

[Sh. Brahma Nand Mandal]

crores of rupees in this factory which can be put to use. It has been said that Rs. 70 crores would be spent on its modernisation but the work has not so far been undertaken.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister and the Centre to start manufacturing wagons and coaches in Jamalpur factory and thereby safeguard the interest of the country.

(viii) **Need to reopen the closed
Katihar Jute Mill in Bihar**

SHRI RAM SAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a matter of urgent Public importance. For want of Jute supply, the Katihar Jute Mill located at Katihar is lying closed for the last four years. Even the workers are not being paid wages due to non-operation of the mill. It has brought them and their families on the verge of starvation. The Government has neither given any compensation to the dependents of the deceased workers who have died of starvation nor has taken any step to protect the life of workers and their families who are struggling in the face of starvation.

The previous Government had taken a decision to hand over this mill to National Manufacturer's Corporation on lease basis and provide it financial assistance but the present Government has not taken any action in this regard.

I therefore, urge upon the Central Government to revive the closed Katihar Jute Mill at the earliest.

13.22 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1991-92 (Contd.)

Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Food
and
Ministry of Rural Development

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands

for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Item Nos. 11 to 13 together.

Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji Kshirsagar to continue her speech.

[Translation]

*SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I was saying yesterday irrigation and power supply are the basic inputs of agriculture. 70% of land in our country is unirrigated. That is why agricultural production from this land is quite less compared to irrigated land. If irrigation is provided the agricultural production can go up by 3 to 4% and it is possible to have 3 or 4 crops in a year. In Maharashtra only 12% of land is under irrigation, the main sources being canals and wells. As the rain fall has come down, the water table has gone down. It is necessary that more area should be brought under irrigation. Many irrigation projects recommended by Govt. of Maharashtra are not being completed because of paucity of funds. If these projects are not completed in time, the project cost will go up by 8 to 10%. For getting necessary funds for irrigation projects, I suggest that funds can be raised by getting loans from cooperative societies or by issuing bonds for this purpose. Adequate funds should be raised without any delay. We should ensure that atleast 70% of land should come under irrigation.

Every year lot of rain water is wasted. It should be restored and used for cultivation. If we take up such a scheme, lakhs of hectares of land would be irrigated and it would enhance agricultural production. The usual reply which the Govt. gives is paucity of resources. But since irrigation is crucial for agricultural development, we should make the resources available and implement a scheme for storing rain water for the purpose of agriculture.

Farmers should be supplied seeds, pesticides and fertilizers well in time. The Banks must advance loans to farmers before sowing season. Certified and good quality seeds and pesticides alone should

[Smt. Kesharbai Sonaji Kshirsagar]

be supplied to farmers. Fertilizers should be supplied to all the farmers and discrimination should not be made between small, medium and big farmers as far as supplying fertilizers is concerned. Adequate supply of fertilizers should be ensured to all farmers in the country.

Godowns should be constructed for storing agricultural commodities. As loans are available to industrialists if he keeps those goods as security with banks. Similarly, farmers also should be granted loans on the strength of agricultural goods which should serve as security. Cooperative marketing societies should also advance loans to farmers.

It is well known that farmer does not get remunerative prices for his yield. Traders exploit farmers and sell his yield at a much higher price. This exploitation of farmers at the hands of traders must stop once for all. Therefore, a scheme for advancing loans to farmers on the strength of his agricultural yield should be implemented.

It is necessary to increase oil-seeds production. Research Centres should be opened in all the taluqas and hilly areas for conducting research in augmentation of oil-seed production. As oil-seed production is less we have to import oil at higher price. These research centres, I am sure, would go a long way in increasing oilseed production in the country.

Horticulture production must increase in the country. Every farmer should grow fruits in atleast 5 acres. Fruits should be processed and exported. The Govt. of Maharashtra has taken up an ambitious fruit production scheme. The Govt. is giving 14,000/- rupees as subsidy per hectare to weaker sections. The Central Govt. should also take up such a scheme and export fruits.

Steps should be taken to develop subsidiary industries like diary, poultry, fishery

etc. This will help in improving financial condition of farmers. Even if there is natural calamity farmers will be in a position to sustain themselves by these subsidiary occupations.

Farmers by nature are honest and hard-working. He repays debt taken by his father and grand father. If nature is not favourable he has to face misery. Even his home and land are auctioned. But if an industrialist takes loan and fails to repay it, his machinery is never auctioned. Rather he is given extension of time to repay loan. This facility should be given to farmers. Long term loans at low interest should be given to farmers. Long term loans at low interest should be given to farmers. As farmers toil hard in the fields throughout their lives Govt. should give all possible concessions to farmers.

As farmers are not organised, their demands are neglected. If farmers decide to agitate and not to sell their yield, one cannot even imagine what would happen to the country and people. We should not test farmers patience and should give facilities required by him well in time since ultimately it is in our own interest.

In every district we should set up atleast one agricultural college which should impart latest knowledge.

Diary is an important subsidiary industry. Banks must advance loans for purchasing cows and buffalos of good breed. Training should be given to young persons in Dairy Development. They should be given jobs. It will help in reducing unemployment in the country.

There is good sugar production in the country. But the demand for sugar is also increasing. Sugar production is particularly good in Maharashtra. Sugar manufactured in Maharashtra is of good quality and recovery is also good. But sugarcane in Maharashtra does not fetch good price like other States. I do not know why this difference in price of sugarcane exists. Maharashtra Govt. has sent proposals for opening new sugar

factories. From my constituency there is a proposals for stating six sugar factories. I request the Govt. to sanction these proposals expeditiously.

The number of fair price shops is inadequate. Essential commodities like edible oil, sugar are not available in many shops. For last six months kerosene oil is not available in rural areas in these shops. There is acute scarcity of other essential commodities. Fair price shops should be opened for a population of 500.

In urban areas quota of essential commodities is more, but in rural areas it is less. This discrimination is unfair. But people in cities can raise their demands effectively. In villages though such demand is made it goes unnoticed. I suggest that management of fair price shops should be entrusted to young persons and women.

Under Employment Guarantee Scheme productive work should be undertaken. Construction of wells can be taken up under this programme. This will give work to unemployed labourers in villages. Even fruit growing can also be taken up under this scheme. The Central Govt. should also start such a scheme which will give boost to agricultural production.

Jawahar Yojana is being implemented through Panchayats. The basic objective is to take up work which would meet requirement of villages. But the funds available for the scheme are meagre. If more funds are sanctioned for the scheme, roads can be constructed or schools and hospitals can be opened in rural areas under this scheme.

There are lakhs of villages which do not have drinking water. Due to inadequate rain fall water table has gone down. Realising the acute scarcity of drinking water former Prime Minister, Hon'ble Rajiv Gandhi Ji personally visited affected areas and formulated a scheme for supply of drinking water. I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister for announcing a scheme in the name of Rajiv Gandhi for supplying potable water to 8,000 villages.

Medical facilities are totally inadequate in rural areas. I request the Govt. to start homeopathic dispensaries in rural areas. Homeopathic medicine is cheaper than allopathic medicine. Poor people can afford to purchase it. The amount required for starting homeopathic dispensary is much less than an alopathic clinic. So I urge upon the Govt. to start large number of homeopathic dispensaries in rural areas.

As dispensaries in rural areas are less, people have to travel 40 to 50 Kms to reach a dispensary. As medical facility is not available many people even die. I request the Govt. to start primary health centres in villages where population is 500.

Sanitary conditions are satisfactory in urban areas. But in rural areas the condition is really horrible. As lavatories are not there, people face lot of inconvenience, especially even women folk has to face lot of hardships. I request that Govt. should take up scheme of construction of lavatories in villages. For this scheme 75% assistance should be given by Central Govt. and the work should start immediately. Such a step will help in preventing diseases like Cholera which are rampant in rural areas because of insanitary conditions.

In many villages there are no roads as transportation is not there, farmers find it difficult to transport their goods to cities. It hampers trade and commerce. Roads are necessary for carrying passengers from one place to another. Govt. of Maharashtra has recommended 11 roads for declaring them as national highways. I request that Govt. should sanction this proposal of Maharashtra Govt. as early as possible.

With these words I fully support the demands of agriculture and rural development Ministry and thank you for giving an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharam-puri): Sir, I rise to support the Demands for

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Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1991-92.

At the outset, I welcome the gesture of the Government of India. The Congress Party in its Manifesto emphasised the need for promotion of agriculture and helping the poor farmers in the country. Major innovative steps have to be taken for the promotion of agriculture as well as the improvement of the farming community by and large.

Sir, first of all, I would like to impress upon the hon. Minister that the agriculturists in this country have been demanding that the status of agriculture should be made equivalent to that of the industry and it should be categorised as industry. Then only, the agrarian community which represents about 75 per cent of the population in our country will get their due share. I am not against industry. But industrial sector is getting more and more benefits like subsidies and other things, thereby the growth is more in that sector whereas the majority section of our society is not getting those benefits at par with the industry. That is why, I demand that agriculture must be made as an industry so that the benefits like subsidies, bonus, etc. will come to this very important sector also.

Secondly, crop insurance scheme is one of the major innovative scheme under which our agriculturists are actually benefited. But at the same time, the system is faulty. Now, the identification of areas at present is at the district level or taluk level. In a district, if a particular village is affected by drought or some other kind of natural calamity, that village is not included for getting the benefits under the crop insurance scheme. So, it should not be at the district level or at the block level; if a particular area is affected, that area has to be examined by the authorities and it should be recommended so that the really affected people of the agrarian community get the fruits of the crop insurance scheme. So, the change in policy is required and it is very important. I urge upon the Government that it should be taken care

of and it should be announced immediately so that thousands of farmers all over the country who are affected will get those benefits. Even if a single farmer is affected, he should get the benefits under crop insurance scheme. Further, the system is totally corrupt and only when we pay money to officials, they recommend the people for those benefits. The poor people are not able to get these benefits because of the corrupt officials. There should be free and fair conditions and there should be a strict adherence of rules and regulations where the poor people in rural areas can also get the benefits.

Then, the fertiliser subsidy is a vast subject and we have been discussing it for quite sometime now. All the sections of this House are aware and accept that the fertiliser subsidy should not be withdrawn. Of course, the Government was kind enough to give subsidy to small and marginal farmers. I agree with the Government's decision. But, at the same time there is a problem. The identification of small and marginal farmers is done by the Village Administrative Officer, Revenue Inspector and Tehsildar. First, a farmer has to go to the Village Administrative Officer and then to the Revenue Inspector and Tehsildar. For getting the certificate, a large amount of money has to be spent. The corrupt officials are not allowing the poor farmers to get the benefits. It is true irrespective of party politics and it is growing day-by-day. It is a very serious matter and we must put an end to this conversation. But, I am afraid it is not possible for the Government because there is no machinery to check this anomaly. So, I urge upon the Government to evolve a fool-proof system where all the farmers should be given identification cards for their land holdings, so that the moment they show their cards they must be allowed to take fertilisers and they should be given subsidy without any harassment of going to the Village Administrative Officer, Revenue Inspector and so on. I request the hon. Minister to write to all the Chief Ministers and even to the District Administrative Officers to look into the matter because the District

Collectors are the authorities to issue orders in this regard.

So, I urge upon the hon. Minister to do this. I also appeal through you to the State Chief Ministers as well as the people, by and large, that they should not be deprived of their right. In fact, in Tamil there is a proverb "The fence itself is eating the crop." That kind of situation is prevailing today. That should not be allowed to continue. I humbly submit that this should be taken care of.

The dual system is not going to help the farmer. The moneyed big farmers and the land-lords are going to gain this also through the corrupt officials. I request the Government to reconsider the policy of giving equalisation to all farmers. There are problems. The big farmers produce. They are going to sell the produce. It comes to the market and it comes to the consumer. By and large, the consumer has to be kept in mind. They are also our brothers. They are also part and parcel of our life. They will be affected. They have to pay much more prices for production. This is the point to be considered.

In our country, 75 to 80 per cent of the people live in the villages. This village community is working day and night, whether it is Sun or rain, and there is no rest for them. These poor people are not given importance in the socio-economic structure of the society.

We produce more than 169 million tonnes of foodgrains in this country. According to the estimate of the Government, 52 per cent of the people are under poverty line. What does it mean? Our own people are not getting food and other facilities on par with the others. Only the rich people are able to enjoy to economic benefits of the country. The status of the agrarian community should be enhanced. That is why, I demand that the status of the agricultural labourers should be brought up to the labour in the industrial level. The people who are living below the poverty line should be uplifted. Under the leadership of our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi, we were able to do much in this

regard from 1984, during this five years period. The Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and other socio-economic programmes for the weaker sections uplifted and helped the poor people of this country to a greater extent. That kind of programmes have to be modified and they should reach the poor people so that the benefits will reach the common man.

The other point which I would like to stress is that there are 360 million unorganised labour in this country in the agricultural sector alone. They constitute 80 per cent of the labour force in the country. But this section is not covered under any of the labour laws. The agricultural labour do not get due remuneration or do not get the real benefits of the work which they do.

In State to State and district to district, there are variations in salaries. In one district, a male member is getting Rs. 10/- and a female is getting Rs. 5/-. This practice is still going on in this country. This variation in wages must go. We should see to it that there is a uniform wage policy for agricultural labour.

Our late leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi brought the Agricultural Unorganised Labour Commission. But I do not know where the Commission is now. It is not to be seen for the last 1 1/2 years. It should be given effect to immediately by the hon. Minister and the labour sector must be given priority and they should be brought to the limelight.

Another point which I want to bring to your notice that there is no security for people engaged in agricultural operations. No compensation is given to the person who dies in the agricultural operation. In other sectors, compensation is given.

I insist that in the agricultural sector also, the Central Government must give Rs. 50,000/- compensation and State Governments must give another Rs. 50,000/- compensation. A total compensation Rs. one lakh should be given when a person dies in the operation of agricultural work. This is

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very important because only when they are given such kind of a facility, the family members left behind by the worker will be able to pull on and possibly they can live.

With regard to recurrence of flood and drought in this country, we have been spending a lot of money on flood control measures and drought relief measures. What I feel is there should be a systematic programme brought in in order to deal with this flood and drought situation. Then only we can regulate water and we can even stop the drought conditions. If the regulation of water is done, then we can grow more number of trees and increase the green coverage. If that is done, rains will also come. As far as this sector is concerned, we have to give a loud thinking. In fact, we have been talking about linkage of Ganga and the Cauvery. But it remains as a dream only. It is Dr. K.L. Rao who brought this idea to this country. But somehow it is being delayed. I urge upon the Government to consider this very massive programme so that the whole country will get the benefit. My feeling is that all the major rivers in this country should be linked. If that is done, then there will not be any scope for drought conditions at all. Moreover, we can put a stop to the recurrence of floods also. But if that ambitious programme is not immediately taken up, at least we can think of sharing of river waters between the States. I think this thing should be possible.

As far as the Cauvery issue is concerned, this House witnessed the great turbulence. This issue is still pending in the Supreme Court. So, I do not want to go into the details of it. But this water dispute should not be allowed to come into the fore again. There is a possibility of sorting this issue out if the Government wishes. I demand that this Government must come forward with a legislation to nationalise all the major rivers in this country. Depending upon the size of the State and its population that water should be shared according to the reality. This will be the only remedy available for this water dispute. I once again demand that all the

major rivers in this country should be nationalised and this subject should be brought under the control of the Central Government.

