

[English]

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Sir, as you know, in Nasik and Pune parliamentary constituencies, there is a maximum bumper crop of onions of POL variety. The market has gone down and there is a feeling of agitation among onion growing farmers.

The other day agitated farmers came to my house and they poured a bag of onions in front of my doorsteps as a protest.

As you know, the cost of cultivation of onions has gone up and it is around Rs. 100 and Rs. 110/- per quintal and if the market rate goes down, the farmers community will be put to a great loss.

Hence I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the Market Intervention Scheme must be implemented with the average rate at Rs. 110/- per quintal. The losses incurred in that Scheme should be shared by the Central and State Government of Maharashtra equally. As suggested by the Government of Maharashtra, the scheme must be implemented by the Central Government through NAFED.

Secondly, the NAFED must be instructed to purchase maximum quantity of onions in the market. At present, the purchase is only about 20 per cent of arrival in the market.

Thirdly, I request the Government to give permission for the export to all those cooperative units which were functioning in that area.

With this, I request the Agriculture Minister to intervene and give a support price to the onion and save the onion growers.

SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS (KARIMGANJ): Sir, telephones are provided to the panchayat offices and local post offices. But most of them remain dead for months together because of want of proper maintenance specially in Assam where the system of public call is painful and so is the

case of telegraph. The rural areas are being neglected in this regard. Telephones are there with small electronic exchanges through which Trunk dealings are almost impossible and in that case having of telephones are useless. So, I do hope the Government will take immediate, suitable steps to cover the rural areas with Subscriber Trunk Dialing (STD) or the National Subscriber Dialing (NSD) system so that the subscribers of telephone could actually derive benefit of having telephone.

[Translation]

SHRI KESRI LAL (Ghatampur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, policemen under the Kohna Police Station at Kanpur made a murderous assault on the life of 'Dainik Jagaran' correspondent, Shri Adhir Singh on 15th February at 22 hours. Two constables have been apprehended in this connection. A scooter was also recovered on the spot. Sir, the SHO of Kohna Police Station is the main culprit behind this episode. He has not so far been arrested. Journalists are on hunger strike and they are very much agitated over it. The Government is not taking any action. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to take necessary action.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur): Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is related to my constituency. It is unfortunate that a journalist had been attacked and as per information received, two constables were involved in the incident. By now, four persons have been arrested and sent to jail. They have not been granted bail. As has been said by the hon. Member, SHO of Kohna Police Station has not been arrested, but search is on to nab him. His house has been attached. The administration is vigilant and action is being taken as required under law.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at present there are 196 Regional Rural Banks with their 14, 500 branches functioning throughout the country. Due to the faulty policy of the Government these Banks are running at a loss of over Rs. 300 crore. The All India Rural Bank Workers Organisation had pre-