tubewells work properly nor the water supply through canals takes place properly; and these are the areas where irrigation facilities are not available. The Government should therefore provide irrigation facilities to small farmers.

Sir, the Government have made the provision to provide relief whenever a big concern suffers a loss, but there is no provision to provide relief to the farmer if his crops are damaged. I have seen that sometimes

due to Hailstorms and sometimes due to drought situation crops are completely destroyed; similarly there are occasions when crops are destroyed in fire while they are kept in a barn. But the poor farmer finds himself in a very helpless situation when he finds no Government scheme to help him. Sir, through you, I would like to give another suggestion to the Government that our agricultural scientists have been making experiments for irrigated crops and preparing developed varieties of seeds; they have also been making experiments to strengthen the techniques of increasing the production of these crops but the Government have not formulated any scheme so far, to improve the quality and increase the quantity of the unirrigated crops. I would like the Government to think over it and evolve a plan in this regard.

With these words and suggestions I hope that the Government would prepare an agricultural policy to improve the condition of the farmers in this agricultural country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, you have concluded in time. Shri Shankarrao Kale.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): The Members of even the smaller political parties than mine have already spoken, but the members of my party have not been called so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party is next to it.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: The members of even smaller parties have already spoken but not a single member of my party has been called.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your party will get the next chance. A list has already been prepared.

[English]

I am going by that as far as possible.

SHRI SHANKARRAO D. KALE (Kopergaon): I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the Control of the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Rural Development.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wait for a minute. So far as TDP is concerned your time is over but I am trying to adjust it.

[English]

SHR SHANKA RAO D. KALE: I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Rural Development and food. Here, I am going to speak especially on food and production of sugar in Maharashtra.

I have been working with sugar industry for the last 40 years. Prior to Independence, there were only 16 joint sector sugar factories and one cooperative sugar factory in Maharashtra. Prior to Independence, the sugar production in Maharashtra was only 50,000 tonnes in a year. After Independence, due to the policy of the Government of Maharashtra, sugar industry has been growing up under the guidance of the Cooperative Department and the facilities were given by the Government of Maharashtra. So, from the second five year of the Plan, year by year, the production of sugar in Maharashtra is going up like anything. Previously, it was 10 per cent; then it rose to 15 per cent; then it rose to 25 per cent. In the year 1990-91, Maharashtra has produced 42 lakh tonnes of sugar as against the production of the whole country, which is about 1 crore and 5 lakh tonnes. If at all the facilities and the difficulties in the production of sugar in Maharashtra in the cooperative sector are to be considered by the Government of India, I am confident that the sugar production in the near future will up by 50 per cent, 60 per cent in Maharashtra.

As far as the project cost of the sugar factory is concerned, day by day, it is increasing. The Government of India has given

[Sh. Shankarao D. Kale]

letters of intent to 38 sugar factories prior to June 1991; prior to that date, about 100 sugar factories were working in Maharashtra. As I have already told you, the production of sugar in the last year was 42 lakh tonnes. The total cost of the project is Rs. 25 crores. Out of Rs. 25 crores, as per the policy of the Government of Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Government has already given its contribution to the promoters of the sugar factories. The ratio of this share between the promoters and the Government is 1 : 4. The project cost of this sugar factories Rs. 25 crores. The Government of Maharashtra has given Rs. 8 crores. Now the orders of machinery have been placed on the nine sugar factories out of 38. Now there is a question of placing orders on there maining sugar factories. The cost of the project has gone upto Rs. 35 crores. Out of these Rs. 35 crores which is the cost of the project, the Government of Maharashtra has to pay Rs. 11 crores as share capital to these sugar factories.

It is beyond the capacity of Government of Maharashtra. My humble request to the Hon. Minister of Food, through you Sir, is for establishing and promoting the new factories which are coming up. The Government of India should contribute its share of funds for these sugar factories.

The Government of India has established the National Cooperative Development Corporation to promote and help the cooperative sector in the whole of India. For that, up to now the Government of Maharashtra was receiving 65 per cent of the share contribution which the Government of Maharashtra India gives to each sugar factory. As cost of production has increased, the Government of India Maharashtra should also increase the share contribution.

To fix the price of levy sugar zones have been established. Previously Maharashtra was considered to be one zone. The cost of the levy price of sugar in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Tamil Nadu and Punjab is Rs.200

more for each quintal than in Maharashtra. In spite of that sugar production in Maharashtra is increasing like anything. So, we were thinking that Maharashtra should be divided into three zones. After making efforts for 15 years, the Government of India has divided Maharashtra into two zones, the North Zone and the South Zone.