With regard to rural development, I would like to say that it is a very massive thing. A massive area is involved as far as this issue is concerned. Of course, we are giving high priority. I congratulate this Ministry because it took up this issue when our late leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister and it was followed by Shri Rajiv Gandhi also. We are giving too much importance to this aspect. It deserves that. I feel that we must attach much more importance to this aspect because a large majority of the rural area is not developed. It is under-developed. The whole society is speaking only of the towns. Nobody is there to speak of the rural villages. The villages remain still poor. The conditions in the villages are not good. As far as roads, drinking water and other issues are concerned, even after 44 years of independence we are not able to provide these facilities in the villages. The villagers are suffering a lot. According to the Commission's findings, almost all the problem-villages are increasing in number day-by-day and not decreasing. So, there should be a concerted effort to bring back the normal living conditions in the villages by providing water facility etc. All the villages in this country should be provided with water, on a priority basis. For this purpose, the Government has taken a very important decision to name the Technology Mission after the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. It is a welcome measure. We want that this Technology Mission should step in immediately in this area and make the people happy by providing them water in all the villages. Thereby dream of Shri Rajiv Gandhi is met.

Sir, we have earmarked about Rs. 3580 crores in this year to the rural development project compared to last year's Rs. 3115 crores. It is good that we have done it. But I feel it is not adequate. It should have been put at Rs. 5000 crores. There is another aspect. The employment programme alone gets the share of Rs. 2100 crores. It is good

that the employment generation programme in the rural areas is working perfectly well. Of course, there is a small lacuna because selection of the beneficiaries is a problem. The beneficiaries are selected by the Block Development Officers or the Villager Officers or the Gramsevaks. There is a problem there also. The corruption is there. Whosoever gives the money gets it. There is a criterion for it that only those who are living below the poverty line, the Harijans and the women should be given importance. It is a guideline. But the guidelines are not followed but are flouted all the time. It has not come into force many a time. I request the Minister to direct the State Governments, irrespective of party there saying that they should not flout the rules and they should take cognizance of the rules and regulations and that the programme should reach the poor people alone.

This time, since the Budget is delayed, we have aimed at 900 million mandays instead of 1000 million mandays. This is a very good area. The Government must have to be more vigilant and active in respect of the programmes meant for the poor people. I would like to inform you that the Members of Parliament have no role to play in these rural development programmes. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was there, we had complained to him about this. He had sent a circular to all the Chief Ministers. And there was a Task Force in every Block Level Committee where the respective MPs from that area were the Chairmen of that Task Force to look after the implementation of the programme. It is not there now. I have no ill-will against the previous Government. But it is true. In our State, when the DMK was there in power, they had completely eliminated the MPs from the scene. The MPs there had no role to play. These MPs should be given importance while selecting beneficiaries, while administering the programme. In other countries, MPs are given free hand in selecting beneficiaries, selecting areas and selecting projects. We want this here also. At the national level, we have several programmes which are very good. It should reach the poor people. At the same time, MPs should be given priority to

see and control it wherever it is necessary. They should be given importance.

With regard to the Agricultural Prices Commission, I would like to give my views. We agree that the Agricultural Prices Commission is doing an exemplary work. But they are not taking in to consideration the reality. For instance, paddy, sugarcane and wheat. We every time beg for five rupees or ten rupees. This is not adequate; this is not good also. They do not take the reality into consideration. We are facing a lot of problems in getting these agricultural inputs. And when produce comes, we are not able to sell it in the market as they give a very little price. There is lot of discrepancy. We want that real farmers should be made members of the Agricultural Prices Commission and then only the real justice will be done to the farming community. That is not taking place. They are taking the IAS people. We are not against the IAS people. Without knowing the reality and sitting in the air-conditioned rooms they cannot decide about the fate of the farmer who is producing in the hot Sun and suffering a lot all the time. They are not getting adequate price whether it is paddy, sugarcane or wheat. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he had formulated policy and our great leaders had decided about it. When the farming community approached our late Prime Minister, he said that there would be a agricultural price Policy for three to five years continuously so that the price would not go up, and even the agricultural products would have a committed market. This is a very important factor. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister to have a price policy for the agricultural products and inputs thereby there will be continuity and conformity for the produce. This way, we can also keep the price level in the market. This will help the Government as well as the common man and the agricultural society will get the benefit out of it.

We welcome what the Prime Minister has said very clearly. He has said that the fifty per cent of the planned sources are invested in the agricultural and rural sectors. It is true that we have been continuing this

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since the time of our great leaders Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. There is a provision for helping the poor and marginal farmers by doubling sources the dug wells and tubewells, in future. But that is very very meagre.

14.00 hrs.

I request the Minister to pay more attention top rural areas. The digging of wells is costly matter. With the price of Rs. 15,000/- that we are giving, it is not at all possible to dig a well in the rural areas. The prices have gone up and we have to pay more at least Rs 20,000/-.

The Congress Party, in its election manifesto said that we are for farmers and the Congress Party stands for the farmers. We will continue to support the farming community in the country, for their improvement and development. We will fulfill the commitment made in our election manifesto.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

[Translation]

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I cannot fully support the Demands for Grants because there are still many shortcomings. The main problem of the farmers is that they do not have land. Therefore, if we need to make progress in the field of agriculture the Government will have to implement the land reforms. The State Government are not thinking seriously in this direction because many parties fight elections with the help of funds made available to them by big landlords. Therefore, it is very difficult to lay hands on them. For example, I would like to cite the example of West Bengal here. The way land reforms are being implemented there, I think if they are implemented in a similar way all over the country, new era would dawn throughout the country and the farmers would be tremendously benefited.

Training is required in every field but there is no training facility for the farmers. A person who is simple and illiterate and who is not clever, is forced to take up agriculture as his livelihood. But he must also be imparted training. The States are divided into districts, blocks and tehsils. Training must be imparted to the farmers at block level about the type of crop they can grow, the fertilizer they can use and the way land can become more fertile. Training should be imparted through demonstration. It is true that money is being spent at the block level on this work but there is no accountability. Neither the block officer is responsible for it not anybody else is. Unless somebody is made responsible and we keep a watch on the amount that is being spent and the benefit that has accrued, the situation will not improve much. A unit should be set up in every block to over-see the quantity of foodgrain produced in the block and whether that quantity is adequate enough for meeting the requirements of the people of the area. If it is less the unit should monitor how it can be increased. Unless such a scheme is formulated we cannot hope to progress in this field. Therefore if we treat block as a unit and monitor foodgrain production, things will improve a lot. Based on the occupation, the farmers can be sub divided into many categories. They have got very small land holdings. If their purchasing power goes down and they do not have adequate money, all our factories which, in fact, are the medium of development of our country will be closed. Therefore, the farmers should be given training regarding poultry, bee keeping, piggery, fishery, horticulture and marine products and a beginning in this regard should be made at the block level. We should educate them about the course to be adopted in the wake of natural calamities and resultant loss of life. The training for poultry and animal husbandry can be imparted with the Government help. If this is done, I think, it will bring a sea change in the economic condition of the country as well as that of the farmers.

Secondly, the standard of living of the people in our country is very low. It is lower than that of Bhutan even. Per capita availa-

bility of milk in the country is low to the shameful limits. The same is true of fish and meat. Considering the giant size of our population which ranges between 80-85 crore, per capita availability of these products comes to nothing. Our standard of living is quite low if compared to other countries. The standard of living cannot be raised by just manufacturing iron and wooden products. Block should be taken as a unit to increase the production of foodgrains, meat, milk and ghee so that the standard of living of the people of our country could be raised. Our standard of living is lower than Bangladesh, Bhutan and Nepal even, yet we take pride in saying that we are big developing country.

The officers at the block level should train the farmers to enable them to earn upto Rs. 5000 a month. They should be educated so that they can have higher returns from cash crops, poultry, animal husbandry and piggery. Today piggery has a large potential. All this training should be provided at the block level which will bring tremendous progress. The second point is about education. Now-a-days, a number of programmes are telecast to educate the farmers about farming and plant protection. They are educated as to how potatoes and onion can be kept in storage. But the farmers view these programmes for the sake of entertainment. Once in a week, the block level officer should discuss the programme shown on the T.V. with the villagers. There is no need to call the people of all the villages at a time. People of one village can be called at a time. This procedure will have very good results. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that though we have a history of farming which is 10 centuries old, yet we continue to adopt old methods of cultivation and nobody has paid attention in this direction. Therefore, you have to educate every person on war footing. So far as education is concerned, primary education should be provided to all. And the people living in the villages should be provided to all. And the people living in the villages should be given training in the concerned field so that they may acquire primary knowledge of minor

diseases that hit the crops and take measures for plant protection. We should devise ways to enable the farmers to augment their income so that they do not migrate to urban areas and create a problem for the country. Therefore, it is essential to pay attention in this direction.

Some small food processing units should be set up at the block level. The farmers are forced to sell their produce at distress price to the middlemen, because they have no storage facility and some of their produce start rotting very quickly. The vegetables we buy at Rs. 10/- per kilo are sold by the farmers to the middlemen at Rs. 1.25/- per kilo. Therefore, a cold-storage each should be constructed at block level for preserving their produce for a longer period. This will enable the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative prices.

So far as dams are concerned, big dams have not proved to be very useful in India as large tracts of land are submerged as a result thereof. I would suggest that small dams should be constructed on the rivers. Silting in big dams create problems. Therefore, small dams should be constructed at different places on the river, which will work as reservoir and the excess water will flow down the course by itself. This will provide irrigation facility to a number of farmers. Therefore, the Government should pay more attention towards the small scale irrigation projects, small dams, tanks and lift irrigation schemes. This does not need huge funds or a lot of labour. Accountability should be brought to the block level, otherwise, they cannot know what we are doing. We will remain in the same situation, if nothing is done in this regard. It will be of no use to have discussion on agriculture every three months. Regarding cold-storage, I would like to submit that this facility is not needed in cities like Delhi and Calcutta. Cold-storage should be constructed at such places, where foodgrains are produced.

It is an important fact that the seeds should be of improved quality. The farmer know pretty well what to grow and when.

[Sh. Pius Tirkey]

Therefore, improved and certified seeds should be made available to the farmer in time. So far as fertilizer is concerned, a lot of discussion takes place almost every day. A lot of waste in Delhi is burnt which in turn, emits a lot of foul smell. Proper arrangements for the disposal of this waste should be made. The waste in the big cities like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta should be collected and utilised for manufacturing good quality manure. We are spoiling the land by using chemical fertilizers. The Government should pay more attention towards organic manure. The other day, I was reading an article which said that we could produce 650 lakh tonnes of organic manure every year by utilising the waste from the cities, but that waste is only getting destroyed and is only creating diseases and foul smell. Therefore, the Government should pay attention in this regard. In villages also, the cow-dung cakes are used for burning purposes. This practice should be stopped and the farmers should be told about the importance of cow-dung as manure. It is precious like gold, but it is being used for burning purposes. The villagers should be encouraged to stop its use for burning purposes and they should be provided with gas connections. This cow-dung can be used as manure and it will increase our production.

A lot of development has taken place regarding the production of vegetables. But in the process of getting a bumper crop, we have forgot ten to see whether the vegetables so produced contain its nutrients or it is just urea that we are eating. Now-a-days, even a chicken is produced through artificial hatching. We should ensure that the vegetables we produce do not lose their nutritional content. Now-a-days, dyed vegetables are coming in the market. Green peas we get in the market during off season are actually dyed in green colour, but we take them as green peas. Agriculture Ministry as also the food processing units should check this adulteration. (Interruptions) These things cannot be done by the Babus. These people

eat the food supplied by villages, but talk like Britishers. Therefore, we want to draw the attention of the urban people towards the villages. If the condition of villages is not improved the urban people will face starvation and they will be afflicted with so many diseases that it will become difficult to cope up with the situation. Therefore, we all have to give a serious thought to this matter.

We never think about the entire society. Our concern is confined to ourselves. If our farming community also starts thinking on the same lines, the entire country will reach the verge of destruction. Just for the name-sake, we will be called as agriculture based country, but actually we will have to depend on other countries for our living. Therefore, we have to change this attitude of ours. The increasing corruption in the country has also to be stopped. Farmer is the backbone of this country. He produces foodgrains, which is the need of the entire country. He has to be provided with all the resources necessary for the scientific techniques of farming. The big institutes like Pusa Institute in the metropolitan cities like Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay are not going to be of any use to the farmers. I would like to submit that those who have never seen potato plant are doing research on potato. More attention should be paid in this regard. What is needed is the trained personnel who are acquainted with the working at block level and who can work with the farmers. Only this will improve the situation of our country as well as of the farmer. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI
(Amreli): My point of order is that there is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung—Now there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri Vijayaraghavan may speak.

[Translation]

*SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN

(Palghat): Mr. Chairman, I support these demands. The Ministry of Agriculture is in the hands of a strong Minister which is very reassuring to the farmers of this country. He had adorned the Speakers Chair for almost one decade and whenever the farmers' issues came up before the House, he expressed his views openly in support of them. He is the Minister for Agriculture today. I believe that the interests of the farmers of this country are safe in his hands. His colleague, Shri Mullappally Ramachandran, is a young and dynamic Minister who wants to do good to the farmers. I wish all of them every success.

We have achieved remarkable progress in the agricultural production. 170 million tonnes of foodgrains production is an all time record. I take this opportunity to congratulate the farmers of this country for this proud achievement. This has become possible because of the right policy being followed by the Govt. during the past three decades. However, we often fail to solve the basic problems of the farmers, who have produced so much foodgrains for the country. I wonder whether the cost of production of agriculture produce is worked out in a realistic way. Determination of price based on an unrealistic assessment of cost of production is found to be unrealistic. The most important demand of the farmers of this country is that they should be given remunerative price for their produce. Whether it is in respect of foodgrains or cash crops, this demand should be accepted. The cost of production of factory goods is estimated by themselves. But the cost of production of agricultural produce and their prices are determined by the Govt. In Japan the cost of production of agricultural produce is computed on the basis of inter alia the price of one kilo of nitrogen. But in India these things are not considered at all. Take the case of tooth-paste. Its cost of production is just Rs. 2/- whereas its price in the market is Rs. 25/-. The Govt. does not control its price. Similarly, the price of cement has gone up by Rs. 50/- per bag during the past six months. Is it because of any increase in the cost of production during this period? Certainly not.

That means the prices of factory goods can be increased to any extent without any let or hindrance. This situation must end. The demand for remunerative price for agricultural produce is a genuine demand.

Let me say a word about our production. It is good that we have produced 170 million tonnes of foodgrains. But don't we have the capacity to produce much more? I happened to read in the newspapers very recently that despite serious economic and political crisis the total production of foodgrains in the Soviet Union is 24 million tonnes. Their population is less than half of ours. We have to make much more vigorous efforts to achieve that level of production. Our per hectore production is still very low. I have some statistics in this regard. The world average of production of wheat per hectore is 2144 Kg whereas India's average is 1848 Kg. In respect of rice, the world average is 300 Kg., whereas India's average is 2025 Kg. The best production was 6364 Kg per hectore which was achieved in South Korea. If these figures are not correct, the Hon'ble Minister must correct me when he replies. There is, therefore, a strong case for raising the per hectore yield. It is here that the use of fertilizer becomes important. India is far behind other countries in respect of consumption of fertilizers. Then the prices of fertilizers are going up every year. This is likely to lead to lesser amount of fertilizer being used which ultimately will affect production. Therefore what is required is a realistic policy with regard to fertilizer. In this context I want to say that the present dual pricing policy should be implemented with great care. The distribution should be streamlined. The sale of fertilizer to the permit holders should be done only through cooperative societies. Otherwise there is likely to be a lot of bungling and corruption in the distribution and the small and medium farmers will not get the desired benefit.

