

Mr. Speaker Sir, since independence there has not been proper industrial development of district Ajmer. Due to machinisation in Railway Carriage and Loco factories the number of labourers is continuously decreasing. Ajmer district has not been declared as industrially backward area due to these factories only. Ajmer is surrounded by Arawali hills and due to continuous drought and less productivity of agriculture, the people have to face the problem of bread and butter. Thousands of youths have become unemployed. Lakhs of rural youths as well as urban unemployed have to go to the different parts of the country in search of bread.

Therefore, I request the Central Government that Ajmer should be declared as an industrially backward district and large, medium and small scale industries should be set up there by establishing an Industrial Development Centres in different cities.

14.30 hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1991-92

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 1991-92 for which one and a half hour has been recommended. Motion moved:-

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1992 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof.

Demand Nos. 1, 5, 6, 15, 42, 60, 67, 82, 83, 85 and 93"

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1991-92 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No.	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
	Ministry of Agriculture		
1.	Agriculture	1,00,000	1,00,000
	Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers		
5.	Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals		5,88,00,000
6.	Department of Fertilizers	2,50,00,00,000	
	Ministry of Communications		
15.	Telecommunication Services		1,00,000

No.	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
		1	2
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
<i>Ministry of Home Affairs</i>			
42.	Ministry of Home Affairs	1,00,000	
<i>Ministry of Mines</i>			
60.	Ministry of Mines	18,00,00,000	
<i>Ministry of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>			
67.	Department of Power		1,00,000
<i>Ministry of Welfare</i>			
82.	Ministry of Welfare		25,00,00,000
<i>Department of Atomic Energy</i>			
83.	Atomic Energy		1,00,000
<i>Department of Electronics</i>			
85.	Department of Electronics	1,00,000	
<i>Union Territories without Legislature</i>			
93.	Delhi	2,00,000	
Total		268,05,00,000	30,92,00,000

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has talked cut motions in the Demands for grants. He may move his cut motions.

He is absent.

Next is Dr Ramesh Chandra Thomar.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR

(Hapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on supplementary Demands for Grants. I rise here to oppose these demands. Though I have not given any no cut-motion on these demands yet I rise here to oppose it.

First of all, I want to draw your attention on the agriculture. Agriculture has an important place in our country. It is not only connected to the people of this country but also

to the people of the whole world. 80% of our population lives in villages, which is directly linked to agriculture alone and earn their livelihood through hard work. But I am sorry to state that every Government gave a long assurance for the development of farmers but not Government has ever tried to realise even their problems.

Mr. Speaker Sir, farmers are backbone of our economy. The development of country is not possible without the development of agriculture. We should pay attention to the development of farmers and to the problems related to agriculture, because the Government has not thought about, the basic problems of the farmers. The Government has not been able to develop such measures as may prevent excessive rains, drought, hailstorms etc. as it has developed anti-biotics, vaccine and injection for many diseases. No attention has been paid to solve these problems permanently. I urge upon the Government to take firm action to give relief to the farmers so that may be able to get rid of these diseases permanently. The Government should also take some measures to remove the problems which are being faced by the farmers in production of sugarcane, onion, potato, rice etc. I would like to demand from the Government that all these crops should be insured and in case of damage to these crops, the farmers should be compensated through insurance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, in this country agriculture mainly depends on the availability of fertilisers, electricity and water. The farmer should get the prices of their products according to their cost. As the Government fixed the prices of wheat, sugarcane, rice every year and these things are bought on the same price. Similarly the Government should fix the prices of each crop the farmer and should arrange to sell it on the fixed price.

A discussion is going on for a long time that the agriculture should be given the status of industry. But no action has yet been taken in this direction. I demand from the Govern-

ment that the agriculture should immediately be given the status of industry.

Sir, now I want to express my views on the demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Terrorism is spreading all over the country. The Government should make all possible efforts to bring this problem under control. In this respect the demands for grants are not sufficient. Earlier this problem is limited to Assam, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir only but no Uttar Pradesh is also affected by the terrorism and this problem is continuously increasing in Uttar Pradesh. The Terai region of Uttar Pradesh has now come in the grip of this problem. To curb the menace of terrorism the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh had made a demand to provide forty C.R.P.F. battalions but the Central Government did not fulfil this demand. Demand for providing modern weapons to eliminate terrorism was made but the Central Government did not pay any attention to this aspect. Keeping in view the problem of terrorism which is increasingly growing in Uttar Pradesh and the massacre of human lives by terrorists which has become a daily feature, I urge the Government to provide forty C.R.P.F. battalions and modern weapons to contain this menace of terrorism prevailing in Uttar Pradesh. Sir, as far as Chemicals and fertilizers are concerned, I would like to point out that the outcome of the ceiling on subsidy imposed by the Government has brought twenty two factories on the verge of closure. Sixteen factories have already closed down and six are on the brink of closure. We would not be able to cope up with the demand of fertilizers in future. We may benefit to the tune of Rs. twelve and a half crore but on the account of the closure of these units fertilizers worth Rs. one hundred and eight crore would have to be imported and twenty two thousand people will be rendered unemployed. These fertilizer units which are situated in Uttar Pradesh have been adversely affected due to the ceiling on subsidy imposed by the Government because they are facing transportation problem and have to incur more expenditure. As such, I urge the Government to withdraw the ceiling on subsidy.

[Sh. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

Funds have been demanded by the Telecommunication Department also. Sir, in this context, I would like to point out that funds are demanded to provide better services, but the Telecommunication Department is proposing to curtail some of the amenities. As such I do not support these demands.

Sir, my Constituency Ghaziabad is an integral part of the capital. Recently a notice by the Delhi Mahanagar Telephones Corporation Ltd. To delink Ghaziabad from Delhi Mahanagar Corporation was published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated 21.11.91. At present Delhi-Ghaziabad connection comes under the category of local telephone, but the proposal to delink it and make it an S.T.D. connection is very unfair. This should not be done and I oppose this move. In the industrial field Ghaziabad is progressing by leaps and bounds. In Ghaziabad 25,000 thousand telephone subscribers have direct and regular trade links with the people of Delhi. If this is done these people will face a lot of inconvenience. Therefore, I urge the Government not to delink Ghaziabad from Mahanagar Telephone Corporation, instead the telephone service should be improved.

Once again, I urge the Government to make arrangements to provide fertilizers at cheaper rates and ensure regular supply so that the rate of agricultural production does not decrease. The crops of the farmers should be insured and agricultural sector should be at par with industries. Twenty two units of Uttar Pradesh which produce Super Phosphate should be saved from closure. To curb the problem of terrorism the Central Government should extend maximum assistance to Uttar Pradesh and it should also provide maximum funds to the earthquake victims.

I hereby reiterate my demands and conclude.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deog-

arh): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for expenditure of the Union Government brought forward by the hon. Finance Minister.

This is the first Supplementary Demands for Grants of this Government. When an occasion arises about the Government's expenditure on certain unforeseen items which could not be contemplated at the time of formation of the Budget, presentation of the Budget, for such items, for such expenditure, the Government have to come before the House for Supplementary Demands for Grants and consequently also for the necessary Appropriation Bill.

All the items that are provided here for expenditure, many of them are really unforeseen, could not be foreseen at that time. And therefore, there cannot be any objection to Supplementary Demands for Grants being brought forward. But, there are, at the same time, some other items which could have been taken care of in the original Budget itself. Of course, there are other considerations like the quantum, etc. Which could not be ascertained.

I will give you one instance of the public sector units. The Government have been thinking right from the beginning to bring possible the sick units back to the rail, to restore them to their proper health; in spite of that, where it is not possible some unpleasant decisions will have to be taken; that means additional expenditure even for bringing them back to the rail, to their proper health; for everything funds are necessary but probably could not be determined, anticipated in proper perspective the expenditure for it. Therefore, I do support, by and large, all the items that have come in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Again, we have to look at the general economic situation of our country obtaining now in the background of what it was at the time of the presentation of the Budget, a few months earlier, that is the July, and that too also at the time of formation of this Govern-

ment that became to office. In June, what was the economic situation? Without any exaggeration, I would say that it was really grim at that point of them. Even our hon. Finance Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh, while making a statement here, was referring to it; we were in a humiliating condition; we were not in a position to comply with our obligations, minimum obligations to pay interest on foreign debt and all other things; what would have been the situation; we would have been black-listed; we would have any place in the comity of nations. Therefore, the Government have taken a number of steps, appreciable steps, welcome measures. And when the situation naturally was grim, some of the decision had to be unpleasant ones; everything cannot be palatable; everything cannot be very pleasant.

The situation was very difficult and we had to take a hard decision to pledge our gold. We are very fond of our gold, we attach some sanctity, prestige and national honour to gold. I would congratulate the Union Government for the efficient management of the economy and during these few months we have been able to improve, remarkably our economy.

Our foreign exchange reserve position has improved. From a very very low figure of Rs. 2677 crores on 1st June, it has now increased, as on the 3rd December, to Rs. 7242 crores. Again, we have been assured that it will cross the Rs. 10,000 crores mark by the end of this month, that is, in only two weeks from now. It is really a creditable achievement for the Government of India. The attempts made and the measures taken by them have paid dividends. It is heartening to know that the gold has been redeemed in entirety.

As regards the direct taxes there has been improvement in the first half-year ending September. There has been an increase of more than 45 per cent in the collection of direct taxes. In the field of indirect taxes the increase has been by 8.22 per cent.

While there has been improvement in

the collections of direct and indirect taxes, the collection of customs duties has been fore from satisfactory. There has been a difficulty, or a rider, about the customs duty, because of the import restrictions. If the collection of customs duty also increases appreciably, that would have a positive effect on the total situation in regard to the fiscal deficit.

The Government have come cut openly and imposed a 5 per cent cut in Government expenditure. It is a welcome step. I would say that, if that is possible, without adversely affecting the developmental activities, this cut may be increased further. All wasteful and avoidable expenditure should be cut. Under this head the Government proposes to save about Rs. 1,000 crores, which, if it materialised and even if the customs collections continue to be unsatisfactory, may enable the Government to manage the fiscal deficit on expected lines.