The recoveries of the South Zone in the year 1990-91 to the tune of 11.60% that of Central Zone was 10.74% and that of the North Zone was 10.15% So, the difference between the South Zone and the Central Zone was 0.86% and that between the Central and the North Zones was 0.59%. So, if a new Central Zone is created there will be good production. and the Central Zone sugar factories will get more levy price for sugar. My request, therefore, is that Maharashtra may be divided into three zones.

The Government of India was very kind enough to come up to help new sugar factories, and after taking into consideration of the cost of the project of sugar factories concession had given in respect of the percentage of free and levy sugar quota.

For the first five years as per the recommendations of the Sampat Committee hundred percentage of sugar is allowed for sale in the market of the sugar produced by new sugar factories. They received good amount of money due to this. With that money they can repay the money borrowed by them. Therefore, my request is that the benefit of this Sampat Committee should entend to new factories with high cost of the project. This should be given where the recovery is good for five years and recovery is medium for ten years and where the recovery is poor for fifteen years. That is my request. Sir,

My second important point is about Amendment of Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982. The Government of India had given a right view and they had enacted Sugar Development Fund Act in the year 1982. Under this Scheme, the Government of India had collected Rs. 875 crores since

the enactment of this Act. Out of Rs. 875 crores, only Rs. 365 crores have been disbursed, leaving the balance of Rs. 510 crores unutilised.

This fund is only utilised for the modernisation of existing sugar mills and for their cane development programmes. It does not provide for assistance in case of diversification by sugar mills to set up integrated sugar complexes.

Under this integrated sugar complex, we can produce sugar, electricity, power alcohol for substitution of petrol, paper and particle boards, industrial alcohol and alcohol based chemicals and alcohol for potable purposes. For this integrated sugar complex, huge capital is required. It is beyond the capacity of the present sugar factories to invest such a huge capital. Therefore, I request that under this Sugar Development Fund, money should be given for this development and for the integrated sugar complex. The Act may be passed by bringing an amendment.

The Maharashtra State is doing well. The cooperative sugar factories are working democratically. The cooperative sugar factory is a model for a socialist pattern. So, Maharashtra is going to lead the nation.

Therefore, I request to hon. Minister, through you, Sir, to help overcome the difficulties faced by the sugar industry in cooperation with the Maharashtra Government.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE (Wardha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, farmers have been agitating throughout the country. One of their main demands has been to get remunerative prices of their crops. The farmer and his family work hard throughout the year and even then he is deprived of the remunerative prices of his crops. The question is how to fix these prices,

there may be differences of opinion within the ruling party whichever party may be there due to which the farmers have been deprived of justice so far. Another important factor is that major part of the land is unirrigated and therefore the prices should be fixed on the basis of the crops grown there. Besides, the expenses for fertilizers, insecticides, seeds and labour, which the farmers have to bear should also be taken into account. He should get at least equal to what a class IV employee gets. All these factors should be taken into consideration for fixing the prices, of agricultural products..

Nothing has been done in a scientific manner in this connection and that is why no incentive is given to the farmers for increasing production. Onion is produced in abundance in Nasik and Rasal gaon. Though in Bombay it is sold at Rs. 10/- per kg. yet in Nasik the farmers do not get profit of even one rupee per kg. and they have to dispose of their produce in distress sale. Government fix prices but the farmers are not benefited. For instance NAPED agree to purchase onion at a particular rate from the farmers but they do not open their centres. In the mean time the produce is sold to the traders and the middlemen take the benefit of it. The farmer who works hard does not get even one rupee per kg. whereas the middlemen sell the same at Rs. 10/- per kg. in Bombay. Similarly in Maharashtra the Government have monopoly in the purchase of cotton but do not allow export of it.

During the last 18-19 years there have been several occasions when cotton was not allowed to be exported inspite of the fact that there was good production and the rates were reasonable. The farmers suffered heavy loss due to this.

