

[Sh. Upendra Nath Verma]

crores. On October 18, 1984 and October 22, 1991 the Central Water Commission raised some queries and the State Government has answered most of them. The remaining answers can be given only after the project is given the green signal by the Central Water Commission. I urge the Central Government to expedite the work on the Lilajan Hydro Project.

- (vii) **Need for early completion of alleppey—kayamkulam railway line**

[English]

SHRI THAYIL JOHN ANJALOSE (Alleppey): The Railway Minister had promised in his budget speech that Alleppey-kayamkulam railway line would be commissioned on March 31st, 1992. But the work still remains to be completed. The Railways are of the view that some important roads which intersect the proposed line should be closed. If the Government build some level crossing, this problem can be averted. I would request the Central Government to complete the work on this railway line expeditiously.

- (viii) **Need to provide more funds to Bihar Government for modernisation of Sone Canal**

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the Sone Canal in Bihar is very bad. Its banks have collapsed. Even its 'Nailahs' and embankments have given way. It is very much necessary to rebuild the Sone Canal. Last year, the Union Government granted Rs. 21 crore for the same, but it's too inadequate. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to allocate Rs. 2000 crore for the modernization of the Sone canal.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 P. m. today.
[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m. today 13.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till ten minutes past fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at eighteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair.]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992-93—CONTD.

Ministry of Rural Development;
Ministry of Food;
Ministry of Agriculture;
Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public
Distribution

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up together discussion and voting on (i) Demand No. 69 relating to Ministry of Rural Development; (ii) Demand No. 38 relating to Ministry of Food; (iii) Demand Nos. 1 to 4 relating to Ministry of Agriculture; and (iv) Demand No. 9 relating to

Ministry of Civil Supplies and public Distribution for which 10 hours been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants relating to these Ministries have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send separate slips for each Ministry to the table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

Four separate lists showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved in respect of these Ministries will be put up the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any discrepancy in the lists, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the officers at the Table without delay.

409 *Demands for Grants (General), 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food;* CHAITRA 18, 1914 (SAKA) *Agriculture; Civil Supplies & Public Distribution* 410

Motion moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in

course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1993, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof Demand Nos. 69, 38, 1 to 4 and 9 relating to the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture and Civil Supplies and Public Distribution."

Demands for Grants (General) in respect of Ministering Rural Development, Ministry of Food, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution for the year 1992-93 submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amount of Demands for Grants to be submitted to the vote of the House.	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4	3	4
	Ministry of Rural Development				
69	Ministry of Rural Development	121687,00,000	8,00,000	18122,00,000	542,00,000
	Ministry of Food				
38	Ministry of Food	44158,00,000	2310,00,000	220791,00,000	1551,00,000
	Ministry of Agriculture				
1.	Agriculture	35841,00,000	141,00,000	179367,00,000	706,00,000
2.	Other Services of Deptt. of Agr. & Cooperation	2527,00,000	9343,00,000	10873,00,000	9984,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	6260,00,000	...	31305,00,000	...

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on 26th March 1992		Amount of Demands for Grants to be submitted to the vote of the House.	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4		
4.	Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying	4169,00,000	1076,00,000	20932,00,000	5380,00,000
	Min of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution				
5.	Min of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution	175,00,000	26,00,000	875,00,000	131,00,000

SHRI RUDRASEN CHAUDHARY
(Bahraich): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we had include the Demands for grants of the Ministry of Water Resources in this debate, then this discussion on agriculture and rural development would have become more meaningful. The country's farmers made the country self-reliant in the field of foodgrains in a very short span of time. They have filled our godowns to such an extent that today no famine can take the winds out of our sails nor do we need to beg before others. Along with this, we would also like to congratulate our agricultural scientists for their contribution in this one rous task. However, beneath this facade of self-reliance lies a very shameful picture. Despite their immense contribution towards making this country self-reliant, the condition of our villages remains unchanged. The fruits of development are yet to reach the rural areas. AS per the 1991 census more than 75% of our population lives in the villages, yet one third of them, i.e. 33.4 per cent live below the poverty line. The policies that we pursued, both agricultural and rural, are to be blamed to a great extent for their plight. Ever since independence, more attention has been paid towards urban development in the name of industrialization and adequate attention has not been towards rural development. Development of villages was neglected owing to special attention being paid to protect the interests of consumers and industries.

Sir, agriculture is the largest industry in this country. Our part has been making a demand to give agriculture the status of industry. But the present Government too has not so far shown any interest to take steps in this regard. Owing to continuous defective agriculture policies, no practical agriculture policy could be adopted and consequently our quality of production has never been satisfactory all over the country. In last three years, it seems as if agricultural production has come to a standstill. In 1988-89, our production was 16.99 crore tonnes and in 1990-91 it is 17.62 crore tonnes. The gap of three years is very small and as per

statistics it is estimated that by the turn of this century, we would require 23 crore tonnes of foodgrains. If we take into account the figures of the last three years, it does not appear that we will be able to achieve this target with ease if we continue to follow the present agriculture policy.

I would like to point out to the hon. Minister and the Government that in future it will be a major challenge for us and as such we will have to discover new policies and take steps in this regard. The main reason behind the plight of the farmers and the villages is that the farmers have not so far been paid remunerative prices for their produces. I remember that the support price of wheat was Rs 76 per quintal in 1970-71 and today it is Rs. 250 per quintal. It has increased by almost three and a half times. Simultaneously, let us have a look at the prices of the agricultural inputs vis-a-vis the prices of consumer goods. The prices of all these items have increased indiscriminately. Undoubtedly, the quantity of agricultural production has increased. The production of wheat has increased by five times, rice by two times and coarse grains by one and a half times but there has not been any significant increase in the pulses production. Despite a significant increase in the production of wheat it has been felt that this could not bring prosperity in the lives of the farmers. The purchasing power of their produces declined owing to increase in the prices of essential commodities, consumer good and agricultural inputs. the need of the hour is to pay special attention to it other wise the stagnation which has hit the production will continue in this way we can not like up to challenges and create serious problems in the day's to come. Coming up as such the time has come when the Government should reconsider its agriculture policy. The hon. Minister has been repeatedly stating in the House that the Government is reviewing its agricultural policy. All these suggestions must be considered while reviewing the agriculture policy. So far, 32.5% of land area of this country is irrigated. Wheat and rice are grown in these irrigated areas by exploiting full potential and giving full doses of

fertilizer to the land but there is least likelihood any substantial increase in production in these areas. As such we should resort to dryland farming and increase production.

Sir, besides this, there is unemployment and under employment in the villages. The rural agricultural labours get work only when crops are grown and rest of time they are without work. We shall have to draw out special Plans for that. The Rural Development Ministry has been in existence for a long time now. However we have not been able to create the infrastructure required to make available job opportunities in the villages through this Ministry. The number of industries in the villages is still negligible. Whatever is produced in the villages has been treated in such a manner as if village is the source of raw material and the finished goods from this raw material could be made in cities only. The sooner this perception is changed, the better it is for the villages. If the process of development starts there, the village life will become prosperous people will get employment and with this their economic condition will improve.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, funds are earmarked for rural development every year, but regarding the amount spent thereon, even our Prime Minister has expressed apprehension long back that out of the amount earmarked for rural development, only 10 per cent is actually spent on it and the remaining 90 per cent is swallowed midway. On an earlier occasion while replying questions in this House, the hon. Minister of State for Rural Development had admitted that there are lacunae and corruption. He had asserted that the Government is also keeping a watch and asking State Governments also to keep an eye on it but we have to keep a strict vigil on this machinery so far as the question of beneficiaries and implementation of the development programmes is concerned and the administrative machinery functioning there should be made accountable there. A penal provisions should be made in case of any irregularity, otherwise we will not be able

to achieve the target set for rural development.

The question of minimum wages is also there. The wages that are fixed by the Department of Labour here are not paid to the agricultural labour in the Villages. In most of the villages a peculiar method of payment of wages exists. At certain places the wages are paid in the form of foodgrains and elsewhere it is given in cash but the labour in the villages does not get the entire minimum wages that are fixed. To ensure that the labourer gets the wages at the rate fixed by the Department of labour, a special machinery is required to make a constant review.

There is yet an area of agriculture. This is an area where the possibilities of production are great. floods occur every year in this country and lots of money is spent in the name of relief work. ... (Interruptions) Money is also misappropriated. Most of the time the money earmarked is misappropriated. They come across no problem in getting away with the money meant for flood relief. But the flood affected areas are very fertile. The Government has drawn many programmes for specific conditions in farming viz. desert development programme, draught affected area programmes but, I am surprised that though flood affect is a specific condition from agricultural point of view the Government of India has not so far drawn any programme for it. On the contrary, our past records show that crops in 17.57 lakh hectares of land in our country got destroyed in floods. Floods affect the catchment areas of rivers where the land is very fertile. Underground water is also very near in these areas. Kharif crop is sown there but the crops are washed away by floods and thus they have to depend on Rabi crops only. If the Government can draw a special programme by preparing a scheme for crops depending on moisture availability and ensure irrigation facilities for flood affected areas, then summer crops can be grown easily and through these crops the area will produce dual crops for the farmers. It will fetch additional foodgrains to the godowns of the country.

I have already stated that the possibilities of increase in wheat and rice crop is very remote, but still there is a very large area for coarse grains and pulses. If a special scheme for dryland farming could be formulated and better water management could be ensured, some positive results can be achieved. Coarse grains and pulses do not need much water and more fertilizer. As such, I would like to point out that our scientists should discover new methods of agriculture and grow improved seeds for dryland farming and for the cultivation of coarse grains and pulses. The new varieties should reach the farmers so that the agricultural production which has come to a standstill can increase.

Regional imbalances have taken place in the country. In the field of agriculture also there has not been balanced production in the country. Though irrigational facilities and greenery prevailed in many areas, their potential has not been fully exploited.

This also can be overcome. It is certain that with the development of dry-farming and better management of water, production will increase all over the country and there will be balanced growth. With the arrangement, we can make progress and fill our godowns in the country.

33.4 per cent i.e. one-third of the rural people live below the poverty line. They fall victims of mal-nutrition. If we can supply coarse grains and pulses to village people their need of nutritious foods could be met to some extent. The hon. Minister has arrived just now. Under the new scheme maximum emphasis should be laid on production of coarse grains and pulses and production of foodgrains in flood affected areas so that we can supply good and nutritious food to the poor numbering millions of the country.

Today, the most unfortunate thing in the villages is that the rural people do not have work for the whole year. The Government has so far launched minor schemes to remove unemployment in villages. Opportuni-

ties created by them are counted in man-days. Even on the basis of man-days, we have not been able to provide some permanent employment to these people. It is only shown in figures. Mostly man-days are calculated on the basis of muster-rolls. Everybody knows muster-rolls are prepared. The need of the hour is that we should set up cottage and small scale industries by chalking out programmes in a phased manner and set target for each year. With this we can certainly solve the unemployment problem in villages. There is a problem in small scale industries. We can set up cottage industries in villages and provide raw material for them. But how to sell their product, especially in the modern competitive markets? We must think about it. For this purpose, we should provide them the best technique, that they could manufacture quality goods. At the same time they need protection. It should be ensured that goods being manufactured in small scale industries are not produced by heavy industries.

The policy of liberalisation is a much talked about slogan these days. Multi-nationals coming. They will set up industries here. But if we allow them to set up industries indiscriminately, even for the consumer goods, it will be a great injustice to the villages today. The Pepsi company has been manufacturing potato-chips which sell at Rs. ten per 100 grams, and Rs. sixteen for 200 grams. The Potato costs Re. 1 or Rs. 2 per kilogram. Even during off season it may rise upto Rs. 4 per kilograms only but the farmers do not get even that price. The high price charged from people goes to the pockets of cold storage owners. If a big company manufactures potato-chips, problems in the villages cannot be solved. These minor works can be done by setting up small factories in villages. I, therefore, suggest that the Government should introduce a new scheme in the name of Rural Industrial programme and spread a net work of rural industries under this programme. Under the programme, priority should be given to villages only for these industries. They should be given protection. They should be provided techniques which will enable them to face the competi-

tion from urban products and proceed on the path of prosperity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if these schemes can be run in this manner, it will yield meaningful results and there can be some progress. Alleviation of poverty is one more field which is much talked about. There are several schemes on rural development and this is one of them. It is a special scheme. Beneficiaries are selected and they are awarded projects. But it has been my experience that many times somebody's name is written as a beneficiary and loan is sanctioned against his name by the bank. But in practice he does not get the money, because he has no access to the right person. I know all this because I come from a village. Therefore, some special measures should be taken to check such corrupt practices. I recollect an incident of the question hour on March 18. The question was about the number of roads constructed under the Jawahar Rozgar yojans last year. When the reply came from the hon. Minister a supplementary was put about the veracity of the figures given by him. The hon. Minister cordially replied that it was not his responsibility it was the responsibility of the State Governments. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that when guidelines are prepared for all things, why cannot he prepare guidelines for evaluation. There should be a basis for satisfactory evaluation as to how many people were lifted above the poverty line. What is their condition and whether they have become poorer, and whether their condition further deteriorated than their earlier condition when they used to earn a livelihood by working as daily mazdoors. Unless some basis is evolved and somebody is specially held responsible for this it will yield no meaningful result.

On the above basis, I would like to tell the hon. Minister and the Government that the farmers should be paid remunerative price, it should be considered under the new agriculture price policy as a special case. There should be a proper coordination between the agricultural inputs and consumer goods available in market. A net work of industry should be spread in the villages so

that unemployment can be removed in rural areas and the financial condition of the rural people can be improved.

With these words, I express my thanks to you and conclude.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Kishnagar): I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide more funds for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.] (3)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re.1."

[Failure to take effective measures for land reforms.] (4)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate facilities and funds to all youth in Rural areas for productive self employment] (38)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide financial assistance to Bihar Government for launching self employment movement in Madhubani and Darbhanga District.] (39).

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need to bring land reform and to distribute surplus land among landless people] (40)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for consolidation of land holdings giving priority to Small and marginal farmers] (41)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for a time bound programme for implementation of laws relating to consolidation, Bhoodan and share-cultivation.] (42).

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: (South Delhi) I beg to move:

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to enhance the Budget provision for rural Development] (43)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): I beg to move :-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to provide adequate funds for Rajasthan for rural development.] (54)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re.1."

[Need to implement the land reforms in the country.] (58)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Rs. 1."

[Need to distribute the surplus land among the landless people and to give possession of land to them.] (59)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re.1."

[Need to provide employment to the rural unemployed.] (60)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re.1."

[Need to provide central assistance for the supply of potable water in every village of Rajasthan. (61)

"The the deand under the Had Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re.1."

[Need to allocate more funds for Rural development] (62)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of rural Development 69 be reduced by Re. 1."

[Need to allocate more central fund for the rural poor of building houses in Rajasthan.] (63)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re. 1. "

[Need to provide cetral assistance to correct every village of Rajasthan by road] (64)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re.1."

[Need to provide minimum basic amenities and facilities in the village] (65)

"That the demands under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re. 1. "

[Need to provide more rural employment opportunities.] (66)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re. 1."

[Need to provide adequate facilities and funds to all the youths in rural areas.] (67)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development 69 be reduced by Re. 1."

[Need to consolidate land by giving priority to small and marginal farmers.] (68)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100

[Need to take effective measures for land reforms in the country] (116)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the allocation of funds for eradication of unemployment in the country.] (117)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to complete the work pending under Jawahar Rozgar Yojna] (173)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to construct more houses for Scheduled Castes in Rajasthan under Indira Awas Yojna]. (174)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more funds for self employment programmes in Rajast-

han]. (175)

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Karargod): I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to give remunerative prices to the farmers.] (88)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take steps for implementing land reforms in the country.] (89)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to take steps to remove rural unemployment in the country] (90)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1"

[Failure to take steps to provide minimum amenities in the rural areas] (91)

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Corfal) : I beg to move -

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 400."

[Need to accelerate the process of land reforms all over the country.] (156)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to provide sufficient assistance to the unemployed youth for self employment.] (157)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Needs to distribute surplus land among the landless in all the States.] (158)

SHRIA INDRAKARAN REDDY (Adilabad) : I bag to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide necessary facilities and funds to all unemployed youth in rural areas for productiv self-employment.] (161)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to implement land reforms, reclaim barren land and to protect trees.] (162)

" That the demand under the head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1. "

[Failure to provide adequate powers to Gram panchayats.] (163)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check Migration of rural population to cities] (164)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide adequate Central

assistance for speedy electrification of rural areas in Rajasthan] (165)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be Reduced to Re. 1. "

[Failure to solve the problem of potable water.] (166)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to eradicate rural unemployment.] (167)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide work to every hand and minimum wages to agricultural labourer.] (168)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide sufficient resources for eradicating poverty in the country.] (169)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1.

[Failure in eradicating social evils in rural areas.] (170)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide more funds to backward and hilly areas of Rajast than under Jawaher Rozgar Yojana.] (171)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Rural Development be reduced to Re.1."