These are the good things done by the Government, for which the Government should be congratulated. But I am pained to observe that although a lot of measures had been taken in the price front, that had not borne fruit, that had not produced the desired result. In spite of successive three years' good harvest, inflation could not be controlled, and in this area, stringent action is needed and is called for. An assurance was given by the Government by the hon. Finance Minister, to this august House that by the end of this financial year, the inflation rate will of course be limited to one digit figure, that means nine per cent maximum. I have some reservations about achieving this target keeping in view and the prices are behaving, the prices are rising.

After the harvest in the first phase of the winter season, prices generally income down to some extent. Thought in this year the inflation rate went up to 16 per cent at a point of time, it come down to 13 per cent and again it has slightly gone up and touched the figure of 14 per cent.

We had announced new Industrial Pol-

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

icy and Economic Policy. Judging the situation all around, not only in India but outside India, these changes are the need of the hour and they are welcome. We had liberalised our policies. The trade and commerce and the merchants are very happy about it. But they simply becoming happy will not do. They will have to be disciplined. We had come across news items about our hon. Finance Minister's going to different cities, trade centres, talking to the traders, wholesale merchants, to thing down the prices of the oilseeds, oil and something like that. But it is high time for taking action, I would say. How long can we go on? We need not placate anybody, be it merchants, trade and commerce or anybody. In spite of many steps having been taken, prices do not register appreciable fall. Many good things had been done. As I told, our prestige, which was sat stake because of depletion of foreign exchange reserves, has been restored. Therefore, the IMF and the World Bank have come forward to help us by advancing loans to us. At the same time, every common man in this country, the middle class men in this country, are very much concerned and are very much upset with the increasing price trend.

Not only the Government of India but the State Governments should also take initiative in this regard. Today the political situation is such that different States are being governed, being administered, by the State Governments belonging to different political parties. The public distribution system is in the hands of the State. This has to be ruthlessly streamlined. No loophole should be there.

As far as Orissa is concerned, I would say that it has been politicised. The ruling party MLAs appoint Whomever they want as wholesalers, retailers, etc. merrily and whatever they want, that is being materialised. So there should not be political considerations. PDS should be streamlined.

In this Demand Rs. 250 crores have

been allocated for fertiliser subsidy. This was debated earlier in this House and then Government announced full concession to the poor and marginal farmers. Now in the field, what is happening? Now like sugar dual pricing policy has been introduced. But again the implementation machinery lies in the hands of State Governments. Although in accounts this money will go to somebody else, the benefits do not go to the poor and marginal farmers. Due thought should be given to this aspect so that the farmers really get the benefit of this scheme.

We have got some indigenous fertiliser plants. We have to lay emphasis on indigenous production of fertiliser. I do not understand the logic behind the attempt to close down some public sector fertiliser plants—Ramagundam in Andhra Pradesh and Talchar in Orissa. They are coal-based plants. They are sick. Talwar Committee and other Committees have suggested some reformatory measures to be undertaken. But that was never done. Now the capital investment is there. If the technology is changed and they are converted into gas-based plants they will behave well. We have the experience of Neyveli Lignite. Since it did not behave well, they changed it into gas-based fertilizer Plant.

So far as Talchar Plant is concerned, it is linked with the heavy water plant. So raw material goes from this fertilizer plant to the Heavy Water Plant. You know heavy water is needed for our defence preparedness and it is a very rare commodity.

15.00 hrs.

Therefore, I would request the Government of India to take all these things into consideration and as a special case consider this and see that these two fertiliser plants, that is, Ramagundam and Talchar are revitalised and restructured. They are not closed down on any account.

About the public Sector Undertakings, I am ashamed, I am constrained to observe that some people take it as a pride to close

down the public sector units. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's memory is associated with this, who was the founding father of Indian democracy. The concept of mixed economy was his brain child. We have to put in all efforts to see that the public sector units are not closed down. Earlier there was no seriousness with regard to work in public sector undertakings. For saying 'Sarkar Ka Mal - Dariya Mein Dal' was very much practised in public sectors. Because of mismanagement and deficiency in the Management, there are several public sector undertakings which are suffering and which have developed sickness. The monograph that has been brought out on the performance states, I think in respect of every public sector undertaking is not correct. The bureaucrats, who are responsible in respect of certain public sector undertakings, have prepared the status paper without taking into consideration the technical advice, the experts' advice. I think we should not place one hundred per cent reliance on that status paper. Every unit should be discussed with the trade union, with the experts, with the representatives of that area before taking a final decision. I know it is a horrifying figure when we come to know about the accumulated losses of the public sector undertakings which is about Rs. 12,000 crores. Our economy cannot bear this loss.

Again, out of this, about 83 or so are the sick private sector units which the Government have taken over. They had taken over to safeguard the interests of labour. It happened ten years or five years before. Now, the situation has been reversed. About three lakh employees will be thrown out of employment. We are, of course, going to see that their interests are protected.

15.03 hrs

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA *in the chair*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri panigrahi, please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There-

fore, I would request the Government and the Finance Ministry to have an objective assessment of the performance of the public sector undertakings, about their health, about their prospects etc.

With these words, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants and also request the Government to take further effective steps to bring down the prices.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muz-zafarpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is obvious that I am going to oppose it. There are a few reasons being it. If we go through the demands put forth by the Government it may be observed that there is a demand concerning the increase in subsidy in the price of fertilizer and most of them pertain to the payment of arrears to the staff as per the ruling given by some courts. The Finance Minister is present here in this connection. Perhaps he has come with these demands or some more demands for funds in view of retrenchment of staff under the pretext of voluntary retirement. All the three aspects are inter related. Whether it is the question of fertilizers, payment to staff on the basis of the judgements delivered by courts or the demand of fund for the retrenchment of staff under the garb of voluntary retirement. All these policies formulated by this Government cannot be supported by us.

At the outset, we would like to take the issue of fertilizer. Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the middle of last month while I was in my constituency I came across a person called Harnarayan Prasad living in Kurabani Thana. He is an MA, L.L.B. but since he is unemployed he sells fertilizer in his small shop. I was in his shop for a short while. I asked him about the affect of the Government's announcement of rise in the price of fertilizer on the farmers. There are small farmers in my constituency and they cannot afford to purchase fertilizers in tonnes or truck loads. They go to the fertilizer shops and buy in quintals or kilos. Harnarayan Prasad pointed out that the subsidy given to the small farm-

[Sh. George Fernandes]

ers has not benefited them in real terms. On the other hand the prices of fertilizers has shot up by 30 per cent. The reasons behind it is that for getting this subsidy the farmers have to sign a number of documents and take clearance from several Government offices. For a small quantity of fertilizer the farmers are not prepared to go to Government offices a number of times for two or three days. The result of this policy was that instead of improving the condition of the farmers it has deteriorated their condition. He also pointed out that by the month of November 500 tonnes of fertilizer was expected to be sold from his shop but because of price hike there was 25 per cent cut in the sales and also because of drought the total sales was just 150 tonnes in a year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the policy formulated by the Government is faulty and will put the farmers in distress and will also adversely affect the production of fertilizers. This is very clear. This year in Bihar there will be a shortfall of 25 per cent in the production of foodgrains. I am only talking about kharif crops. Rabi crops have been sown and I don't think that the production of Rabi crops sown in Bihar will be affected. As far as kharif crop is concerned the Government has admitted that there may be a shortfall of 25 per cent. One reason behind it is that you brought in food policy under which prices were increased by the bureaucracy and this affected the small farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, I want to point out that we do not support the policy of the Government. This pertains to the issue of fertilizer and the question of supporting does not arise at all. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am now keeping the documents before you. Let us start with the first demand. Demand No. 5

[English]

Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals;

* A supplementary grant is sought for providing a loan of Rs. 88 lakhs to

Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. to enable them to pay arrears to their staff as per directions of the Supreme court."

[Translation]

This happens in every Ministry. I was in the Railway Ministry for a few days. The same process was followed there also. I tried to contain it and eliminated it at every place. Orders to withdraw the cases which had been filed in the courts were issued. But this Government is patronising some advocates. Please pardon me because many advocates are present in his House but the Government has patronised some advocates (Interruptions) I have experienced this in person but I shall not discuss it here right now because top advocates are present here. Let us have a look at the relationship between the advocates and the Government of or bureaucrats and the advocates in the light of the present day situation then we see that corruption has become an international menace and the Government have certified it. As against it the employees are pressurised everywhere. You snatch the job of a persons and he spends his life moving from one court to the other the finally to the Supreme Court. You are aware of the situation of I.D.P.L. Rs. 88 lakhs have been given to the staff.

[English]

As arrears as a result of the decision of the Supreme Court. I want to know about this before you seek the Vote on this Demand.

[Translation]

This case was in the court for years together. How many lakhs had the employees spent on this case. This Ministry gave away lakhs of rupees to it's employees and finally they lost in the Supreme Court. But before going to Supreme Court they had to go to several other courts and return empty handed and an effort was made to prevent them from going to lower courts. This malady does not exist only in Petroleum Minis-

try, I have observed it in Railway Ministry as well.

[English]

In the Ministry of Defence an additional requirement for Rs. one lakh - the demand is for Rs. one lakh - is made for meeting the expenditure on salaries of Defence Accounts Department in satisfaction of a Court's judgement.

[Translation]

I believe the Government has spent Rs. 5 lakhs so that the employees do not get one lakh rupees. Finally, there is wastage of the time of Government Officials, expenses on them and expenses on lawyers and courts, expenses on paper and documents and Rs. one lakh are paid by the Government at last.

[English]

In the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare the Supplementary Appropriation is required for making payment of Rs. one lakh to an employee of National Medical Library in satisfaction of a Court's order. In the Department of Art and Culture, the Supplementary Appropriation is sought to recoup an advance of Rs. 26,860 obtained from the Consolidated Fund of India for making payment for satisfaction of a Court decree.