My submission is that the Government deliberately disallowed the cotton export merely to please mill owners and the capitalists. But today the Government say that the export is being increased, how will all this be possible? The Government policy is to help the capitalists and the mill owners. Thus the farmer will not be able to get any benefit even

[Sh. Ramchandra Marotrao Ghangare]

if he increases his production. Therefore my submission is that the prices of the kharif crops should be fixed as soon as the sowing season starts. As soon as the crop is ready Government centres should be opened. My experience shows that the Government centres are opened only when the farmers have already sold their produce, it is a wrong practice, it does not help the farmers in any way.

I would also like to submit that Crop Insurance Scheme is very essential. The Government should cover all the important crops under the scheme. Last time the hon. Minister of Agriculture stated that it was quite an easy task and said that the farmers were not prepared for it. One percent premium is paid under this scheme and both the Government and the farmer bear the equal share. That should be made compulsory. The farmer should also agree to it.

Besides, agriculture should be given the status of industry and cost accounting system should be introduced in the agriculture also. Today when the finished products are sent out the cost of those products has to be borne either by the farmers or those who depend on agriculture, these people have to purchase the goods at high prices. The farmer on the other hand does not get remunerative prices of his products. Therefore my submission is that the farmer cannot prosper unless agriculture is granted the status of an industry. Secondly, no attention has been paid so far to the field labourers. In Vidarbha about 56-58 percent of the total inhabitants are agricultural labourers who have been in this occupation for generations together but possess no land of their own.

They don't possess even an inch of land. Therefore, Government should formulate a comprehensive policy, under which the minimum wages for agricultural labourers should be fixed. Not only this, their wages should be hiked in accordance with rising prices and they should also be given pension and compensation for the losses suffered by

them due to natural calamities. Such a law should be made applicable throughout the country. I think, the V.P. Singh Government had prepared the outline for such a legislation but they were not able to introduce it in the House. The present Government should complete that task. Agriculture cannot progress, without the upliftment of the agricultural labourer.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I won't take much time, as one or two of my party colleagues would also like to speak. Lastly, I would like to say only this much that there is a lot of bungling in Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and other similar schemes. The village Panchayat Committees do not have any control on the execution of these schemes. Moreover, the Panchayat Committee Members too are equally involved in bungling. The Government should inquire into it and take stringent measure to check rampant corruption.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK (Sonipat): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Sir, as everyone knows, agriculture is India's mainstay and seventy percent of our population is dependent on it. It provides livelihood to both the farmers and agricultural labourers. In my opinion, five things are essential for agriculture and the cultivator. First of all, he should have his own land, secondly, good quality seeds should be made available to him. Thirdly, he should get good quality fertilizers, fourthly, there should be adequate irrigation facilities and lastly, the agricultural produce of the farmer should be protected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, coming to the first point, I would like to say that there are many agricultural labourers, who work for big landlords but do not have land of their own. Although, in the paper, they say that big landlords have surplus land, no action has

been taken to distribute it properly. It is my humble request that the Government should endeavour to properly distribute land among those people, who depend on agriculture for their livelihood. The surplus land should be distributed among the landless agricultural labourers, the tillers of the soil.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to mention here that 80% of the farmers have mortgaged their land, either with the co-operative banks or nationalised banks. In Haryana, about two months old the Bhajan Lal Government waived the interest on loans taken by the farmers from the co-operative banks, during the last ten years. It was beyond the Haryana Government limit to waive the interest on loans taken from the nationalised banks. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to waive the interest on loans taken from nationalised banks, because the condition of our farmers is very miserable, and the negative propaganda carried out by certain political leaders have added to their problems. To cite the example of Haryana, there is one leader from the state, I would not like to mention his name, as he is not a member of this House. Now, this person has been telling the people for four long years to take as much loans from the banks as possible and that he would waive the loans, once he assumes office. When people used to ask him, how he would do it, he used to say that he will ask the Finance Minister about the amount of loans taken by the farmers and he will issue orders to the effect that these loans whether they be of ten or twenty lakh rupees be waived and he would sign and put his name 'Devi Lal' underneath it. These simple rural folk were carried away by these rhetorics and today they are facing the consequence. Far from paying the instalment of the principal amount, they are not even in a position to pay the interests. Almost, all the farmers of Haryana are now under debt. Whatever little he earns goes either as interest payment or instalment amount of the principal. It is this factor, that prompted the Haryana Government to waive the interest on the loans taken during the last ten years. Now the farmers have to reply

only the capital amount and that too in instalments.

The Government should at least waive the interests on the loans taken by the farmers of agricultural labourers from nationalised banks. If this is not done, they won't be able to keep their body and Soul together. Moreover, they won't be able to pay even the instalments of the capital amount, leave alone the interest amount.