[Failure to consolidate land and providing means of transport to all villages.] (172)

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Food be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to undertake purchasing operation by FCI on time.] (1)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Food be reduced to Re. 1."

[Government's decision announced in January, 1992 to import 10 lakh tonnes of wheat.] (3)

SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Food be reduced By Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure sale of foodgrains at fixed prices in all panchayats of the country.] (4)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to streamline Food Corporation of India so as to make it more effective in functioning.] (14)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for modernisation and proper maintenance of godowns of Food

Corporation of India.] (15)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate storage and warehousing facilities in the country, particularly in rural areas.] (16)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to procure agricultural produce, on time by the Food Corporation of India and also to make necessary arrangements for its transportation.] (17)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up oil seed based industries and sugar mills in sugarcane growing areas of Rajasthan.] (18)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check curb black Marketing, hoarding and profiteering in foodgrains and to facilitate movement of food-grains from one state to another without any restrictions.] (19)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry 38 of Food be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for the procurement of foodgrain by the Food Corporation of India in time.] (20)

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADYAY: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

131 *Demands for Grants (General), 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food;*
[Failure to provide old-age pension to the aged farmers.] (1)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and education be reduced to Rs. 100."

[Need to set up krishi vigyan kendras at all districts of the country.] (34)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced to Rs. 100."

[Need to set up betel leave research centre in west Bengal.] (35)

SHRI. ZAINAL ABEDIN : I beg to move

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to attain Self - Sufficiency in foodgrains and oil seeds production.] (2)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to undertake 'lab to land' scheme.] (3)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to increase productivity of land.] (4)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to check distress sale of agricultural produce made by the small and marginal farmers.] (5)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

APRIL 7, 1992

Agriculture; Civil Supplies & Public Distribution 432

[Failure to increase per capita availability of cereals and pulses per day in our country.] (6)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to declare support price for raw jute.] (64)

SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA : I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Urgent need for rejecting Dunkel proposals suggesting removal of subsidies on inputs and support prices for agricultural produce.] (12)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure planting of fruit and other trees on both sides of the roads and highways through out the country.] (13)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure planting of fruit and other trees on banks of the rivers throughout the country.] (14)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix remunerative price for Rahria Seam (Vokula) and other pulses produced in northern Bihar to augment the production of pulses.] (15)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix the minimum remunerative prices for pulses in the country.] (16)

"That the demand under the Head other services of Agriculture and Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish separate co-operatives for small and marginal farmers in each panchayat area of the Country.] (29)

"That the demand under the Head other Services of Agriculture and Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish separate co-operatives for agricultural labourers in each panchayat area of the country.] (30)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced to Re. 1"

[Failure to reject the proposals for patenting products instead of processing particularly in matters of seeds hybridisation. (33)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced to Rs. 100"

[Need to adopt latest scientific methods for increasing the production of Makhans in the country.] (36)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to ensure large scale productive self-employment through Dairying, fishery, goatery, piggery and poultry and farming.] (37)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need for raising the procurement

prices of oilseeds and pulses.] (54)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide inputs at subsidised rates to boost per acre yield of agricultural produce.] (55)

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jaipaur)
: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide financial assistance to the tobacco growers in Coochbehar district.] (68)

"That the demand under the Head agriculture be reduced to Re. 1.

[Failure to reject Dunkel proposals which suggest removal of subsidies on inputs and support prices for agricultural produce.] (90)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re.1."

[Failure to provide fertilizer free of cost to poor farmers.] (91)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): I beg to move :-

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to attain self sufficiency in foodgrains and oil seeds.] (72)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to increase productivity of land.] (73)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re 1"

[Failure to raise per capita availability

(General), 1992-93 Ministries of Rural Development; Food; of foodgrains per day in the country particularly in the rural and backward areas] (74)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re 1"

[Failure to develop proper marketing system for the agricultural produce] (75)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re 1"

[Failure to reject Dunkel proposals regarding removal of subsidies on inputs and support prices for agricultural produce] (76)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re 1"

[Failure to fix remunerative prices for agricultural produce in consonance with the rise in the prices to provide relief to the farmers.] (77)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to treat agriculture at par with industry.] (78)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide adequate incentive to farmers to produce more oilseeds to reduce imports.] (79)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to give adequate loan facilities to the small and marginal farmers in the country particularly in backward states.] (80)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide adequate grants

for the the Development of agriculture in the state of Bihar.](81)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to develop cooperative marketing for small, marginal and landless agricultural labourers.] (82)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to review the agricultural policy for the growth of agricultural sector in the country.] (83)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to implement the Crop Insurance Scheme in the country expeditiously.] (84)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1"

[Failure to ban the use of spurious and hazardous pesticides in farming.] (85)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to develop productive self-employment through dairying, goatry, poultry farming and fishery etc.] (88)

"The the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up a Milch Cattle Breeding Centre in Bihar with Central assistance.] (89)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Min-

istry of Agriculture be reduced by is. 100."

[Need to provide modern agricultural implements to farmers particularly in Rajasthan.] (86)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to impart Proper training to farmers for using modern techniques in agriculture.] (87)

" That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100. "

[Need to provide the status of industry to agriculture.] (102)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide more funds for dry land farming in Rajasthan] (103)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100. "

[Need to achieve uniform level of development in the field of agriculture throughout the country.] (104)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix remunerative prices for agricultural produce.] (105)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for expanding crop insurance scheme.] (106)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for providing adequate loan facilities to small and marginal farmers.] (107)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to open krishi Vigyan kendra in all the districts of Rajasthan.] (108)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100"

[Needs to increase the production of milk on a footing in Rajasthan.] (109)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100".

[Need to allocate more funds for animal husbandry in Rajasthan.] (110)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to develop the marketing of agricultural produce.] (173)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to curb the use of spurious and hazardous pesticides.] (174)

" That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide free fertilizers to poor farmers.] (175)

"That the Demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase procurement prices of oilseeds and pulses.] (176)

"That the Demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the earthquake affected states.] (177)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up Milch Cattle Breeding in Rajasthan with Central assistance.](182)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the productivity of land.](221)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide seeds and fertilizers to the farmers in time.](222)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI
(Jhansi): I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1"
[Failure to provide more funds for implementing Crops insurance Scheme.](92)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to develop betel leave farming and to benefit the farmers.](93)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to grant agriculture the status of an industry.](94)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to provide more funds in the States for large scale development of dry land farming.](95)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 100."
[Need to provide inputs to farmers at concessional rates for increasing the per acre production of agricultural produce.](119)

"That the demand under the Head department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need for proper development of dairying particularly in Uttar Pradesh.](122)

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI: I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to pay old age pension to agricultural labourers and poor farmers.](158)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to give interest free loan to poor and marginal farmers.](159)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I beg to move:—

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to formulate a National Agricultural Policy.](195)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to increase agricultural production and to declare remunerative support prices to farmers on time.](196)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to set up Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district and to make them more effective, resourceful, equipped and useful for farmers.](197)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to increase the production of oilseeds and pulses in Rajasthan.](198)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to completely write off loans of the poor farmers.](199)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide sufficient grants for the development of agriculture in Rajasthan.](200).

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to protect the interest of landless agricultural labourers and of those farmers whose crops have been damaged.](201)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to increase the fertility and productivity of land](202)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide proper facilities for storage, distribution marketing and transporting of the agricultural produce.](203)

That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by RS. 100."

[Need to provide adequate financial assistance to State Governments for improving cow progeny and to construct cow sheds.](215)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide sufficient funds for poultry, pisciculture, sheep rearing and animal husbandry and to protect the original breeds of various animals.](216)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and

Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring white revolution and to develop dairy industry in the country particularly in Rajasthan.](217)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to effectively implement the Crop Insurance Scheme.](218)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide assistance to the States for improving agricultural produce keeping in view their geographical situation.](219)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce](220)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to give more financial assistance to famine and drought affected states of the country particularly Rajasthan.](223)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide modern agricultural technology, on time to farmers with small holdings particularly of Aravalli region of Rajasthan.](224)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide special grants to various agricultural Universities and Colleges and Research Institutes.](225)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to acquaint the farmers with latest techniques and research done by Agriculture Research Institute and uni-

versities by organising Kisan
Melas.)(226)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need to make the country self sufficient in the matter of agricultural produce.](227)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need to provide adequate financial assistance to the earthquake affected areas of Uttar Pradesh and famine and drought affected areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat.](228)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Failure to provide subsidy to all farmers on fertilizers](229)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need to declare agriculture as an industry.](230)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need for reasonable increases in the support prices of agricultural produce.](231)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need to provide pension to the old and destitute farmers.](232)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."
[Need to provide adequate loan facilities to the farmers.](233)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to solve the problem of drinking water](234)

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to raise the productivity of land.](204)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced to Re. 1."
[Failure to provide old age pension to the poor farmers and agricultural labourers.](205)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced to Re. 1"
[Failure to set up Betel Leaf Research Centre in West Bengal to boost up betel leaf production.](211)

"That the demand under the Head Department of Agricultural Research and Education be reduced to Re. 1"
[Failure to provide betel research facility in Kalyani University in West Bengal.](212)

SHRI A INDRAKARAN REDDY: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to introduce the Crops Insurance Schemes in cotton growing areas of Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh.](206)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide financial assistance to the cotton growers particularly of Adilabad district.](207)

"That the demand under the Head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide inputs at subsidised rates to boost per acre yield of agricultural produce.](208)

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Failure to allocate and supply adequate foodgrains required for Public Distribution System in West Bengal.](2)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I beg to move.-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100.

[Need to make all essential commodities available at cheaper rates in every Gram Panchayat through Public Distribution System.](4)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA. I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to increase quota of wheat, rice and sugar for Rajasthan.](12)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to provide facility of selling other commodities from fair price shops.](13)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to supply good quality wheat

through Public Distribution System.](14)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to distribute coarse both to the poor through Public Distribution System.](15)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to distribute coarse grain through Public Distribution System.](16)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to provide adequate foodgrains to farmers in Rajasthan through fair price shops.](17)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced to Re. 1."

[Need to provide free ration to farmers in drought prone areas of Rajasthan.](18)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply all essential commodities on fair prices through Public Distribution System.](28)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allocate sufficient foodgrains for Public Distribution System in Rajasthan.](29)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to roll back the increasing prices of commodities distributed through Public Distribution System.](30)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to distribute all those commodities on fixed prices in the all Panchayats of the country which are distributed through Public Distribution System.](31)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to strengthen Public Distribution System in tribal areas of Rajasthan.](64)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the quota of palmolin oil for Rajasthan.](65)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to allot wheat, rice, sugar, and palmolin oil to Rajasthan on the basis of 1991 census.](87)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: I beg to move:-

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to strengthen Public Distribution

System throughout the country particularly in Rajasthan.](75)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide wheat, sugar, Kerosene oil, Janata Cloth and other essential commodities to every consumer through fair price shops every month in Rajasthan.](76)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to set up vigilance committees in rural areas to monitor the Public Distribution System.](77)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to make special provisions under the Public Distribution System for those who are living below poverty line, and for those identified under the Antodaya Scheme, people, of backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and landless labourers.](78)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide all essential commodities in time and in adequate quantity through Public Distribution System to hilly areas and remote villages in Ajmer district of Rajasthan.](79)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide free ration to the people

in drought affected areas of Rajasthan.] (80)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the quantity of Pamo-line oil being supplied to Rajasthan.](81)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to supply foodgrains to cooperatives and shopkeepers in time from food godowns.](82)

"That the demand under the Head Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public Distribution be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to increase the allotted quota of wheat, rice oil and sugar to Rajasthan under Public Distribution System as per their demand.](83)

[English]

SHIR K.V. THANGKABALU (Dharmapuri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. Sir, we are a great nation of which a good number of people are agriculturists. First of all we are proud that we are an agriculturist country in which I myself also come from an agricultural community. I am proud to be here as a Member of this august House, supporting the Congress policies and programmes. The agriculturists of this great nation have contributed to the development of our great country all through their lives. After independence, the remarkable achievements made by our agriculturists cannot be under-

estimated. Everyone in the country must feel proud of this and has to congratulate our agriculturists.

First of all, the successive Governments after independence, particularly of the Congress under the leadership of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi, have given great importance to this sector. Majority of the populous in this great nation come from the rural areas and particularly they are the fore-runners of all developments that have taken place in this great nation. Without agriculture – without this sector – the country would not have come to this extent. The agriculturists are working day and night to create opportunities and to create avenues to help the brothers in all walks of life. It is because of them that we are surviving. So, our thanks and gratitude should go to the great patriots in the agricultural community. This year, our Government, as in the past – as I mentioned the Government under great leaders Shrimati Indira Gandhi as well as Shri Rajiv Gandhi – have given importance to this sector by providing more than 50 per cent of the allocation to agriculture. The development of agriculture is the development of the nation. That is why, they have given great importance to this sector. This year, our Hon. Prime Minister has done like our leaders Smt. Indira and Shri Rajivji our Hon. Minister for Agriculture – Shri Balram Jakhar is here; he is also coming from the same agricultural community; and he represents the agrarian sector, he himself being a farmer – have given a lot of importance to this sector. So, we are fortunate to have that Ministry under his leadership.

This year a sum of Rs. 3172.40 crores have been earmarked for the Agriculture Ministry. In this, for Agriculture, they have allotted Rs. 2217.95 crores; for Cooperation, Rs. 370 crores; for Development of Agricultural Research, Rs. 375.65 crores; and for Animal Husbandry Rs. 208.80 crores. So,

totally Rs. 3172.40 crores, they have allotted.

Every year, we have been increasing the allocation to the agricultural sector because we feel that this sector is very important and this sector has to be given much more impetus. That is why, we are giving this much facility. In his hour, I would like to thank our hon. Prime Minister and our Hon. Agriculture Minister. Earlier, there was a feeling among the people that this Government may reduce the subsidy given to fertiliser which is an input and which is a very important ingredient for the development of agriculture. I am happy to say that Rs. 5,000 crores have been earmarked for this, in line with the expectation of our people. In fact this has given a feeling of relief. This has given a feeling of self-confidence to the agriculturists in this country that our Congress Government is always with the farmers and it will go on helping them.

As I mentioned about the agricultural research, this is a continuous process which we are making. By that, our developmental attitudes and activities in this sector are growing faster. We have earmarked Rs. 378 crore in this area. Our former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had enunciated a Programme under the name Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Each and every district will have a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in this country by which each and every area will be developed, researched and analysed. It will be a creative point for the development of the agricultural system.

We know we have been facing a great crisis with regard to oilseeds. Our Prime Minister is very emphatic and very constructive on this. He has informed that we will come out this problem and for which this year itself, we have allotted Rs. 73.22 crore.

Another area I would like to emphasise is crop insurance. Our Government in the past has created new avenues to alleviate the problems with regard to the farmers, particularly the crop failure. We have made lot of rules and regulations and passed the Bills. But on the advice of the Central Government, about 19 States and three Union Territories in the country have already implemented this scheme. This year alone, we have already allocated Rs. 30 crore to implement this particular programme.

The Hon. Minister is very much interested to help and alleviate the problems. We discussed in the last budget also. The crop insurance system is now on the basis of taluqas. The area of taluqa is not really helping the farmers because the drought or the calamity, whichever it is, comes not in the full area of a taluqa. Only when the taluqa is affected, it is accepted for the crop insurance facility. In a taluqa only 10 villages or 15 villages are affected. Thereby the other village people will not be getting the benefit. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that it must consider that every village or even every farmer must get the benefit of crop insurance whenever he is affected by flood or any other calamity. This is a very important thing. I hope you have already agreed. But a necessary legislation must be brought forward in this august House in this session itself. That will help the farmers at large.

The other day you were very kind enough to announce the Agriculture Policy in this august House. We are waiting with a fond hope that this is a must. Our farmers are in need of this policy. That will have a bearing that will give a help, that will have an impact on the production, on the working and on sufferings of the farmers. Recently, our Government announced a Trade Policy for five years. Like that, we have been asking the Agriculture Ministry to formulate a five year plan policy that will help our public.

particularly the agriculturists, so that they can be sure about the Govt. Policy. Their prices, their production, their work culture, everything will improve. There will be some standard. There will be some effect.

I urge upon the Government that we must bring forward a comprehensive agriculture policy and also price policy. Thereby the price also cannot fluctuate. So, the farmers will have their due share of price rise. The hard work can have the benefit by the policy.