Sir, the Rajiv Gandhi Govt. had initiated a scheme to increase rice production. This scheme covered states in the east and south. Initially Kerala was not included in this Scheme. I raised this matter many times in

[Sh. V.S. Vijayaraghavan]

the House and outside and made repeated requests to the Minister. Finally Palakkad and four other districts in Kerala have been included in this scheme for which I thank the Govt. My request is that more districts should be included in this Scheme so that the production of rice could increase.

Sir, the major crops in Kerala are cash crops which bring us foreign exchange. The Govt. has always shown indifference towards the cash crops growers of Kerala. Coconut is one of the important cash crops of Kerala. Most of the farmers depend on this cash crop for their livelihood. Coconut can be said to be the backbone of Kerala's economy. The demand for support price for coconut was raised in the House and outside for decades. It is only a few years since this demand has been accepted. Similarly the demand for declaring coconut as oilseed was also raised long time back. It was done only last year or so. Even then the facilities which ought to have been given to the growers consequent on the coconut being declared as an oilseed, have not been given. I must congratulate the Minister of State Shri Mullappally Ramachandran for taking a bold decision to extend these facilities to the coconut growers despite stiff resistance from the officials.

Now, I come to the question of insurance cover for cash crops. It is very necessary to introduce insurance for cash crops too, for cash crops are not like other crops. Take for instance coconut. It takes a minimum of four to five years before a coconut starts giving yield. If the trees which have just started giving yield are suddenly affected by disease and are totally damaged the grower will be put to a heavy loss. He will have to wait for another 5 years for the newly planted trees to give yield. You can very well imagine the plight of the growers in such situations. Therefore, it is very necessary to provide insurance cover to the cash crops.

Sir, last week we had a discussion here

on floods. I could not participate in it. Since the Ministry of Agriculture is in charge of floods, I would like to say a few things about the flood havoc in my State of Kerala. For the past two months there has been torrential rain in Kerala and the damage has been widespread. The total loss has been estimated to be Rs. 359 crores, out of which crop loss alone is Rs. 103 crores. 124 people lost their lives. Crops in 6 lakh hectares of land have been totally damaged. 6000 houses have been washed away. 3000 houses have been partially damaged. The 9th Finance Commission has recommended only Rs. 31 crores for flood relief. This amount is too meagre to provide any relief. The damage to roads, agricultural land etc. is very severe. You don't have to send any study teams to assess the damage. Just travel along the roads in Kerala, you will be able to assess the damage. So, more allocation should be made to Kerala to meet the flood situation. The Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala and his colleagues were here last week to submit memorandum to the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture. The State Govt. is supplying rice to the flood-affected people for free. But there is not enough rice to supply. Whatever the Centre supplies, good or bad, has been released for free supply by the State Govt. So, I request the Hon'ble Minister to increase the rice supply to the State.

Sir, finally I want to say a word about Palakkad which is my district. A major project namely Kuriar Kurty-Karappara multi-purpose project is pending consideration and it has not yet been cleared. If atleast the irrigation part of the project is sanctioned it would be a great help to the drought-affected areas of Palakkad. Some areas of this district are lying in the rain shadow area of the western Ghats. These areas are perpetually drought affected. So this project is very essential for this region. Shortage of drinking water is being experienced here. The late Rajivji had included Palakkad in the technology mission for drinking water. But the Government which was in power in the State at that time did not take any interest in its implementation. So, the mission was a failure. I want the Govt. to re-examine the whole

thing and take adequate steps to see that the shortage of water is solved.

Finally one word about the river water disputes and agreements on sharing of water. The Parambi Kulam Aliyar agreement on sharing the water from Aliyar river between Kerala and Tamil Nadu has expired and it has to be renewed. This agreement has to be renewed. Kerala must get 92,000 million cusecs of water from this river. The whole of Chittur taluq depends on the water from Aliyar. Some pressure needs to be put on the Tamil Nadu Govt. to renew the agreement. Similarly, when a great hue and cry was raised here on the Cauvery dispute an impression was sought to be created that these are the only States which are concerned about the dispute. Kerala too is a party to this dispute. We too must get our share of water from the Cauvery river. So, whenever this dispute is resolved, Kerala's interest must also be protected. With these words I once again wholeheartedly support the demands.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Ours is an agriculture based country and 66 to 70 percent of the total manpower of our country is involved in agriculture. Agriculture contributes 33 per cent of our national income. But it is regretful to say that in this agriculture based country, the farmers are living the most miserable life. Farmer toils hard to produce foodgrain and feed others, but it is ironical that he himself go to sleep with empty stomach and his children had to fill their stomach with water only. The hon. Minister of Agriculture says that our country has made a lot of progress in the field of agriculture. I would like to invite him to visit my area. He will find how the children of small farmers and agricultural labourers in the chilly nights of winter seek after crabs and shells to satisfy their hunger. Then he will feel how much progress has been made in the field of agriculture. In our country, more than half of the farmers possess less than five acres of land. It is not possible to produce enough to make a living on such a small land holding. Had the Government

been sincere, it could have provided them with the required resources to produce enough foodgrains to feed their family. But they did nothing. As a result, neither water nor certified seeds or fertilizer on cheap rates were made available to them in time. The hon. Members have already discussed these issues at length. So far as water is concerned, a number of projects have been mentioned. Gandak canal project is a big project through which you want to store water in the reservoir. There are many other projects which involve investment worth crores of rupees. But these schemes will provide no irrigational benefit to the farmers who have 10,20,50 or 100 acres of land. Small irrigation schemes will provide more benefit, as it will be possible to irrigate 10,20,50 or 100 acres of land through them and these schemes will involve an expenditure of Rs. 10 thousand Rs. 20 thousand or Rs.50 thousand only. I would like to submit that when scheme worth crores of rupees is submitted to the technocrats, they know that they can bungle a lot of money from the scheme and therefore, without considering the merits of the scheme, they start work on that scheme, even though ultimately its results come to nil. The Government does not give much emphasis on the small schemes, simply because they involve smaller investment and, therefore, the scope for bungling gets reduced considerably, even though these small schemes are going to provide much benefit to the farmers.

So far as the question of supply of seeds is concerned, the farmers do not get seeds of standard quality in time and they get it, when it is not required. This is a major problem faced by our farmers. Many of our hon. Members may be found of eating 'Lal Saag' (Green leaves) but its seeds have a strong resemblance with the seeds of Kente thorny bushes. Now, the poor farmers are duped and are provided with seeds of these thorny bushes. We cannot understand the pain he feels, when he realises the truth. Therefore, Government should make arrangements to make available standard quality seeds to farmers in time. It seems that the hon. Minister of Agriculture is feeling sleepy. It seems

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that he has a feeling that I am not giving the picture and he is not relishing it. Recently, there was a flurore over the increase in Fertilizer prices and the Government found itself in an embarrassing situation. Not only Members from the opposition ranks, but also those from the Treasury benches expressed their reservation over this move and said that it was most unjustified and that it should be brought down. Recently, I saw a statement made by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, in the newspapers. In that, he had alleged that the Janata Dal Government's policy of waiving loans is to be squarely blamed for the present economic crisis, the country is facing and that the Government is not in a position to further decrease the prices of fertilizer less than 30%. During his tenure as Speaker of Lok Sabha, our hon. Minister of Agriculture paid a chance visit to Hajipur and I was also there at his meeting. I have much regard for him, because he himself is an agriculturist. However, with all respect, I would like to mention here whether in this House or in the far flung villages of our country, the hon. Minister spares no word to emphasise again and again that our masses live in the villages, that this is a country of the farmers and so on and so forth, but when it comes to translating rhetorics into reality, he forgets all about the villages and the farmers. He should have pondered over the matter whether what has been done to improve the lot of the sons of the soil, the real masters of the country. Through whose grace, you have been holding the reins of power for 42 long years. Except humiliation, what have they got? When it comes to providing them with some kind of relief, an argument is put forward that the economic situation of the country has deteriorated due to the loan waiver scheme.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that when I used to sit on the opposition benches, I used to speak in favour of the farmers, but now that I am in the Government, I need not say anything. Now, I would

like to tell you how the Loan Waiver Scheme has had an adverse effect on the economy. (Interruptions)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): How much relief has been given to the farmers?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: So far as the issue of relief is concerned, I will explain it to you. Sometimes due to misunderstanding a medicine intended to cure proves fatal. There are some medicines which can infuse life into the dead body and some which proves fatal. It makes the person a living corpse. (Interruptions) No one would have been more happier than me, had this loan waiver scheme really benefited the farmers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing else will be recorded except Shri Brishin Patel's speech.

[English]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in his reply, the hon. Minister will explain how the country's economy has suffered due to the Loan Waiver Scheme, but I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to listen patiently to me. What I intend to say is that this is a country of farmers. A majority of our people live in rural area and you have been ruling this country for the last 44 years. You have been leading a life of ease and luxury at the cost of the farmers. You have given them nothing except humiliation. You should have made efforts to improve their financial condition, to give them a place of pride in the society. You should have formulated such plans, so that the children of the farmers do not suffer from starvation and they are not forced to take water to suppress their hunger. When the Janata Dal came to power in the centre, V.P. Singh felt that the Congress Party, which has been ruling the country for the last 44 years has not done anything for the upliftment of the farmers. Rather, the farmers who are the real masters of the country, were turned into debtors. He felt that this is sheer injustice on all the farmers of the country. Therefor, he realised

the need to ameliorate the lot of the farmers, first of all by freeing them from their debts, and it was in consonance with this view that Shri V. P. Singh took the momentous decision to waive of all the loans taken by the farmers from Government agencies. Thus some kind of justice was given to the farmers of this country. I would like to say only this much. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The paradox is that Shri V.P. Singh was in our party also and he was in charge of all the policies.

BRISHIN PATEL: During the course of the discussion on the issue relating to fertilizer prices, you had said that small and marginal farmers would be exempted from this price hike. I would also like to mention here that only yesterday, the House witnessed uproarious scenes over the Public Distribution System. What is this Public Distribution all about? This is a system under which the Government intends to provide essential items of daily use to the poor people, at a fair price, but unfortunately, it doesn't take place. As you may be aware, the needy people do not get it and these commodities are sold in the black market, about 400-500 cases have been registered against offenders. I would request you once again not to divide this country further in the name of small and big farmers. It may be correct that the big farmers earn more profit, but what do they produce? Food crops, not opium that will ruin the people of this country. Even if he is a big farmer he is producing food crops to feed the people of this country. He is not committing any crime. You should not commit the blunder to dividing the farmers of this country by putting them in separate categories like small, marginal and big farmers.

Unless you rectify this anomaly, I can say with guarantee that in the coming days, the subsidized fertilizer that's to be made available to the small and marginal farmers would be sold in the black market and the small and marginal farmers won't be able to benefit from it. I would like to tell you that if this thinking of yours, which creates divisions between the farmers, continue, then

the day is not too far when you would say that a person has studied too much, has acquired too much knowledge, therefore, his knowledge and education should be taxed. This kind of thinking can only be termed as 'dangerous'. You say that there would be 40% increase in fertilizer prices for big farmers. Although my purpose is not to compare our country with other countries, we should certainly keep in mind the difference in per hectare produce.

Yesterday Kumari Uma Bharti spoke in detail about this. I would like to say only this much that in our country, there is a great disparity between our population growth and crop production. There are many States, which are not able to produce food in proportion to their population growth. In this regard, I would like to state that while in Assam, the population growth rate is 3.3% while the food growth rate is 1.7% in Madhya Pradesh, the population growth is 2.4% and food growth rate 2.1%. In Kerala, the population growth rate is 2.3% and food growth rate 1.9% in Maharashtra it is 2.3% and 2% respectively, in Karnataka 2.1% and 1.9% in Punjab 2.1% and 1.2% respectively and in Andhra Pradesh it is 1.7% and 1.1% respectively. Therefore, what I want to say is that while on the one hand, we are not able to meet the requirements of our growing population, on the other, you are dividing and categorising the farmers into small, marginal and big farmers. Please don't do it. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is already over and even your Party's time is over.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: I will just take ten minutes more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You won't take more than two minutes to conclude.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: I was making this submission that a large scale migration of farmers and agricultural labourers from the rural areas is taking place as a result of which population of cities is increasing an issue over which everyone is concerned. It

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was your Government which launched the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana to generate employment in the rural areas and encourage the villagers to remain in their villages through that yojna you accelerated the I.R.D.P. Scheme. The Janata Dal led Government which succeeded your Government gave top priority to implement the said scheme, because it believed that earlier the plans meant for rural upliftment were executed under the orders of the Union Minister of Agriculture and as a result to which the villages did not get much benefit, but under the provisions of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna the villages were given a free hand to make plans according to their requirements. But there are two draw-backs in the yojna and I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to remove both these major drawbacks. When you allocate money to the villages, you lay pre-conditions that 15% should be spent on social forestry and the 20% should be spent on agriculture. You should not impose such conditions. Let the villagers themselves decide the priorities of the work to be done. With all respect, I would like to submit one more thing in this regard. In the last elections, the party in power had made a lot of hue and cry that it stands for the establishment of Panchayati Raj but that the opposition is not allowing it to go ahead with it. Now, what have you done in the name of decentralisation of power? In the name of decentralisation of power you have given Rs. one lakh to the 'Mukhiya' or the village Chief and has also empowered him to spend the money as-per his own discretion. This tantamounts to humiliating the elected representatives of the people in the name of decentralisation of power. The Mukhiya should have been like a Chief Minister or Prime Minister of that area, but you have made him an accountant, a person who maintains land-records. With deep regret it would like to say that today many of these elected representatives are behind the bars. When you are the Minister of Agriculture why don't you issue cheques. No, we know that you won't do it because you are intelligent enough not to do that you get it done either by your bureaucrats or the

poor 'Mukhiya' in the name of decentralization of power, so that in case any mistake in committee, they get the handcuffs. It is my submission that you should increase the powers of the 'Mukhiya' expand his jurisdiction of supervision, but please don't humiliate him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will conclude within two or three minutes. In this country, we had initiated a programme called 'I.R.D.P.' to improve the lot of those living under the poverty line and the objectives were indeed laudable. Under this programme there is a provision to provide cattle heads to harijans, but no thought was given to the fact that the Harijans never possessed any cattle and that they have always remained the caretakers of cattle belonging to other people. Without any thought whatsoever, you gave them these cattle, without providing any basic training to look after them. What's more, you allocated three or four thousand rupees to purchase cows and buffaloes. I wonder, whether in this era of inflation, it is possible to purchase even a goat for two or three thousand rupees? How do you expect the Harijans to purchase cows and buffaloes at these high prices? From this, it seems that you are not sincere about it. It seems that you are not interested in the upliftment of the people living below poverty line because you think that once that is done you would be exposed and they would be occupying the chair, that you are presently occupying. This is precisely the reason, why you don't want them to come above the poverty line. The entire city is in debts and you know that you can always shift the burden on our rural folk. Therefore, it is my humble submission that you should change your way of thinking. There is a TRYSEM scheme to provide training to poor youngmen and women, in order to improve the lot of those living under the poverty line. You should look into it, ask the states to physically verify the number of people who have benefited from it and ask them to submit the figures to the centre. You would be surprised to find that the I.R.D.P. whose objective is to uplift the people living below the poverty line.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. Now, Shrimati Pratibha Patil.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: You please get a physical verification done and find out whether the assets distributed till 1991 is available in all the states or not. You will be saddened and surprised to find out from the physical verification that even 25% of the assets are not available.