Coming to the second point, it is essential for every farmer to get good variety of seeds. Many Government agencies are involved in the production of seeds and many private agencies too have made rapid advancement in this field. They sell these seeds in attractive pockets, but unfortunately, a good number of them are adulterated. The farmer suffers a lot as a consequences. It is my humble request to the hon. Minister to pay attention towards this and ensure supply of good quality seeds to the farmers so that they may reap a rich harvest and feed our 80 crore population.

Now, I would like to say something with regard to fertilizers. There was a lot of uproar in the House during the last two months over the fertilizer issue. Even today we have a dual policy. Although, initially fertilizer subsidy was completely done away with, later on it was restored to small and marginal farmers. The big farmers were kept out of its purview. I would like to say that such policies would remain only on paper. The big farmers would avail themselves of the subsidy, under the guise of small farmers. Thus, another avenue for exploitation will be created. As one of the hon. Members correctly observed, these farmers would be further exploited when they approach the Patwaris for loans.

It is my humble submission that the farmers are very much agitated over this issue. When this Budget was presented the fertilizer issue came up, I visited my constituency and found that all the farmers were opposed to this move. If this is implemented, the farmers will use less fertilizer and as a result agricultural production will suffer and

[Sh. Dharampal Singh Malik]

any fall in agricultural production will have far reaching affect on the country's economy. Therefore, it is my humble request that the Government should rethink over this issue. If subsidy is provided to all the farmers, it would result in increased agricultural production.

Alongwith this, I would also like to mention that the farmers take loans both from the nationalised banks and co-operative banks, whose numbers are very few. In this regard, I request the Government to expand the network of co-operative banks as their transaction procedures are quite simple.

Another major necessity of the farmers is proper irrigation facilities. I would like to give some suggestions, with regard to my own state. Land cannot be properly cultivated unless irrigation facilities are made available. Many states in the country have disputes over sharing of water. It is my suggestion that some kind of a national water grid or National Power Grid, a Central body, should be created which will settle disputes between states over sharing of water and power. There is hardly a state which doesn't have a dispute with another over water or power [Interruptions] What I am suggesting is that water and power should be declared as National Assets, otherwise such disputes will continue. Our state to has a dispute over the Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal. Water from these rivers flowed into Pakistan. In 1955, India and Pakistan reached an agreement on sharing of water and we got water under the provisions of the Indo-Pakistan water treaty. However, that was only on paper. Today, 36 years after reaching that agreement, we are yet to receive water, we are told time and again that 97%, or 99.9% progress has been made in the talks, but we haven't got any water and the state doesn't have enough powers to solve this problem. Time and again, commissions are appointed and the matter is referred to the supreme court to settle the issue. In 1982, the then Prime Minister, late

Mrs. Gandhi inaugurated the construction of the SYL canal . By 1986, the work on the Haryana side of the canal was completed. So far as the Punjab portion is concerned, it was to be completed with a budget of 126 crore rupees. Although, by now 500 crores has been spent, yet the work remains un-completed. I request the Government to complete the project on a priority basis. I know that we have a Separate water Resources Ministry to deal with this issue but I have referred to it, because it is related to agriculture. Without making necessary water available, it is futile to expect agricultural production to go up. The problem is that the entire amount received from the Central Government is spent on the administrative machinery itself. They maintain a large number of cars and jeeps, but no substantial work is done. Today, there is no clash between the states over the ratio of water or anything like that. It is a settled issue. Even Rajasthan has a share in it. What is required is Political will. A settlement was reached between the chief Ministers of Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. The issue was settled under the Rajiv-Longowal accord also, but we are yet to get water.

I would also like to submit here that in Uttar Pradesh, there is a Hathini Kund Dam. My friends from U.P., may be aware of it. There is a barrage at that site and it is almost a century old and is out dated. It can come down any moment. If it collapses, Haryana won't be able to save even 20% of its total corpproduction. Everything will be destroyed. Delhi would be submerged under water, if the barrage gives way. I have spoken to Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, the concerned Minister, in this regard. I request the Government to pay attention towards it as otherwise we will be ruined. It would be very beneficial if the water from the River Ganges which flow into the Bay of Bengal are diverted to Haryana, under the Ganga Link Project. If this is done, Haryana would prosper and would be able to produce more crops for the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: Do you want to reverse the flow of Ganges?