Today our country is self – sufficient. We are having 176.23 million tonnes of food production. We are happy to see this. Even from last year to this year, we have created a higher production of 5.19 million tonnes. The creativity of the farmers must be congratulated and they must be given more benefits because their is a feeling that life and death of the farming community in this country are connected with poverty. This kind of a sentiment should go. We have given enough protection to our farmers. Of course, that kind of a situation is not there today. But even now, we need more protection from the Government so that majority people in the rural areas and the farming community will be benefited by the Government policies. As I mentioned, lending system in the agricultural sector, particularly in cooperatives, is very high. I would like to say that the percentage of rate of interest is not correct. We have been demanding that for agriculturists, it should not be more than six per cent and you were one of the forerunners to demand this and. You are the Minister of Agriculture. We demanded and this should be accepted that the rate of interest should not be more than six per cent in the cooperative sector. We have given lot of loans to industries and more than Rs. 3000 crores has not come back at all. It is not going to get recovered. This is the position. Whereas in agriculture, when loans are given at 11 or 12 or 15 per cent, it is difficult for them to repay. They are not in a position to repay their dues

due to calamities or drought in majority of the areas. This is also one of the reasons for which I urge upon you to recommend to the Finance Minister to accept our proposal of reducing the rate of interest to the farming community.

Our beloved late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi announced a very ambitious programme on wastelands. The Wasteland Development Board was created and there are lot of wasteland still available in this country. It can be used. Agricultural labourers are more in the agricultural sector and their problems are very many. To solve their problems, our former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi formed a committee to find out the reality and about the particular problems of the agricultural labourers. But after his departure from power, successive Governments under Shri V.P. Singh and Shri Chandra Shekhar came and that committee did not find anything and conveniently forgot those ideas. I urge upon you that you must revise that programme to find out the problems of the agricultural labourers in the country. A commission should be appointed to find out and solve their problems as there contribution to the country is very high.

As regards rural development, it is a very important sector pertaining to the rural areas. Our Government has given very high importance to it from the day our beloved Shrimati Indira Gandhi came to power in 1980 We have regenerated the 20-Point programme and after that, the rural development programme got the real importance and the people below the poverty line are coming forward to get their problems solved. Its effect is very much. This year, Rs. 3113.24 crores are allocated. As compared to last year, the amount has increased. But when our Finance Minister presented his Budget, he said that there will be another Rs. 1000 crores generated and allotted to this sector. With these Rs. 3113 crores, an ambitious programmes was made and 7070 lakh

mandays of employment generation has been identified.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, under the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the poorest among the poor are getting benefited. There is an allocation of about Rs. 3800 crore for this programme. Our Prime Minister has also announced that this programme will be continued and there will also be an increase in the allocation. We welcome this step.

In the Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, the total allotment is Rs. 2046.21 crore, out of which 20 per cent will be allocated for a programme to dig one million wells. This is a very ambitious programme. The Harijan families, small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections are getting a lot of benefit from this programme and this programme is changing their way of life for the better.

In the IRDP sector, you have allocated Rs. 375.64 crore for accelerated rural water scheme, which is named after our great leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Our beloved former Prime Minister started the technology mission for drinking water. Under his dynamic leadership, he wanted that every village must get potable water. This year, you allotted Rs. 460.58 crore. I may mention here that this ambitious programme must be completed within a specific period, thereby enabling all our village folk get this benefit of potable water.

With regard to rural development, our former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi tried his level best to bring the Panchayati Raj System in this great country. Panchayati Raj system will give power to our people at the village level to improve their lot. I may state here that the money must directly go to

the Panchayats from the Centre. The development work should not be diluted or delayed by having so many intermediaries such as State to District, District to Taluk, Taluk to Block and so on. That is why, in all fairness, he thought that the money should go directly to Panchayats so that the villagers themselves are a position to decide about their own developmental activities and implement the programmes in an effective manner. With the participation of the people themselves the developmental activities can be implemented very quickly under this Panchayati Raj system. I know that the Government is taking serious steps in this regard, with the cooperation of our friends on the other side of the august House. I take this opportunity to urge upon our Opposition brothers to cooperate with us to bring this Bill forward because this Bill will change our rural society. Once this Panchayati Raj System is introduced, our villagers will have the right to decide their future and improve their lot. This is the ambition of our beloved leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi and we need all your cooperation to fulfil his ambition. I urge upon you to bring this Bill in this august House as early as possible.

With regard to food, this year our Government has allotted Rs. 2671.16 crore, out of which Rs. 2500 crore is given as subsidy. We know the importance of subsidy. Our successive governments in the past under the leadership of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and now under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao have categorically decided to continue with the subsidy because the poorest among the poor in our country still need this subsidy and they cannot afford to exist without the help of this subsidy. Therefore, this food subsidy is again given to improve their condition. There is a slight cut in this year's allocation. From last year's allocation of Rs. 2850 crore, this is reduced to Rs. 2500 this year. I urge upon the Government that this gap must be made good. Rather it should still be increased.

There should be higher allocation to enable our poor populace to get the benefit of our welfare programmes

A lot of subsidy has been given to the Food Department. But adulteration is a major crime. These days adulterators are very bold. We are getting the rice mixed with stone and Tur Dal mixed with Kesari Dal. In fact adulteration is there in each and every food item. Adulteration is a part of the life of the adulterators. The Consumer Protection Act was brought to check this menace but in spite of that we see adulteration is still going on. They should not be allowed to do these wrongful deeds by which the society at large is affected. Because of this adulteration many people are suffering from various diseases. Therefore, I urge upon you that the standard of quality must be improved. For this you may have to bring more stringent laws. I would say that these laws should be approved by one and all.

The pilferage, theft and cheating in the PDS should be stopped. Necessary steps should be taken in this regard. No doubt a lot of improvement has been made but it is not sufficient.

I would also like to request you to kindly ban the speculators in trade and forward trading in the food grains market. This is one of the major areas where you can control the price. You can also control the theft and the adulterators.

Due to the financial crunch we are not able to reduce the issue price to the food grains. We were bound to increase the issue price by one rupee. I beg upon the august House to kindly decrease it and bring it to the same level as before because it goes to the common man. They must be given protection. You can make good this one rupee by controlling the pilferage and other such malpractices.

Our Prime Minister has come out with an idea to give new impetus to PDS. The most backward blocks in the country were selected, 1700 most backward blocks have been selected, 11,181 new Fair Price Shops have been sanctioned and 23.6 lakhs cards are going to be issued. Under the Drought Prone Area Programme, Integrated Tribal Development Programme, Desert Development Programme and Hill Area Development Programme people from the remotest areas are getting the benefits. They are not only getting the PDS but they are also getting the commodities at less prices. Through these special programmes which were announced, the people from the backward areas are getting benefits. Out of 1715 blocks selected 143 blocks are under DDP, 593 blocks are under DPAP, 148 blocks are under ITDP, 55 blocks are under Hill Area Development Programme. And the other neglected areas that we have are 177 blocks.

Sir, I must thank the hon. Prime Minister for the bold initiative he has taken with regard to this system. Because of his innovative ideas, the whole country is praising him.

Today, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Food and Department of Rural Development are the important areas. So, they should be developed.

I would also like to request the hon. Minister one thing. We have been demanding that the Agriculture and Water Resources be connected with one another. I request that he should do the needful in this regard.

We have to link all the rivers. Water is an important factor. All rivers should be nationalised also. Only by nationalising it, we can create a sense of integration and a unity. By means of this ambitious programme, the Department will gain as also the country.

With these few words, I once again

support the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food, Civil Supplies and the PDS.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak against the Demands for Grants of the concerned Ministries. Today, first of all I want to draw the attention of the House to two or three issues. In some areas of our State of Bihar, wheat crops have been afflicted with a dreaded disease. The local newspapers have been publishing it for last several days. Today, it has appeared in the Delhi edition of the 'Janasatta' under the caption, "Bihar mein kuchh hissos mein gehun ki fasal jaharili hui - eak mara". It is a very strange disease. The wheat grains turn black. A person wanted to taste it. When he chewed and swallowed it, he started vomiting. He became unconscious and died. This disease has broken out especially in Jamui and Nawada. I request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture who is sitting here, to send a team there from Delhi immediately and conduct an inquiry in this regard as to what is this disease, how did it breakout and how to prevent it from spreading to other areas. We hope that the Government will certainly pay attention and take action on it.

I want to draw the attention of the House to another report. It has appeared in today's 'Janasatta' under the caption "Kisano ne bot klub per fasaion ki holi jalai". Mr. Chairman, Sir, the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and the adjoining State of Uttar Pradesh are discontent with the price policy and support prices of Rabi crops announced by the Government and resorted to this move out of frustration. During the Government of our party the support price of wheat was raised from Rs. 183 per quintal to Rs. 215 per quintal. Last year the procurement price of wheat had

been fixed at Rs. 225 per quintal. This year the increase in the procurement price has been the lowest. The increase is only Rs. 25/- . The procurement prices of other crops have been fixed at the same ratio. The subsidy on fertilizers had been withdrawn which means that the input has become costlier. The rupees has also been devaluated. Farmers are anguished over the fixation of procurement price of wheat at 250/- per quintal. They burn their crops out of frustration. I, therefore, urge the Government to reconsider its decision.

Just now I received the agenda of the House. It says that the hon. Minister would make a statement about Bonus payment. I am not talking of Bonus now. In the year 1990, the Hanumantrao Committee had been constituted to provide remunerative prices to farmers for their crops. I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that the committee had made some recommendations and the support prices were then fixed on that basis. Government should follow the same criterion and should not make any changes in it, because it is in the interest of the farmers. It was a scientific approach. Therefore, I would urge the Government to follow the same formula on the basis of which the support price of wheat had earlier been fixed at Rs. 215 per quintal. Farmers should continue to get due remuneration for their hard work. The Government should fix the support price keeping in view various factors viz. cost of production, change in input prices, input and output price parity, demand and supply, intercrop price parity, effect on industrial crop structure, effect on general price level, effect on cost of living, international market price situation, parity between price paid and price received. Mr. Jakhar is himself a farmer, he knows it better. I am not talking of other crops. I am talking of support price of wheat only. I urge the Government to fix the support price of wheat at Rs. 350/- per quintal instead of the present support price of Rs. 250/-. The

Government is talking of bonus payment. If the Government is sympathetic towards the village people and the farmers, it must change the present support price of wheat and fix a corresponding price for other crops also.

Alongwith the farmers, I would like to draw your attention towards the problem of the artisans. It is only after that I would like to come to budgetary provisions. We had introduced a long waiver scheme for the farmers and artisans. I am very thankful that the Government has made a provision of Rs. 1500 crore under this head in this year's Budget but I would like to tell you that there is a lacuna in it. It is about the loan relief scheme. People who drew loans from Public Sector Banks, Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks have been benefited. The Government had allotted areas to various banks to serve the people and give loans. In many areas some private banks and scheduled banks had given loans. Now loans taken by people from these banks will not be waived. I would like that the Government should review the whole situation and make necessary reforms in the system so that all people get equal relief. This is my suggestion.

There are many challenges before this country. Our production is about 176 million tonnes. At present the per capita availability is cereals 437 grams and pulses 36 grams, but it cannot be called a balanced diet. If we base our assessment on diet being given to a soldier or a prisoner, then at the turn the century this country would respectively require about 260 million tonnes and 265 million tonnes of foodgrains. Even if we make the calculation on the basis of present per capita availability of diet in the country, we would require 240 million tonnes of foodgrains by the turn of this century. The Ministry of Agriculture calculates the figures on the basis of present availability and sets up its target. Irrespective of the Government in power. If we adopt this yardstick, then also

this country would require 240 million tonnes of foodgrains by the turn of this century of course, it is not sufficient.

China is our neighbouring country. In 1988 it produced 235 million tonnes of foodgrains and even then it had to import 35 million tonnes to feed its 92 crore people. This requirement is on the basis of balanced diet admissible in that country. Even if we do not base of calculation on diet being provide to a soldier or a prisoner and make the calculation on the basis of actual availability of foodgrains, this country would need foodgrains to the extent of 240 million tonnes. One of the reason is that 40% of the people of this country live below the poverty line. But our own estimates show that about 50% of people live below the poverty line. These people have not purchasing power and hence cannot get two square meals a day. Even on this basis we require 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. What scheme does the Government have to achieve this target? The rate of population growth is about 2.1% and agricultural growth is 2.6%, yet there is a wide gap between the demand and the supply of foodgrains. The foodgrains position in the country is very dismal. We do not making much import of foodgrains because people have no purchasing power. It is a different matter that there is no need to import wheat. The per capita availability of pulses, which is a major source of protein for people, was 70 grams in 1957 which has come down to 36 gms now. This is also major challenge before us and we want to know from the Budget allocations as to how does the Government propose to face this situation. The present Budget has an outlay Rs. 1049 crore and 75 lakh for agriculture, it was Rs. 1016 crore 31 lakh in 1991-92. In terms of rupee, it is 3 per cent more than the previous year's allocation but keeping in view the devaluation of rupee, it is less by 10%. The rupee was devaluated by 16% then it increases to 18% and now it is 12% to 13%. Even if we accept that rupee has been

devaluated by 13%, the Budgetary allocation for agriculture has gone down by 10%.

In 1991-92 Government had made an allocation of Rs. 157 crore and 99 lakh to Animal Husbandry and Dairy Development which was rounded to Rs. 158 crore. This means it has been really cut by 13%. The Government had been running a scheme called Operation Flood-III and kept an outlay of Rs. 42 crors and 11 lakh for it in 1991-92 Budget. In 1992-93 it has been reduced to Rs. 23 crore and 75 lakh. Why is the Government curtailing all these allocations? How is it going to meet the challenges. The hon. Minister may give some reply to all these points, but this is the factual situation.

In 1991-92 Rs. 39 crore and 35 lakh had been allocated to horticulture sector which has been increased this time. We express our thanks to the Government for this. It has been increased to Rs. 65 crore. This would help increase coconut and spices production in south India. The Budgetary allocation for coconut has ben increased to Rs. 9 crore from Rs. 5 crores and 14 lakh and for spices it has been increased to Rs. 3 crore and 65 lakh for Rs. 26 lakhs. I express my thanks to the Government for this. But no attention has been paid either by way of framing policies or planning for promoting horticulture in northern India i.e. for augmenting the production of mangoes or litchies or jujube or Guara. We want development of South India which is an integral part of the country but northern Bihar should also be developed. We want that Government should formulate a scheme and inform the House in this regard. You have allocated so much funds for the development of one region therefore, allocation for northern India should also be increased.

The encourage the farmers, the Government had included Kinno and ginger under

market intervention scheme. But no new scheme has been introduced for these commodities. So far as we know, no new scheme has been introduced under the market intervention scheme for these commodities. An hon. Congress Member was just now speaking very high about the achievements of the present Government. He made allegations against us also. I would like to inform that the previous Government had done a lot of work and I would like to know whether you are able to launch any new scheme as was done by the previous Government.

There is a lot of potential for development in pisciculture (fishery) sector. Faster development may be achieved by undertaking pisciculture in big and small ponds on large scale by implementing inland fishery or fresh water fishery programmes but the Government has not so far formulated any such schemes. A lot of development may be achieved in this way and the unemployed may get the employment.

When you came in power, you reduced the subsidy on fertilizers country wide protest was lodged against the withdrawal and reduction of subsidy on fertilizers. We had also lodged a protest, then the Government said that subsidy would continue to be allowed for small and medium farmers. In 1991-92 the Government had made a provision of Rs. 405 crore for providing subsidy at the current rate. But this year the Government has made no provision to provide subsidy to the small and medium farmers. It means that the farmers will be forced to purchase fertilizers on the normal rate and will get no subsidy this year.

All farmers are not big farmers like Shri Balram Jakhar. I do not want to make any comment on the dress, but Mahatma Gandhi was not a hypocrite. He had resolved to wear loin cloth to identify himself completely with the people fo India. Shri Jakhar's clothes

look very good, but what would happen to those poor farmers who live in villages? They are not big farmers. You have deprived 70 per cent farmers from subsidy to the tune of Rs. 405 crore. We are in favour of providing subsidy to all the farmers. We are opposed to the withdrawal and reduction of the subsidy. Wide publicity was made to provide relief to the small and medium farmers and it was said that the Government wanted to safeguard, their interests. Why has the Government not allocated even a single paisa for subsidy? While last year a sum of RS. 405 crore was allocated under this head, but no funds have been allotted this year. An amount of Rs. 289 crore 70 lakh was allotted for other fertilizer schemes in 1991-92. I am quoting these figures from the revised estimates. Why have you reduced it to Rs. 6 crore 85 lakh in 1992-93? Why have you made such a drastic cut in the allocation for other fertilizer schemes? Schemes are formulated and implemented for small and marginal farmers and for agricultural labourers. In 1991-92 a provision of Rs. 100 crore 59 lakh was made in the Budget estimates and in the revised estimates, a sum of RS. 92 crore 65 lakh was shown under this head. This scheme has been abandoned in 1992-93. The budget allocation for this purpose is zero.

Weaker Section, small and medium farmers are being totally neglected under the present Government. The schemes meant for the weaker section, poor and small farmers are being abandoned. This is the effect of Agriculture Minister's dress on the schemes and programmes.