I used to be a Cabinet Minister of Bihar and the Department of Rural Development was under my charge. I had got the physical verification done during my tenure. It was not the Government of Laloo Prasad Yadav but it is the Congress Party which was in power. When I got the physical verification done, even 25 per cent assets were not there.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record beyond this.

[Translation]

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least let me go on record till I conclude. With this I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given you enough time. You cannot defy the Chair like this.

(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL (Amravati): Sir, I rise here to support the Demands put forth by the Agriculture, Food and Rural Development Ministries.

Agriculture is the core sector of our economy and nearly seventy per cent of the people are engaged in agricultural activities in our country. It provides us with the most basic need of food which keeps our body and soul together, not only of the human beings

but of the animal beings also. It has also the in-built capacity of providing raw material for agro-based industries, giving employment to people, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, skilled and unskilled, men and women alike. When this is the situation, where do we lack in making best out of it? It is the necessity to identify such areas and provide them with the adequate inputs like finance, fertilisers, good quality seeds, water management, soil management, new techniques, transport and facilities for marketing the goods.

Regarding finance, the primary societies provide it and the District Cooperative Bank is the district agency through which it is provided. At the apex level, the State Cooperative bank is there. I do not know about other States but I can tell you about Maharashtra that this Bank can provide much more finance than what it is doing today. There are some constraints from the Reserve Bank of India. If the Reserve bank of India permits, it should be possible for them to cover some more regions in the rural areas.

NABARD is another agency which is financing the agriculture of our country. But there are some methods which need to be changed. There is some scope for improvement in the system and the approach which NABARD has in the pattern and the mode of assistance given by this bank. Otherwise it is doing good work I can say.

14.58 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH in the Chair]

The Finance Minister in his speech has referred to the critical situation of the financial and economic condition of our country. So far as providing financing facilities to the rural areas, particularly for agriculture, are concerned, we have many Urban Cooperative Bank in our State. I can tell you about Maharashtra where the Urban Cooperative Banks and credit societies have funds which they can provide to the rural areas for im-

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proving the production of our country, but there are constraints. They cannot give those funds to the rural areas because the Reserve Bank does not permit it. So, keeping in view the constraints which we have, if we can make some provision for allowing them for, say, a year or two or for five years, till the economy is in a good condition or till the situation permits us, that will help in improving the agriculture. I think we can make this change and ask the Reserve bank to allow these Urban Cooperative Banks to provide finance for agriculture proper. We should not stop agriculture for want of finance. It is the agriculture which gives back returns in multi-fold. Therefore, we must not economise so far as the requirement of our agriculture is concerned. We can economise at other places, in other Ministries or Departments. You can find out which are the other Ministries or Departments where you can economise and then provide finance which is needed by our agriculture.

Just now one of the hon. Members from the other side was mentioning about the waiving of the loans by their Government when they were in power. Everybody knows they know it best probably—why this policy was advocated. It did not help them during the last elections but, unfortunately, one thing happened that because of the burden which our economy had to bear, we have been rendered in a very miserable situation. As the Agriculture Minister himself has said, agriculture is the back-bone of our economy. The loan-waiving system or the loan-waiving scheme which was adopted by the previous Government has broken the 'back' and the 'bone' has come to Shri Balram Jakhar. Now you have to strengthen that fractured bone. You have to put it right and strengthen the spine so that the economy can straighten itself and walk on an appropriate path at an appropriate pace. What we need is to satisfy both these impulses of our economy.

I now come to fertilisers. The reason, probably, why we had to withdraw the subsidy which we are giving for the fertilisers in

the dual policy system which has been advocated. I want to make it very clear that the farmers are not very happy about it. Whatever facility has been given has not reached them. It was not percolated properly to the small farmers for whom it was meant. I think, you have to give special attention to see that whatever subsidy you are going to give to the small farmers at least reaches them.

Regarding the procurement prices, it was said that more procurement prices will be given to the farmers. There should be no two opinions about giving more price to the farmers. But, at the same time, please also give a deep thought to the items which we are procuring. At present, we are procuring wheat, rice and sugar. We are not procuring pulses, oil, jawar, bajra, maize etc. which are also equally and basically necessary and which is the staple food in many of our States.

I have read in a Report of the Agriculture Ministry about the efforts which are being made to increase the production, particularly of pulses and oil seeds. We have become self-sufficient in 1989-90 in the foodgrains production. Thanks to the efforts made by Madam Indira Gandhi and because of her foresight and her determination, we could become self-sufficient in foodgrains. Shri Rajiv Gandhi also, with the same spirit and with the same foresight, gave a booster to the increase of food grains production and other production also. That is the reason why we have seen that this Green Revolution has come up in our country.

But, at the same time, we have also to see that these new techniques—the Technological Mission and other missions were set up by Shri Rajiv Gandhi—go a long way to improve the production of pulses, oil seeds and other foodgrains also.

I welcome the decision of our Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao to add items like pulses, tea, salt, match boxes and soap etc. to the Public Distribution System. He has kept that Department with himself. That itself shows that he attaches the great-

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est importance to this Public Distribution System which is the best method to reach to the poorest of the poor so that you can serve their needs at the place where they are staying.

At the same time, I want to add here and give a specific suggestion that please procure the locally produced foodgrains also. For example, what we are giving through the Public Distribution System is wheat, oil-oil which is not procured, but brought from outside-sugar and other things. But then the staple food of each State is not the same.

So far as Maharashtra is concerned, the staple food is jowar and in Maharashtra also there are some districts, for example, in Konkan and some districts of Vidarbha, the staple food is rice. If you take Rajasthan, the staple food is bajra, but that also not in the whole of the State. The staple food in the desert areas is bajra and in districts like Udaipur, Bhilwara and Ajmer and such other districts, the staple food is maize and the staple food in Kota, Bundi and Zalawad is jowar. So also in Madhya Pradesh, in some districts the staple food is jowar and in some places the staple food is maize. So, we have to take this into consideration and see that whatever is locally produced I can quote to you the example of Maharashtra. When I was Civil Supplies Minister there and before that also Maharashtra has evolved a special scheme to procure jowar because that is the food of the people, that is what they like, that is their habit of eating and that was the reason why even now Maharashtra itself evolved a scheme of its own to procure jowar and give it to the people because that is their food habit. That serves two purposes-locally it is made available and it gives incentive to the farmers and it saves a lot of cost of transport, storage, lot of trouble and money and it reaches the doorstep of the shop-keeper.

Sir, I have many things to say, but since you have rung the bell, I will just try to make it short.

So far as pulses are concerned, in one of the answers to the question it was mentioned that the per capita availability of pulses is 40.4 grams and the requirement is 47 grams a day.

So far as oil is concerned, it is 6.5 kg a year and the requirement is 7.3 kg. a year. What is the basis of working out this requirement? This, it seems, is not worked out in a very proper manner, but even taking these things into consideration, Sir, we were required to import oil and pulses from outside. Sir, we should not let this situation remain in our country now because the target for pulses for 1989-90 was 14.75 million tonnes, but the production is expected to be about 12.7 million tonnes. It shows that we have not achieved the target.

So far as oilseeds are also concerned, it has not gone beyond the target as far as my knowledge goes, but if you really want to save our foreign exchange and if you really want to be self-sufficient, with whatever watershed programmes and the development programmes which have to be taken up by the Department-I know the Department is working very hard, and they have many programmes which they have taken up for increasing the produce of pulses and oilseeds. The N.P.D.P. programmes and the S.F.P.P. programmes and O.P.T. programmes, all these programmes are there, but in spite of that, it seems that we need much more efforts to see that we increase our production manifold.

Sir, regarding the processing of industries, the area development effort should be adopted. A Block in each district should be taken up as a nodal development centre for processing agro-based industries and we should make a plan, village crop-wise programme, so that whatever is needed in the village should be produced in that village and if it is not possible to do so, it can be done in the Block itself because we make the Block as the nodal centre where you will get the raw material, you should put more dall mills in the Block, you should put some oil crushing units and other such units so that the

[Smt. Pratibha Devi Sing Patil]

labour locally is employed and whatever surplus is there, you can send it to the cities and it will be possible to do so.

Sir, we are giving a lot of incentives to the NRIs for putting up their industries here. If you make it compulsory for some NRIs to put up at least an industry in each Block, if we give them also the possibility of developing each Block, it will be possible for us to develop the agro-based industries very fast.

Sir, the cooperative movement can play a very big role here. As you know, Sir, that whatever Green Revolution we have brought in, we always give credit to the scientists, we give credit to the farmers, we give credit to the Government, but we always forget that there are 60 per cent women labour who were toiling for the whole day in the hot sun and pouring rain, who have also absorbed this new technology and brought production to our country. Therefore, the cooperative movement in our country has emerged as the largest movement in the world. There are about 3,50,000 cooperative societies and the total membership is about 16 crores. The working capital is about Rs. 62,500 crores, as on 30.6.1989. It is large rural-based. But, then out of 16 crores, even one per cent women are not members of this vital movement. So, women should also be given scope in that so that they can play their role in the socio-economic transformation of our country.

Then, agricultural price policy has a crucial bearing on the farmers' income and on the incentives for adoption of improved technology, increased production and rural capital formation. It is necessary to protect the farmer from wide price fluctuations to ensure that the price which they receive leaves an adequate margin over costs. We should give a boost for their agro-based produce which is very necessary and the export-import policy should not be biased against the agricultural producers.

Then sugar has the highest potential of

export in this country today, and it is the largest agro-based industry in our country. Formerly, it was the textile industry. But, you know what has happened to the textile industry. Only today morning, I came to know that about five lakh tonnes of sugar has been exported and there is much more scope for exporting it hereafter. New licences have been given in the last two or three years, but these new units are facing a lot of difficulties. They have come to stand-still position and only some incentives are needed to be given by the Food Ministry. The hon. Minister of State for Food, Mr. Tarun Gogoi was in Bombay the other day. There was a meeting in which agriculturists, Government officials and the representatives from the industry have participated. We had a lot of discussions. If we give the incentives, these units will thrive; otherwise, they will have to face a lot of difficulties. I do not know why we cannot do it, because it will help us to improve our BOP position, which is in a very bad shape now. If agro-based and indigenous industries are going to help us to improve the BOP position, I do not know why the Government should not come forward to help them. I am told that at about 3 o'clock, the Minister of Finance is going to have a meeting and I do hope something good will come out of that meeting.

Lastly, in my constituency, there is one taluk which is a tribal one and in that area, the agriculturists are facing a lot of difficulties due to the Forest Act. They cannot dig wells; they cannot have irrigation projects and they cannot have inroads to go to their farms due to the Forest Act which had been passed by the Forest Department. I think the department will take into consideration the difficulties of these tribal people. Probably this situation prevails not only in my constituency, but all over the country. So, I request that department also to look into their problems.

Once again, while supporting the demands, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam, you have brought out some very valid points.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI HARJIBHAI PATEL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who expressed their views, made suggestions and pointed the shortcomings in respect of the Ministry of Rural Development. I would like to give reply to some of the points. My friend Shri Venkat Swamy will reply the remaining points. The Ministry of Rural Development has three main activities so far as its policy on rural development is concerned. They are, removal of poverty, maximum employment opportunities, other provisions for minimum needs like construction of roads, availability of drinking water, land reforms and programmes regarding rectification of land records. Apart from this, we also have special programmes for drought affected areas, desert areas and areas experiencing paucity of resources.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1991 it was decided that at least 40 per cent of the beneficiaries would be women. Earlier, it was 30 per cent for women and 40 per cent in case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which was increased to 50 per cent during 1990-91. Now both Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get subsidy equal to 50 per cent of the loan with a ceiling of Rs. 5000. Assistance was given to 182 lakh families during Seventh Plan under this programme. They were given Rs. 2,708.03 crores as subsidy and bank loan of Rs. 5,372.53 crores. During 1990-91 the target was set for extending assistance to 24 lakh families against which actually 29 lakh families were benefited. They were given subsidy to the tune of Rs. 668.1 crores and loan of Rs. 1,190.02 crores. Now, assessment of this programme is being done by a large number of private organizations. As per the concurrent assessment report it has been observed that at the all India level about sixteen per cent beneficiaries were extended this facility, although they were not eligible for it. We will make all out efforts to keep a constant vigil on it and reduce the per cent age of such

beneficiaries to the minimum level with the help of State Governments.

Secondly, it was observed that roughly 28 per cent of the beneficiaries have been able to cross the poverty line through this programme. We will lay stress on providing assistance to the poorest of the poor. The second aspect of this question relates to the quantum of loan and subsidies that is to be given. The ceiling of Rs. 3000, 4000 and 5000 were fixed about ten years ago and my Government proposes to enhance this ceiling taking the budgetary constraints into account.

The hon. Members will be happy to learn that the Government has already issued orders to do away with the purchase system of income generating assets under I.R.D.P. through purchase committee in 50 per cent of the blocks in the country. We have already introduced Group Insurance Scheme for all the beneficiaries who were identified after 1.4.1988 under the I.R.D.P. In the event of the death of the beneficiary an amount of Rs. 3000 will be paid to the next of his kin. Besides, animals purchased will also be covered under this insurance scheme.

The State Governments have been asked to take concrete steps to root out corruption wherever it is noticed. The District Magistrates have been entrusted with special responsibilities in this regard.

TRYSEM which was started in 1979, provides various opportunities to the rural youth in the age group of 18 to 35 years so that they could develop their existing talents and receive training in new techniques and managerial efficiencies. This will help them stick to self-employment and earn a livelihood. About two lakh people, on an average, are being imparted training annually under this scheme. From 1990-91 onwards this target will be increased to four lakh people per year. The stipend amount will be increased from 1991-92.

In 1982 a special programme was started for the development of women and children

[Sh. Uttambhai harjibhai Patel]

in the rural areas. The objective of this programme was to provide maximum opportunities of self employment and social service. Initially, this scheme was started in 50 districts and now it is being implemented in 230 districts. From this year onwards this scheme will be extended to 50 new districts every year. As per the policy evolved under this scheme poor women living in rural areas will be trained in groups for taking up income generation activities connected with marketing support. A group of ten to twenty women are provided Rs. 15000 as seed capital. Till date, 37820 groups of women have been constituted and the number of beneficiaries under this scheme in the country is 623902.

To provide drinking water to all the 5.83 lakh villages in the country is a matter of top priority before the Government. The hon. Members are aware of the fact that the use of contaminated water used for other Household purposes for drinking is the main cause behind the high rate of infant death. The National Drinking Water Mission was set up in 1986 with the help of developed and less expensive technology so as to accelerate drinking water supply in the rural areas. That scheme will now run after Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name. We have been able to provide drinking water to 153357 problem villages out of the total of 161722 villages identified for this purpose, during the Seventh Five Year Plan. Even after last more than forty years of economic development in the country as many as 8365 villages, as on 1.4.90 did not have a single source of drinking water within a reasonable distances. As I have said earlier that it is a top priority subject and in view of this the hon. Minister of Finance has said in his Budget speech that an additional amount of Rs. 250 crores have been allocated to provide at least one source of water in all problem villages which have no water sources, by the end of 1992-93. Along with this, we should also intensify our efforts to increase supply of water in those villages which were partially covered.