In the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting the Supplementary Appropriation is required to meet the additional expenditure arising out of a Court decree.

[Translation]

The policy of present Government is to foster the lawyers and spend cores of rupees on them every year and strengthen such a relationship, and spoil the lives of the employees and their families. If the Government demands money for such deeds it should not be given to it. That is my clear opinion about it. There is no Ministry where provision has not been made for voluntary retirement.

[English]

A supplementary Grant of Rs. 5 crores in the Department of Chemicals and Fertilisers is also sought for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

[Translation]

How cleverly the Government is coming forward. The hon. Finance Minister has given a statement in the House this morning that there is no question of closure. It was said in Kuala Lumpur that we will close these because I.M.F. is there. In the jugglery of words it was said that services of nobody would be terminated. Finance Minister is coming forward with a demand of Rs. 5 crores to out the employees of the Department of Chemicals Under Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

[English]

Department of Fertilisers

A token supplementary is also sought for providing assistance to Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation (Rs. 1.5. crores) and Fertiliser Corporation of India (Rs. 4.30 crores) for implementing the Voluntary Retirement Scheme."

[Translation]

Here is another matter of Rs. 5 cores 80 lakh. They have demanded Rs. 10 cores for the Ministry of Mines, on account of Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

[English]

The Ministry of Mines

" An additional provision of Rs. 10.00 cores is required to meet payment on account of voluntary retirement scheme."

This is on page 11 of the Supplementary Grants.

[Sh. George Fernandes]

[*Translation*]

Is there any demand for which we can support the Government? Annexure-I of the document may be seen. On the one hand the Government seeks grants for some particular purpose at the time of presenting the budget but later on the funds are utilised somewhere else just by a mere trick. It is evident from Annexure - I.

[*English*]

Annexure - I

"Statement showing additional investments in and loans to Public Sector Undertakings and other institutions reported in pursuance of the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in their Seventh Report."

[*Translation*]

Public Accounts Committee has submitted a Report. If the money allotted for one work is utilised somewhere else and if it comes under such and such amount, the Government should place the statement before the Parliament. It has been done as an additional requirement.

[*English*]

Page 17 of the Supplementary Demands, Annexure - I;

"Item (7) Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Ltd- Short term loan to meet working capital requirements and implementation of voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Item (8) National Industrial Development Corporation Ltd-Additional Investment/loans : Rs. 10 lakhs -short-term loans for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Ministry of Steel:
(1) Bird Group of Companies - Rs. 50

lakhs-Short term loan for implementation of Voluntary Retirement Scheme."

[*Translation*]

It is very clear. The Government has presented it in the form of Supplementary Demands. Rs. 250 crores have been shown for Fertiliser Corporation. But the intention of the Government is clear in two matters. One is about the attempts of spoiling the lives of the employees and secondly evolving a separate via-media for voluntary retirement scheme. The House would be informed that there is no such situation but practically the functioning would be in such a manner. We cannot support it in any case. I would like to mention a few words about Bihar and Muzaffarpur. In the current session and the previous session, not one but many members demand that the money to be given to Bihar as royalty for coal should be given to them in a proper way. This type of attitude adopted towards Bihar in the matters of financial assistance should not take place any further. Bihar is passing through a severe crisis. the policy adopted by the Government during the last forty years, and the manner in which allocation of funds in Five Years Plans was necessary has never been done. The people of Bihar are very much worried today. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to provide special assistance to Bihar. We wish the Finance Minister would make efforts to formulate a solid scheme for Bihar. All of us are aware of the demands put forth by the people of Bihar. Such a situation is being developed there which is of explosive and frightening nature. Therefore, I would draw the attention of the Government to take steps to remove the crisis through which Bihar is passing these days.

Alongwith that I would draw the attention of the Government to the problem of Kala-azar. Hon. Health Minister is not present here. he went to Bihar twice before the current session started to show the people there that nothing has been done by the State Government to prevent Kala-azar. He also managed to show that the Central Government is ready to do something but no

action has been taken. Announcements are made. It is all for making political capital but practically allocation of funds for solving the problem of Kala-azar not materialise. I wish the Finance Minister to consider this point with his colleague.

Finally, I would conclude my speech with a demand concerning my area with regard to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A television Centre (Doordarshan Kendra) has been constructed in Muzaffarpur. It was completed one and a half year ago. It should be inaugurated. I do not know what is the reason behind the refusal to do so by the Government at New Delhi. I have been writing letters to the hon. Minister of the last five months and I have asked question in this regard in the house also. But there is no reply from the hon. Minister and the Kendra is not functioning. The people there are not only unhappy but are angry too and do not know as to when the Kendra would start functioning. I would like to know from the Government as to what problem is there in inaugurating the Television Centre (Doordarshan Kendra) at Muzaffarpur, after all it is the task of the government of India

With these words, I vehemently oppose these supplementary demands.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Madam Chairman, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands and at the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for having pulled this country out of the deep morass in which it has fallen due to 14 months of mismanagement. It reminds me one thing which I told the electorate during elections. At that time I told one thing rather simplistically that if the people of India do not bring the Congress Party in power, India is going to be bankrupt and they will have to pay Rs. 100/- for one kilogram of sugar for which they are paying Rs. 10/- now. That is what has happened and it is clearly evident from the economic situation which is prevailing today. We inherited a foreign

exchange reserve of Rs. 2,600 crores and today it has crossed Rs. 8,000 crores.

The other thing is, the previous Government had to keep the gold in foreign bank. We had released that and redeemed the national honour. If we see all these things, it is very clear that this Government is going firmly and surely towards economic stability of this country and definitely we have a better future in front of us. However, there are major problems still persisting. The July Budget was the first Budget probably after many years which made a significant attempt to reduce the fiscal deficit from 8.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent. It was the first attempt; hitherto. I do not think any Government in the last two years have been serious on this at all and this, itself, is a major departure in fiscal policy. However, I know the conditions prevailing in the country may not permit us to bring down the fiscal deficit to 6.5 per cent. But we will land somewhere at 7.2 or 7.4 per cent of the G.D.P. If we want to reduce the fiscal deficit, then the first step the Government will have to take is keeping a check on inflation, reducing inflation. This problem is persisting throughout the country but the most affected are staying in rural areas away from rail-head, where the infrastructure facilities are not existing, are worst hit. For example, we have got *Dara*, edible oil which is mainly for the urban sector whereas in the rural side, we do not see the sign of it. We will have to do something about it because the cost of inflation has not to be borne by the poorest of the poor but it has to be distributed and the poorest of the poor have to be protected and the Government will have to take firm steps and measures to ensure this. Otherwise, the life of the people who are staying in rural areas is getting difficult day by day.

Another thing which I would like to focus the Government's attention is basically the agricultural sector. Here, the additional grant demanded is just Rs. 0.02 crores for this year, which I feel is grossly insufficient and it also shows the neglect of the agricultural sector and the neglect of the rural sector which is evident today. I would like to focus

[Sh. Sudhir Sawant]

Government's attention on a point which I have been raising since the last Session. That is the debt relief scheme of 1990.

I would not go into the merits to the debt relief scheme because it destroyed the banking structure. But the scheme was implemented. If the scheme is implemented, then it has to be equitably implemented. I feel, the debt relief a scheme of 1990 violates article 14 of the Constitution because it is grossly unequal and the benefits have gone to only those farmers who are living in progressive agricultural sector and the farmers in backward areas, in hilly areas have suffered because of this particular scheme.

I would illustrate how it has happened. In the debt relief scheme, there is one condition. The eligibility of the farmers will be determined by the *Annewari* system. What is this *Annewari* system? Does it relate to land holdings of the farmer? It does not. *Annewari* system is a system adopted by some State, not all States, to determine the crop product of that particular year. If the crop produce falls below 50 per cent of the *annawari* determined, then the farmer is eligible for debt relief.

I would like to compare two kinds of farmers. One is the farmers in progressive area growing sugarcane; another is the farmers in rural backward areas, hilly areas growing paddy. First of all, they can raise only one crop because it is rain-fed agriculture whereas in the irrigated land, if the sugarcane falls below 50 per cent, he is eligible for debt relief. The farmer who grows paddy is not eligible for debt relief if his crop crosses 50 per cent of the production. The income of a farmer growing sugarcane, even if it falls below 50 per cent, will be definitely higher than that of a farmer who grows paddy whose crop may be 100 per cent. That is why, this particular *annewari* system is inequitable, because it does not relate to the land holdings. For example, a farmer who is holding 10 acres of land and another farmer holding one acre of land, both are put in the

same scale. So, you have equated the unequals. That is why, I insist that it violates article 14 of the Constitution. I do not think it will stand the test of law.

The second factor is regional imbalance. *Annewari* system itself is not prevailing in all the States. Where the *annewari* system is not prevalent, you are determining the crop pattern by the discretion of the officials and the bureaucrats. What mistake has the farmer committed who is living in a State where there is *Annewari* system? We have to go into this and I would request the Government to take note of this and eliminate this condition required for determine non-wilful defaulters.

Next I would like to come to marketing facilities. In the rural and backward areas and in hilly areas, there is absolutely no marketing facility. The marginal and the small farmer has to depend on the middlemen and, in doing so, the entire produce and labour goes into the pockets of the middlemen and hence we have to allocate certain resources for developing marketing facilities at each tehsil level and then only can we do some justice to the farmers.

The other point is of the crop insurance. The existing scheme of crop insurance is totally inadequate. It does not cater for those conditions where the crop is damaged which is beyond the reach of the farmer. It is not the fault of the farmer. When we can have insurance for each and every aspect of life, why cannot have we a comprehensive crop insurance scheme for the farmers? Then you have a method of determining, a district as a unit. You have to take village as a limit. For example, this year itself, there was rain at the tehsil headquarters. There was no rain in ten villages. But there was no drought declared. It is because they determine the rainfall from the tehsil headquarters. If the rainfall is not there in villages, nobody is bothered. Hence, you will have to go back to the village as a unit, and take every particular aspect of damage to the crop into its cover. For this purpose, we will have to decentralise insurance policy schemes through coopera-

tives. The second point is we must attempt to try for re-insurance if required in foreign market through the GIC. We must develop a comprehensive crop insurance scheme.