Our agricultural scientists may be favourably compared with the scientists of the world from the point of view of competence, wisdom, intelligence as also in their research work, but the research made by them has not reached the land. It has been said just now that production of pulses, has gone down considerably and per capita availability of

pulses has decreased. Current per capita availability of pulses has gone down to 36 grammes as against 70 grammes in 1957. Our scientists have developed several varieties of pulses which yielded more production and ripe in a few days. Such a research has been made, but Government has paid no attention to launch extension schemes to make the fruits of such a research on the field. In 1991-92, budget estimate for extension and training was Rs. 11 crore and 93 lakh, but in 1992-93 it has been reduced to RS. 11 crore 87 lakh which is lower in comparison to the allocation for the previous year. It means that research will continue to be made in the laboratories, scientists will undertake research in the farms. They will demonstrate it to the Ministers, officials, foreign teams and to the Members of the Parliament. The rich farmers who have money will reach there dressed in suite to see the demonstration but the real farmers will continue to be deprived of the fruits of the research and development. Extension programmes have been neglected to such an extent.

One of our friends was referring to Krishi Vigyan Kendra. 109 Krishi Vigyan Kendra have been established till now. National front Government had sanctioned setting up of new Krishi Vigyan Kendras. None knows as to what happened to those Kendras? You have not sanctioned them till now. Would you like to tell us whether these Kendras have been sanctioned or not. Such Kendras must be sanctioned. You will say that such Kendras have been sanctioned in some areas like Rajasthan and Haryana. If it has been sanctioned by Shri Devi Lal, it would not be approved. After all his area is also a part of India one Krishi Vigyan Kendra was sanctioned in the constituency of Shri Rabi Ray like other areas. God knows, what happened to it. All sorts of approval was granted. Minister level approval was granted. Even the Government had approved it. After the fall of our Government, the new Government dis-

cussed it in the Planning Commission again and funding pattern was discussed in a new way. Funding pattern was decided on a matching basis. Under the new funding pattern, 50 percent of funds should be provided by the Centre and 50 per cent by the State. In this way, the scheme of Krishi Vigyan Kendras can never be implemented successfully. It is a very ambitious scheme. It is a good scheme which aims at making the fruits of the research available to the farmers. This question has been answered several times in this House. But no attention has been paid by the Government to implement the scheme. You say that you will set up 200 Krishi Vigyan Kendras and a discussion has been held with the Planning Commission in this regard. It has not been mentioned as to how much funds have been provided in the Budget and how much amount is going to be spent, this year. It is a good scheme. It should be expanded. It should not be curtailed for political reasons and it must be sanctioned and implemented in its original form. There are 109 Krishi Vigyan Kendras. More Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be opened. It is a matter of great happiness that several proposals for Krishi Vigyan Kendras are pending for sanction. The team has submitted its report. I would like to request that it should be finalised and decision on it should be taken at the earliest.

Our position with regard to oilseeds is also very poor. It is an irony that it has got energy, but it is produced only in very dry areas. We have to make vigorous efforts for increasing the production of oil seeds. I would like to give a suggestion to the hon. Minister in this regard. Whenever there is shortage of oilseeds, we immediately go in for the import of edible oils. This practice is very dangerous. You can go through the records about import of edible oils for the last many years. These figures are available everywhere. I do not want to waste the

precious time of the House by quoting these figures. I have got the figures for the period from 1985-86 to 1990-91. In 1987-88 the import of edible oils had reached upto the level of 18,10,000 tonnes. In 1990-91 its import was to the tune of 5,38,000 tonnes. Edible oil is not such a thing without which we cannot live. We should accept the shortage of edible oils as challenge. We should be ready to face a little bit hardship. We should not import oil seeds and edible oil. We should encourage our own farmers and should try to live by consuming less edible oil. There was no need to increase the stock of edible oils by importing it and thereby suddenly increasing our requirement. The requirement for edible oils went up to 54 grammes from 48 grammes. It was dumped in the market by importing it. People's requirement and habit also changed due to excessive import. Our requirement has again increased to 59 grammes from 54 grammes when there is availability of 54 grammes. Why should we import it? Why is it so that requirement of edible oils has gone up to 58 grammes per individual per day when it was only 48 grammes just two years back? It is not good to discourage our own farmers by importing edible oils from foreign countries. We should not import edible oil at any cost and we should appeal to the people to consume less edible oil. We should tell the people that it is very difficult time. We should ask the people to consume less edible oil and accelerate the oilseeds production programme with a view to encourage the farmers so that there is maximum production of oilseeds. This is my suggestion.

A lot of publicity is being given to the green revolution in the present situation. Green revolution has of course taken place in the hon. Minister's constituency. Green revolution had not much impact in the entire country. It is a good thing. We were in a very bad situation. We were going with a begging bowl to the foreign countries and we accepted that situation as a challenge. Green revolution proved to be successful only in

those areas where irrigation facility was available and in a way it has reached at an optimum level in those areas. Even now there is 70 per cent of dry farming in our country. Dry farming depends on the rain. Agriculture production can not increase unless we prepare a strategy for it. The total production of 70 percent rainfed areas is only 48 per cent of the total foodgrains production in the country. The contribution of 30 percent land which has got irrigation facilities is 52 per cent. We have tremendous scope for increasing foodgrains production in our country. We can produce more than 265 million tonnes by the turn of this century, but there is a need to prepare a strategy for the rainfed areas. A scheme was prepared by the name of

[English]

National Water State Development Project for Rainfed area.

[Translation]

It is an ambitious scheme. It will raise the water level. It will check the wastage of water and will raise the water level in those areas where it is low. In 1991-92 the Planning Commission had allocated Rs. 250 crores, then what is the reason that you allocated only Rs. 170 crore and spent Rs. 159 crore while Planning Commission is providing you Rs. 250 crore. This year in 1992-93 you are allocating only Rs. 161 crore. This is the biggest and most ambitious scheme for the rainfed farming. What is your attitude towards it?

No proper work is being done on it. I have some knowledge about Bihar. The work is being done in the same way even at the State level. It is a State ruled by my party. It is my home State that is why I am talking about it. I am not saying it for criticising anybody. In officers meeting it is decided that this scheme will be implemented in those areas where the irrigated land is less than 30 per cent and norms are fixed for the blocks

where it is useful. You have fixed the norms. Now there are such blocks in Bihar where water level is very high i.e. 1 1/2-2 years or so. If a water shed is made there the water level will raise further and the whole land will become saline. If it so happen then we will request the Government to conduct soil tests it especially in Bihar. I believe that if this scheme is implemented then the land in 30-40 blocks will become saline, but the officers are not bothered about it. We had sent a team there when we were in power. The team went there and studied the situation there but later on the officers made some changes in it. We don't know what sort of politics is being played in bringing forward this scheme, which will harm the interests of the farmers. We would like to submit that this scheme should be duly examined as. Discuss this issue with the Government of Bihar. There is something wrong at the lower level and we are not away of it. We are going to implement it, it can create a bad situation. The water level in North Bihar is already very high and by making water sheds there we will be endangering the lives of people there. Therefore, we will request you to look into this matter.

We have a challenge before us and the budget has clarified it that how you faced it. The Government is facing that challenge by devalue the rupee and stopping the development process and by exploiting poor farmers. We would like to know from the Government that on 15 August, 1990 from the rampart of the Red Fort the then Prime Minister Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh said that this decade would be celebrated as a decade of farmers. There would be no party politics in respect of the problems of the farmers and they would be brought in focus and will be given priority in the country. We had turned in wrong direction from the Second Five Years Plan when instead of agriculture priority was given to the industry. As a result of which we have been trapped in such a situation. We said that this decade will be a decade of the farmers but the present Government is not thinking about it. We said

that we will announce an Agricultural Policy as Industrial Policy already exists in the country. I would like to ask what exercise is going on, in this regard and by when it will be announced? The exercise had been completed. When we were in power. The discussions with the Planning Commission were almost over but we could not find an opportunity to present that. We had to present that in the Parliament during that very winter session, in which our Government was voted out. The next Government did not paid attention to it. Now you are in power and it is revealed that some action is being taken by this Government but how long this exercise will continue. When will this be brought before the country. It has been already discussed with the Chief Ministers, Agriculture Department, Agriculture Ministry and with the Planning Commission. Inter-Ministry discussions have also been completed. We don't know what the Government wants to find out by reopening the chapters of that discussion. Another challenge before us is to provide food and balanced diet to our countrymen on the one hand and on the other hand we are mainly dependent on agriculture. Even today, more than 70 per cent people depend on agriculture. How to reduce this dependence? How to diversify our labour-force or man-power towards agro-based industries or towards other sector so that pressure on agriculture may be reduced. It is the main challenge before us and a National Agriculture Policy should be evolved by consensus for facing this challenge. There could be no difference of opinion in this regard. Remunerative prices for crops should be included in it. There should be co-ordination between the prices of agricultural produce and industrial produce. This should not be there that an owner of a factory decides the price of his produce while the farmer does not have this right. The farmer does not have any say in this regard. The farmer is compelled for distress sale. Agro-based industries should be promoted. Number of dependents on agriculture should

be reduced and the farmers should be provided seeds, fertilizers, insecticides at cheaper rates. Irrigation facilities should be provided a priority should be given to the development of the agriculture in those areas where the people are dependent on rain water for irrigation. Farmer's Councils should be constituted at block level, district level and state level so that they may discuss it among them and suggest about their problems and may express their views to the Government. Crops Insurance Scheme is not meant for farmers. It is meant for the banks which provide loans. Crops Insurance Scheme should be expanded. It should be implemented for all crops and its profit should be given to all farmers. When we are talking about agriculture policy then warehouses should be constructed in each village. There should be no regional restrictions on the transportation of agriculture productions. The farmers should be given information about new-techniques. These all things should be included in agriculture policy. Land-reforms should also be included in it. Land should be given to the cultivators. Latest land record should be made and farmers should be given its pass books. Today, there are not latest land records. By making latest land record, pass books should be given to the farmers with full details of their land as it is given by banks on depositing money. All sale-purchase deeds should be recorded in that pass book. There is no need of such detailed revenue records. One record register will be kept in regional office and the pass-book will remain with the farmer. These all things should be included in the agriculture policy. We should organise the landless labourers and form a land army and expand the area of cultivation. (Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the growth rate and increasing population one thing has come before us. It is a challenge before us and how the Government is facing this challenge through its budgetary proposals. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government will face this challenge on the suggestions of Dunkel. I am shocked to see the budget of

Dr. Manmohan Singh. There was hardly a paragraph on rural development and agriculture in it. I am shocked to note that no attention has been paid on such a large sector, on which such a large population depends. And if any attention has been paid that is opening of agriculture for all things even for seeds too for foreigners. This Dunkel draft is harmful to our agriculture sector.

We would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to raise a voice of sharp opposition of his Ministry. Multi-national companies will reign the country of once these things reach here. I would not like to go in detail. Recently, a discussion was going on a private motion. We have expressed our views in that discussion as well as in the meeting of Consultative Committee of the Commerce Ministry. We want to draw the attention of the Government towards Dunkel drafts. Dunkel suggests reducing support to agriculture. Who is Dunkel to suggest us. Will the USA advise us as to how much subsidy we should pay to our agriculture sector. They are paying 50 dollars as subsidy per tonne paid on weight. In this way they pay 39% subsidy to their farmers. In Australia subsidy rate is 39%. The European Economic Community pays 58%. Holland, Belgium, France, Britain, Italy and Germany pay 42%, Finland 77%, Norway 80% and Sweden 58% to their farmers. While the USA pay 40% subsidy to their farmers, they advise us to pay a subsidy of less than 10% and we people accept that and become complacent that our agriculture sector is equipped with all facilities and the lower rate of subsidy will have no effect on us. It is not the question whether it will have any effect on us, but the question is whether they should direct us in this manner?

Our challenge is serious, we have to feed our population, we have to raise people from that state, we have to bring progress in the country, we have to bring about prosperity and happiness. For that should we play into their hands? Mr. Chairman Sir, there will be a free import of seeds into the country. The seeds will be made patent. But how can

a living thing be made patent. A plant cannot be made patent. It is against the Indian culture. Let us take the case of bio-technology. We may also talk of blue green algae. They are also living things and they will also be made patent, that means they will sell their things in this country and the next generation cannot gain from this, whether it is in the case of animals, crops or bio-technology. If the farmer buys seeds and tries to preserve some seeds for the next crop, will the Government of India let him preserve it? Because the seeds agent will complain. Then the Government will send him to jail. It will ask the State Government to look into the matter and the State Governments in this turn will send him to jail. If the Government does not do so, the USA will resort to cross retaliation and use special 301. They will corner us in trade. These are so dangerous. So I would like to advise you that if you have a sense of pride within you or if you are concerned for the pride of your country and if people, you should raise your voice against it and at least the injustice which is being perpetrated and the conspiracy being hatched to ruin our agriculture should be stopped. They want that our farmer should again become a pauper, a poor and forced to sell his land. They want that we should again approach them for P.L. 480 or foodgrains and beg before them. This is what they want. They do not want us to be self-reliant, or become powerful. Please try to understand this conspiracy. Our agricultural scientists are undertaking research now. When multi-national companies will come, they will not be able to stand before them even for a month or two. That is why kindly save this country from being sunk. Please save our agriculture from being ruined. We hope that you will be a little more courageous, if you really want the country make progress. Village industries are in a bad shape. The funds which were allocated for the rural development in 90-91 was about Rs. 3129 crores. It was Rs. 3508 crores in 1991-92 and this time it has been brought down to Rs. 3100 crore. This is how the Government is developing the villages! If we

take into account the devaluation of rupee, the allocation for this sector has been reduced by 22%. But the Government is boasting of its performances that it is doing a very good thing. In the same way what has been done for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana? This scheme is being launched after Jawahar Lal Nehru's name, but it would have made to difference if you disclosed the truth in this regard. Actually, this scheme had been started by the Morarji Desai Government i.e., the Janta Party Government under a food for work programme. Thereafter, it was renamed as N.R.E.P. and subsequently as R.L.I.G.P. and now it is being run as Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. Whatever you might call it, you may call it by any name but this scheme has been running since 1977 and the Janta Party Government had introduced it. Since then the scheme is striving for creating mandays and generating employment. All right, you may not give its credit to Janta Party but please do not reduce the funds for this sector. A provision of Rs. 3100 crore had been made in 1990-91 for this scheme which was reduced to Rs. 2100 crore in 1991-92 and now it is Rs. 2046 crore. In fact, it is seen that a 20% cut in the funds has been affected so that villagers and workers do not get employment. This is what the Government is doing. In the same way the I.R.D.P. which is an antodaya programme was introduced in 1977, and a provision of Rs. 390 crore had been made in 1990-91. In 1990-91 it was Rs. 390.40 crore. Now it has been made Rs. 390.20 crore. What do you want to do with the villagers and the people of the backward classes? What sin have they committed? Why was such an act of injustice perpetrated against them? Neither do those people get employment nor is there any way they can rise above the poverty line. This is your policy and you hope to solve problems in this way and face challenges.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the annual report of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana contains figures of last 3 years. The figures in respect of

financial and physical achievements show that maximum mandays had been created in 1990-91. As many as 87 crore 31 lakh mandays had been created during this year. This is your golden era, the target was to create 92 crore, 91 lakh mandays and we reached near this target. There was a provision of Rs. 2628 crore out of which Rs. 2529 crore were released. This is the golden era of this plan when you party was not in power. But today you are boasting of your performances that you have done a very big thing. What have you done? In 1991-92 you provided a sum of Rs. 28.13 crore out of which Rs. 20.13 crore were released. Out of this only Rs. 13.03 crore were utilized and 4054 lakh mandays created when your party is in power. This speaks of your intentions which are not clear towards villages. That is why this situation has been created.

I made a submission about the I.R.D.P. The Antodaya Programme should also have been discussed along with the TRYSEM programme. This thing is evident from the annual report that TRYSEM was introduced on the 15th August 1979 whereas the I.R.D.P. was introduced from 2nd of October 1980. It has been written therein that this is the supporting component of I.R.D.P. Now you may kindly explain as to how the supporting component could be implemented first and the main component later. In the annual report of I.R.D.P., at least, this much could have been said that the scheme was introduced by the Janata Party rule in 1977-78. The Antodaya programme had started since then. The scheme for lifting the poor above the poverty line was also started, but your intention is not clear. That is why you are doing such kind of things.

Then what will be the situation in the country? Look at the condition of the roads. Mr. Chairman Sir, you are ringing the bell again and again. The annual report which they have presented on road development speaks that there was a scheme for constructing rural roads in the Seventh Five Year Plan. It was decided to link the villages

having a population of about 1500, with roads. Till now you have not been able to fulfill this target. This is your report. Even if I do not about your intentions, but I will certainly like to say that there is a difference of priority at your end. You pay no attention towards the development of villages. The results is that today the villages are existing in a state of helplessness.

Lately there was a discussion on the P.D.S. The hon'ble members were full of praise and they were taking on behalf of the Congress Party. I would only like to say one thing in connection with P.D.S. This newsitem was published on the 23.5.92 in the Indian Express.

[English]

"Official sanction for adding impurities: Public Distribution system. Believe it or not, but the fact is that up to 49 per cent impurities are officially permitted in foodgrains procured for distribution through public distribution system network all over the country."