Under our policy of providing drinking

water in the rural areas, we have laid special stress on providing water in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes settlements. Among the existing villages there are around 1.50 lakh settlements where water is available in less than the required quantity. Among them maximum settlements belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We will start a special programme to make clear water available in those settlements. We have provided an outlay of Rs. 60 crores for the central as well as State Schemes for this purpose during this year.

The problem of guineaworm which is found in 6 States only will be solved by the year end under the National Drinking Water Mission. Similarly the Central Government has taken steps to remove the large quantity of flouride present in drinking water. The affected villages are being provided with alternative sources of drinking water or plants so as to remove flouride. Special provisions have been made to States to provide funds for these two works.

In order to protect the interests of both the producer and the consumer, it is very essential to have an effective system for marketing agriculture produces so as to systematise agriculture development and maintain it further. A model set of regulations has been circulated to the States so as to make application of marketing regulations and management. Till date, out of 6632 whole sale markets 6217 markets have been brought under the purview of these regulations. Out of them 522 markets were regulated during the Seventh Five Year Plan under a centrally sponsored programme. Assistance to the extent of Rs. 420 lakhs per market is being made available to Mandi Committees through State Governments so as to provide basic amenities to these markets. Since the introduction of this scheme till date the State Governments have been provided a sum of Rs. 84.52 crores. It is proposed to provide assistance to 110 markets and a provision of Rs. 6 crores has been made. In the years to come our Government shall give priority in making available such facilities to primary markets particularly to

markets in tribal areas. To provide storage facilities for technical goods is an important activity of our Ministry. Under this scheme, which was started in 1979-80, funds are made available for construction of godowns. In 1991-92 a provision of Rs. 5 crores has been made for creating a storage capacity of 3 lakh metric tonnes.

To help the producer get remunerative price for his produce, 1050 grading units have been established in regulated markets. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we will act speedily up on whatever suggestions hon. Members have given and whatever shortcomings they have pointed out under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao. Our Government is committed to fulfilling the dream of rural development that our leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi once dreamt. We shall always take this august House into confidence in this task and keep the suggestions given by hon. Members as our guidelines. We expect full cooperation from all the hon. Members in fulfilling the demand of rural development and we are sure that such cooperation shall be extended to us in achieving the goal set for this purpose.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Chairman, sir, you are a well-experienced man and I think, you will agree with me if I say that India lives in villages but the Indian villagers is almost dead in life. 78 per cent of the total population are living in villages and out of this 78 per cent, barring some landlords, some traders and some exploiters, the rest are the small agriculturists, the share-croppers, the agricultural labourers and also the bonded labours.

Their living condition is beyond description. They are half-fed, ill clad, have no roof over their head and they have no schools to get themselves educated. They also have no drinking water. Nothing of that sort is available for them. This is the tragedy of the villagers, who are producing food for us and the country by their sweat and blood. This is

the tragedy of our Agriculture sector, in this country. And this crisis is deepening more and more. What is the reason behind it?

It is a well known fact and I think you all agree with me that we have not given any importance to the agricultural sector in the first, second and third five year plans. We have depended very much on PL-480 and we were very much happy to make imports under PL-480 from America and other countries. That is the tragedy. We have missed the bus for three times and naturally we are late. Now the crisis has been deepened.

Sir, this time, it is something new that we are discussing the three demands, that is Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, at a time. It is well and good. But, the hon. Minister, who is here, may well explain, as to why have they not taken up the irrigation with it? I do not know, in which manner you are thinking. In this country of ours, would you like to develop agriculture in such a manner that it will be without water? If that is true, then I have got nothing to say. But, the hard fact is this. During the last 44 years of independence, only one third of our cultivable land is irrigated and that too, through small and minor irrigation and deep tubewells etc. And the rest of our agriculturists and peasantry, in the name of God, they will have to say "Allah Megh De, Pani De" - because there is no other way and they must shout that "Oh God! give us rain and save us". That is the tragedy of villagers in this country.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister with regard to the Teesta Irrigation Project in the North-Bengal. Under this irrigation project, 13 lakhs hectares of land would be irrigated and it would have been the biggest project not only in India but also in Asia. According to the Agro-economists, 63 lakh tonnes of extra food grains would be available, which means that West Bengal would have been self-sufficient in food grains, and West Bengal will not have to come before the Central Government, with a begging bowl asking for rice and wheat. When the festival season is

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coming up, you will send rotten rice to Calcutta and to the people of West Bengal. But you cannot do that.

On the other day, during the Question Hour—Mr. Chairman, were you not there when the Minister had said that they have already spent Rs. 450 crores on Tehri Dam. But even then, the Minister said: "I do not know whether this Dam will be or will not be completed". For the irrigation project, you will be astonished to learn that the West Bengal Government have created resources and they have spent Rs. 348 crores. And the Central Government, as a loan advance, had spent Rs. 10 crores that too long back.

We demand remunerative prices for the agricultural produce like Rice, Wheat, raw-jute, sugarcane, cotton, potato, onions, garlic and ginger. We demand parity of price between the agricultural produce and the industrial goods. If you go through the data you will find that from 1957 onwards the gap between the agricultural price and the industrial price has been increasing. It should be stopped.

In this connection I would like to quote Lenin. The Government is always talking about green revolution, but do they know what is the condition of the people who have made this green revolution a success? It is Lenin who said:

"Production is a great cause but workers cause requires the condition of production in which they can produce for themselves."

It was visualised long back. It was even visualised by the Congress people in 1938 when Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose was the President of the Indian National Congress. At that time Swami Sahajanand ji talked about agrarian people, the peasantry in a conference in 1983. The slogan that was raised was "*Langal jiska, Jamin Uska*" - land to the tillers. This slogan was given long back.

But after independence you did something regarding Land Reforms Act and Land Acquisition Act and after that you have just forgotten them. It is the Congress which has set up Prof. Mahalanobis Committee. In that Committee report it was said that 63 million acres of land would be surplus in India. Two years after the Mahalanobis Committee report was placed, the then hon. Minister of Agriculture said that it will not be possible; but I can assure the House that 30 million acres of land would be made available as surplus land. But what is the latest figure? I think the hon. Ministers here also have it with them. I have collected it from the Library. 7.64 million acres of land was declared surplus. 5.97 million acres have been taken possession of and out of this, 4.41 million acres of land have been distributed so far. Out of this 4.41 million acres of land, you will be astonished to learn and all should be happy to learn that in West Bengal alone one third of it has been distributed. You may see what is the position in other States. Are you really serious about land reforms? I think you are not at all serious. Nothing has been done during the 7th Plan period.

SHRI S. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): What about Benami land in West Bengal?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: There is Benami land in your State.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): We have already distributed one third of the total land distributed.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: You said that in the 7th Plan land reform would be looked upon as an intrinsic part of anti-poverty strategy. But nothing has been done regarding land reform. You have just equated it with the NREP, RLEGP and IRDP programmes. What have you assured during the 6th Plan period? You have said:

"...distribution of the surplus ceiling land would be completed by 1982-83, that compilation updating the land records would be completed in a phased manner by 1985."

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Now is it 1985? Six years have already passed but nothing has been done. You have avoided it in the Seventh Plan. I do not know what would be its future during the Eighth Plan.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): Sir, land records in most of the States have been updated. In West Bengal, one-third of the land has been distributed. That is correct. In Orissa, all the surplus lands have been distributed and land records have been updated. On 5th August, the Prime Minister declared in his speech that such States which have not completed the land records should do so immediately during this year.

SHRISYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: May I know the quantum of land which has been distributed in Orissa?

SHRI K. C. LENKA: That is not available with me. (Interruptions) All the surplus land has been distributed. (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: He can reply about this. Sir, they are not at all serious to implement the land reforms in different States. A few days back, it was published in almost all the dailies throughout India. It appeared in *The Hindustan Times*, *The Times of India*, *The Indian Express*, *The Statesman*, *The Aaj Kal*, *The Ananda Bazar Patrika*. All the newspaper cuttings are with me. In these newspapers, an allegation was made against the Hon. Prime Minister of our country regarding the land reforms. I would like to quote from *the Hindustan Times* of 7th August, 1991:

.....**.....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): I have gone to enquire about it. Have you visited the place?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Yes, I am coming to that point. I enquired from my friends and from Hon. Mr. Rao. And it was stated by the Andhra Pradesh Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, you should not quote any unconfirmed report from the newspaper unless it is authenticated by somebody.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Let them prove that it is not correct. Let them contradict that. It has not yet been contradicted. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amar Roypradhan, the Minister wants to say something. Kindly give him a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this report pertains to my constituency. In 1972, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao had declared surplus land in Banjra village and the fault lies on the part of Andhra Pradesh Government for not distributing the same. But despite this.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is giving you the factual position.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, if you are quoting from some newspaper, then the correctness is your responsibility.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, these reports have not yet been contradicted though they were published long back.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY: Sir, I saw it myself. They say it is 1000 acres.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was only about a week back.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this news was published after the general elections and his assuming the office of Prime Minister. If you so desire, I can give you facts and figures. I had visited that place and talked to the Collector. I was told that he had declared 1700 acres of land as surplus out of which 1000 acres consist of totally hill areas. I am quoting the statement furnished by the Collector. The collector said that this land comes under the Andhra Pradesh Mining Corporation and no cultivation done on it. As regards remaining 400 acres of land, this land was distributed among the people on 15th August, 1991 who held its possession.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Was it on 15th August, 1991?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Yes, Sir.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): It was given after so many days.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, where the Hon. Prime Minister is at fault in it? One is at liberty to exploit this issue. The Central Government also, in case it wanted to distribute land, would have done it through State Government only. As such, that land was given to people, but it is now under the possession of Naxalites. You may also exploit it, for which I would not have any objection. But for the remaining land the Collector has asked the people to come on 31st instant on which they would get lease holds of land from him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But you said that it is a hilly-areas and it has been placed at the disposal of the Mining Corporation?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Yes Sir.

The remaining 4 hundred acres of land is cultivable land. I agreed fully. He sent a proposal to me that I should come on the 31st and distribute the land. But, since Demands for Grants of my Ministry was to be discussed in the House. I asked him to do this work himself. This is the actual position (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN; Mr. Chairman Sir, I am not making any allegation against the Prime Minister in such a manner. But the question is about the land reforms. If the Prime Minister is involved in such a... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has already answered. He has given the position.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir,**

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: When?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, what is that document?

(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: You will be astonished to learn that I have collected this document from the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman Sir, it is a well-known rule and I think the hon. Member who is a senior Member is also aware of that rule. Whenever you are to quote from a docu-

ment, you must be willing to authenticate it and he should have given notice of authentication earlier also. And he should have placed it earlier and not now. You know the rule and I do not have to tell you about that rule.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: I am not making any allegation in such a manner. It is the question of land reforms.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, Mr. Kumaramangalam is correct. If you are going to quote from a document in this manner, you must have submitted it first.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, I have told you that it is a newspaper report.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He is quoting from the newspaper report.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, you are not his lawyer. He is quite capable of looking after himself.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, that has not been contradicted till today. And that is why, I am raising it today. If it is not correct, then he should contradict the newspaper report.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, Mr. Pradhan has referred to newspaper reports about surplus lands. That report has been contradicted by the Government recently.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: When?

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. LENKA: You know that Mr. Narasimha Rao was the first Chief Minister to implement the land reforms in Andhra Pradesh. So, he is very serious in completing it. But the allegations which have been

made in the paper have been contradicted. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, the present Prime Minister is implementing the Land Reforms Act. The report further says:

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(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Firstly, I would like to give a chance for the Minister to speak.

Secondly, you are quoting from a document. Three times I have asked you to let us know as to what that document is.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt me Mr. Pradhan. Is it a revenue record or a Government of Andhra Pradesh document or a newspaper report or some document written by some person. I have asked you three times about it but you have failed to let the House know as to what is that document from which you are quoting. Now, let the Minister have a chance to speak.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, the reference to the newspaper report and his allegations must be expunged.

[*Translation*]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to charges being made by various Members, I would say that land-reforms were, first, introduced by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao in Andhra Pradesh. He is the first man who had declared his surplus land. Sir, they should have approached first the Chair if they had any document regarding purchase of land at the rate of Rs. 1,000. It is a wrong practice of levying charges in this manner against the Prime Minister of India on the basis of newspaper report. This report is not correct.

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: I wish to show all these documents...

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is this document that you are quoting?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It has appeared in all the newspapers...

SHRIG. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, this is a serious matter. You please tell him to authenticate it and place it on the Table.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All references to this document will be erased from the record.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, I am not interested in making allegations against the Prime Minister or anybody else. My only point is this...

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are a very senior Member.

[English]

You are a very responsible member.

[Translation]

You are quoting a newspaper report in the House taking it as an authentic document. I think that is not correct.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt me. I have all respect and regard for the Fourth Estate.

[Translation]

And whatever they publish, is most by correct.

[English]

But you cannot quote a document or a newspaper report and give it as an authentic report in the House. I am sorry to say that this is incorrect.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: But the fact is that only after the report appeared in the newspapers, the land was distributed...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: It is not true...(Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSAN RAYCHAUDHURI (Serampore): The land was distributed only after that. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have already given a ruling that any reference to this will not go on record.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: My only concern is this. Surplus land should be distributed properly and in time. Now it is very clear that this has not been done even in the case of the Prime Minister. If this is the situation, what will be the reaction of the people? What will be the reaction do the sharecroppers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amar Roypradhan, if there is any document, kindly submit it to the hon. Speaker...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Will you authenticate the report that appeared in the newspapers? When you cannot authenticate, why are you raising it here?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pradhan, when I

am on my feet please sit down. Mr. Suryanarain, please sit down...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Acharia, please sit down. Kindly try to show some discipline. I know the Prime Minister has walked in. But that does not give you a licence to get up and shout at the Chair. Kindly understand that there should be some discipline maintained in the House.

Gentleman, I have already given a ruling. If there is any newspaper report on the subject of some compensation paid to the Prime Minister at some point of time, well, the newspaper report is, by no means, an authentic report. Although I do have full respect for the Fourth Estate, that does not substantiate certain report. Therefore, all reference to that newspaper will be erased. I have given a ruling and there will be no further discussion on my ruling. You can now continue your speech and please do not refer to any unsubstantiated report which makes allegation against anybody.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It is not an allegation, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Roypradhan, please do not make any reference. I have given a ruling and you will kindly not challenge the ruling of the Chair. If you show any discipline in the House, you will not challenge it.

I am giving you a remedy. If you think that the report is correct, it is a substantial report, you please submit it to the hon. Speaker in the morning before 10 O'clock and let the Speaker take a decision on the matter. Please, do not refer it any more.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: Sir, the hon. Prime Minister is here. I am not making any allegation. Regarding surplus land, as it was reported, for the benefit of the country, the nation, the share-croppers and for the Prime Minister's benefit also, it should be explained properly. My request to the Gov-

ernment is to please explain if really anything of the sort is true or not.