Coming to the fertiliser subsidy, much has been said about small and marginal farmers and about big farmers. I do not know who are big farmers because I have never seen any. Specially, if you go to Maharashtra, it is difficult to find a person who is holding more than ten acres of land. What are you equating? You can say that a farmer is small or big. This is a wrong concept. Why don't you lay this emphasis on the industrialists or the capitalists? We do not know who is a small and who is a big capitalist. But we call farmers as small and big. This dual policy of giving subsidy has proved to be a total failure because the small and marginal farmer has to run to Patwari and to the tahsildar for every small thing and we have sent these small farmers into the clutches of the bureaucracy and we have to do something about it and remove the farmer from the clutches of the bureaucracy where he is involved.

As regards coastal areas, in India all the planning has been done with normally the plains and plateau in view because the political power accrues from there. The coastal areas have been totally neglected. In the coastal areas, the conditions are basically different from the other areas. For example, the Konkan belt of Maharashtra. It has got 50% of rainfall of Maharashtra, but there is drinking water problem. There is soil problem. The soil is different. You cannot build a small dam there. You have to develop new technology to build these dams. For over 40 years, you have not done this. That is why, I would request the Government to create a separate Department, probably in the Agriculture Ministry, to look after the demands of the coastal areas.

I will now come to Defence expenditure. I am deeply concerned with this subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Defence expenditure has been treated as a holy cow. In the last Session also, I said the same thing. We have not addressed ourselves to the realities. We do not look at the realities. Let me state one thing here that a higher Defence Budget does mean security. What is of essence is that we require a small force but with a strike capability to ensure our security. We do not need a large force to ensure our security. Today, there is tremendous wastage in Defence. I would like to say that there are 50,000 orderlies in the Army today. Of the 10 lakhs Armed Forces, 50,000 are working as orderlies. If you go to the quarters of senior officers in Delhi, you will see that they are working there. They are supposed to be soldiers. They are supposed to be fighting on the borders of this country. But they are here. They lose all their soldierly qualities if they are to do such type of jobs which are never authorised. They are never authorised in the Government's Budget or any where. Therefore, 50,000 soldiers are working as orderlies or waiters in the Army Messes and other places. This is just an example.

Madam, in the Army Mess of a battalion, only two officers dine or one officer dines. But the staff there will be at least 15-25. So, 25 people will be there at the Mess because it is a tradition. What has happened is that we have inherited the British structure of our Armed Forces since Independence. We have not attempted to look at it in an overall perspective; we have not attempted to re-structure and re-orient the whole thing.

Secondly, the senior officers like the Chiefs are there and they are having grip on the bureaucracy. If you want to do any type of reform in the Defence structure, you are totally prevented because there is a vested interest sitting in the bureaucracy which do not permit you to do any reform.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Sudhir Sawant, since your time is up, I must really ask you to curtail these details.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: I will just cover up this part of Defence.

SHIR SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He will criticise and support also.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: What is to be criticised has to be criticised. (*Interruptions*)

Coming to Defence, it is a serious subject. We talk about the Armed Forces of 10 lakhs. At the same time, you have raised the National Rashtriya Rifles. I do not know for what you have created that. You could have increased a battalion of Infantry instead of raising a separate force. Separate force entails a separate headquarters, separate staff, a separate administration etc. So, likewise you are going in for spending more money instead of creating an elite and small force.

Take the National Security Guard. You started this force for some particular purpose, to operate against the terrorists. Now, this force has increased manyfold. With that, the efficiency of that force has come down. Hence, creating new forces is not an answer to our problems. The answer is efficiency, security and having a good intelligence unit. If you want to tackle terrorist operation as well as ensure national security, you should have such things.

Coming to Public Sector, I would like to state only one thing. There is a lot of debate about the Public Sector, the Private Sector and privatisation. About one thing, I am very confident. If you take the record of CCI, till 1988 it was going in loss. When you changed the management is started showing profit. So, the point to be borne in mind is if you give autonomy to the Public Sector Undertakings, if you remove them from the shackles of the bureaucracy, the Public Sector will perform well. If you have proper control, proper administration and management, they will perform. But if you do not want them to perform, how can they perform? They cannot perform anything. Privatisation is not the answer at all. I will give you just one example of Western Maharashtra. About 20 years ago, Western Maharashtra was a backward area. No private industry went there. There was no public sector undertaking which went

there. But that area prospered. Why? It was because of only one reason: Cooperative movement. We must look at an alternative. We must look at the alternative to improve. People came forward, they worked together and developed that area through the cooperative movement. So, I feel that the answer to rural India, the answer to the economic progress of this country, is cooperative movement on which we are not laying much emphasis. Therefore, I would request that Government and all of us must lay much emphasis on that. We are talking about the overall conditions that are prevailing in the country. Our Government is taking firm steps to see that the country attains economic stability. I repose my confidence in this Government. While curtailing my speech, I once again support the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

[*Translation*]

DR. GUNVANT RAMBHAU SARODE (Jalgaon): I would like to express my views about the supplementary demands in the House. Everybody knows that India is predominantly an agricultural country and 80% of its population depends on agriculture. In spite of it the agriculture policy of the Government of India is urban oriented. It should be inclined towards villages and agriculturists. What is the indication of its improvement. Only then we will consider it a right policy when no youth or labourer will have to go to cities to find means of earning or to sustain his life.

This morning there was a hue and cry in the House about the water dispute. Irrigation facility is very important for agriculture. Big schemes have not been completed till now. Crores of rupees have been invested on irrigation projects, but these are not completed till now. If we construct small bunds the irrigation facilities would be available to everybody. The policy should be such that maximum water is made available, for which new techniques like Sprinkle or Drip irrigation should be evolved. Now-a-days we are able to irrigate upto 35% and if we are able to make arrangements of sprinkle and drip

irrigation there is possibility of 60-70 per cent irrigation. We can export our agricultural produce also in large quantity. In this case also no policy has been framed till now. Sugar-cane is one of the examples. We can export the surplus quantity of sugar after domestic consumption. This item is produced by the Farmers. Inflation and prices have shot up so much that the farmers do not get remunerative price for their produce. Even though the price of sugar has shot up yet the farmers are not getting remunerative price for sugarcane. Even if the price of sugarcane is raised marginally, the farmer would produce more and export more.

There is glut of onions in Maharashtra but its price has slumped. The farmer is consequently suffering huge losses. The need of the hour is to ensure maximum export from our country.

Banana which is produced in abundance in Maharashtra could also be exported and we could get a lot of foreign exchange, but there is no arrangement for exporting it. Similarly, mangoes can also be exported. Besides, there are many other items which can be exported and through which we can earn lot of foreign exchange. We are not getting foreign exchange because we have a lot of shortcomings in our agricultural policy.

The farmers are not getting remunerative prices for cotton produced in Maharashtra. The price of cotton in Maharashtra ranges from Rs. 600 to Rs. 800 whereas in Madhya Pradesh it ranges between Rs. 1200 to Rs. 1300. The farmers are suffering because of agricultural policy. We can earn lot of foreign exchange through agriculture. We can export lot of fish as we have a long coast line on both sides of our country. But no attention has ever been paid in this direction. There are other products also like poultry. We can get lot of foreign exchange through its export.

Now, I would like to mention a point about fertilisers. It is not proper to withdraw subsidy on fertilisers. The price of fertilisers should

be uniform everywhere. Just now an hon. Member said that in Bihar there would be fall in foodgrain production by 25 per cent. I also think that in Maharashtra because of high price of fertilisers during the sowing season of kharif and rabi crops there would be fall in agricultural production by 25 per cent. We should formulate a policy for farmers, irrespective of whether he is a small, marginal or big farmer, wherein he could get agricultural inputs at a uniform price. I think there is no small or big farmer. In fact, this dual policy system has encouraged corruption. Therefore, I would like to submit that no policy should have two patterns but should be based on a uniform pattern. Instead of cutting the subsidy on fertilisers by 30 per cent instantly, had the Government cut it in phased manner by 10 per cent every year, the condition of farmers which is causing grave concern would not have been so bad and the agricultural production would not have received a setback.

I would like to submit one point about family planning. We have lot of resources in the country and we may progress to any extent, but we will never be self reliant unless we take effective steps to check growth of our population. Personally I think there should be some sort of a compulsion in family planning. Only then would we be able to check population explosion in the country. We can provide all the facilities to the population only if this is done. We should label every individual or organisation which opposes this more as anti social and anti-national because even after 42 years of Independence we have not been able to achieve prosperity and happiness. If the population continues to grow like this, we would not be able to achieve anything and that is a matter of grave concern.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Madam Chairperson, I oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants mainly due to the reason that the Government has come to this House after a few months to seek Grants for the payment of their own sin — one is to satisfy the judgment of the High Court or

[Sh. Hannan Mollah]

Supreme Court and the other is for the payment of VRS Scheme. As Shri Fernandes has explained it, I am not going into the details.

These two things decide the direction. Due to their policy, they are making the public sector units sick. After some time, they will lay it on the death-bed from the sick bed. And now they are coming to the House for some Grants for paying the coffin. Therefore, this policy - this direction - is against the working class and against the employees. So, I oppose the Grants which they are seeking now. They are now seeking additional Grants for 14 or 15 Ministries.

During the time of Budget, they have made certain assurances and without assessing those assurances and their result, nobody can support this Grants. The main problem before the people of the country is the acute situation of rise in prices. During the time of elections, they have promised that they would reduce the prices within hundred days. Later on, their spokesman explained to the Press that they could not understand the implications of it, at that time. That is the Congress party; they can never understand the implications. They take a decision. But to which disaster it would lead to, they cannot understand. When the disaster comes, they understand it and also confuse. This is the situation.