[Translation]

You may believe or not but it is a fact that 49 per cent impurity is being permitted by the Government. Not only the Indian Express but all the newspapers of that day published the news that it contained 49 per cent impurity. What type of foodgrains you are going to provide to the poor. Issue price has been increased substandard foodgrains havin 49 per cent impurity are being provided to them, this is nothing more than chaff being given to the people. Foodgrains unfit for human consumption and which could be provided to animals is being supplied through PDS. You are applauding yourself and claiming that 1700 Blocks would be covered or 1700 additional PDS centres would be opened. You should give your clarification in regard to the prevailing situation in this respect. The entire country is concerned about it. Issue prices should be reduced.

Before I conclude I would like the Government to clarify some points. Do the Government intend to lesson the dependence on agriculture or not? Do the Government have any plan or policy in this regard or not? Even now more than 70 per cent of total population depending agriculture. Do the Government want to reduce the burden on agriculture or not? How long will the Government take to evolve an agriculture policy? Will this matter be restricted only to discussions or the Government intend to formulate an agriculture policy? Will the Government formulate any new scheme in the interest of the farmers?

When we were in power i.e. the National Front was in power, Shri Madhu Dandavata had delivered the Budget speech. The hon. Ministers may go through the detailed Budget estimates presented later on. 49.5 per cent of the total budget outlay was earmarked for the development of rural sector. In the eighth plan, half of the total Budget outlay was proposed to be spent on the rural sector. Now the Government have changed the approach paper and revised plan document. The Government must disclose in clear terms as to how much of the budget outlay is proposed to be spent for that purpose. We have already pointed out the sectors in which the funds have been curtailed. Though we had earmarked 49.5 per cent of total budget outlay for the rural sector and we intended to raise it to 50 per cent. We would have further increased this allocation in the Eighth Plan. What is your plan? How much amount is proposed to be spent on rural sector by the present Government? This should be made clear while giving reply to the discussion. Because these aspects have been referred to neither in the Budget speech delivered by Shri Manmohan Singh nor in your detailed Demands for Grants. We would like you to clarify this.

We had put all the Acts related to the land reforms passed by various States after 1984 in the 9th scheduled of the Constitution.

with a view to keep them out of the jurisdiction of judiciary. After that land tribunal with status of the court was proposed to be set up. The present Government could not do even this work. How long will the Government take to set up land tribunal?

Lastly, I would like to know if the Government intends to impose land ceiling in urban areas just as it has been imposed in rural areas. We would like that this matter may be discussed clearly in the context of land reforms. Agriculture has been totally neglected in the Budget. The Government side to have no clear foresight in this regard. How will we meet the challenges confronting us? The Government does not have any policy to develop the agriculture or the rural areas. Therefore, I would like them to explain their policy to the people. Since funds meant for rural development have been curtailed to a large extent, I oppose this Budget.

[English]

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA (Amritsar): Sir, my friend Shri Nitish Kumar has raised certain points. They are common. There is a challenge before this nation of rural poverty and we are all keen to improve our agriculture. But his remark against our hon. Minister is uncalled for. It has nothing to do with our agricultural economy.

But perhaps he does not know the man. The hon. Minister was a Minister in Punjab and ten thereafter he was Hon. Speaker here. He is basically a farmer and he has been fighting for the cause of farmers. That we all know.

I rise to support the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. It is a very big task which this

Ministry is handling. 70 to 75 per cent of the people are dependent on agriculture and if we improve our agricultural economy, the fate of 75 per cent of the people will change and that is exactly the objective of our Government. This is what we are trying. This is what we want to achieve.

I would like to draw the attention of our hon. Minister that when you prepare estimates, it is always different from what we really achieve. I am not raising all those points because, before me Shri K.V. Thangkabalau has explained the agricultural policies and programmes. I am not touching that but I am raising this point because in this year, 1990-91, you said 182 million tonnes of grains will be produced. That was your estimate but in actual terms it is just 170 million tonnes. You know the difference. What effect will it have on prices?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): It is 176 million tonnes.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: But in your report, it is 170 to 172 million tonnes. Even if you have estimated 176 million tonnes, it has tremendous effect on prices. The business men, the hoarders and also the big industrialists who are dealing in grain take advantage and rise the price saying that the crop is less. Therefore, while preparing the estimates, I suggest that you should prepare it very carefully because it has connection with the prices. Nobody can say that whatever estimate is there, it is always true. It cannot be possible. I know that. But it should be nearest to the facts.

The other point I would like to say is that you are putting all your efforts to improve the agricultural economy of this country. You are having better seeds, research programmes, exchange programmes and so on and so

forth. You have also received more than Rs. 15,000 crores for the agriculture banks and all that, for giving loans to the farmers. But with all this, with such a big cultivable area in this country, with all the escources we have, with all the big rivers that we have and good rainfall in many of the areas of this country, I am sorry to say that 170 million tonnes or 175 million tonnes of foodgrains is not enough.

You see in China which has only about 20 per cent arable land, the rest is all mountainous, they are having more than 400 million tonnes of foodgrains. We were there. I was with the Agriculture Minister there. We were together in China and we have been studying this problem.

16.00 hrs.

They are having more than 400 million tonnes of grains while they have only 20 per cent arable land. So, we must see that whatever the resources we have, whatever the resources available with us, we must manage our affairs in such a fashion that they improve the agricultural commodities, they improv them so that we have more foodgrains and we can effectively utilise that. To my mind - if you do not mind, I think and I say there is a need of improvement in the management system. Whatever you are spending, whatever resources are available to you, it has to be coordinated and to be seen how we can make best use out of that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute please. I will allow Shri Tarun Gogoi to make a statement which is fixed at 4 O' Clock today.

16.01 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Grant of bonus to farmers over and above minimum support price of wheat

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): The question of giving a bonus to farmers who sell wheat to Food Corporation of India and its agencies procuring for the Central Pool has been under consideration of Government for some time. The sole purpose behind such a consideration is to maximise procurement of wheat and at the same time extend additional benefit to the farmers.

It has now been decided that a bonus of Rs. 25/- per quintal will be paid to the farmers who sell wheat to the above agencies during the period from 1st April to 31st May, 1992. This bonus will be over and above the minimum support price of Rs. 250/- per quintal already announced by the Government.

It is hoped that the bonus will act as an incentive and will help in achieving adequate level of procurement of whet to meet the requirements of the public distribution system and provide food security to the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Raghunanadan Lal Bhatia, go on, please.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): There is on question. What about the issue price?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: That, we decide later on.

16.02 hrs.

DEMNADS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1992-93-Contd.
Ministry of Rural Development
Ministry of Food
Ministry of Agriculture
Ministry of Civil Supplies and Public
Distribution - CONTD.

SHRI RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA: What I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that the farmer is not getting

adequate price for his product. It is a good that you have given him incentive today, which is Rs. 25/- I think it is not enough. You have two options. Either you give him subsidy or give him implements at a lower rate or provide the infrastructure at a lower cost so that he can meet the demands; or, you raise the price. There are only two options before you. With this, we are very much affected in Punjab because we are the main supplier of wheat and rice to the national kitty. We are supplying something like 60 to 70 per cent of wheat and about 40 per cent of rice to the national kitty. In Punjab, the political crisis is also linked with this economic crisis because the land which is there has reached a stage where it cannot produce more. You are not paying adequate price. The price for infrastructure is going up everyday. The result is that agriculture has become a law of diminishing return in Punjab. It has also created political crisis for us. So, I would request you to kindly take this thing into account from a broader point of view. Either you give them facilities so that they can make agriculture, what you call, beneficial to them or you raise the price. This is up to you as to how you can do it.

Then, the method of fixing prices is also very strange. I do not know who fixes the price on these grains, which institutions are involved, which people are involved and which Departments are involved. I do not know about that. Do not leave it to the bureaucrats alone. Please see the practical side of it. Please see what is the cost of the production; what is the unit of the land available and all that. Please take into account the price of the pesticides and other things. Then, you formulate the price level.

Then, there is another thing. It is concerned with the Food Department. It is about procurement. Whenever the farmer brings his produce to the market, the price of grains are the lowest. The prices start rising when he unloads his produce. Ultimately, in the

market the prices go up. Please see the picture for the last to many years. Even this year, you fixed the price at Rs. 225/- for wheat. What is the prevailing market rate now? It is more than Rs. 400. Whose benefit is this? Is the farmer going to get the benefit out of it? No. Is the Government going to derive any benefit out of this rise in prices? Is the consumer having any benefit? No. Why do you not change the policy in such a way so that the price which the farmer gets adequate price the consumer should also get fair price after adding the administrative charges? My friend here was just saying, "you have raised Rs. 25 for the farmers, but what will happen to the consumers?" It is because you do not have any linkage. I would suggest that the Government should procure all the grains at the time of arrival in the market. Two difficulties will arise out of it, if you adopt this policy. First that you have not enough finance to do that nor do you have enough godown capacity. I would suggest that you tell all the bulk consumers like the flour-millers, rice-sellers that they cannot enter into the market, and only the Government will buy it at a fixed price and supply them. Now it will be at Rs. 275. The Government should buy all the wheat and then allocate to the flour-millers. You can tell them that they can have their own month quota and they should deposit the money with the Government. You allocate it and send it to their mills right from the *mandi*. Then you do not require godown, you do not require any money in this respect and the price structure in the country will be stable. The farmer will get the correct price. The consumer will have the end products at a correct price and you will be the gainer because there will be stability of price in the market. Instability of price in the market affects the farmer very badly. He does not want that there should be a fluctuation or prices should go up and down because he is never the gainer. He is the gainer only when you fix the price and procure on that price. Kindly note this suggestion, if it suits, that the Government should procure all the foodgrains and supply it to the flour-millers, exporters and to the rice-sellers

at a fixed price so that they do not make undue profit. If they will get at a fixed price, they will also sell it at a fixed price with their margin on that. It will help everyone. Kindly been this in mind.

Some mention was made about the agricultural universities and research centres. Agricultural universities have done very good work. I do not know about the experience of other States. I can tell you that the Ludhiana Agricultural University has done a wonderful work. They have been above to have research and then they have linked it up with the actual work. There have been *kisan melas*. Whatever the results of their research benefit has gone to farmers are, they *kisan melas* are organised where they tell the people about the achievements of the research. They have been providing good seeds. Therefore, my request is, why do you not have universities in all the States? Let all the States have the benefit of these universities and let them take advantage of the research institutions so that we raise our production.

The main requirement of a farmer is the water. Unfortunately, in this country, we have got very very big schemes. But all those schemes are never completed in time. Then there are political interference. You can see what is happening in the Narmada Valley. Tehri Garwal? Schemes are delayed, cost has increased and the results are very late. Why do you not start small schemes? You must have your policy of long-term as well as short-term period. I would suggest about the short-term policy. You have the rain water available on the ground to the tune of 690 cubic metres and under the ground it is to the tune of 450 cubic metres. In total, you have 1140 cubic metres of water. But what is the utilisation? It is only 552 cubic meters. Why are we wasting it? When we have water, why cannot we dig small canals? We can dig tanks, we can have wells, so that we have proper utilisation of that water. Now we are thinking of taking Aid from World Bank and other banks but what we have, we are

not utilising properly. It will not cost much and I can assure you that. From here and there, you just have the money and ask the villagers to dig the tanks. You need not give money to them. You can take up this under Food for Work Programme that was started earlier. Let them dig and let them get the grains. So in this fashion, I think, very soon we will be able to utilise that excess water which we are having in this country.

Similarly, the results of the green revolution are before you, whether it is in Punjab, Haryana or in Western U.P. And I am glad to see that in Punjab, the per hectare production of wheat is 3,715 kilograms. But if we see in U.P., which has a better land, which has better facilities for water – all the rivers are there – and good rain-fall, there the per hectare production of wheat is only 2,162 kilograms. Where do the mistake lie? Why cannot we rectify all these anomalies? If Punjab is getting 3,479 kilograms per hectare, Why U.P., is getting only 2,162 kilograms per hectare? And similarly the production of paddy per hectare in Punjab is, 2,778 kilograms. But in U.P., you are getting only 1,826 kilograms of paddy per hectare. Kindly ask the State Governments to do something.

My friend, Shri Choudhury, he was saying that the Centre should do this and the Centre should do that. I hope he will also ask his own Government to compare with Punjab to find out as to where is the difficulty. And whatever they can do, they should do and wherever they want any assistance or help, they should come to Centre; and Centre should also help them. After all, it is a national problem.

Now I come to dry farming. In dry farming, we have got lot of lands where dry farming is there. But we have not made a big progress with regard to them. I may inform the hon. Minister that the experiment has been most successful in Israel. And you have always been sending your scientists outside and their has been exchange pro-

grammes and we have been benefitted by them. You have sent them to Philippines and to other areas. Kindly have an exchange programme with Israel to find out how they have been able to manage and we must apply that system in India. Here, lot of lands are dry and there is no rain—fall or lesser rain—fall. We can have those crops which require very less water. So kindly look into this matter and I hope you will be improving our dry land farming.

Now I come to land laws. Our land laws are such that land is being fragmented, after the death of a person. If a person has four sons and he has ten acres, it is divided into two and a half acres per person. In that case, the yield will not be the same. So why cannot we change our laws. In England—the primogeniture law of England—says that only the elder son will be able to get the land and the land shall not be divided. But the income from the land will be divided among all the family members. The fragmentation of land is taking place in this country and every where we find people with one or two or three acres of land. What incentives these small farmers can have, who work upon them? How much he will invest and how much he will get in returns? He will not be able to improve the land because of his meagre resources. So kindly do see and consider if this is possible in our country. Though it is not your Department but anyway the Government is the same and you can prevail upon them.

India is exporting Basmati rice. It is fetching a very good price. We used to export Rs. 200 crores worth of Basmati rice; now it has reached Rs. 800 crores. One bag of Basmati exported can fetch eight bags of wheat. Now must you use your land on wheat? Cannot we have this system that we grow less wheat and grow more Basmati rice, we export it and earn foreign exchange, especially when we get for one bag of Basmati rice a price equivalent to eight bags of

wheat? Kindly look into all these small things; they will certainly help in building our economy and boost our agricultural economy.

Now I come to my own State, Punjab. The people of Punjab are very hard working. They are also very much interested in the scientific development of the system. They own that system; they have applied that system at a great risk whereas in other States people have not tried that system. But the Punjabi people being bold, they have adopted this technology which you produced in this country. In the form of green revolution we have been able to apply and achieve much.

Now there is a stage where Punjabi farmer is not feeling happy because the income after hard labour, after working so much and after deploying all the resources at his disposal—his whole family works in the field—he is not getting a remunerative price. This is a very important factor. To those States which have applied technology and which are producing more, are you going to give them some encouragement?

Punjab food Minister Mrs. Bhattal has offered you in a letter that over and above whatever quota you may fix for procurement from Punjab, she will give you one million tonnes more if you give her Rs. 35 to Rs. 40 per quintal subsidy. Is it not a good bargain? We are prepared to give you more foodgrain; we are prepared to help the Central kitty provided you also help the Punjabi farmer and save the foreign exchange.

We have certain problems. One of our problems is that we are giving our farmers electricity at a flat rate of Rs. 20 per tubewell. Our electricity board is incurring a tremendous loss on account of that. If you cannot give us subsidy, please give us loans for our rural electrification or to our electricity boards, so that we are able to generate more power and more grains. This is a very important point which I would like the hon. Minister to note. If you cannot give us any subsidy,

kindly give us some loan. We are not asking you a very big loan of Rs. 1000 crores. You just give Rs. 100 crores to our electricity department in whatever manner you give; whether for rural electrification or otherwise and we assure that we will give you more foodgrains.

I would say that there is need for coordination among your own departments. You have such a big department. If I see the book which you have given us, there are Fisheries Department, Agriculture Universities, Sheep Breeding and what not. Do you have complete coordination among all these departments, so that you see that they work in coordination and produce good results? Secondly I would also like you to have further coordination with the Ministries of Irrigation and Power without which your progress will be hampered. There should be constant meetings, especially with the Irrigation Department, because we have a lot of problems with them. As I said, rain water is being just wasted and there is no scheme for this. Big, big schemes are there, but small schemes are not taken into account. We can have tanks, we can have tube-wells. So, instead of spending much money over the big schemes, why can we not have these tube-wells? This experiment has been very successful in Punjab. It is a small State of 12 districts to : and we have got over six lakhs of tube-wells which are working there. Why can this experiment not be done at other places? Please do not spend money on big, big schemes. Let us have tube-wells, tanks, etc. and you will see that our agricultural production is boosted.

Lastly, I would just say that Punjab has played a very important role in the agricultural economy of this country and even today, Punjab is the leader. So, you must look at the problems of the Punjab — whatever the demands that have come to you. Our Chief Minister has also written to you. They have also raised certain points. They should be taken care of so that Punjab contributes

much more than what you expect.

