

[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