About the price situation, they said that they would expand the public distribution system. But what is the achievement? One meeting was held by the Prime Minister. The States, which are having the network of public distribution system and which are trying to supply the essential commodities to the people, are not assisted with regular supplies. And those States are regularly coming to the Central Government for ensuring regular supply of foodgrains. They are also demanding that more essential commodities be added to the public distribution system. But the speed with which the Government is moving does not satisfy the

people. The people are suffering because of its failure to strengthen the public distribution system.

They also promised that they would monitor the supply and check the hoarders. Actually, they allowed those persons, who are looting the people, to operate freely in the market. Now there is a serious problem about the supply of edible oil. There is panic in the country, especially in the capital. Now our Finance Minister with folded hands is requesting the businessmen. In Gujarat, we found in the Press, that he is appealing to them to curtail the price. In the meantime, the blackmarketeers and hoarders have started concealing their stocks. The people are in trouble. Actually, there is no political will. Now they are talking that within six months, they will try to reduce the prices. But by which magic, we do not know.

The prices are going up continuously since they came to power in this country. Every week, we have seen that the consumer price index is going up since they took over. There is not a single week since June when the price has been reduced. This is the situation on the price front. This is creating a problem. This is also escalating the cost of implementation of the projects. The common people are suffering. The Government is suffering. The public sector will suffer. The whole nation will suffer because of their wrong policies.

We have seen our BJP friends are also criticising. They supported the budget. They said, "It is our budget which they are implementing." So, they supported it. But within a few months, because of the growing unrest among the people, they are now opposing it. This is the situation they have created. The impact of their economic policies is also creating a serious damage for our country.

You know their policy of privatisation of public sector units. It has posed a serious threat to the jobs of lakhs of employees. We have come across a status paper prepared by the Government in which they have said that 58 public sector units are in a serious

situation. Because of their policy, they are on sick bed. They are now trying to send them to the death bed. Out of them, 18 are in West Bengal. They are also located in many other States.

16.00 hrs.

We know that most of the big units in West Bengal survive due to the orders from the Railways but for the last several years, the Railways fail to book their orders to those big units. Thus, due to lack of orders, they are suffering. We are seeing how big public sector units like BHEL are suffering due to shortage of order. So, this is another problem which the policy of the Government has created.

Next comes the question of unemployment. They are saying that because of their policy, employment will go up. If the factories continue to shut their doors, then it will create more unemployment. The people who had some sort of employment in such factories will now become unemployed due to closure of factories. Thus unemployment will grow up. New unemployed people will be coming to the job market. This is a serious situation. Their policy will fail to create new job opportunities. At least public sector can create some jobs whereas private sector will totally fail in it. So, the policy of the Government will create further problem to the unemployed people of this country.

The policy of the Government is creating another problem for the State Governments. They are continuously attacking the resources of the State Governments. For the last forty years, they had been snatching the resources of the State Governments. At the same time, they are talking of mobilising the resources. When the State Government finds out some new source of income, and the Central Government finds that they are getting some income suddenly, they snatch the State's resources one after another. The State Governments suffering because of lack of resources. Without resources, their plans will not get completed. Thus, they will not be able to develop their States. The

Government is having an anti-State Government attitude continuously.

One of the resources of the State Government was from the small savings. 75 per cent of the small savings goes to the State Governments as long. As the Central Government or the Planning Commission is not sanctioning more funds to the State Governments, the State Governments try to find out their own resources. But earlier the small savings interest rate was higher than other bank rates and mutual funds. The State Governments try their best to mobilise their resources or mop up funds from their own State and face their financial problems. Madam, you will be surprised to know that West Bengal Government finds years back earned only Rs. 300 crores through small savings. Due to resource crunch, they went to the people to mobilise them and inspite them to deposit their savings in the small savings institutions and it rose to more than Rs. 1000 crores, that is, more than three folds. Now the Government has suddenly increased the interest rate of Banks and other market funds by 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent our the interest rate of small savings due to which serious problem has arisen. Because of their wrong economic policy, they are creating problems for themselves and others also.

Major funds have been sought for the Department of Fertilisers. This Ministry has promised that the marginal and small farmers will get cheaper fertilisers. But still 50 per cent of the States in the country are not implementing the decision. What is their role? Why did the Government promise the poor and middle level peasants that they would get cheaper fertilizers? I wonder how many people had been able to get fertilizers at cheaper rates as promised by you. We have already heard that it is going to affect the agricultural production this year. All this is due to the wrong policies of the Government, due to their failure to implement what they promised. They declared that they would introduce dual prices and they would ensure supplies. We do not know how far it has been implemented. Because of the pricing policy,

[Sh. Hannan Mollah]

you will be surprised to know that the single super-phosphate units are adversely affected. There are 85 units in the country. The Government has imposed a ceiling on the price and subsidy and because of that these super-phosphate units are facing a serious crisis. Already 15 units have been closed. One such unit is in Bankura in West Bengal. About 40,000 workers are employed in these units. In Uttar Pradesh also, more than 10 units have been closed. In many other States, more and more units will be closed if the Government does not change the policy immediately.

Madam, you know the situation in the Haldia Fertilizer Corporation. Rs. 470 crore have already been spent and 2,500 people are employed in this unit. But this premier institution which has got an installed capacity of 3.5 TPA is in a sorry state. After 12 years of its completion, it is still not commissioned and it is not working. Now the Government is planning to wind it up. They say that there is no hope for this unit. This is the attitude of the Government towards the public sector. They first make the unit sick and later they kill it. There are so many other units such as this one.

The Government has asked for grants for other Ministries as well, for example, the Ministry of Agriculture. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture. They are seeking funds for the construction of some training centres. There is a veterinary research centre at Calcutta for the Eastern Zone. We came to know that the file in this connection is moving here in the Centre and that they are planning to shift the Research Centre from Calcutta to some other State, to Bhubaneswar or some other place. A large number of agricultural people in the Eastern Zone are benefiting from this research centre. But instead of strengthening the research centre there, they are planning to shift it from West Bengal to elsewhere. I demand that the Government should abandon their planning in this respect and

they should see to it that the research centre stays in Calcutta only.

Madam, these are the policies of the Government because of which we cannot support the demand for supplementary grants. Hence I oppose it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV (Khagaria):
Sir, I rise to oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants which the Government has brought forward. I oppose it primarily because nothing is done in the Budget for the poor and they are forgotten. The dual policy in respect of fertilisers is meant for the exploitation of the poor. The Government says that it has helped in generating employment. When the people approach to get a certificate, they are harassed and they have to run from pillar to post. They have to grease the palms of some officials. They have to grease the palms of some officials. This dual policy is not only breeding corruption but the country is also not going to benefit much. Ours is a country where 80 per cent of the people live in villages and they are not getting any type of facility. The price of fertilizer in my area is Rs. 250 per bag but even at that price it is not available. The farmers are getting ruined in khagaria. They had raised the crop after toiling hard but because of non availability of fertilisers the crop is getting destroyed. Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency which is adjacent to Nepal border has to face the fury of floods every year from rives originating in Nepal. The Government has done nothing to rehabilitate the people who had been affected by soil erosion due to floods in Ganga and Kosi rivers for the last thirty years. They are living a miserable life. Lakhs of people are homeless there. Necessary arrangements must be made for their rehabilitation. If land is acquired for constructing a national highway or railway line nobody approaches the high court or the supreme court, but if land is acquired for rehabilitation the landlords file a writ petition and get stay order. The people are living a life of animals there. They have to face immense hardships

for their families. The Government should formulate a policy so that they could get justice. I would like to submit that there should be a legislation that if land is acquired for rehabilitation, the landlord should have no right to approach a High Court or Supreme Court. Only then can we think of the welfare of poor. Every year the floods from rivers in Nepal ravage our area. Whenever there is foreign invasion be it on Bihar, Bengal or Kerala it is the responsibility of the Central Government to defend the borders. But no attention is being paid by Government when the flood waters of Nepal play havoc in Bihar. This is also a type of foreign invasion. Lakhs of acres of land is getting barren because of soil erosion by kosi river. Lakhs of people have got homeless and the soil erosion is at its peak. The rivers of Nepal are causing havoc. I therefore, demand, that effective measures must be taken to check soil erosion so that the people may be prosperous and happy. Soil erosion has ruined the people and they have been rendered homeless. Their land has become barren and they do not have enough to eat. How will the people survive if the situation continues like this. This problem has completely ruined the people.

The train running between Delhi and Howrah passes via Muzaffarpur, Gorakhpur and Barauni. But there is no train which passes via Barauni and khagaria to Calcutta. I therefore, demand through you from the Railway authorities to divert all trains going to Howrah via Barauni to via Katihar and khagaria. In the Bhagalpur sub-division of khagaria Parliamentary constituency Bananas are cultivated. The farmers do not have any facility to transport the Bananas to Calcutta.

We have milk in abundance in our area as people rear milch cattle. Lot of milk can be easily sent from this area to Calcutta which would benefit the consumers there.

I would like to demand from the Government to make arrangements for rehabilitation of people and the train to Howrah should pass via Barauni, Khagaria and Katihar.

Besides, efforts must be made to give relief to the people who have been badly affected by floods and soil erosion. The policy in respect of fertilisers should be made more lucid so that the problems of people at block level could be resolved.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also rise to oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants. I feel that this was not the time when such supplementary Demands for Grants should have been made. The financial crisis that the country is facing today is not hidden from anybody, not even from the Congressmen. They too must be hard pressed because of rising prices. If they are not affected directly at least *Bhabiji* (wife of hon. Minister) would bear me out that prices are shooting up everyday.