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture and Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

At the outset, I would like to say a few words about rural development. Hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech said and I quote:

"Agriculture is the foundation of our national prosperity and no strategy of our economic development can succeed if it does not ensure rapid growth of production and employment in agriculture".

In my humble opinion, redistributive land reforms is the foundation of prosperity of rural India and no strategy of growth of production and employment in agriculture can succeed if it does not ensure rapid implementation of redistributive land reforms. Redistributive land reform is in fact the key to rural development. Now the question arises — Why is redistributive land reform so important a matter, so far as rural development is concerned? It is because, redistributive land reform does not only mean giving a piece of land to a land poor. It rather means unleashing of the entire production forces of the rural area which is extremely required to increase the purchasing power of the rural people. This increased purchasing power of the rural people is a pre-requisite for widening of the internal market of the country which is gradually getting narrowed. Redistributive land reform means, redistribution of social justice, redistribution of economic power. It means a change in the property relation, a change in the rural power structure and hence a change in the correlation of socio-economic and political forces to the rural areas. This change in the rural power structure and in the correlation of the socio-economic and political forces can only ensure rapid growth of production and

employment in agriculture.

But, I am sorry to say that the successive Congress Governments at the Centre have never taken any step to bring about any basic change in the power structure of the rural areas. Obviously it is due to class considerations. That is why the performance in the field of land reform has been so dismal in spite of the fact that promises have been announced relentlessly by the Government and schedules have been worked out repeatedly for completion of distribution of the ceiling surplus land among the landless people as a time bound programme.

It was estimated that eight per cent to the total land under cultivation which accounts for more than 325 lakh acres would be available for distribution among the landless and land poor farmers. But the latest statistics which is available, indicate that only 72.56 lakh acres representing only 1.78 per cent of the total land under cultivation have so far been declared Surplus, out of this only 48.86 lakh acres which is a little above one per cent of the land under cultivation has so far been distributed. I would like to emphasize that if anybody wants to generate employment in the rural sector, if anybody seeks to transform our backward agrarian economy into a modern industrial economy, he should have to come forward to bring about a change in the outmoded land relation, he should have to come forward to translate the slogan 'land to the tiller' into action in letter and spirit.

The second important aspect of the land reform is to confer operational right or tenurial security to the sharecroppers. If that is done, the sharecroppers being free from apprehension of being evicted from the lands they cultivate, will try their level best to maximise production with their blood and sweat. The denial to accord tenurial security to the sharecroppers simply means to allow the productivity potential of labour to remain

unexploited. This is what is obstructing the growth of our agricultural production.

When I am saying all these things, I am fully conscious that the hon. Minister may retort that land being the State Subject, the State Governments are entrusted with the responsibility of implementing the land reform programmes. What has the Central Government to do in this respect?

I would only request him to set examples of better achievements in the Congress-ruled States which will make people feel that the Congress Party and the Congress Governments at the Centre as well as in the States are serious and sincere enough to make land reform programme a success.

Indications are there in the official documents that the rural sector is a priority sector and preferential treatment has been accorded to it in the budgetary provisions. We may now examine what kinds of preferential treatment the rural sector has obtained. The total outlay in 1992-93 budget has increased by Rs. 5,665 crores registering an increase of 6 per cent over the 1991-92 budget. The Central plan outlay for 1992-93 has gone up by 2 per cent. But the allocations for rural development, agriculture and irrigation - all the three relating to rural sector - have been reduced by Rs. 1,107 crores. The reduction is 23 per cent in nominal terms but it is more than 36 per cent in real terms taking price rise and inflation into account.

The outlay for rural development has declined to Rs. 3,113.59 crores in 1992-93 from Rs. 5,521.54 crores in 1991-92. The reduction is of the order of Rs. 407.95 crores.

Are we then supposed to believe that the less the allocation will be there, the more the employment generation will take place in the rural sector and, in the process, if there is no allocation at all, there will be no unemployment and poverty?

This only indicates the difference be-

tween what the Government says and what it does.

I would now deal very briefly with agriculture and while doing so, I would like to quote again a sentence from the Economic Survey 1991-92:

"Agriculture is the least protected sector of the economy; its access to world markets needs to be improved; and barriers to access need to be removed, so that it can make a more substantial contribution to exports."

I think this is the new agricultural policy outline which the Government is going to pursue henceforth. It is evident here that the country will now follow an export oriented agrarian policy. It is surprising that this policy outline is quite silent as to how to provide a square meal a day to millions and millions of our people who have been starving.

There is no doubt that agriculture is the least protected sector of the economy. But the recent moves of the Government indicate that they are going to withdraw whatever little protection was there. In the guise of the plea of access of our agriculture to world market, we are going to provide access to the world communities to the Indian market. This policy outline indicates that we are going to embrace free market mechanism in agriculture. Henceforth, the market forces will decide in what direction our agriculture will proceed. It is needless to say that it will inevitably and invariably cause massive eviction of the small and marginal farmers from their lands and well organised and well mechanised big farm enterprises will come into force to supply raw materials for the industries of the multinational companies. It is implied that our agrarian sector will be left with no alternative but to allow itself to be subjected to the absolute domination of the monopoly capital.

The main objective of our green revolution, which other hon. Members have also

referred to, adopted in the mid sixties was to increase production through technology upgradation. It was then propagated that the rural poor would be benefited through trickle down effect of that policy. But we all know what has been the result. Foodgrains production has, of course, increased considerably. But this agricultural policy has intensified the regional and sectional disparities. It has aggravated poverty and unemployment in the rural areas. It has enhanced immensely the incidents of rural indebtedness and landlessness of the marginal and small farmers.

The new agricultural policy based on the free market philosophy will further accelerate this process. As a part of the new International Economic Order, which the US Administration is so desperately striving to build up, it is very much necessary for them to have a complete control over the agrarian system of the underdeveloped and developing countries of the third world. This control over the agrarian system of the third world countries will result in their permanent dependence on USA. This is what the USA want to do. That is why, the IMF, at the behest of the USA, has persistently been trying to pressurise our Government to abolish subsidy on food and fertiliser and our Government has already succumbed to the pressure.

When US administration is asking us to withdraw subsidy on food, they are going on subsidising their foodgrains in an enhanced rate. So, it has to be realised why USA is asking us to withdraw our subsidy.

Mr. Rudy Boshvitz who was the agriculture advisor of the Reagan administration has himself replied to this question. He has stated that the main objective of the agricultural policy of the USA is to discourage the third world countries to attain self-sufficiency in foodgrains production. With this view in mind, the USA would continue to export foodgrains at a rate of price much lower than the cost of production of foodgrains in these

countries only to allure them to import more and more foodgrains from the USA and as a result, in the long run, they would grow permanently dependent on USA. The US Government even tried to force Japan and South Korea to give up their programmes to become self-sufficient in rice production and depend on import from USA. But they did not oblige the US authority.

Mr. Mordigan Angel, the president of the Wheat Growers' Organisation of USA has made a very significant remark. He has stated that not only in the current year, but in future also, India will have to import lakhs, of tonnes of wheat from abroad. I do not know whether Mr. Angel has hinted that India has already been caught in their trap and there is no point to get rid of it. So, one can easily appreciate that Indian agriculture is now under the paws and claws of the imperialist interests.

While this is the situation, our Government wants us to believe that we are going to make a substantial contribution to exports!

Then Sir, there is the Dunkel Draft Text. I shall not go into the details of it. I would only say that if the Dunkel proposal, so far as it relates to agriculture is accepted, then I am sure, we are going to implement in Indian fields the agricultural policy of the USA, to be conducted and monitored by the USA, for the interest of the USA at the cost of our policy of self-reliance in foodgrains.

Now I have a few suggestions to make. Firstly, recurrence of natural calamities have placed the small and marginal farmers on the verge of ruination. To protect them against such calamities, a new crop insurance scheme with the premiums being shared by the Central and State Governments is required to be introduced in lieu of the existing one which is very restricted and credit linked.

Secondly, a comprehensive programme

of storing and marketing of agricultural produce with the provision of grain-golas at the level of an average cluster of 10, 12 or 15 villages has to be built up.

Thirdly, a Central Minimum Wages Act for the agricultural workers has to be enacted and implemented properly throughout the country.

Fourthly, the small and marginal jute growing farmers who used to make distress sale of their raw jute are the worst sufferers. To safeguard their interest, monopoly purchase of raw jute by the JCI and weeding out the operations of the middlemen have to be ensured.

My fifth point is that the rural network of banks in West Bengal is inadequate and credit-deposit ratio for the rural branches of banks in West Bengal is also very low. This is adversely affecting the growth of agricultural production. Expeditious steps for proper augmentation are urgently needed.

My concluding point is about price policy of the agricultural produce.

The Government announces minimum support price or the procurement prices of some agricultural commodities every year to ensure remunerative prices to the growers, as also to ensure supply of these essential commodities at reasonable prices to the consumers.

But the crucial question is whether the prices so announced are really remunerative or not. I do not want to go into this question. Anyway, this is being replied by the peasants outside, through burning these agricultural products. My point is that whenever support prices are increased, these are followed by an increase at a much higher rate in the issue prices. In 1991-92, marketing season, the support prices of rice and wheat were increased by Rs. 25 and Rs. 10 per quintal respectively. But the issue price of rice was raised by Rs. 88 a quintal and that

of wheat by Rs. 46 a quintal.

[Translation]

Soon after the Budget for 1991-92 was passed, the price of levy sugar was raised by 85 paise per Kg. which resulted in the increase in price of non-levy sugar and it placed hundreds of crores of rupees in the hands of the sugar mill owners without any corresponding gain to the cane growers. The issue price of levy sugar has been increased again by 80 paise per Kg. in January this year.

The allocation for PDS has been drastically cut to put it to Rs. 2500 crores only in 1992-93 from Rs. 4000 Crores in 1991-92. This cut in allocation in combination with the increase in support price of some commodities announced a few days back will prompt the Government to increase the issue price once again to close the gap.

Now only less than 10 per cent of our farming community generate surplus for the market. They were to some extent benefited by the increase in the support price. The small and marginal farmers and agricultural workers who do not generate surplus are not so much benefited with this increase in the support price. But they are the people who are to stand in the queue before the Fair Price Shops to collect the essential commodities of daily use and they have to pay the increased rate of issue price. I, therefore, demand that the increase in the issue price should be viewed with the eyes of the poorer sections of the people because increase in issue price amounts to extracting more money from the pockets of poorer section of the people. So, the issue price should be such that it protects the interests of poorer section of the people, small and marginal farmers and the agricultural workers.

With these words, I conclude, Sir.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for grants of the Ministries of Agriculture and Food and Rural Development. I would like to congratulate the hon. Agriculture Minister and also the Minister of Finance and the hon. Prime Minister. When the Budget was presented the economic condition of the country was not good and it was suspected that the subsidy on fertilizers will be withdrawn, income tax will be imposed on those who have income from agriculture. But the present Government continued the subsidy and did not impose income tax on agriculture.

One thing pointed out by Shri Nitish Kumar is that a scheme should be chalked out which may help to lessen the burden on rural land and the people may engage themselves in other occupations. I congratulate the hon. Minister of Finance for making the provision of consortium for agriculture and agricultural business in the Finance Budget, which will be funded by RBI. He has proposed such a medium, such a policy which will fulfil Mahatma Gandhi, dream of setting up small scale industries in rural areas and people will get other job opportunities. Today, so far as these grants are concerned, I support all of them. It is true that this year the funds have been curtailed as compared to those of the last year, with regard to Rural Development or other Ministries. But at the same time he is to be congratulated for the Public Distribution scheme which he has given for 1700 blocks and the funds allocated for the scheme.

16.45 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARAYA *in the Chair*]

But it is not the question of present only, I am concerned about the situation after 40 years in 2035 when the population of the country would reach 170 crores. In that condition how will we be able to provide

foodgrains to our people. This is a matter of concern.

Madam Chairman, when our country got freedom, the total production of foodgrains in the country was 50 million tonnes. But due to the hard work of the farmers and the policies adopted by the Congress and the leaders like Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our production increased to 175 million tonnes. But our production should be more than this. For the last 10 years there has been a gradual increase of 4 million tonnes per year in our production. But the speed with which our population has been increasing, the increase in production should have been 7 million tonnes per year. In other words there is still shortage of 3 million tonnes of foodgrains per year. Today our production is 175 million tonnes, but by the year 2000 we would need 325 million tonnes of foodgrains to meet the requirement of our people. As I have already submitted that owing to the policies of the Congress after independence and the hard work of farmers, our production has increased by about 215 per cent. The production of sugarcane has increased by 320 per cent, milk by 200 per cent and fish by 300 per cent. But I regret to say that despite so much increase in the production the condition of our farmer and his standard of living has not improved. The standard of living of farmers has not risen to the desired extent. In 1951 the population in rural areas was 290 millions which has now increased to 520 millions, but per capita income of the people related to agriculture in rural areas is just Rs. 420.7 whereas those of non-agriculturists is Rs. 1783/-. Despite so much of hard work and increase in the production, farmer's per capita income has not crossed the per capita income of the people engaged in other occupations. It is not a matter related to the present time only. Now approach paper to Eighth Plan has also been finalised. It also shows 3 per cent agricultural growth. But the matter concerns the future. How shall we increase it. For this, priority will have to be given to agriculture, the matter of refixing of

priorities will have to be considered.

Madam Chairman, all the countries are making progress and I feel that our country should also make progress, but the farmers should also make progress side by side. Today we have to see whether priority has to be given to airports which provide easy and quick transportation or to the rural areas to develop them.

Madam Chairman, in 1950-51, 95 per cent of total export was based on agricultural products. Now it has decreased to 16 per cent. It is a matter to be thought seriously today. In 1950-51, 58 per cent of the total earnings in the country was by means of agricultural products which has now decreased just to 33 per cent. The Government will have to think over the causes and the possible ways to solve the problem. It is very essential to raise the standard of living of the farmers for a bright future of the country. If the farmer is prosperous then only the country may prosper. We will have to think seriously in this respect.

Madam Chairman, so far as credit facilities are concerned, you have seen that the production suddenly increased after 1970. Our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised the banks and opened their doors for farmers. Earlier, farmers could not get any loan from banks. 17 per cent to the total bank credit has been earmarked for agricultural sector, whereas our earning from agriculture is 33 per cent and the earning from industrial sector is 20 per cent. Disparity ratio in 1970-71 was 1:2.2 which increased to 1:4.2 in 1989. My suggestion is that total bank credit for rural areas and agriculture should be raised at least to 30 per cent and rate of interest for agricultural sector—whether it is crop loan or any other loan—should not exceed 6 per cent. Agriculture cannot be seen in isolation. Many other departments just as irrigation, power etc. are also related to it.

[English]

These may be independent depart-

ments, but they are inter dependent departments.

[Translation]

In regard to agriculture, 70 per cent of our total land is still unirrigated. Even after a long period of 40 years we have not formulated any irrigation policy. Unless we have irrigation policy, agriculture in the country cannot be developed. The Government have already invested about Rs. 25,000 crores in major projects. The result is that 16 million hectares of land has been provided irrigation facilities. If Rs. 25,000 crores are invested in minor irrigation projects, then at least 30 lakh or 25 lakh million hectares of land could be provided irrigation facilities. This is the only solution to unemployment problem. No industry can provide more opportunities than that. Maximum attention should be paid to provide irrigation facilities.

In the Eighth Plan no major or medium plan has been taken up for execution. 30 lakh hectares of land is barren and 50 lakh hectares produces one crop a year. If this land is made fertile to reap, two crops a year by means of providing irrigation facilities, it would provide employment to about 5 crores people.

So far as electricity is concerned, just now Bhatlaji stated that the farmers of Punjab and Haryana are very hard working and they grow maximum crops — both in respect of wheat as well as rice — throughout the country. Similar thing applies to the farmers of Western Uttar Pradesh. But I have a different opinion. I also belong to Haryana, but I am not ready to agree that farmers of other States are not hard working. Why is the production in those parts less. This is a matter which has to be given serious thought. In Punjab 40 percent of the total power generated is supplied to agricultural sector. Similarly in Haryana 45 percent of the total power generated goes to agricultural sector. But in Madhya Pradesh only 12 per cent of it goes to agriculture. How will then the production increase? How will the hard work of the farmer bear fruit there? The thing is that

distribution of power which is generated is not proper.

I would urge upon the Government to take a special note of it. I would like to say something about tariff. The Government announces procurement prices which are same throughout the country. But the electricity tariff varies in Punjab, Assam and Maharashtra.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Procurement price is also a little higher in Punjab.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA: They give it in the form of bonus. My submission is that there should be some control on power tariff.

There should be some control on tariff and electricity should be provided to agriculture sector at cheaper rates. I also agree with Shri Bhatia that assistance should be given to electricity boards. Today, the Finance Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh has put a check on blackmarketing of gold. But there will be no development in this country, until theft of electricity is stopped. The industry sector should squarely be blamed for theft of electricity. Until arrangements are made to stop this theft, no Electricity Board can earn profit.