15.57 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: I have already explained it to you.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN: It is for the Prime Minister to explain, when he is present in the House.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): All I can say is that I feel extremely hurt. I am in your hand, Sir. There is absolutely nothing in my life that can be concealed whether it is property, land or anything. If you want me to make a Statement or give a copy of what we have been filing in the Prime Minister's Office year-after year, I can place it on the Table of the House.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Why the land was distributed only on 15th August? That is the question.

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: That land was distributed. He had parted company with the land. He was the first man to do it. He initiated the land reforms and he said good bye to the land.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have to say against any hon. Member in the House or for that matter against any Minister or the hon. Prime Minister, you shall have to first inform him in writing and after he informs the Speaker on what you have given in writing, discussion on that point would be allowed.

I don't know what was going on in the House but the hon. Chairman and the Chair must have dealt with it properly. I am sure about it. I have not gone through the record. I will go through the record and we will take appropriate decision in the matter. We should not continue with this kind of thing. I have come here to allow Hon. Prime Minister to make a Statement on something very important which it seems has taken place.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We accept what is coming from the hon. Prime Minister. Certainly we respect him. Only thing is that certain reports have been circulated in the Press and it would have been better if there had been a denial earlier. But once it has come from the Prime Minister, naturally, there is no question of controverting him factually. We accept him and we respect him. It would have been better, and probably that is what is being mentioned, if this has been denied earlier. Then, these things would not have been raised. But, speaking for myself, I accept him.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chatterjee, it is very nice of you and very dignified of you to have made a statement and I think this should be the attitude of all Members of this House. Generally, when things appear in the newspaper—and we have so many newspapers—it is not always possible to give explanation to all that is happening and that is why we have been saying that we do not depend on what is given in the newspaper. But if we raise anything on the floor of the House, we shall have not only to depend on what has happened in the newspaper but we shall have to say that we stand by it; we know that it is correct and we taken the responsibility. Otherwise, we do not do it.

Anyway, we would not like to prolong the discussion on this point and I don't think it is necessary. Hon. Prime Minister on the floor of the House has stated what he had to say and Members should be more than satisfied.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: May I have a permission to say something? Not only that, I think the Prime Minister has given directions to all the Members of the Cabinet to furnish all the details of their possession and their relations.

So, it is all beyond any doubt and one should adhere to that. I think everything will be taken care of.

SHRISOMNATH CHATTERJEE: I want to know whether the Ministers would like to

share some property!

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Yes, why not!

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have a good information.

16.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Launch of Second Indian Remote Sensing Satellite, IRS-1B

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Nine hundred kilometres above the surface of the earth, India's second indigenous Remote Sensing Satellite is circling the earth. IRS-1B was launched successfully at 19 minutes past noon today, Indian time, from Baikanour Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union.

All systems and subsystems of IRS-1B satellite have been designed and fabricated indigenously. It weighs less than a thousand kilograms and carries three sets of state-of-the-art imaging cameras.

Our nation's most experienced hands are controlling the satellite at the ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network (ISTRAC) Spacecraft Control Centre at Peenya, Bangalore. This is connected to other ISRO tracking ground stations at Lucknow and Mauritius. During the initial phases of the mission, ground stations of foreign space agencies located in the USSR, Kenya, USA and Germany are assisting in monitoring the performance of the satellite.

Remote sensing is an important area of space applications all over the world today. For a developing country with diverse geological features, it is critically relevant in providing vital inputs for the management of our vast land and ocean resources.

The successful launch of IRS-1B marks our commitment to use space technology to provide operational-services on a continued and assured basis in the vital areas of natural resources management. It also represents a continuation of our commitment to U\$E science for peaceful, constructive and developmental ends which can be translated into areas of tangible benefit for our people. We are determined, with the support of our Parliament and people, not only to preserve the position of Indian science at the frontiers of professional excellence and international recognition, but to make it a vital instrument in fulfilling national needs.

I am sure the House would wish to join me in extending our felicitations to the Scientists, Engineers and supporting staff of the Indian Space Research Organisation whose dedicated efforts have brought this great success to the nation. This reaffirms our pride in being Indian.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): Sir, we all join in the felicitations.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE
(Dum Dum): Sir, we look forward to that date when it is launched from our own soil.

16.03 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1991-92 *CONTD.*

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MIN-
ISTRY OF FOOD MINISTRY OF RURAL
DEVELOPMENT.—*CONTD.*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Amar Roypradhan
may continue his speech.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch
Behar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that at
least- though it is late-now, the hon. Prime
Ministe has come forward and clarified the
news item which was published.

The Government is not at all serious in implementing the scheme for distributing the surplus lands to the people who are landless labourers and so on. I think, the Government should take necessary action now, so that the lands can be distributed within a short period of time.

16.04 hrs.

[RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

Already, we are late and we should not further delay it. When we were demanding the Crop Insurance the other day in the Question Hour, the hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar said: "We would like to have the Crop Insurance. But what would be its pattern? How will it be implemented? What would be the area?" In this connection, I do not like to make any remarks at the moment.

Only through you I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to convene a meeting of all the agricultural organisations, kisan organisations and take their consensus regarding the crop insurance scheme. My suggestion in this respect is that the area must be a gram panchayat level, not the block level; block level is too a vast area. If there is drought, it may be throughout the block area, but the floods and the hail storm may not be throughout the block area; it may be in a particular part of the whole area. So, a gram panchayat level area should be taken into account.

Regarding the minimum wages, the conditions of the agricultural workers in our country are the worst. If you go through the Pande and Das Gupta Committee Report, you will find that they are not getting the minimum wages, particularly in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. They are not working throughout the year. So, I request and demand that a comprehensive legislation should be brought in such a manner so that the agricultural workers can get work throughout the year and the minimum wages must be guaranteed to them.

MR. CHARIMAN: Now, if the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri K.C Lenka, would like to intervene he may do so.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country where more than 75 per cent of the population live in rural areas. Out of 75 per cent of the population, about 65 per cent of the population depend upon agriculture; and most of them are agricultural labourers and landless labourers. Mr. Amar Roypradhan has rightly mentioned about the plight of the agricultural labourers in the rural areas. I entirely agree with him. Those who are producing food and feeling this mass of this country, they remain unfed. So, a time has come now to reorient our agricultural policy and to see that the producers, those who are producing food and feeding millions of people of this country, they should be fed well; they should live well.

In 1966, when Shrimati Indira Gandhi took over as Prime Minister of this country, our food production stood at 74.2 million tonnes and our shortfall in foodgrains was about 11 million tonnes; and we imported 11 million tonnes from foreign countries to feed at that time 500 million population of this country. During her time, a number of revolutionary steps were taken in the field of agriculture to increase the food production of the country.

Once upon a time, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, in the Conferences of the Chief Ministers, Food Ministers and Agriculture Ministers, cautioned the nation that unless we increase our agricultural production and thus achieve self-sufficiency in the next few years, we will have to forfeit our right to call ourselves as a free country; let alone a great country.

Sir, when she was shot dead in 1984, the country had achieved the highest ever food production of 152 million tonnes. So far, today we have achieved self-sufficiency in

food and we are now able to feed the 800 million people of this country, also we are now in a position to export foodgrains to outside India. This achievement has been made possible and this success we achieved due to the innovations in modern agricultural technology and the adoption of this technology by our hardworking Indian farmers.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Mr. Chairman, I am on a point of order. The Hon. Minister has used the words that when Madam Indira Gandhi was shot dead the food production was increased. It is a very unceremonious word and it should be removed from the record. We have also great regard for her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point of order. What the Hon. Minister means is quite clear, that in that particular year we achieved self-sufficiency. There is no point of order.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): He never said that.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: WHAT I MEANT WAS THAT IN THAT particular year when she was shot dead, by that time, India had already achieved self-sufficiency.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV: We also have respect for Madam. That is why I have pointed it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddaiah, your point is noted. There is no point of order.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Chairman, my colleague Mr. Lenka said that India had achieved self-sufficiency by that time due to the efforts of our farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quite right. That is what the Minister had meant, that in that year the food production had gone up to 150 million tonnes.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: I had mentioned that she had taken many revolutionary steps in the field of Agriculture to augment the food

[Sh. K.C. Lenka]

production and by the time she was shot dead, we had achieved 152 million tonnes of food grain production.

In the last two decades rapid scientific advancement in Agriculture has made it possible to provide more food for meeting the demand of the growing population. By the end of the century, it has been estimated that, we will require about 250 million tonnes of foodgrains to meet the growing demands of our growing population. That means, we will require about 85 million tonnes more foodgrains by the end of the century.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You mean, we have to increase food production by 85 million tonnes.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Yes. This can be possible with the present level of advancement of science and technology and we can increase our wheat production by two-and-a-half times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two-and-a-half times?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: Yes.

So far as wheat is concerned, we can increase our production by two and a half times with this advanced technology.

So far as rice is concerned, with this advancement technology and if the infrastructure is provided, we can increase our production by three times... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly do not interrupt him. The Minister is giving very vital statistics.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, with this advancement of technology, we can increase our maize production by three and a half times if the infrastructure is provided... (Interruptions)

SHRISUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHARY (Serampore): What is the kind of infrastructure, we would like to know.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: I am coming to that... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): How much time will you take to complete it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has already said that it may take some time to provide the infrastructure.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, our scientists have been able to invent jawar crop. We can increase our jawar production by five times with this advancement of technology... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt the Minister.

[Translation]

Please sit down. Please do not interrupt.

SHRI PRATAP SINGH (Banka): We would like to know as to what is the new technology the hon. Minister is talking about. (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAYCHAUDHARY: Is it indigenous or foreign?

SHRI K. C. LENKA: It is indigenous.

Sir, ICAR has made significant contribution in the field of agricultural research through a network of 42 institutions, four National Bureaus, 20 National Research Centres, nine Project Directorates, 26 Agricultural Universities.

ICAR through its research efforts could achieve 40 new crop varieties and hybrids to meet for higher productivity and sustainability in different agro-climate zones.

Sincere efforts are being made by ICAR

[Sh. K.C. Lenka]

to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses.

Significant achievements have been made in the field of horticulture by developing 43 varieties of horticulture crops.

Animal husbandry is an integral part of the agriculture and it is the important sector of the country's economy. So, ICAR in the field of animal science research played a crucial role upto now.

Now it provides gainful employment particularly to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers and other rural poor.

New technology in fisheries has helped in increasing the productivity of fish ponds.

We are making special efforts to transfer new technology to farmers particularly in the tribal and backward areas. We have decided in principle to start minimum one KVK, (Krishi Vigyan Kendra), in each district of the country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VJAYADADA): How many have you started this year?

SHRI K.C. LENKA: I am coming to that. Upto now 109 KVKs are functioning in our country and over and above 74 KVKs are going to be started as soon as we take the decision on the funding pattern. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, we propose to start minimum two hundred KVKs in the country. The main thrust area today is that we should consolidate what we have achieved in the field of agriculture. And the second thing is to give this modern technology to every farmer at the doorstep. So, keeping this in view during the Eighth Five Year Plan, we propose to start training centres in each Taluks so that our farmers can be imparted this model technology training to augment their production. So, more funds are being provided to the universities for their extension programme. Unless we take our research

achievement to the rural areas, the production cannot be increased. So, more stress is given on the transfer of technology, which is low cost transfer, low cost technology.

A composite agricultural system including animal husbandry can sustain the economy of the people in drought-prone areas by providing them alternative gainful occupation in which women can participate in large-scale. Therefore, Government is giving importance on genetic improvement, animal health and animal nutrition to promote the real economy of the poor people.

As against the revised plan provision of Rs. 154.34 crores in the last year, this year we have proposed an allocation of Rs. 190 crores. There has been increase also in the non-plan allocation from Rs. 165.37 crores to Rs. 174 crores. We have stepped up the allocation for agricultural research and education by 13.85 per cent while the plan allocation has gone up by 23 per cent.

Sir, main areas of concern today are shrinking land resources and low growth rate of agricultural productivity; decrease in the efficiency of inputs; increasing danger of residual ill effects of applied chemicals; increasing unsustainability of agriculture both in the areas of high productivity and stress environment; the excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides in some of the irrigated and intensively cultivated areas affecting quality of ground water and soil biology; soil degradation due to poor management of water resulting in Salinization, Alkalinisation, Water logging and reduced productivity of land; and Non-judicious use of ground water.

Keeping this in view, we have identified thrust areas for research in future. I would mention some of them. Efforts will be made to increase the production of nucleus and breeder seeds. The Integrated Pest Management Programme will receive priority. In accordance with the accepted policy of balanced growth, the endeavour will be to remove imbalance by initiating programmes like a National Centre for Women in Agriculture, Structure and Environment control for

management of livestock and plants, Acid Soil Management, etc. Post-harvest technology for agriculture, horticulture and fishery products will receive special attention with focus on export.

Besides these, some hon. Members have raised questions about the functioning of the ICAR and the appointment of a DG in ICAR. It is true that we have damaged a lot due to absence of a DG in ICAR. As soon as we came to power, we have expedited to see how to appoint a DG as soon as possible. A lot of litigation has been started in the court regarding the appointment of DG. The matter was referred to the UPSC saying that UPSC will recommend suitable candidate for appointment of DG.

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): The post of the Chairman of the UPSC is lower than the DG's post. So, how can the UPSC appoint a persons for the post of DG?

SHRI K. C. LENKA: That is why, to avoid delay, if by September thirty first the UPSC does not recommend any name, we are thinking to withdraw the math. We will constitute a Selection Committee and on the recommendation of that Selection Committee, we are going to appoint the DG as soon as possible.

A demand has been made that an agriculture university should be started in the North-Eastern States. Actually, we have no university in the North-Eastern States. Government is going to start a university at Manipur, Imphal, to cater to the education of all the North-Eastern States there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think there is probably nobody from North-East because I do not see any response. There should have been some response to a statement like that.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): I am here, Sir. We express our happiness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Reaction is bit delayed, I must say.

AN HON. MEMBER: But we do not believe whether they are going to implement it.

MR. SPEAKER: Will, the Minister is making a statement and you can always get hold of him after that.

SHRI K. C. LENKA: Sir, I express my grateful thanks to most of the Members who have participated in the debate and have expressed their concern for giving priority to research part of agriculture. So, keeping this in view, the Government has given more importance to education, to extension, to research and to transfer of technology. The whole aim is how to transfer this advanced technology, how to take research achievements from lab to land. So, this is the main stress of the Research Section of the ICAR. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I must congratulate the Minister on a very informative and lucid statement.

PROF. UMMAREDDI VENKATESHWARLU (Tenali): Sir, I have got a small clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot start questioning the Minister's statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Ssharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister in his speech has emphasised much on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Today, in this country what is the identity of a farmer? It is very surprising indeed. A farmer means, a person having no clothes, no shoes. He is a person who does not use oil on his head soap on his body. A farmer of India is very easily distinguished by his tottered and dirty clothes. I do not mean that there has been no agricultural development in the country. What I want to say is that it did not develop as properly and rapidly as it should have been. What could be mover intriguing than holding Budget discussion together for the three departments, Agricul-

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

ture, Rural development and food. As the hon. Minister just stated that 75 per cent population of the country live in villages and 25 per cent in towns. But there is no facility for the 75 per cent population in this country. There is a separate Budget for the Ministry of Urban Development. It is a separate Ministry. But for Agriculture, Budget is discussed and demand for grants is placed inclusive of other departments like fisheries and Animal husbandry in the Lok Sabha. All this show how we are serious to bring about a revolution in this field. Our Jakhar Saheb is a very experienced person. He is also very thorough in Parliamentary work. He is a very big farmer. There are 5 to 10 farmers countable on finger tips in this country, who possess 7-8 hundred to one thousand bighas of land. But 80 per cent farmers possess 5 to 10 acres land only. They despite their hard labour in their fields, cannot maintain the livelihood of their families properly. They cannot provide education to their children in a good school. Whenever we talk of farmer, we include big farmers also with them. A big farmer does not plough his fields himself. Rather he gets his cultivation done by others. He does not know what a farmer is. A small farmer works hard in his field and somehow earns bread for him and his family. Jakhar Saheb cannot understand what it meant by a farmer. I have no hesitation in saying so. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you consume so much time in explaining the back ground, how will you complete your points?