Congress had promised in its manifesto that they would roll back the prices within 100 days of its rule, but prices could not be rolled back. The people are disappointed. Even a person drawing Rs. 5000 as salary wishes that the guests who have come to stay for a few days should leave early, though he may insist them to stay some more just to show off. That is the situation today. The Government has not been able to contain prices. The State Governments have even been deprived of the benefits of Unit Trust of India units which they used spend on developmental purposes. The State Governments have been maimed financially. The Central Government has virtually snatched the financial resources of State Governments. I am saying this particularly in the context of Rajasthan. The State Government employees were expecting exemption in income tax ceiling but we don't know why it was not done? The Finance Minister did not raise the ceiling limit and as a result even a hawker has come within the Income tax ceiling limit. I think this is one of the reasons for rising prices.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when the discussion on subsidy on fertilisers was held, almost all the hon. Members requested the hon. Minister to raise the subsidy and he had assured

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

that some help would be provided, but the condition of farmers is slowly deteriorating and is going from bad to worse. No attention is being paid to agriculture and Rural Development. In these supplementary Demands a lions' share has been earmarked for those who would be retiring from service. Doesn't that mean that the Government would be making provision for forcibly retiring the persons from employment. When a provision has been made in the Budget for this, would the hon. Minister kindly tell us what is his opinion about the Public Sector?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today terrorism is on the increase in almost every part of the country. There is no check on it. Two three days back, when I had got an opportunity to speak on this, I had submitted that Senior Congress leaders in Rajasthan which included the former Chief Ministers also—had organised youngmen and some other people and they marched in procession with naked swords in their hands chanting that they would not allow BJP Government to continue in any State.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: The former Chief Minister of Rajasthan was carrying a naked sword in his hand...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI AYUB KNAN (Jhunjhunu): Are you talking of swords?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down, you have already spoken....

SHRI AYUB KHAN: There is famine like situation in Rajasthan. The BJP Government is not providing any relief. This Government cannot run there. It should be dismissed...(*Interruptions*)....

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): The sword of tongue should be used.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Madam Chairman, I had presented three photographs as an evidence on the Table of the House. I think that if the followers of

Gandhiji, who used to change the Government through ballot, try to change it through bullet, it would have far reaching consequences. Fortunately, you are in power and the Government has not changed but if you want to lose power, we are prepared to take up the reins. You should not ask for State through sword because you are in minority. Had you been in majority you could have dictated things. Your Government is on crutches. We are supporting it and therefore, I think that this House should condemn it outrightly. Not only this terrorism should be contained at every cost.

Madam, the Government could not contain inflation. It is graually taking over the various sources of income of the State Government. Later on, this will prove to be a handicap for the State Governments making them completely dependent on the centre. As I understand it, our country has a federal structure and the centre owes its existence to States and not vice versa. So I request for greater autonomy to States. The States should also be made more self-reliant. Further, I request the hon. Minister to make a statement on the exemption limit of Income tax. Rajasthan has 5% of the country's total population and gets 1% of the available drinking water. There is no rainfall in the area and there is no other arrangement for the supply of water. (*Interruptions*) I am saying something of interest to you. Famine has struck the area, wells have dried up and the water level has gone down. So I want to say that...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AYUB KHAN: Ask your Government to start relief works over there.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: That is what I am also demanding. You were angry when the matter of the sword was brought up. At least now your should support me. I am requesting the Central Government to provide some assistance to the State Government, so I would like you to join me.

The funds were not sanctioned and the wheat quota for Rajasthan has also been

reduced. Wheat is of vital importance. Rice is not available at all.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I ask you to address the Chair? Then there would be no interruptions:

[Translation]

SHRIGIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Sir, I am addressing you. I feel disturbed because they are continuously glaring at me. They should not keep looking at me. I am looking towards you while speaking. The rice and wheat quota for Rajasthan should not have been reduced. Instead the quota should have been raised. Even Palmolein is not available there. It is strange that a consumer in Delhi gets 1 Kg. of sugar whereas a consumer in Jaipur gets 425 grams of the same. Does the Government think that the people of Rajasthan are suffering from Diabetes? (Interruptions) Why this discrimination? So, I request that wheat, palmolein, sugar and kerosene oil quotas for Rajasthan be increased. Sir, Rajasthan has five gas agencies. In Jaipur one lakh people have registered for gas connections and recently the hon. Petroleum Minister announced that more registrations be accepted. So now the number of registrations has risen to two lakhs. I am only talking of registrations whereas 5500 gas connections are released in Jaipur every year. This means that a person who submits his application now, will get his connection after 40 years. This is the state of affairs. I think this calls for an increase in the quota for gas connections for Jaipur. M.P.s are often requested for gas connections and we have to give false recommendations at times.

The hydroelectric projects of Rajasthan get 1% of water from outside. Rajasthan has the world-famous Thar desert and it is the land of Maharana Pratap, Bhama Shah and Meera. Songs in their praise are sing everywhere.

[RAO RAM SINGH in the Chair]

16.29 hrs.

We have never lacked in courage, worship an charity, but why are we being discriminated. One of our M.P.s who has retired from the armed forces and was a valiant warrior always gives very forceful speeches in Parliament, Just like the force of the earthquake in U.P. Fortunately, there are several Union Ministers who belong to Rajasthan holding key portfolios. (Interruptions) Yes, you too, because you have a connection with Meera but when there are four Ministers from Rajasthan in the cabinet we expect them to do something for Rajasthan. Shri Shiv Charan Mathur, Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha and Shri Ram Niwas Mirdha are quite capable people. Previously Shri Buta Singh was also there and Shri Balram Jakhar is the Agriculture Minister. I think when the hon. Prime Minister expands the cabinet he should induct all Congress M.P.s from Rajasthan so that issues related to the State are given due importance.

Rajasthan has a glorious history in every respect. I am sure that you will pay due attention to development in Rajasthan.

Sir, like hydel projects there were many proposals for power projects in Rajasthan, but these proposals are pending at the centre on some pretext or the other. Does the Government want to make things difficult for Rajasthan. I request that proposals for power projects in Rajasthan be cleared without further delay. I fail to understand why there is delay in clearance.

Rajasthan, the State of voliant people on the country's border. It is adjacent to Delhi but it is discriminated against. I would like that there is no discrimination in future. (Interruptions) You do not favour us. If you wanted to favour us, you should have reduced Delhi's quota. You can sacrifice a part of your quota for our sake. While giving the reply the hon. Minister should clarify the steps being taken for improvement of railways in Rajasthan. Development of railways has begun in Rajasthan as broad-gauge lines are being constructed there. Earlier

[Sh. Girdhari Lal Bhargava]

Shri George Fernandes had given some funds for laying a broad-gauge line from Sawai Madhopur to Jaipur. We want Jaipur to be linked to Delhi and Ahmedabad. Jaipur was the only capital in the country which did not have a broad-gauge link. Besides, there is a shortage of water and electricity over there. The Centre is sitting over the proposals for hydel projects in the State. There is a famine in Rajasthan and the Government is taking control of the sources of revenue in Rajasthan. What does the Centre want? Does it want to tarnish the image of the B.J.P. Government in Rajasthan? The State Chief Minister, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat has proposals for a pensioner's scheme, development schemes, schemes for the poor, waiver of loans upto Rs. 10,000 and drinking water schemes. The State cabinet is working towards the all-round development of Rajasthan under the leadership of the Chief Minister Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. There are many Congress M.Ps from Rajasthan, but they are constrained to keep silent. But they have supported me off the record. On behalf of all the 25 M.Ps of Rajasthan I request that water, electricity and ration be supplied in adequate quantity to Rajasthan. The railways in the State should also be developed. I hope you will take this matter seriously.

This Government is failing on all fronts as inflation is growing and there is no income tax relief and anarchy is spreading everywhere. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA(Hazaribagh): Sir, while opposing the Supplementary Demands for Grants I would like to say that the Central Government has adopted an attitude of gross neglect towards Bihar. The facilities provided to Bihar are not enough. The Centre is neglecting the Santhal Parganas area of Chhota Nagpur where there are large deposits of coal and mica, forests, Bokaro and Hatia steel plants, and dams and thermal power stations of the Damodar Valley Corporation. I would like to

submit that in recent times factories have come up in Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana. Construction of dams has caused displacement of 14 percent of population of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana. Persons who were displaced, following setting up of new factories, construction dams and land acquisition by Damodar Valley Corporation, have neither been paid compensation nor provided alternative employment. Villages which were displaced totally, have not been rehabilitated. Whole of the Chhota Nagpur has been totally neglected so far as irrigation facilities are concerned. Arrangements for irrigation of just 3 per cent land have been made. Tribals inhabit the area in large numbers. Though the area is rich in minerals and forests, yet the people in large numbers have migrated to Bengal, Haryana, Delhi and Punjab in search of employment. The Centre and the State both get lakhs of rupees as revenue from Chhotanagpur and Santhal Pargana. People talk of welfare of tribals and the centre often expresses its concern for Harijans, but the tribals face a lot of hardship in getting anything done. Tribals are such a neglected lot that some of the tribes like Ho, Bihar and Pahadia have sharply decreased because of diseases. The Government has not paid any attention towards this aspect. That is why demand for Jharkhand is gaining momentum. People of the region think that without the creation of Jharkhand their problems will not be solved nor will they be able to get employment. Headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation are in Calcutta, but the area of its activities is Chhotanagpur. Most of the coal mines are in Chhotanagpur, but the headquarters are located in Calcutta. Almost all the production takes place in Chhotanagpur in Bihar, but the headquarters are located elsewhere outside the state. This is the saga of neglect of Bihar.

I would like to submit that construction of Radio Station in Hazaribagh is complete and is awaiting formal inauguration. Television transmission facility is also not available in Hazaribagh. North Karpura Super Thermal Power Station at Hazaribagh was to be taken up during the Seventh Five Year Plan,

but till date the Government has not taken it up. I am happy to note that technical clearance has now been given by the Government and it will be taken up during the Eighth Five Year Plan. Unfortunately, the Department of Environment of the Government of India is creating hindrances with the result that the North Karpura Super Thermal Power Plant is not coming up. The Government must grant permission for construction of Power Station at Tandwa in Hazaribagh and include it in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

The demand to link Hazaribagh by rail has all along been opposed by the Government on the pretext of lack of resources. When I was a student of fifth standard our first Prime Minister, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, paid a visit to Hazaribagh. On his visit, he made it clear that Hazaribagh will be linked by rail, because of its richness in mineral wealth. This was reiterated by both Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi. All the hon. Ministers of Railways, whether it was Shri Jagjivan Ram or Shri Kedar Pandey, promised to link Harazaibagh by rail. But, till date, it has not been done on the excuse that the Government is facing shortage of funds. This area is surrounded on three sides - West, East and South - by hundreds of small and big factories. In North, mica mines are located. Even then, loss is cited as an excuse. Tribal areas of the region are badly neglected. The Government should take up the work relating to linking of Hazaribagh by rail immediately.