SHRIDHARAMPAL SINGH MALIK: We want to use it properly. Lastly, I would like to say one more thing. Under the existing provisions, any farmer taking loan for and purpose is entitled to get his Crop insured, but the same facility is not available to the farmer, who doesn't take any loan. This is an incorrect step. Why should anyone having the necessary resources take loan and moreover why should crop insurance be linked to loans? The facility of crop insurance should be provided to one and all as it would not only help in providing crop protection but also help in saving money. Moreover, insurance cover should be given to all kind of crops, not just a few. The Government should give top priority to this because the farmer toils hard and cultivates the land his produce is left at the mercy of the vagaries of weather and he has to suffer, if it gets destroyed by flood, rains, drought, hailstones or other natural calamities. Therefore, it should be implemented throughout the country.

Regarding the Sugar Mill, I would like to say that the issue of the Co-operative Sugar Mill at Gohana in my Constituency is quite old. The area produces a lot of sugarcane and the Government should ensure that the produce doesn't get destroyed and that it is properly used.

In Sonipat district, there is a village by name Mathana. The quantity of Mushrooms produced here is unparalleled in Asia. Those farmers are facing a lot of problems. If ever I get an opportunity, I will take you and the hon. Minister of Agriculture to this village which is hardly four kilometres away from Sonipat. The mushrooms produced here are exported to other countries also. The Government should announce support price for Mushroom production also in order to encourage them. The Government should also take necessary steps to protect their crop.

With these words, I thank you for providing me with an opportunity to speak.

SHRIGABHAJIMANAGAGITHAKORE (Kapadwanj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to place my thoughts, experience and sug-

gestions on the Demands for Grants for the Ministries of Food and Rural Development. From the thoughts and opinions and viewpoints expressed by the hon. Members one factor that comes out clearly that one wrong policy on the part of the Government can ruin the people and the country and one good policy and its proper implementation can make the people happy and the country prosperous.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of independence, when the country's agricultural policy was being formulated under the guidance of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, who came from a rural background, demanded that it should be agriculture based, agriculture oriented and that agriculture should be given priority over everything else. He was in fact echoing the sentiments of the people of this country. Unfortunately, Pandit Nehru gave precedence to industrialisation and from then onwards, the country has been going backward. Farmers are the backbone of any country but unfortunately, today the Indian farmer finds himself helpless so much so that even the folk stories begin with the sentence 'Once upon a time, there was a poor farmer'. Today, our farmers are on the verge of starvation. The wrong policies pursued by successive Governments are to be squarely blamed for their miserable state of affairs. Although then self-respect do not permit them yet their circumstances force them to demand subsidy. Although the farmers feed the teeming millions of our country, they have been given a raw deal. The farmers don't want to beg, but would certainly like our policies to be agriculture oriented, agriculture based and they expect to get certain basic amenities. What are these basic requirement? Our farmers need water.

The farmer has been urging upon the people who are in power today that water, fertilizers, seeds and electricity should be provided to him. He wants that he should be provided with electricity to run his tubewell, so that he may get water from it. Have you made it available to your farmers? Nothing has been done. Neither water nor electricity

[Sh. Gabhaji Managagi Thakore]

fertilizers are being given to him, even essential pesticides are not being provided. However, at this hour I shall talk about water only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am talking of 1946. At that time Sardar Patel had said that it was the dream of the people of Maharashtra, Gujarat, M.P. and Rajasthan that we would have our own Government, we would be in power and we would be getting all sorts of facilities. Thereafter Narmada plan was taken up. But the water could not be made available despite repeated request. Of course the plan is going on. But why are we in such a condition even now? The Government have perhaps never given a thought that the natural rain water could have been accumulated. Gujarat faces excessive rains after every three years. If we could have managed to accumulate the natural rain water, we would not have faced the shortage of water. The level of ground water in Mehsana is 1100 ft. and in Sabar Kantha and Ahmedabad it is 900 feet down.

We consider our rivers as our mothers and our goddesses. Since independence the rivers of India are silting because accumulation of sand in the rivers and nobody has thought of dredging it out and to deepen the rivers. The technical officers of the country have never thought about the reducing depth of Indian rivers and as a result of it, the water did not stay in the rivers and the rain water flows outside. No officer has even thought of recharging the tubewells during the period of excessive rains. Due to the excessive use of tubewells and non recharging of them the ground water level is going down day by day. Throughout the country whether it is Tamilnadu, Karnataka, Gujarat or Punjab the controversy over water is going on. Farmers are also quarrelling with each other over the distribution of water. In other words we never thought of water; we never tried to preserve water.