I would also like to submit about Crop Insurance Scheme, Shri Nitish Kumar also dealt with it. It was about loan recovery scheme. The Crop Insurance Scheme is not implemented in real sense today. Until the Patwar circle or the individual is not make the basic unit under this scheme and this condition that those who will take loan will only get its benefit, is removed, this scheme can never prove beneficial to the farmer in real sense. Tehsil is the basic unit under this scheme. Usually four out of ten crops of the farmer gets spoiled. Until the farmer feels that his Government is there to help him in such a situation, he will be demoralised and it will result in a fall in production. Therefore, this scheme should be implemented at the Patwar circle or individual level. So far as I remember, our leader, Late Shri Rajiv

Gandhi, had said once in a public meeting and in this House also that only 15% of the funds provided by the Centre reaches the people. How the bungling can be checked? There is no agency at the lower level. I had been a Chairman of Block Committee at Rohtak. I have got this scheme implemented. It is a fact that there is no agency at the lower level which can go and check whether the money is being utilised properly. Suppose a scheme is formulated for construction of roads in villages. But, after one year they are shown to have suffered damages. The scheme should be planned properly. Villages with a population of more than five thousand should be given all facilities like concrete roads, sewerage and water supply etc. which are available in the cities. A scheme after Shri Rajiv Gandhi's name has been started which aims at providing drinking water to all the villages. No progress has taken place in the villages which had a population of 2000 ten years ago and 5000 now. The sewerage system in villages are not working properly. The drinking water in villages is not clean and diseases like malaria are spreading. Shri Bhatia discussed about Punjab and Haryana. I had also said that we took up major projects and invested funds in them. All the irrigation projects undertaken by us meet the needs of surface irrigation. Today there is no irrigation policy. The area which gives maximum production today may not produce a single grain after ten years. The entire land is getting water-logged.

17.00 hrs.

No sub-soil drainage has been constructed in the areas covered under surface irrigation. Israel presents the best example of sub-soil drains or irrigation system. There water management is done in such a manner which provides benefit to maximum people. I would like to thank Shri Jakhar for announcing bonus to the farmers today. He has paid attention towards the welfare of the farmers and we expect more from him in future also. It is a matter of happiness that our Hon. Prime Minister is also a farmer's

son. Our country cannot unit until we rise above party politics and see the farmers prosper. Ours is a country of different cultures, but agriculture is our common culture. From Kashmir to Kanya Kumari, this common culture can be seen everywhere. May be, my friends will not like what I am saying. Similarly, there is one common party in the country and it is the Congress Party. These two forces have maintained country's unity. Therefore, I would request all my hon. friends to strengthen agriculture and the Congress Party. Only then the country can become powerful.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. K VENKATAGIRI GOWDA
(Bangalore South): Madam Chairperson, I rise to speak on the Demand for Grants under the Ministry of Food and to ask for more grants to this Ministry to discharge its duties more efficiently and more effectively.

This House is aware that inflation is raging in the country. Last year, on July 24th, when the first Budget was presented, the Minister said that it would not be inflationary at all. In my speech on the Budget, I maintained that the Budget would be inflationary. My stand was based on fiscal logic. The Budget deficit and the modes of financing it were inflationary.

But the Finance Minister, while replaying to the Budget debate, said that the Budget is not inflationary at all. But paradoxically enough, two month later, the inflation rate shot up from 12 per cent to 16.7 per cent. Then, two month later, the Minister said that the inflation rate fell to 13.3 per cent and then to 12 per cent. I do not trust this figure because market reality was entirely different. This figure of 12 per cent inflation rate is either an optical illusion or a computational error or an attempt to hide the truth from the public and also the Parliament.

Now the Minister has said that his idea this year is to bring down the inflation rate to

7 per cent. But again, paradoxically enough, the rate of inflation has risen to 14 per cent last week. While the other prices have risen marginally, the food prices have risen by 30 to 40 per cent. This is the market reality.

The commonman is not worried about the IMF conditionality; he is not worried about the Budget deficit or large payment deficit or external debt but he is worried about his own economic crisis caused by rise in food prices when his income is constant. Why do food prices rise? There are several reasons for it. In India when the food prices rise, inflation rate rises even though there is no Budget deficit at all. When the food prices fall, the inflation rate falls. Thus when the supply of food rises, the food prices fall and the inflation rate falls. When the inflation rate falls, the people are happy. Now, our experience with the first two plans confirms the statement that food prices govern the price index and the inflation rate. The First Five Year Plan was relatively a tame affair. It was agriculture oriented. The Plan was small in size and the targets were modest. The Planning Commission held the view that agriculture being the backbone of the country's economy should be given priority. It was thus given priority over industry. People were very happy. Food supply increased; food prices fell and inflation rate also fell. There was also a surplus in the balance of payments.

When the plan was half way through, Mr. Chou-en-lai, Chinese Premier, visited India and spent ten days and on his way back, invited Shri Jawaharlal Nehru to visit China, which he did the following year. Pt. Nehru was taken round the Chinese industrial establishments and he was impressed with the Chinese economic development. The second plan was prepared. This Plan was heavy industry oriented. Agriculture was given the secondary position. The Plan was launched in 1956. Shri Jay Prakash Narain said that the Plan was prepared behind the iron curtains. The food supply fell two years after the Plan was put into effect; food prices rose and there was inflation, exports fell, imports rose and there was balance of pay-

ment crisis also. This made us to resort to foreign loan. Further, this kind of plan which Nehru asked his advisers to prepare was not good for the country.

Professor Colin Clark published a book called, 'Growthmanship; wherein he said.

"Shri Jawaharlal Nehru in one of his extraordinarily foolish statements said, we must produce machines to produce machines and said further that India was not prepared for this kind of development design and this led to inflation."

Food prices rose and people were unhappy. This underlines the need for the adoption of food supply strategy as part of our policy of agricultural development. To be able to understand the need for food supply strategy, we must compare the trend in population growth and the food supply availability in India. The Seventh Five Year Plan assumed population of 972 million in 2000 A.D. However, the prestigious Washington based Population Research Bureau released statistics in July, 1989 which showed that India's population had already reached 835 million; that it is growing at the rate of 2.3 per cent per annum and that it is expected to reach 1042 million by 2000 A.D. Our long-term demographic prospects are even more disturbing. It is estimated that we shall become the world's most populous country before our population stabilises at around 1700 million. What are the food requirements of this population? The per-capita food availability in India is very low. According to the US estimates, China has already reached a production level of over 300 million tonnes. This for a population of 1100 million which represents a gross per capita availability of 330 kgs per annum. But in India it is only 200 kts per annum. The Indian harvest should have been over 270 million tonnes to match the Chinese achievement. India should aim at a per capita availability of 300 kgs per annum by 2000 A.D. This requires production level of 300 million tonnes by 2000 A.D. This is higher than the target of 240 million tonnes fixed by the Seventh Plan and 184 million tonnes fixed by the draft

of the Eighth Plan. If China could produce more than 300 million tonnes from less than 100 m. hectares of arable land, why should India not produce 300 million tonnes from over 143 m. hectares of arable land. There should be subsidies on food and fertilisers. It is true that subsidies have no place in the free market economy. But India is not yet a free market economy, though it is moving fast in that direction. In the meanwhile subsidies are absolutely necessary. The International Monetary Fund is against subsidies of all sorts. However, the hon. Finance Minister rightly preserved the food and fertiliser subsidies in tact in this year's Budget. What is the consequence if the food subsidies are removed? The consequence is food prices rise, cost of living index rises, the labourers and salaried employees demand higher wages and when they are granted, they generate both cost inflation and demand inflation which get entwined and then they become difficult to dis-entangle. So, the consequence of abolition of food subsidy is a rise in the inflation rate. Suppose the fertiliser subsidies are abolished, what is the consequence of it? The fertilisers become costlier, the farmers purchase less fertilisers and the input of fertilisers in the farm falls. This causes a fall in farm productivity and production. It also causes a fall in food supply and generates a rise in prices. This is also inflationary. Therefore, to avoid inflation it is necessary to retain both food subsidies and fertiliser subsidies. That is what the hon. Finance Minister has done this year.

There should be the abolition of inter-State restrictions on the movement of foodgrains. Some States are food-surplus States. Food prices are low in these States. Some States are food-deficit States. The food prices are higher in these States. If the inter-State restrictions on the movement of foodgrains are maintained, there will be inter-State disparities in food prices. If the restrictions are removed, food will move from surplus to deficit States and this will equalize food prices throughout the country.

The Government should, therefore, remove restrictions on the inter-State movement of food.

During the harvest season, food prices fall. The private trader buy food at lower prices, store it and when, after some time, food prices rise, release food stock to the market at a higher price and make speculative profit. To avoid this, Government should establish a buffer stock agency, to purchase food in the harvest season and sell it when the food prices start rising. This will stabilise food prices and hold the inflation rate down.

It is not enough if food supply is adequate. The available food should be distributed through fair price depots. It is true Government has established several fair price depots. But these fair price depots are full of malpractices and corruption. Food is sold by the shop managers to the private traders or to hotels and restaurants at black market prices. When the legitimate ration card holders go to them to purchase food, they are told that food stocks are not available. Therefore, these ration card holders have to purchase food from the private traders outside the fair price depots at the black market prices. This is to harm the welfare of the poor consumers.

I want to mention another important aspect. The foodgrains supplied by the shops are full on refractory materials or impure materials. The Government of India has officially allowed 49 per cent of impurities in these foodgrains and consumption of these foodgrains damages the health of the consumers. The goal of Government policy is 'Health for all' and 'Rise in labour productivity'. When the consumption of impure foodgrains damages the health of the people, how can there be health for all and who can there be a rise in the productivity? The Government should, therefore, take care to see that food supply does not contain any impure material and those who sell food which contains impure material should be severely punished.

In conclusion I subject that these sug-

gestions should be implemented. The suggestions are:

- (1) Food supply should be increased by the adoption of food supply strategy.
- (2) Subsidies on food and fertilisers must be maintained.
- (3) Food prices should be stabilised.
- (4) Food should be sold through fair price depots.
- (5) Food articles should be free from impure material.
- (6) Buffer stock agency should be established to stabilise food prices and help both the producers and the consumers.
- (7) The inter-State restrictions on the movement of food should be removed and India should be one colossal market in the matter of food sale.
- (8) The hoarders and black-marketeers should be severely punished.

To perform these activities, the Ministry needs more funds. I, therefore, demand additional grants to the Ministry of Food to perform these activities efficiently and effectively.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Madam Chairman, a discussion on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture is going on in the august House today and I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on them.

In the demands of Agriculture Ministry, cuts have been effected on some items and allocations for others have been increased. I am not opposing these cuts or supporting the increases, but I oppose these demands on the basis of Government's attitude towards agriculture. It appears to me that this

Government does not want to solve the basic problems of this country.

The biggest challenge before our country today is removal of poverty. The Ministry of Agriculture can play an important role in this regard, because 70 to 75 per cent people of this country depend on agriculture and most of them live in villages. Agriculture is a means of livelihood for their families, but the present situation is such that they are not getting even two square meals a day. Our Government has been making claims for so many years about progress and saying proudly that there has been so much agricultural production that our godowns are full to capacity. So far as production is concerned, 50 per cent of the total land area of our country is covered by forests. Out of the remaining 50 per cent 30 per cent land produces 50 per cent of our total production. 60 per cent of our cultivable land is rainfed and it produces the rest 50 per cent production. From these figures, it is clear that if our entire cultivable land was covered under irrigation, there was no reason for our country to become poor or face the unemployment problem. We could have solved these problems to a great extent. Had we advanced our agriculture and declared it as an industry, there would have been no reason for the people being reluctant to take up agriculture. Today, no one wants to go to agriculture fields. Farmer's sons do not want to look after agriculture, as it is becoming unproductive. If something becomes unproductive, no one would be inclined to do it.

It is being said repeatedly here that there is paucity of foreign exchange in our country, but how to remove it. Until we increase our export, we can not earn foreign exchange. In the fields, we should produce such items which have a good demand in foreign markets. Take for example the Basmati rice. If we had increased our production of Basmati rice, we could have earned a lot of foreign exchange, But the Government pays no attention towards it.

70 per cent of our total cultivable land depends on rains. During the sowing re-

son, our farmer looks towards the sky for clouds. If there is rain, he gets good crop, otherwise not.

The World has changed to a great extent today. China was known to be a pauper, a backward and an opium-addict country. There is a river, which was earlier known as China's sorrow, but today, it is proving to be a boon for China. They have produced double the quantity of our foodgrain production in a lesser area than ours. Today China's situation has totally changed. Can't we bring about a revolution in our agricultural sector by following their footsteps? Unfortunately, the Government is not inclined towards it. It has turned a blind eye on it. Shri Jakhar calls himself an agriculturist and sings ballads in praise of the farmers. We have been observing this for years. He used to say a lot about farmers when he was the Speaker but there is a lot of difference between saying something and acting upon it. The Government formulates policies but it is not sincere about them. Sincerity is the corner stone of any successful policy. If the Government was sincere, then the conditions in the country would not have come to such a sorry pass. We want to benefit other countries through our agriculture and this is primarily responsible for our poverty. It is because of this policy that instead of increasing agricultural production, we are opening our doors to multinational companies. Are we inviting them to eliminate our poverty? They know it very well that wherever these companies have set their foot, poverty has increased. During a discussion on an earlier resolution, some hon. Members had rightly pointed out that our agricultural scientists, who have been doing research and developing high quality seeds to assist our farmers in increasing their production, would be totally demoralised if these very seeds were imported and if we depended on foreign companies. It would affect the scientific temperament of our agricultural scientists. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to at least not to go in for import of seeds from foreign countries, may it do anything in other fields.

Thirdly, what is happening in the villages? There is large-scale migration from the villages. Every one in the House is aware of the reasons behind this exodus. I am sure that even those sitting in the treasury benches agree in the core of their hearts that the lack of basic amenities is responsible for this mass migration. We ourselves don't relish going back to the villages and prefer to live in a bungalow or a small flat in Delhi. In villages, neither drinking water nor other basic amenities exist. The Government has not been able to make available a priority need like drinking water in the village even after decades of independence. Even today they are forced to consume muddy ground water which is impure and is responsible for the spread of epidemics and many fatal diseases. That's why, people don't like to go to villages. There are no medical or educational facilities there. Today, those living in the villages lead an animal existence.

The neglect of rural development is solely responsible for the spread of extremism and terrorism in the cities. In the undeveloped countryside people live like animals and the animals of the affluent lead a comparatively better life. This is giving rise to many issues. Neglect and non-development has led to the demand for statehood by forming organisations like the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, who is to be blamed for it? While on the one hand, the village folk are leading a miserable life, on the other, a handful of people have monopolised the economy and are becoming richer day by day and the younger generation is taking to militancy while the Administration remains paralysed. This is the same case, be it Assam, Andhra Pradesh or Punjab, yet the Government have turned a blind eye on them. It will have to give highest priority to rural development to safeguard the unity and integrity of the nation.

What is the position of power generation, which acts as nectar to both agriculture and the agriculturists? Our villages do not benefit from the electricity generated in our power stations. Electricity, instead of being a boon, has become a bane to the farmers.

The farmers get power supply for two hours in alternate days, but have to pay the full charges. Many farmers have got so fed up that they have stopped using it. From where do they get the money to pay the full amount? Under the circumstances how is it possible to develop agriculture? Why isn't the Government paying its attention in this direction? Mere rhetoric won't serve any purpose. We have had rhetorics by the kilos ever since the inception of democracy. We are not demanding a hike in the procurement prices, say of Rs. 500/- per quintal. Rather, we believe that farmers should get remunerative prices. To bring down the prices and ensure proper supply, we should determine prices taking into consideration the prices of both industrial and agricultural products.

There was a time when barter system existed in this country. Now, the Government has withdrawn agricultural subsidy. The small farmers don't get fertilizers in time due to shortage of funds and as a result, the crops get destroyed. The Government has not paid any attention in this regard. The Government should have maintained the subsidy for the small and marginal farmers. This would have enabled them to enhance their production but the Government didn't deem it fit to do so.

The farmer wants that he may get good quality seeds, fertilizers and water for his fields. If these things are made available to them, the Government would be doing a great service to the nation and it would help in maintaining the unity and integrity of this country.

The Government should find out ways and means to exploit the rain waters and other water resources for the benefit of agriculture. An empty mind is a devil's workshop. Today our young people are sitting ideal and they don't work in the fields because it is uneconomical.

If any irrigation project is taken up, it takes 12-14 years to get completed. Isn't the Government playing havoc with agriculture in this manner? The project which would cost

only Rs. 5 lakh consumes Rs. 50 lakh by the time it is completed in 12-14 years. Is it in the larger interests of the country? Who is responsible for this? We have no financial constraints but at the same time we also have no dearth of thieves who have no qualms about stealing public money.

Today, the condition of agriculture is pretty bad. The Prime Minister had stated and it also appeared in newspapers that the Government proposes to allocate more fund for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana but, in fact, the amount has been reduced. The Government should look into it. Apart from this, the Government should also see to it that the funds are properly utilised. If it is properly utilised, the rural areas can be developed and the condition can change for the better.