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I am telling the truth. What is the use of giving datas?(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jakhar Saheb did cultivation himself.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir,

we live in villages. I would like to say something regarding the figures produced here by the Hon. Minister from his records. I am not giving any back-ground. I am telling the truth. I am saying what is actually happening in the country. There is a P.E.O in each block and a P.U. in each district. When the Government seeks datas of the farmers from these officers, they prepare this at their homes. the Block Officer submits this to the District officer who submits it further to the State Government which ultimately submits this to the Central Government. All these estimates are done by sitting in homes only. This is a very wrong practice. If the Government is really responsive towards the farmers, then it should make a survey about them through its own officers. Rather it would be better if it requests all the political parties to send through their respective farmer's cell a survey-report regarding the problems of a farmer. Some improvements really can be done when datas are collected from all quarters, otherwise it would remain a paper work only.

Now I would like to say something about our scientists. I am proud of their work and achievements. Had, they not increased wheat-production in the country, the farmers would have starved. They have made their commendable contribution in increasing the production of paddy, maize, wheat etc. The ratio of increase they have maintained yet is quite satisfactory as the hon. Minister said that there is going to be increase in the paddy production by two and half to three times in the country. In order to increase foodgrain production in the country it is required for the Government to reciprocate equally to the suggestions made by the scientists in this regard. But contrary to that the Government is neglecting farmers' interests on the pretext of financial crisis and those suggestions are not being implemented. That is why there is no provision for those suggestions in this Budget. To blame the scientists is not a good thing. First of all due attention should be paid to their suggestions. The hon. Minister has said that production of each of the foodgrains would be encouraged with an industrial out-look. For this purpose full grants must be provided in the Budget and he has

to get it sanctioned from the hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. Only then, farmer's interests can be protected.

Just now many of our learned friends were saying that they are looting money. I think this is not a correct remark. I am of the view that if somebody commits some errors while doing a good work, it should be ignored and the person should be forgiven.

Today farmers are being neglected in the country. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that our village farmers grow paddy crops twice or thrice in a year but their crops get destroyed due to floods, drought and diseases etc. There is no way out to get rid of this situation. The hon. Minister was saying that the Government wants to start crop-insurance scheme for them but they are not agreeable to this. This is not so. We farmers are ready to pay half of the amount for this but for that there should be a basic analysis of the scheme. The Insurance officials show their interest in insuring only the good pieces of land adjacent to the houses of the farmers. They are least interested in insuring those pieces of land which are not fertile or which are affected by floods, frosts etc. These are the reasons for which the farmers are not interested in this scheme. Some improvement is needed in this scheme. Four years ago when I was an M.L.A., some of the Insurance officials came to my village. They were interested to insure only the particular piece of land which was adjacent to my house. I asked them to insure other pieces of land. So to say that the farmers are not ready for insuring their crops is not correct.

Secondly, I would like to say that jutes are produced in our areas but proper pricing of this produce is not done. Bags are made of jute which is grown abundantly in Bengal, Bihar and Assam. Jute is not grown in this area. When there is a bumper crop, it fetches hardly Rs. 200-400 per quintal but the year the farmers grow less quantities of this crop its prices go upto Rs. 600-800 per quintal. This fluctuation in prices is a cruel joke on them. There is a need to pay proper attention to it. These days its price in Bengal and Bihar

especially in the commissionerates of Saharsa and Purnea is Rs. 300 per quintal, whereas two months ago its price was Rs. 700 per quintal. What is this?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have consumed your 10 minutes, only five minutes are left.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: All right Sir, I shall say just two-three more things. Research camps are set up by the Government, no matter whether these are set up in Haryana or Punjab. What I am concerned is that such pieces of land in which 5 crops can be grown in a year are also available in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh also. More and more Agricultural Research must be conducted in these areas so that the farmers there could avail of their benefits.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jakhar Saheb has said that economic condition of this country was shattered due to waiving off loans to farmers. He may be right and I have nothing to say in this regard. But at the same time I would like to know from him whether there was no financial burden on the country when loans to the extent of Rs. 1600 crores were waived in respect of industrialists in the year 1972-73. The country's economic condition is not affected by the bungling of billions of rupees by the industrialists but there is a financial crisis just for the waiving off farmer's loans totalling just to Rs. 12-13 hundred crores only. If this is true, then why such an injustice was done in the past? The hon. Minister of Agriculture is a very experienced person. I would like to request him not to harass the farmers by his dual policy on fertiliser. It will be a costly affair for the small, medium and marginal farmers as they will have no other option than to purchase the same in black. The big farmers are not accustomed to cultivate themselves. They get it done by small farmers. They will manage to get permit for fertilizers and purchase it at cheaper rates. It is only they who will take all the benefits ultimately. So there must be a uniform rate for fertilisers.

Sir, I would like to request him to reduce

[Sh. Surya Narayan Yadav]

the price of fertiliser which have been increased by 40 per cent. The prices of other items may be increased instead. We are ready to extend full our co-operation. We also know that our country is passing through an economic and financial crisis. For this, prices of other commodities like bidi, tobacco, cigarette, wine etc. may be increased. We do not have any objection if this is done. But the Government is increasing the prices in respect of people who have no clothes, no food. A bag of fertiliser earlier sold at Rs. 50 is now going to cost Rs. 180. Sir, first there was an increase of Rs. 40 which has now gone upto Rs. 170 per bag. It is Rs. 180 in our area.

This is the injustice being done to them. Therefore, I have to say that subsidy on fertilizers, which have been cut should be restored and the rate of fertilisers should be brought down. If you want to impose taxes on other items. We are ready to extend our support. But if your intention is to burden the farmers with such the taxes and to exploit them, then we shall certainly oppose you and regardless of the consequences we, would like to have a vote on it.

As you know that the peasants have agitated in Bihar, they are doing so in Andhra Pradesh and the same is going to happen in Uttar Pradesh and at Boat Club in Delhi also a Dharna has been staged by the peasants. Hence, you must not do any injustice to them.

Sir, in our state too....., now the bell has rung, so I may now sit down.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should wind up and conclude it.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: The previous Government had taken a decision that agriculture department will take two districts from each state and it will take steps to make the barren or less fertile land fertile in those districts under a Special programme. In Bihar also two districts were taken. Sir,

one of them was Patna and the other was Saharasa, which I belong. Some officers from the Centre visited those districts but we don't know what happened after that. I would request the hon. member that that land of peasants is not fertile, there is scarcity of water, and lot of problems are there, Somewhere it is barren land and I would request you that you may take interest in the matter as the Minister of Rural Development is sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Suryanarayanji, please wind up now, you have already taken too much time.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Now I come to rural development. It will take time as so many departments are attached to this.

I have to say that your Jawahar Rojgar Yojana at the Panchayat level is a good scheme and this was suggested by Shri Brishin Patel who was Minister of Rural Development. You should implement those suggestions. You allocate twenty per cent for afforestation and twenty percent towards Welfare of Harijans. This is how the budget amount is allocated. This scheme would not be very effective if the budget among is allocated in this manner. If village Panchayats desires to have almost all that very things in their villages like big canals, bridges on them and those should be linked with each other, the estimates for that are so high that it can not be approved. You tell them to grow forests and also spend on every item. Otherwise, good schemes would not be formulated. You must give them such freedom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please, conclude now.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, the fish of our country is very famous. The fish of our country is well renowned but, it is very unfortunate that despite the good quality of fish found in our country we do not export it. If you export it, you will earn foreign exchange. Good quality fish is found in plenty in the rivers there. Hon. Sir thank you very much.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Hon'ble Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the demands of the agricultural department. I appreciate the development took place in the field of agriculture in our country and the farmers of our country have done hard Labour for this. Still more development is needed in this field.

Some of the speakers who spoke before me have made several submissions about waiving the loans of the farmers. No one would go against the waiving of loans of the farmers, if it is done in a proper way. Today the situation is that farmers deserving loan waiver and who are needy have been left behind and big farmers have availed of this benefit. It is very distressing. Through you, I would like to make a demand from the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the burden on account of a bungling of Rs. 2,700 crore in the banks should not be put on farmers at any rate. The farmers should not be penalised for the bungs in banks. There are capitalists and rich people in this country who draw loans to the extent of Rs. 10 lac to 10 crores from banks and set up industries in the private sector. Later, they declare them sick. While the country can afford the financial losses caused by capitalists, why should it cut a sorry figure at the time of providing assistance to small farmers. I would like to request the hon. Minister that he should not make a distinction between big and small farmers. I strongly demand that the Government should not adopt a criterion in which farmers will be classified. The farmers should be given full subsidy so that they might feel that the Govt. is not putting any burden on them.

So far as fertilisers are concerned, I would like to request you to constitute a committee which would probe whether the way increases have been made in the prices of fertilisers are justified. On what basis and for what reason the prices have been increased. Is it a fact that the production cost of fertilizer has gone up to such an extent that compelled the factory owners to raise prices? That is how burden was put on the farmers. I am of the view that it is due to Pseudo monopoly that the farmer is being burdened

to such a great extent. The farmers will have to bear with that burden.

There are commission agents in our area too. Farmers by their hard labour, plough the field, make production and take their produces to the Commission agents, who in turn, purchase the produces at arbitrary rates and sell them later in a rate twice the original rate. The Commission agents make a lot of money not by virtue of labour but by means of floating money and the Govt. should look into it. The Government should arrange setting up of Co-operative societies where farmers could sell their produces and get remunerative prices. In this way the farmers could be saved from being exploited by the Commission agents.

Besides, the farmers should be provided account books. Govt. should make such arrangements so that farmers, at the time of need could be provided loans from the banks with the help of that account book. It is really a matter of distress as well as shame for us that the farmers now a days, will have to pass through proper channel starting from Patwari, Sarpanch to Tehsildar who would certify their application for loans from the banks. We will have to think upon it as to how the farmers could be provided loans from the banks with the help of the account books. The Govt. must empower the banks that whenever the farmers, seeking loans, go to them, they should be granted loans on the basis of their landed property shown in the account books without any other formality. If the farmers again approach the banks for a further loans amount they should invariably be granted loans excepting some ex-ordinary circumstances. If they make regular repayment to bank, there should be no problem for them to draw loans. Unless such arrangements made, the status of our farmers would constantly go down and they would be forced to depend on others for their livelihood. Today, the status of a farmer is much lower than class IV Government employee. We should strive towards raising their standard.

I come elected from Rajasthan where

[Sh. Ayub Khan]

agriculture is mostly, dependent on rain, particularly, the areas of districts Jhunjhunu and Sikar falling under my constituency are entirely dependent on rain for agricultural work. If there is no rain, the areas experience drought. I demand that the farmers in those areas, should be supplied electricity free of cost so that farmers could undertake cultivation to some extent. A research should be conducted to find out the crops which could be grown in areas having less rainfall. Only maize, bajra and jawar are being grown in my area so far. Let the Government develop crops and high quality seeds which could ensure progress and production of bumper crops in the state.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I urge the Govt. through you, that an agriculture college and a 'Krishi Vigyan Kendra' should be set up in my area which would prove beneficial to the farmers and make them feel that these institutions have been set up for their welfare. There is a place 'Budhana' in district Jhunjhunu. I demand from the Government to give necessary approval for setting up of 'Krishi Vigyan Kendras' at Budhana and Lakshmangarh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Indira Gandhi Canal, passing through my area, assumes great importance in connection with irrigation in Rajasthan and security of the country. First stage of this canal has completed, but the Govt. of Rajasthan has no funds to take up second stage of its construction. I, therefore, request you to allocate more funds to the Government of Rajasthan so that it could start the second stage of construction of the above canal. I would like to request the Central Government to take over the project and meet the expenses either by drawing loans from World Bank or from some other source. The people living in remote areas will be benefited by this canal. Small and big drains would be drawn in the second stage of construction and it would require huge funds. I would like to request the Govt. in case the canal water is not ready for irrigational purposes, it should at least, be made available,

for drinking purposes. Mr. Chairman, Sir, initially Jhunjhunu and Sikar were to be benefited with the water of Indira Gandhi Canal. But I have come to know that it is not so. There is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan, though milk and blood are easily available there. The people have to bring drinking water from a distance of 10 k.m. or so. Therefore, it is requested that a scheme may kindly be prepared so that water of this canal could reach Bharatpur via Jhunjhunu, Alwar, Sikar, Jaypur, Bhandpur. Similarly, the water of Yamuna must be made available to Rajasthan for irrigation so that its desert could be changed into green to bring prosperity and happiness there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Jawahar Lal Nehru Canal passes nearby my area which irrigates the land of Haryana and thereby brings prosperity there. Our people wonder to note that the canal which is only two kilometers away from our area, irrigates the fields of Haryana but does not provide drinking water to Rajasthan. I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister through you that he may kindly instruct the Government of Haryana to make available drinking water to the area of Rajasthan alongwith Rajasthan-Haryana border and adjacent to that canal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna is really a good 'Yojna' and it must go ahead, but this must be run by a very responsible officer who could ensure the proper utilization of funds and State Governments must be held responsible for the proper utilisation of funds so that the officers like B.D.O. could not misappropriate the funds.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request the Govt. through you that it must have a specific scheme for Rajasthan which could be formulated keeping in view its climatic conditions and deserts thereof. In this scheme points like irrigation facilities, availability of seeds etc. should be involved so that people could have good crops and attain prosperity.

Sir, the people of Rajasthan are very much courageous and hard working. Though they lack resources, yet they are on forefront

so far as service to the motherland is concerned. A large number of people from Jhunjhunu and Sikar districts are in armed forces. It is, therefore, requested that Jhunjhunu and Sikar be given facilities at their best and Agricultural Science Centre be set up there.

17.00 hrs.

[SHRI RAM NAIK *in the Chair*]

You have imposed land ceiling on farmers but there is no ceiling for rich people. There must be a ceiling of rich people like land ceiling of 20 bighas so that the property of a rich man beyond one crore could be distributed among poor people, just as the land above ceiling is distributed among the landless people.

The livestock in our area is of good quality. In Rajasthan, we take care of cow with all sacrifices. You will find there two to three hundreds cows with one person. I want to tell you that Milk Dairy is under your control and its building is very good but the machine have been shifted to another place.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: A new one is being installed.

SHRI AYUB KHAN: For the benefit of farmers the van of the milk dairy should go to villages to collect milk.