Besides, health facilities are non-existent in the area. I drew the attention of the hon. Minister towards this issue during the Question Hour and Zero Hour. Most of the people living in hills are suffering from diseases and many have died even, because of sickness. Only a few are left now. Their population will further recede and in the times to come many a tribe will extinct. Therefore, health facilities may be provided in the tribal areas.

Congress in its election manifesto stated that within 100 days prices will be rolled back to the level which prevailed during the re-

gime of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. But, what is the state of prices at present? Prices have doubled or trebled. When the next budget comes prices will rise by four times. Promise of the Government to roll back prices is quite hollow and the prices have not come down. Common man is suffering in the process. Weaker sections, middle class and Government employees have largely suffered. Within 15-20 days, whole of their earnings get exhausted.

Law and order situation is also bad. Congress (I) promised to solve Punjab, Assam and Kashmir issues. Opposition parties again and again demanded convening of all party meetings for evolving solutions acceptable to all, but the Congress (I) has not bothered to call all party meetings for the same. There is no justification for the Government to come up with the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

The present Government is attacking the public sector on the plea that it is running in loss. Does the private sector never run in loss? About two lakh industrial units are closed, out of which one lakh and eighty two thousand are in private sector and only eighteen thousand are in public sector. Private sector enjoys complete freedom to close the industries but the public sector cannot do this. The present Government wants public sector to be incapacitated. Earlier too, while speaking on the industrial policy, I had suggested that the Government should tighten their hold over bureaucracy and check corruption in order to mitigate the losses suffered by the public sector. But this Government is not at all ready to do so. They plainly say that all those industries which suffer losses will either be closed or handed over to private sector. But this action of the Government would render lakhs of labourers working in public sector jobless. Rather the Government may have to step down on this count. This Government is following a policy which is anti-people and anti-labourers. Those who are in power do not want to safeguard the unity and integrity of the country. Therefore, I oppose the Supplementary Demand for grants.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to express my views against the Supplementary Grants. Annual Budget is going to be presented within the next two months; a Budget was passed two months ago; and presenting Supplementary Demands in between the period of presenting these two budgets shows nothing but sheer financial indiscipline and lack of control on the part of the Government. The Government made an announcement to withdraw the subsidy of Rs. 4000 crore on fertilizers; 30 per cent increase was effected in the prices fertilizers. The hon. Minister announced amidst applause that the subsidy was going to be released again particularly for the benefit of the marginal and small farmers. It will relieve about 75 per cent of the farmers from the extra burden they were likely to suffer. With these Supplementary Demands the hypocritic attitude and false assurances made by the Government to people have been exposed. Farmers were deprived of about Rs. 4000 crore and were given grants of Supplementary Demands for a sum of Rs. 250 crore only have been presented. It proves that only a small section of farmers in the country and not the common farmer has derived the benefits of the subsidy.

My submission is that there has been a gradual increase in the prices of food-grains only because such a trend has developed in the country. Kharif crops were damaged this year, monsoon was not good. The hon. Minister of Finance had assured that the prices of food grains will be automatically start coming down by the end of October. However, the reality is that there has been an increase of about .04 per cent in the prices of essential commodities in November itself contrary to what they hoped and expected. The only reason for it is that an impression of permanent scarcity of foodgrains has been created. All the time there is an impression that there is the scarcity of foodgrains. The only reason for this scarcity is that 30 per cent of the total investment in agriculture is made in the form

of fertilizers and there is exorbitant increase in the prices of fertilisers. On the other hand, the exemption is of the order of Rs. 250 crore only. As per the circular issued by the Government of India and circulated in particular areas, relief has been given only on urea and not on Di Phosphate and Super Phosphate. Not has it been provided to the retailers rather the benefit of the exemption is likely to accrue to those farmers only from whom poor farmers purchase fertilizers on credit. This will further push them under debt. Therefore, my submission to the Government is that if they had given an assurance to provide relief in the form of grants they must take measures to check the prices of fertilizers in general terms. Relief in this form will not be of any benefit to the common farmers.

Secondly, I would like to submit that the Government have sanctioned about Rs. 4.5 crore for Fertiliser Corporation of India and Rs. 1.50 crore for Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation under Voluntary Retirement Scheme. What is this? I consider it as Forced Retirement Scheme and not voluntary retirement scheme. The Gorakhpur Fertilizer Unit has been closed for the last one and a half year and about four thousand labourers are likely to be retrenched. That is a unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India. That is just one unit. The Government says that they propose to sanction Rs. 4.5 crore to Fertilisers Corporation of India to enable them to grant relief to employees under voluntary retirement scheme. I fear that the amount is being spent on the wages of over 50 lakh labourers of the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Unit who have been laid off for the last one and a half year. More than Rs. 50 lakh are being borne as expenditure on power supply and an equal amount to pay wages to the labourers without work. Not less than about Rs. 13 crore per annum are being spent unnecessarily on them by the Government but no proposal is there to reopen the unit. I would like to have an assurance from the hon. Minister that the demand for a sum of RS. 4.5 crore for the Fertilisers Corporation will be utilized to reopen the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Unit and not to retrench the labourers working in this unit.

Thirdly, they have demanded some units of the National Thermal Power Corporation to take into their hands. Recently, we read a news item in the newspapers that the Government's National Thermal Power Corporation propose to take the Unchahar Unit in Uttar Pradesh into its hands. The Uttar Pradesh State Electricity Board is running the loss of about Rs. 3500 crore and no Corporation in the State at present is in a condition to run any unit. The Central Government says that it is ready to pay all the dues to be paid by the State Government to take the Unchahar Thermal Power unit in its hands. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the Government should adopt similar liberal attitude with regard to Anapara Scheme and Ora Thermal Power Project and the Thermal Power Corporation should take all the three units of Uttar Pradesh into its hands and run them.

At the same time we have not yet received the draft of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Situation has been becoming grave due to the regional imbalances... All those areas, where Government have not invested much, have been becoming the centres of ULFA or terrorists as the frustration is increasing due to unemployment which responsible for giving rise to violence and similar tendencies. I would like to submit that besides voting the Supplementary Demands, the Government should pay attention to the problems of these areas. Because the Planning Commission which had been providing financial facilities and aid to the States under Gadgil formula, will not be in a position to implement the schemes and to fulfil the requirements of densely populated States. Therefore, so far as the implementation of Eighth Five Year Plan is concerned, the Government should think over making investment in backward areas. instead of making investment in the areas which have been the centres of political activities or in the places from where the representatives of legislative Assemblies or Parliament have been elected for the last 40-44 years.

I would also like to submit that at the time the hon. Minister of Finance announced

an increase in the prices of fertilizers, an assurance was given that this price-hike would be compensated by increasing the support price. However, I regret to say that this Government paid no attention to provide any relief to the surarcane growers in the form of support price. Hence, my submission is that the Government should take measures to increase the support price so that the financial condition of the farmers may improve. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI YAJMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose this Demand for Supplementary Grants 1991-92 as I consider it my duty to oppose it. It is because the policy of this Government is to make poor still poorer and the rich still richer. This is the policy of this new Government.

I oppose this Demand because there is no proposal in it, for establishing an agricultural university in Manipur, although the hon. Minister of Agriculture university in Manipur, although the hon. Minister of Agriculture has assured this House that an Agricultural University will be set up in Manipur. There are vast lands available in Manipur for cultivation of sunflowers etc. But the Government is not promoting this agro-industry there in Manipur and there is no proposal with them for this purpose.

Even in the field of telecommunications, although there are proposals for providing new lines and establishment of exchanges in Manipur, actually nothing is being done and at the same time they are ineffective. There is the requirement of STD facility in the districts of Manipur.

Since the time is short, I want to be brief. There is no proposal with this Government for checking the rise in the prices of the essential commodities although the buying capacity of the poor people has not been increased. The poor are suffering greatly in this country. That is why I am opposing this Supplementary Demand.

[Sh. Yaima Singh Yumnam]

Sir, I rise mainly to mention that I oppose these Demands for Grants particularly because there is no proposal with the Government for recognising Manipuri as a national language, although there has been demand for it since a long time. All the hon. Members in this House belonging to the Opposition are agreeable to it, they are agitating for the recognition of this Manipuri language as the national language. So, Sir, through you I urge particularly upon the hon. Members belonging to the Congress I Party for supporting the recognition of this language. Otherwise we are guiding the people of this State towards disintegration. The people there are very much offended because at the time of the merger of this State with the Indian Union, there was an understanding that this language must be given recognition as a national language. But, Sir, this assurance has not been kept up. So, the people are offended. They are not happy at the moment. So, from the floor of this House I Truge upon the Government to amend the Constitution so that Manipuri is included as a language in the Eighth Schedule.

Secondly, Sir, there is a proposal for shifting the Assam Rifles from Kangla Fort, which is a sacred place in Manipur, to some other place. There is a request and there is a demand from the people for it and the State Government agreed to it. So, I urge upon the Government, through this House, to take effective steps so that the Assam Rifles can be shifted from the Kangla Fort to the new site.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to say the the Government at the Centre and the Congress Party instead of trying to ensure the redressal of grievances of the people, are trying to destabilise the non-Congress Governments in the North-Eastern States, say, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Manipur. In Manipur, what happened? The Congress I Party engineered the defections of M.L.As. from the United Legislature Front so that the Government there is toppled. There Members of the U.L.F. have been kidnapped and

kept in the house of the leader of the CLP and they are now confined in Jiribam so that the Congress I may become the Ruling Party there. In Manipur these are the things which I do not appreciate. So, I am bringing this to the notice of this House through you and I want that the Government should take effective steps so that such things are not encouraged.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VERMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. With regard to the Supplementary Demands presented by the Government, as my other friends have already submitted, the present Government lacks for sigtedness. Has the Government been able to provide the benefits of what is being produced and spent to the com: non masses? Mr. Chairman, Sir, not only this, whatever measures are being taken by the Government are adversely affecting the common people, workers and farmers

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make submission with regard to Gujarat.