Madam Chairperson, I won't take more time, but I would certainly like to say this much that problems can be solved to a certain extent if the Government sanctions the schemes which has been put forward for its consideration. It would also help the farmers whose crops get destroyed every year. Taking all these facts into consideration, the Government should agree to all these schemes and include them in the Eighth Five Year Plan. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIS. B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Madam, I rise to support the Demands for the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Agriculture in this country has sufficiently improved and production is on the increase. But the question is, has it improved to the desired expectation of all of us. According to me, it has not though the country has been begging from foreign country all these years. The country has been suffering.

Now we can be proud that food sufficiency has been achieved.

Can we analyse the reasons for reduced production in future? Number one is the population has sealed the land and also the

legislation. These two, legislation and population, created fragments and when fragments are there, cultivation and production become very much hampered. Reason number one is we cannot employ mechanism. Number two is we cannot manage the units which become very small and it becomes uneconomical. Therefore, we have to foresee as suggested by Shri Raghunandan Lal Bhatia and a law has to be framed to change in a suitable manner to make them productive units of this country.

Secondly, agriculture depends much on many things. Number one is monsoon, and number two is the rates and, number three is the other inputs.

Whenever the kisan wants to purchase anything outside, things are very much costly and the rates are fixed and they are always on the increase. Whenever the kisan wants to sell the goods, the rates are always very much inadequate to the proportion of the production and the cost of production. Besides, the kisan has no godown facilities and, therefore, he cannot store anything. He has necessarily to dump everything in the market and sell at throw away price and the agents will take the produce and make double the money whereas the consumer and the producer will simultaneously suffer. This is the plight of the agriculturist. Whenever he demands, a very minimum price is given. But whenever there is increase in price, all people will definitely shout at him and they try to bring the rates down. We have been seeing in our country that the production of agriculture is depending on scientific approach also. In this country, we have 150 educational institutions for 20 per cent of the population in the cities whereas there are hardly 23 Universities for 80 per cent of the population in the rural areas which depend entirely on agriculture. Is it not inadequate technical education to the agriculturists? Agriculture is our main profession and the entire population is depending on it. It has further resulted into widening the gap between the rich and the poor and the urbanites and the ruralists.

So, this matter has also to be seriously thought of by our Ministers and the Government. They have to consider how best we can give the technical education to such people. Today, regarding the industry, the Policy adopted by the Government has been welcome from every section, sector of the society. Likewise, we have to declare a policy on agriculture as we have done in the case of industry and other sectors. Agriculture has to be approached on a scientific basis today. Agriculture includes Animal Husbandry, Horticulture etc. For example, Horticulture is one of the most lucrative, productive and profitable concerns which has been totally neglected by us. Can you imagine for this big country there is only one Horticultural University that has been established for all these days! It is really a sorry state of affairs. It hurts us also. So, I appeal to the Government to establish at least one University of Horticulture in each State at the beginning because our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi started a new portfolio called the Food Processing Industries. If there is no fruit there is no scope. But if there is fruit, then we can do it. In this country we are so lucky that we do not require any artificial heat for germination of the seeds or the plants. But in western countries where it is totally cold, they have to prepare the sheds and then generate the heat for germination of the seeds and the plants. Here, it is an open atmosphere. Anything could be grown. This could be produced in a wonderful manner. So, that has to be taken care of. Only, the technical know-how is not there.

Along with this comes the Implement. As far as implements are concerned, I have to say something. Now, we have a big tractor for a small land. How can one afford to purchase this implement worth Rs. 3 lakhs. With all other implements, I think the cost comes to Rs. 5 lakhs. So, the Government has to subsidise the implements to some extent. Whenever the farmer goes for pesticides for cotton and other crops, every year, the price increase goes up to 5 to 10 per cent. But his selling rate is never increased to 5 per cent or 10 per cent. His rates are totally very much normal and below the affordable rates.

I want to cite another example. Whenever the price of milk is increased, there will be a big article in the newspapers. But whenever the farmer is hit by drought or floods, the help is very very meagre. The help he gets is very much out of proportion. Therefore, the equipments are very much important. When we go through the notes supplied by the Government, actually there is no specific mention of how many new implements have been found; whether they are viable to the small and marginal farmers etc. I have been looking to my State. We do not have any landlords. The maximum ceiling was implemented by us in 1973 in Karnataka. We do not find it. A child born 20 years before is now an adult and his luck has also seen that if he has been educated, there is a job and if he has not been educated, there is no land to cultivate. This is the plight of this country. I am just posing the problem which we have to solve. It is not to criticise the Government but I am appealing to my friends as to how best they can overcome all these problems by using fertilizers, pesticides. But adulteration of pesticides is too much. If I take pesticides to my cotton-growing area and if the same pesticide is used, nothing will be grown. Either there is immunisation or there is total adulteration. I appeal to the Government at least to look at this because every pie that an agriculturist spends comes from his sweat. Whenever there is a drought or floods, he has to sell a piece of land to get out of his debt. It is because the plight of agriculture is very bad. Therefore, this has to be thought of very seriously.

Agriculture has not been as serious a sector as any other sector. In agriculture, we have to introduce the allied professions like dairy farming, piggery farming, fishing and other things. We have not been able to do all these things. I will give you an example. We should make an organisation whereby every house should have a hundred or two hundred fish. This can be done by motivating people. It is not everything. We have to make the Planning Commission purposeful because we have never motivated people to organise themselves. We have always given the impression as if the Government is pouring

money and you come and take the money. But that is not the economical system. There are many things which should be done by motivating the people. According to me, this fisheries and allied professions have not been canvassed totally. If a fish is grown properly, it weighs one kilogram. If you sell it in Delhi, it will fetch Rs. 20 to Rs. 25. But the seller's rate is always low. Even if you take Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 for a fish, if a person has 500 to 1000 fish, he gets from Rs. 10000 to Rs. 15000. It does not require pesticides, it does not require fertilizers and it does not require anything. He can save so many things. This is regarding the fish.

Now the piggery farming has to be taken up very seriously. Even about sheep-breeding, the green-patches have been missing now. forests have become airports. No blade of grass is grown and the population of the sheep has been completely reduced and no thinking has been properly made. I suggest that this cross-breeding has to be encouraged. By this, each small animal would fetch thousands of rupees in a year. An ordinary person, an ordinary labourer or even a teenage girl can earn one thousand rupees by cross-breeding if proper facilities and better breeds of animals are provided.

Likewise, other sector is the irrigation. In irrigation we have got thousand and one problem. Where there is dry farming there is only one problem, there is, of no rain. In irrigation there is a problem of seepage of water. Water management has been totally a failure. We have got very very big projects constructed and they are almost incomplete and wherever it is complete, silt has been deposited. In another ten to fifteen years, all these projects will be full of silt and water will not be there. This will be a waste of land and waste of everything. What other friends have suggested, I would also say that small irrigation projects will always pay and will be productive. The big projects take twenty to thirty years. In this country, there is always a political interference and so many things are there like, environment, anti-environment, productive and unproductive. Instead of this, why not we have small

projects which would immediately help us? If you build up percolative tanks, I think, the drinking water policy will definitely be hundred per cent successful. In our tanks, silt is deposited. The tax is levied on the people without the supply of water. There is no provision with the State Government to desilt it. They only say that will be costlier than a new tank. This is a problem in my State and I do not know about the other States. When the water is locked and if all the tanks are working, then through the percolative system, the tube-wells can be recharged. We will get the water and Shri Bhatia has rightly said, there is no water scarcity in our country. We have both under ground and ground water but there is no proper management in the use of water. Therefore, tanks should be built in each village with percolation system. This is a very important thing

The gas plants, they are very important as they are linked with the ecological balance, when deforestation is going on and is being done perfectly. So if fuel is provided to the villagers, they need not go for cutting of the trees. If we cannot provide them with that facility, at least, bio-gas plants should be set up. I have tried it, and I have got two or three bio-gas plants. Also, one day, we have inaugurated 200 bio-gas plants and they are all working successfully in our place.

The Dairy farming could be highly productive. One cart load of shift will produce seven cart loads of fertilisers. And these fertilisers are better than the artificial fertilisers. Also, these fertilisers when used, they sustain for three years in the land, giving a good produce, without the use of fertilisers once again. This is a triple benefit scheme and I appeal to the Government to provide more subsidies. Now they are giving through bank loans and also a little subsidy through the Khadi Board. That has to be increased substantially to save these forests from the deforestation. And that is a very important thing.

With regard to dry farming and horticul-

ture, I would like to say that there are many fruit bearing trees in our country. But they have not been planted. They will be giving more yields than the general crops, wherein you require regular supply of water. There are trees like Mango and other trees that could be planted.

I would like to say a few words about the rural sanitation and drinking water. I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the sanitation is completely neglected which is creating health problems to women and children. When we are giving bore-wells, they do not use it properly and with the result lot of diseases are created by the mosquito production and other things. When we solve one problem, two other problems crop in due to lack of sanitation facilities in the villages. They are illiterate and they are not aware of it. Secondly, the implementing officers, they are never serious enough and whoever is serious, I am sorry to say that most of them are corrupt. This has not lead to any progress in the rural areas. The rural people are as they were earlier. This has to be taken very seriously.

Electricity is one of the main inputs of Agriculture and they do not supply it properly. Whenever they supply, it is always inadequate. This has to be taken very seriously because the tubewells that have been dug, they are of no use if there is no supply of electricity. The interest on the bank loans is mounting like a taxi metre, day and night. When he does not get water, when there is no electricity, how can he produce? But the banks do not know these things. So these are the things that are to be taken seriously so far as rural development is concerned. When there is educational backwardness, and backwardness in other respects, as Rajivji has said many a times, no development can actually reach them and that is fact. So this has to be taken very seriously by the implementing authorities. They are also our people. I appeal to all of them and to the Government to seriously think over it and see that the poor kisans get rid of all these vagaries of nature and artificial disturbances to him and stability of price is ensured.

[Translation]

*SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda):
Madam, Chairperson, as the time at my disposal is very short, I will restrict my speech to only two issues namely Land Reforms and Public Distribution System.

Ever since India became independent 45 years ago, both the rulers and the ruled have been talking about land reforms and infinitum. The ruling party had been assuring the people for all these years that they are committed to land reforms and would soon implement them. Unfortunately that commitment still remains to be implemented. Had they succeeded in implementing the land reforms earlier, perhaps the present Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao would not have called yet another meeting of the State Revenue Ministers to discuss especially about the same subject-land reforms. Why the country had to await the arrival of the present Prime Minister to discuss the ways and means to distribute the surplus land? What is the reason which forced the present Government to accord top priority to the land distribution? What forced the Government to say that present legislations on land reforms are being misused and no one should be permitted to make misuse of it states to claim the ownership of the land in the name of religion or majority etc.? What is the reason that forced the Government to say that the failure in implementation of land reforms is the sole cause for raising communalism and other forms of social unrest in the country? The Government know says that land should not be allotted to any one on the above grounds. What has brought us down to such a situation? The main reason for this unhappy situation is the yawning gap between what the rulers profess and practice. According to the Government statistics, 29.2 lakhs of hectares of land has been declared as surplus. The Government claims that out of this surplus land only 19 lakhs of hectares has been distributed. The Government also stated that they wanted to distribute 9.60

lakhs of hectares but could not do so. One reason cited by the Government for the failure of the distribution of surplus land was that half of the surplus land was under court litigations. The landlords have filed cases in the courts same 20 or 30 years ago. Now, after 30 years the Government is trying to take the matter out of the jurisdiction of courts. Why did the Government not do the same in the past? Why the Government did not take the remedial measures in the past to avoid court litigations. The failure can be attributed to the lack of political will on the part of the Government and the Congress Party which remained the ruling party all these years. The rulers themselves have admitted that there was no commitment or honesty on this part in implementing the reforms. The land reforms have taken a back seat only due to the lack of commitment or political will on the part of those who ruled the country. The Congress leaders have reduced the land reforms to a force. How strange is that they are now thinking of land reforms! Even now, whenever and wherever the Government declares the distribution of surplus land, the landlords surreptitiously dispose off the land which is about to be distributed. The landlords sell off the land which has declared surplus before it is distributed among the poor. Many suggestions were given by the peoples' movement and on behalf of Agricultural labourers to prevent landlords from selling the declared surplus land. One such suggestion was that the Government should declare publicly well in advance the particulars of surplus land which was about to be distributed. If the Government does so, people will come forward and volunteer themselves to protect the land which is declared to be distributed. Then, the people would fully cooperate with the Government in the distribution of the land. But, unfortunately the Government did not care to implement this suggestion. As far as my state is concerned, Madam, we requested the Chief Minister to order the district collectors to make a public declaration about the surplus land which is available for

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

distribution in their respective districts. Not only the Hon'ble Prime Minister, who is now evincing interest in the land reforms, but also the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Rural Development belongs to Andhra Pradesh. They want that the land reforms should be implemented there first. The Hon'ble Minister has been making statements in this regard. There should be a declaration giving the particulars of surplus land which is lying with each landlord. The particulars of the land which is going to be distributed should be made public. We requested the Chief Minister to accept this genuine suggestion to implement land reforms effectively in the State. But they declined to do so. They, the rulers are not ready to make such public declarations or notifications. This is the tragedy. It shows the lack of political will. Taking advantage of the weakness of the Government, the landlords dispose off their surplus land without any fear whenever the Government issues statements regarding the implementation of land reforms. It has been our experience, Madam, that rich and powerful landlords hold influential positions of power. I think it is true in the case of other States also. Rich and influential landlords are now the Ministers in my state. When the Prime Minister proclaims here that the surplus lands should be distributed, there in the States rich landlords who occupy ministerial posts sell off their land which has already been declared surplus. This is a reality. The Prime Minister says here that surplus land should be distributed, while Ministers belonging to his own party sell off their surplus lands without any hitch. This is what is happening in my own State. Is it the commitment? If the Ministers flout the directions of the Prime Minister, one can well imagine what would be the position of leaders at various levels in their party. I do not say that everybody is dishonest. There are some who are really committed to this great cause in that party also. But, Madam, one must agree that they have reduced land reforms to a farce. The Prime Minister the other day has disclosed that the Government has an impeccable record of distribution of land in our State. But

Madam, the Government should not take any credit for that. The credit must go to the communists in the State. During the historic Telangana Movement when people revolted against the rule rather misrule of Nizam, under the leadership of the communists, about 10 lakhs of acres of land was distributed among the landless poor. That was a success story of the communist movement in the country. The State Government under the leadership of late Shri B. Ramakrishna Rao, later on enacted the Tenancy Act which was a reflection of the success of people's revolution. No such act was made anywhere else. That was a fitting tribute to a people's movement. That was the excellent record that we held. If at all, there is any record elsewhere, to match that glory, it is only in West Bengal 10 lakhs of acres have been distributed in West Bengal. In Congress ruled States 60% of the land is in the hands of the landlords who constitute a 10% of the population. But in West Bengal, most of the land is in the hands 60% of the poor. The reason why I am citing the West Bengal case, is just to show how the factors which are responsible for the production are being crushed under the iron boots of landlords elsewhere in the country. The production can pick up only when the responsible factors are allowed to operate freely. This is one of the main reasons why the production is not going up in the country. The country's food production is stagnant at 170 m. tonnes and production has got struck up there. The reasons for the stagnation is the concentration of producing forces in the hands of few landlords. The labour force which is an important contributing factor for production is being crushed under the iron boots of merciless landlords.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you concluding now?

SHRI B.N. REDDY: Only one more point, Madam, I would like to say a word about public distribution system. There are about three lakhs and fifty thousand fair price shops in the country. More and more people are coming under the poverty line. Poverty is increasing while the subsidy on food grains is declining. When the number of the poor

goes up, naturally the Govt. should enhance the subsidy amount proportionately so that food grains are supplied to the poor at cheaper rates. But, instead of increasing, the Government has slashed down the subsidy on food grains. It is really alarming. To provide food grains at cheaper rates to the poor is the primary responsibility of the Government. During 1989-90 the subsidy on food grains was Rs. 3476 crores while by 1990-91 it came down sharply to Rs. 2050 crores. It shows a steep reduction in subsidy on food grains. It is really alarming. Well, if this is the sum and substance of the Budget of Dr Manmohan Singh, one should think of the plight of the poor in the coming days. The rate of a kilo subsidised rice was Rs. 1.90 in my State. But now a kilo of rice cost Rs. 3.50. Rice used to be sold at Rs. 2/- per Kg. When Shri N. T. Ramarao was the Chief Minister

New a Kg. of rice costs Rs. 3.50. Hence, I would say that the Public distribution policy adopted by the present Government is not in the right direction. It cannot provide food to the poor whose bellies will always remain half empty.

I thank you, Madam, for the opportunity you have given me to speak, I conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands meet again tomorrow, Wednesday, 8th April at 11 A.M.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, April 8, 1992/ Chaitra 19, 1914 (Saka).