Ours is a hilly area where Shershan Suri was born the name of that village is Shimla. Shimla is a village in Khetri district. The ruin of 40 wells dating back to the period of Sher Shah Suri are still there in that village. But today, the people of the village are craving for water. I would like to make an appeal that the problem of water of Shimla, Dudhwa, Thatwadi villages be solved. Jawaharlal Nehru canal is just at a distance of two kilometres from that village. The Khetri Project is also situated there, for which underground water is utilized. The water of the wells of the area is dried up as result of it. The Project should be supplied water from this Canal so that the water level of the wells

could be raised. Moreover, people could utilize the water of the canal for drinking. Lastly, I would like to say that some more assistance should be given to Rajasthan so that the Indira Gandhi Canal could be completed and a Dairy and Agricultural college could be set up in Jhunjhunu and Sikar area.

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Budget presented by the Government is anti-farmer. This Budget is totally anti farmer because India is an agricultural country. When our country got independence the first leader and the first Prime Minister of our country was capitalist. At that time if the son of a farmer would have become the Prime Minister of our country, he would have taken care of the farmers. Since he was a capitalist, he looked after commerce, and industry and make a mess of the farmers.

There are 5 thousand blocks in our country and 6,05,228 villages, and in a country with a majority of villages, atrocities (injustice) are being committed against the farmers and this government and the budget is responsible for it. Because of the capitalist policy following the independence, perhaps no attention was paid towards the farmers. We have completed 44 years of Independence and out of that Congress has ruled the country for 42 years. The leader of our country say that there has been development in the country but it is not so. They have not contributed to its development, instead they have contributed to its downfall.

When our country became independent on 15th August, 1947 our position in the world was 96th, but today India has reached at 110th position. Is it development or downfall? Let you think over it. Today, our country is under heavy debt. It has become very difficult to repay it. 21% of the total budget of our country is being paid as interest on the foreign loan. India stands first in Asia and fourth in the world in the field of taking loans. If a country has taken so much of loan, how is the development of a farmer of country is possible. This way there has been the development of industrialists and not of the agri-

[Dr. P.R. Gangwar]

culturists and I can go to the extent of saying that there has been the development of the leasers. Then how the development of our country is possible. A high per capita income and sufficient production of foodgrains are essential for the development of a country.

Foodgrains are produced by the farmer and the money thus generated is deposited in foreign countries and such money which is deposited in foreign countries is not utilised in our country and we had to borrow money. We had to pay interest on that loan. Thus, the development of the country is far from possible. How is the development of a country possible whose 21 per cent of the budget is siphoned by way of interest.

Today our rural masses, farmers are not getting any electricity for the development of agricultural production. There are no tubewells, drinking water, means of transport. A very small amount is provided for shelters construction for Harijans and Indira Avas Yojna whereas the construction material is very costly. Only 6 to 9 thousand per unit are being provided, which is not sufficient. It lasts only 2 to 3 years after its construction. There are incidents when the children sleeping in such houses are injured. If such attitude is being adopted towards Indira and Harijan Avas Yojna then how we can expect the upliftment and development of these people.

There is dual policy in the distribution of ration. The urban people are being given better treatment whereas the rural folks are totally neglected in distribution of ration. They are getting only 250 gms of sugar and the people living in the cities are getting 1 kg of sugar per month. Isn't it sheer injustice? It is the injustice, atrocities and sinful conduct of the administration. It is a policy full of injustice towards the cultivators.

Some is the case with the Education Policy. Today a poor cultivator has no place to go to educate his children. He has got no money and there are no teachers for the

schools opened in the villages*. There is nobody to teach and the people have got no money to get their children admitted to schools. Big schools are opened to educate the children of big industrialists, the children belonging to cities. Only those children read in such schools who can afford and spend money. Their children get better opportunities after getting education but the children of villagers fret out their life in tilling.

Had the son of a farmer become the Prime Minister of our country, he would have understood the agony of the peasants. When he has to do hand labour in the scorching heat of May and June while digging he comes to know the problems of the farmer. When we go out to sell the produce of our hard labour, i.e. when we go out to sell the sugar-cane or wheat, the person who weights the wheat takes 5 kgs more per bag, and the persons who weights sugar-cane does so taking 10 kgs more per quintal. If you go with a complaint of such an excesses they say it is no complaint at all. Rs. 5 per bag are being charged for weighing wheat. Government should pay special attention to such an atrocity and injustice done by government agencies. All the same there is no arrangement to combat that natural calamities like hailstorm, hurricane, drought, flood, fire in villages. In cities if there is a fire to any extent there is insurance but if a fire breaks out in villages not a penny more than Rs. 200 is given. In the cities lot of money is given by way of compensation by the Insurance Companies and in contrast to that almost nothing is given in the villages. This way the Government is exploiting the villagers by adopting dual policy.

The Government has formulated a policy regarding fertilizers also. The prices of fertilizers are increasing. By increasing the prices of fertilizers the government has done injustice against the farmers. The Government will have to face the consequences of such full acts also. As our colleagues have also said that a bag costs Rs. 180/- The problem is that if the businessman sell it at reduced prices they insist to take 2 kgs. of zinc also. One kg. of zing costs Rs. 2 but it is

given at the rate of Rs. 14. This way also the farmer is subjected to injustice and atrocity. Because of the present atrocities the triple policy on fertilizers is continuing. According to this the old fertilisers would be given at the same rate and thereafter it would be given to marginal farmers at old rates and to big farmers at higher rate. Big farmers are taking advantage of this triple policy, while poor cultivators are facing loss. Now-a-days the poor cultivator is being oppressed though the rich, affluent farmer is happy. Such Farmers never go to the village. They live in the cities and their servants work for them. Fertilisers belonging to poor people is taken by the rich people and would be used on their own fields. Due to the same atrocity poor people are fleeing towards cities, because there are all facilities available in cities whereas no facility is available in the villages. All this is happening due to these reasons. Therefore, I would suggest that the money deposited in foreign Banks should be identified and the accounts should be transferred back to this country so that it is utilised in the country and the production in the country goes up.

I would like to add one thing more. There is tremendous consumption of liquor in our country now-a-days. It may be stopped. There would be development in our country if it is done. Besides, I would like to mention an important thing. We have shortage of money in our country. An employee or an Officer in our country gets pension till he is sixty years of age. And on the other hand here, an M.P. or an M.L.A. gets pension after one year. My suggestion is that their pension should be stopped. No such pension should be given to any MLA and MP. The money that would be saved in this way would be utilised for the welfare of the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: No body is given pension within one year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech in a few sentences.

DR. P.R. GANGWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Minister wants to intervene. And today, there is half-an-hour discussion at 5.30 p.m. So, probably if it is over by 5.25, Mr. Rao stands his chance. That too depends on when he completes. I do not think any other Member can speak today. Now, Mr. Gogoi...

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): Mr. Chairman Sir, I listened very attentively to the speeches made by the hon. Members. As the Demand for the Food Ministry is discussed alongwith that of the Ministry of Agriculture, most of the hon. Members have spoken about agriculture and a very few have referred to my Ministry. So, I would like to be as brief as possible. I do not like to reply to every individual point raised by the hon. Members.

As the Food Ministry is primarily concerned with the management of food, our primary job is to build up a buffer stock by way of procurement of foodgrains, making provisions for storage, movement and distribution of foodgrains to every nook and corner of the country. You will be happy to know that this time procurement of rice has reached the record level and we have procured about 12.6 million tonnes this year. We have procured about 7.7 million tonnes of wheat and in spite of the delay in rainfall in certain parts of the country, we are still in a comfortable position today. We have got a stock of 19 million tonnes of foodgrains.

The main purpose of our Ministry is to provide support price to the farmers and these prices are recommended by the Agriculture Ministry. An allegation has been made that we have not been paying remunerative prices to the farmers. It is not a fact. We have all along been paying remunerative prices to the farmers. Otherwise, the farmers would not have come forward to give their paddy or wheat to us. As you know, even in the drought years of 1966 and 1977, it was a great challenge for the Food Ministry but the Food Ministry was able to supply about 23

[Sh. Tarun Gogoi]

million tonnes of foodgrains throughout the country.

There are criticisms about the functioning of the FCI. I do not say that it is a perfect organisation. There are lapses. In spite of that, its performance is quite satisfactory because only through FCI, we make such a huge quantity of procurement and distribute it throughout the country. Normally, we distribute about 16 million tonnes of foodgrains per year throughout the country.

Regarding the losses in transit, the losses are still there. But they have come down to 0.85 per cent of the quantities purchased in the South Zone compared to 2.33 per cent in 1982-83.

As regards sugar, you will be happy to know that today we are in the top position in the production of sugar. We would be producing about 119 lakh tonnes of sugar this year. In the previous years, we had to import sugar. But today, we are in a position to export sugar and we have allocated five lakh tonnes of sugar for general commercial exports. So is the case even with rice. Leaving aside basmati rice - of course, there is no limit for basmati rice - we have allocated five lakh tonnes of non-basmati rice for exports. The same is the case with wheat also. We have allocated 10 lakh tonnes of wheat to be exported.

Some Members raised the point regarding cane sugar prices. It is a fact that there is quite a huge amount of arrears of sugarcane price to be paid. As on 30.6.91, the price due was Rs. 3950.82 crores during 1990-91 and the price paid was Rs. 3695.44 crores. So, the balance is Rs. 255.38 crores. It is mainly the responsibility of the State Government because it is they who fix up the price of sugarcane. We fix up only the minimum cane price but above that, the State Government also fixes the price. So, it is the responsibility of the State Government mainly. We fix the support price. But above that, the State Government fixes up their own price. So, it is

the primary responsibility of the State Government to see that the farmers are paid their arrears. I myself have taken up the matter with the State Governments. A few days back, I wrote to all the Chief Ministers concerned.

As regards the minimum support price for sugarcane, it has already been fixed so that there will not be any uncertainty in the minds of growers. We have fixed the minimum support price of sugarcane at Rs. 24 per quintal for next season as against Rs. 23 this season. As regards sugar produced 45 per cent is for levy and 55 per cent is for free sale.

We also have a Sugar Development Fund. A cess at the rate of Rs. 140 per tonne is collected from the factories and we already have got about Rs. 90 crores. Out of this amount, more than 426.51 crore has already been sanctioned mainly for the expansion of the existing sugar factories, their modernisation, rehabilitation and also for sugarcane development.

After I took over charge, I have modified certain points in the guidelines. Earlier, some upper limit was being contemplated with regard to the availability of fund for rehabilitation and modernisation which I have removed. Further have now made some provision for giving loans to sick units also.

Now I come to the licensing policy. The earlier Government has changed the licensing policy for new sugar factories. The distance criterion was reduced from 40 Km to 15 Km. The earlier Government has also dispensed with the criteria of cane availability, potential for cane development and so on. Now, we are reviewing the whole matter about the distance as also the other related aspects. I hope, within a very short time, it will be finalised and the Cabinet will take an appropriate decision.

As was done last year, this time also, we have made a provision for giving incentives for early crushing, in order to maximise sugar production. We have earmarked 72 per cent

for free sale for the sugar production which takes place between October 1 and November, 15.

Many hon. Members have spoken about the problems faced by people in many areas. It is a fact that a large section of tribal and poor people have not yet been covered by the PDS. The Prime Minister himself has taken a lot of initiative in this matter. He called a meeting of the Ministers of Civil Supplies on last Saturday and we have taken a decision to try our level best to see that tribal, hilly, drought-prone and flood-prone areas, which have so long been deprived of this benefit, are covered by the new system.

Now I take up storage capacity. As on today, we have got a storage capacity of over 41 million tonnes. There are three or four agencies which look after the storage facilities, such as the FCI, CWC and the State Warehousing Corporations. FCI has got about 18 million tonnes capacity and the CWC's capacity is 6.7 million tonnes. We are encouraging the State Warehousing Corporations by providing 50 per cent equity from the Central Government. Besides, you will be happy to note that the CWC is making profits. Last year, we have made a profit of Rs. 43 crore. Now I come to the rural storage facilities...

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Is this storage capacity sufficient for the whole country?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I do not say that it is sufficient. That is the reason why we have made provisions for encouraging State Warehousing Corporations.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Due to lack of storage facilities, farmers are forced to resort to distress sales.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have fixed the support price in order to prevent the distress sales only. In fact, I have taken it up with many of the States. The State Governments have not taken initiative for the procurement of rice. Only a few States such as

Punjab, Haryana, Western UP, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have taken initiative. Most of the other States are not taking the initiative. In fact, I myself have taken up the matter with the Chief Minister. It is for the interest of the State Government itself. Otherwise, what was the purpose for having this support price?(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No cross-talks please.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: FCI cannot go to every nook and corner of the country. It is the State agency who has to go. We can go to a certain level. That is why I said that the State Agency has a very important role to play.

Sir, these are the main points raised by the hon. Members. If any hon. Member wants some clarification, I am ready to reply.

With these words, I conclude, Sir.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Since the Minister has said that he is ready to reply to the clarifications, I would like to know one thing. All of us know that the sugar which is being supplied to the rural people through the PDS is very very meager and it is giving rise to discontentment among the rural people. They feel that they are being treated as the second-class citizens. Comparatively the affluent people are getting more sugar from PDS than the rural people. Since sugar production is quite sufficient, I would like to know whether this dual pricing will be done away with and more allocation will be made to the rural people through PDS.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: The State Government makes allocation for the P.D.S. I have already increased the allocation of levy sugar by 5 per cent. Earlier, the allocation of rice was about 9 lakh tonnes in July 91 and it has now been increased to Rs. 10.4 lakhs tonnes in Aug, 91 State Government is responsible for the distribution of these commodities.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

speak on the very important demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Sir, you are aware that this Government and their predecessor Governments did not think the necessity to have a National Agricultural Policy Resolution. As you are aware, there was an Industrial Policy Resolution adopted as far back as 1948 which was reviewed in 1956, 1977, 1980, 1984 and 1991. While nearly 75 per cent of the people live in villages and depend on agriculture especially in the beginning more than 50 per cent of the people were depending on the gross domestic products coming from the agricultural sector—the successive Governments never felt the necessity to have an Agricultural Policy Resolution. Though some programmes like the Grow More Food, Minimum Support Price the Agricultural Products and the Land Reforms Laws were taken up but they were mainly intended to make over the crisis. They were not introduced with the real intention of improving the standard of living of the rural people. And because of this neglect in providing adequate funds to villages, even after four decades they are still in a very very backward stage. Most of them are not in a position to provide even the basic amenities to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rao, it is already 5.30. We have to take up Half-an-Hour Discussion. You will be on your legs tomorrow, So, you can proceed with your speech tomorrow.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): After the Half-an-Hour Discussion is over if the discussion on Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Agriculture continues for two hours, it would be better.

MR. CHAIRMAN: But it has not been agreed to earlier.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: It has already been agreed to.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let the Half-an-Dis-

cussion start, I will check up whether somebody has agreed to this earlier or not. Anyway, I will have to discuss and then I will let you know.

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): If the House agrees to this, we are with the House. If you want to have the extension up to 8 o'clock, we have no objection.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Meanwhile, you have some discussion amongst yourselves.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: All right.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, from our side, we make it clear that we will leave it to the House. If the House wants to extend it up to 8 o'clock, let them do it. Let them decide it before 6 o'clock because my Ministers have already gone.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will see what is to be done when it is 5 minutes to 6 o'clock.

17.32 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION
CLEARANCE OF TEHRI DAM PROJECT

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since, there is no unanimity, let us proceed with the Half-an-Hour Discussion. Shri Khanduri.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I rise to initiate a Half-an-Hour Discussion on Tehri Dam arising out of answer given by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests on August 5, 1991 to Starred Question No. 287 regarding clearance of Tehri Dam Project.