Nature has given us plenty of water but we never tried to preserve it. Mr. Charman,

Sir, let us think in terms of using the excessive rain water through recharging the same.

Another thing I have pointed out regarding silting in the rivers. If we dredge out this sand from the rivers, their depth shall increase and more water can stay in the rivers and this water will go to the wells and can raise the level of water in the wells.

Thirdly the silting process has also started in almost all the big dams in the country, causing decrease in their depth. As a result of it we do not get water and we cannot generate hydro electricity. I would like to suggest that all the dams in India should have necessary arrangements to check the silting process on their banks so that they may have full quantity of water and the water may percolate in the earth, which may help the water level increase in wells. In this way if water level comes up, price of electricity shall also go down. Farmers will be able to get water at cheaper rates. Now-a-days even the situation of drinking water is extremely bad.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now I spoke about water. Now I shall speak about the attack on the farmers. With-drawing subsidy is a murderous assault on the farmers. There is one more thing. The societies and the committees which give loan and the cooperative banks which give loans to the farmers they shall be making a deduction of 3% on the interest earned on their annual amount. I have gone through the budget speech of Shri Manmohan Singhji. In one of the clauses, it has been mentioned that the cooperative banks can increase their rate of interest if they so desire. In other words, they can loot the farmers if they wish. Thus, they have been permitted to increase their rate of interest and recover it from the farmers. As such this is yet another attack on them. In this way the farmers have been brought in a very pitiable condition. Through you, I would like to inform the hon. Minister of Agriculture in this august House what the farmer in this country has been facing. When we got freedom 82 percent population of this country was rural and today it is 70 per cent.

Today 12% people are forced to leave the villages in search of livelihood. The son too thinks that my parents toil hard but are unable to manage two square meals a day. They get nothing from farming as such why should I not go to the city and earn for them. When he goes to the city in search of a job he creates the problem of slum. Then you make a lot of hue and cry that the village people have created the slum problem; water pollution, air pollution etc. But who is responsible for all this; no one has thought of it. We should have given a thought to that too. Our officers have no time to think in respect of our farmers. The farmer is the back bone of this country. If our back bone is not in proper shape, it would create a lot of problems. Similarly if the condition of the farmer is not sound, the country will not be able to develop, and we will have to face many problems. Just now some of the hon. Member have very rightly remarked that in case improvement is not made in their condition, bloody revolution would bound to take place. We shall have to make some arrangements in such a way as the rural people could get employment without quitting the villages. They should get some incentives and proper price of their produce. Otherwise they would keep on running from the villages.

Our farmers in the villages work for 24 hours in farming and they have to face the fear of snakes, scorpions etc., but in this country no facility is provided to them. Those who take up even a small job in the cities get all facilities like electricity, T.V. refrigerator, air conditioned houses etc. It is not that we feel jealous of them but the farmer who looks after the entire nation gives us cotton, grains, oil seeds etc. do not get any facility. This aspect needs to be thought of. The situation today is that even after 44 years of independence we have not formulated any policy in the interest of the farmers. Who-so-ever might be in the power. I am not casting any aspersion on Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru but who is responsible for all this? In the past 44 years many agitations have been launched in this country but still farmers have to fight for their rights. They have to fight for the support price of wheat. Those who fix sup-

port price have ever thought of those conditions in which farmer produces foodgrains. In Gujarat water comes out after digging 900 to 1100 feet deep. Has anyone thought of that expenditure which is being incurred by the farmers on the digging of these wells. Farmers have to spend Rs.500/- for one horse power. Farmers have staged demonstrations and launched agitations on this issue many a times, many faced bullets and canes and many have succumbed to their injuries. In these demonstrations many sisters lost their husbands and many children became orphans. After all why all these things happens. Who feels happy in facing bullets. But the circumstances compell them to adopt such measures to get their rights.

As such, Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I urge upon the House that the hon. Minister alone would not be able to do anything since he has been making promises earlier too. So I urge upon the entire House to extend assistance in framing some concrete policy in favour of farmers. If the farmer in this country would be happy, we shall also be happy, this country shall be happy and the country shall prosper. Otherwise our condition shall deteriorate day after day and the day is not far when we shall have to confront such an odd situation which we cannot even dream of.