17.00 hrs.

Gujarat has been hit by drought due to which farmers are in a great difficulty. But neither the Central Government nor Gujarat Government has shown any interest in helping the farmers in this regard. As a result, people are in a great difficulty.

Edible oil in Gujarat has completely disappeared. People have to buy it at the cost of Rs. 48 per kg. How can those who earn Rs. 10/- per day, manage to buy edible oil at the rate of Rs. 48 per kg? Oil is there in the market but the Government and the capitalists are hand in glove. The result is that the farmers are in trouble. They have not been able to get the actual price of their produce. Farmers are being fleeced there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the same time, Dhanduka, the place to which I belong, has

so far been deprived of STD facility. An old telephone machinery has been functioning in Bhavnagar district due to which telephones are mostly out of order and even then people have to pay the bills. Machinery for providing 5000 connections is there and technical experts are also there. But they say that new telephone lines will be laid only when new machinery will be made available. But the Government has failed to provide the facility which can benefit about 5000 people. Machinery is not being utilised.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the same time no gas agency is there in Butad, Gadhada or Dhanduka due to which people face great difficulty. Surplus gas worth crores of rupees is being burnt but people in that area are in trouble as gas connections have not been given to them. The Government have not been paying attention to it. Gujarat is in a deplorable condition. Mills are closed; as a result the labourers who have been rendered unemployed find no alternative than to commit suicide by jumping into the Kakaria pond. Poor families find it difficult to send their children to schools. Life has become very hard there. People have not been able to get the benefits of the measures taken by the Government so far. Representatives, who were elected in the Parliamentary elections, had promised to get the 25 mills of Ahmedabad, which have been closed for a long time, reopened but they all forget to fulfil the promises once they are elected. Thus the situation in that region is extremely deplorable.

I oppose the Supplementary Demands and urge the Central Government to help the State to improve the deteriorating situation.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the proposal for approval of the Supplementary Demands. In this proposal, the Minister has proposed Rs. 250/- crores for approval regarding fertilizers, as supplementary grants. I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through

you, that Rs. 400 crores had already been earmarked in the Finance Minister's earlier proposals towards subsidy for the small and marginal farmers for whom the price hike does not apply. Most of the small farmers are not going to utilise this opportunity because they have to go to Tehsil office to get a certificate that he is a small farmer and without greasing the palms of somebody in that office, nobody can get certificate as a small farmer. Even if a person belongs to Scheduled Caste, it is difficult to get a certificate from them without giving some money there. After taking the certificate, the farmer has to go to the Agriculture Department and only after that he will get some money. He will hardly get Rs. 20/- or Rs. 30/-. Most of the small farmers are not in a position to get this money. So, out of Rs. 400 crores which had been already earmarked, most of the money is going to remain with the Government. Therefore, there is no necessity for this supplementary grant of Rs. 250/- crores. I had told earlier itself that it is not practically possible to have dual pricing policy in respect of fertilisers, selling at one price to the small farmers and selling at some other price to the other farmers. Who is the other farmer? It may be one per cent or 2 per cent of the total farmers who may be having 80 acres of wet land or 40 acres of dry land. But most of the farmers are middle level farmers. My suggestion to the Government is, do not stand on false prestige. Kindly do away with the dual pricing policy and introduce rational uniform price structure.

You are proposing to give Rs. 250 crores to the industrialists for their inefficient operation of the plants where as you do not have that sympathy towards the farmers who are facing all natural calamities, who have to work day and night. The farmer has to face snake bites when he goes to the field to put on the electric motor or diesel pump set. Sometimes the farmers lose their lives also. But you do not have sympathy for them. You are going to help the industrialists who are showing wrong calculations to you, who are already getting a lot of benefits. My senior colleague, Shri George Fernandes has said on the floor of the House how those fertilizer

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

plants are cheating the exchequer, cheating the Government. They are able to corner several thousand crores of rupees. So, please reconsider this dual policy.

There is a public sector fertilizer plant at Ramagundam. By the side of that plant, there is coal production and on the other side NTPC is having its power plant. But you will be surprised to know that necessary power is not given to that fertilizer factory; necessary coal is not given to the factory. Because of this, the plant has to be closed for many days incurring so much of losses and loss of fertiliser production. If such mistakes are corrected, I think, you will be able to help the farmers and you will be able to give fertilisers at reasonable price to the farmers.

Another suggestion is in the chemicals and petrol chemicals sector. I do not know why the Government is keeping quiet when so much wastage is going on. There is a gas pipeline from Kovvuru to Narsapur of the ONGC. A lot of gas is being wasted. Many a time, the pipeline is getting leakages; sometimes the pipeline is broken, as a result of which the people nearby are suffering. Most of the precious gas is going out. The gas-based power plant at Vijeswaran in Andhra Pradesh has been shut down because of the leakage of gas pipeline and interruption in the supply of gas. Please take necessary precaution so that such leakages are plugged. Please take necessary steps to avoid wastage of gas and utilise it in a better way.

I would like to mention one point to the Minister of Agriculture. He was telling the other day that there was national agriculture policy and the Government was very eager to implement it. Our veteran kisan leader, Shri Nathu Ram Mirdha as chairman of the National commission on Agriculture recommended long ago for setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in every district by 1985. Today you are able to start only about 100 KVKs. How can the agricultural research will pass on to the farmers so that they can implement it in full and give better production

and produce more agriculture commodities to cater to the needs of the vast millions? My suggestion to the Government is, be sincere in your efforts, be sincere in your action and take necessary steps. Do not put the burden unnecessarily on the people of this country.

There is a possibility for a lot of saving the amount already granted in the previous Budget. So, I oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will ask the hon. Minister to make his reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PATER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Rao Ram Singh): I will allow you only two minutes.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Many trees are dying of disease in the South Eastern sector of the Bangladesh border. In the South east of Khasi and Jaintia Hills, Meghalaya bordering Bangladesh, one lakh arcanut trees (betel nut) died of disease. I made a special mention of this by making a statement under 377 in the house but till today no reply came from the Ministry of Agriculture. Is this the way we run the country? That is why, I feel that the hon. Minister who is here should do something and send some experts to go to Meghalaya and they should identify the disease. More trees are dying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What trees are they?

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: They are supari trees (Arecanut).

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right. I think that this is a very important point which Shri Pater G. Marbaniang has raised. Now I would request the hon. Minister to make his reply.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUGHIE): Hon. Chairman, Sir,

I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion on Supplementary Demands. They have made valuable comments and suggestions and I have taken note of their suggestions.

This hon. House is aware that the Budget for the current year was presented in July, 1991 and it envisaged a budgetary deficit of Rs. 7,719 crores and a fiscal deficit of Rs. 37,727 crores. The hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has drawn attention to the crisis of the fiscal system and the concern of Government to contain the deficit. Towards this end, we have taken a number of measures. We have advised Ministries that they should absorb the liability on account of additional DA from within their sanctioned Budget provision. We have also imposed a cut of 5 per cent on the provisions so that certain unavoidable and other post-Budget Commitments can be met without increasing the Budget deficit or the fiscal deficit.

Great care has been taken in formulating the present batch of Supplementary Demands. Ministries who have sought Supplementary Demands for additional expenditure which have been included in this batch of Supplementary Demands have, by and large, identified savings in their budgets to meet the additional commitments. In only three cases amounting to Rs. 254.22 crores, Ministries concerned could not locate savings. These will, however, be met out of the savings identified in the Government's Budget as a whole. These include Rs. 250 crores for fertiliser subsidy following the modifications made in the increases in fertiliser prices originally announced in the Budget. Thus, even though the gross supplementary demands included in this batch are for a total of Rs. 304.13 crores, these will not involve any net additional cash outgo.

Among the various items for which provisions have been included in the present batch of Supplementary Demands, I would like to highlight the provision of Rs. 25 crores for establishment of a corporation for welfare of backward classes which was announced

in the Finance Minister's Budget speech. Another major post-budget commitment is the decision to provide fertiliser to small and marginal farmers at pre-revised prices. This scheme is expected to cost around Rs. 405 crores in the current year. Pending a final assessment, the amounts required by the various State Governments for this purpose are being released by the Department of Agriculture by temporary reappropriations from within their sanctioned budget and Supplementary Demand to the extent needed will be brought up before Parliament later in the financial year.

The present batch of supplementary demands includes Rs. 27 lakhs for providing fertilizer subsidy to small and marginal farmers in the Union Territory of Delhi under this Scheme.

As the supplementary demands are for urgent and unavoidable items of expenditure which are fully matched by corresponding savings, I am sure that this hon. House would vote the demands.

The points raised by the hon. Members pertaining to other Ministries and Department will be forwarded to the concerned Ministries and Department for furnishing suitable replies direct to the hon. Members.

The points raised in respect of the Ministry of Finance would be replied by our Ministry.

With these words, I request this hon. House to pass the demands.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1991-92 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper to granted to the President defray the charges that will come in course of

payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1992 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof.

Demands Nos. 1,5,6,7,15,42,60,67,82, 83, 85 and 93."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1991-92 are passed.

17.16 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (NO.5) BILL, 1991*

[English]

THE MINISTER FO STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92.

The motion was adopted.

..

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: I introduce the Bill.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up Clause-by-Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Schedule stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted

The Schedule was added to the Bill

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting formula and the long title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 14.12.1991.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

***Moved with the recommendation of the President.