In the end I will conclude my speech after giving a very important suggestion. I want to quote on example as to how the farmers in this country are being exploited. During these days, the use of bullocks is not very common. I am of the opinion that bullocks should be used for farming. To rear cows has been a vital part of our culture. Lord Krishna was named as 'Gopal' since he had tremendous love and affection for cows. We call Gopal, a person who brings up cows.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You say whatever you want to say please do not quote examples.

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: I shall finish in two minutes after making my point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, I can't allow two minutes.

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: I am quoting just one example before you. The farmers have started using tractors by and by. On 1st September, 1971, Government had issued a control order relating to tractors, but the same was withdrawn on 29th Jan, 1988. As a result of this withdrawal, the farmers are facing a number of problems in taking loans from the Banks. When a farmer goes to bank to take a loan he is asked to show the delivery documents. When he will produce the delivery documents, the only he will get the cheque..... [Interruptions]

Sir, allow me to complete what I want to say.

SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSIRSAGAR (Beed): Mr. Chairman, Sir, please allow me also for five minutes. Think of us also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I am thinking of you also. I am keeping you in mind.

SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please let me finish my speech

(Interruptions)

Sir, the farmers are put to a great loss because of withdrawal of this order. They are being exploited. Now the dealer asks the farmer to give advance payment. The amount of payment remains with the dealer for 2 to 4 months and the farmers do not get interest on it. In this way the farmers are being exploited in a big way. As such, my submission is that the control order date 1st Sept., 1971 which has been withdrawn should be reimposed to safeguard the interest of the farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the end, with these words, I request the hon. Minister through you that he should consider my suggestions and put an end to the exploitation of farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji Ksirsagar. [Interruptions]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many names still left and many hon. Members want to speak. Some suggestions have been received to this effect that the House should continue beyond 6 p.m.

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Thane): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do not want to sit beyond 6 p.m.

[Interruptions]

*SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSIRSAGAR (Beed): Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. Our country is an agricultural country More than 80% of the people in the country depend on agriculture. We have progressed in the matter of food-grain production. In the matter of some foodgrains we achieved self-sufficiency in the last 20 years. Since we are achieving self-sufficiency in the matter of food-grains production, we now do not have to approach big countries like England and America for getting foodgrains. In fact, we are now in a position to supply foodgrains to some countries in need of it.

Agriculture should be given the status of industry. The owners of textile mills are in a position to fix the price of cloth manufactured in their mills. But the farmers inspite of their toiling in the fields throughout the year are not in a position to fix the price of agricultural commodities when they are to be sold in the market. The price of the commodities which he produces is fixed by the middlemen. This is a cruel mockery and, therefore, we must stop this vicious circle. Hon'ble Agriculture Minister is himself is an ideal farmer and he has great sympathy for farmers. So I urge upon the Govt. to give agricultural the status of industry and see that the prices of agriculture commodities are not fixed by the middlemen but by the farmers themselves. This should be our policy and it must be strictly implemented.

The farmers get insurance cover only for some crops. But as we know the farmers have to face natural calamities like drought, flood, excessive rain fall because of which his crops may be totally damaged. In such a situation farmers lose everything and their condition becomes miserable. Therefore, insurance cover should be provided for all the crops irrespective of the reason of damage of their crops. As insurance is available for machinery in a factory, similarly insurance cover should be available for all the crops. Unless we take this step, the financial condition of farmers is not going to improve.

Agriculture also requires basic inputs like seeds, pump-sets, irrigation, fertilizers, power supply etc. *(Interruptions)*

(English)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr Chairman, Sir, if the house is not willing to sit beyond 6 o' clock, then we may first extend the time we have allotted for this discussion on Demands for Grants relating to Ministry of Agriculture,

Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Rural Development. I think, we have completed the time of ten hours. If we can increase the time for this discussion from ten hours to fifteen hours and fix the time for reply by the Minister at 5 o' clock tomorrow, then everybody would have a little more time to voice his views. There are lot of Members from all sides who wish to speak on this important aspect.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is this agreeable?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We wish to discontinue this discussion at 6 o' clock. But kindly note that tomorrow the Minister will reply at or around 5 o' clock.

Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji Ksirsagar to continue her speech tomorrow. The House stand adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18. 00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, August 29, 1991/Bhadra 7, 1913 (Saka)