

the said train takes about 12 hours to reach Bombay, from Aurangabad and vice versa. Also the timings given for the same are most inconvenient to the people. One Super Fast Express train from Aurangabad to Bombay and vice versa should be started. Its departure time should be 11 p.m. from Bombay and Aurangabad both and it should reach at 6 A.M. at both the places. By starting this Super Fast Express train by name of Deogiri Express, the purpose of this conversion would be fulfilled. I earnestly request the Central Government to start the train with immediate effect.

(viii) **Need to reduce the excise duty in cotton yarn to pre-Budget level**

DR. (SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): There are a number of small spinning mills in the country supplying coarse and medium counts of cotton yarn to the small handloom prices and other inputs the mills have suffered huge losses and some of them have been even closed. When these mills were expecting some relief, enormous increase in the excise duty on cotton yarn and on viscose staple fibre has resulted in the closure of a number of mills which adversely affected the handloom weavers. If the excise duty is not withdrawn, the mills will have no option but to pass it on to the consumers i.e., the common man who buys clothes made out of cotton yarn of counts 40's and below.

In order to save these mills from enclosre and rendering thousands of workers in the rural areas unemployed, I urge upon the Central Government to reduce the excise duty on cotton yarn to pre-budget level,

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned for Lunch to re-assemble at 2.20 p.m.

13.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Twenty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

*Demands for Grants (Gen.), 744
1992-93 Ministry of Rural Development; Food; Agriculture; and Civil Supplies & Public Distribution
The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[RAO RAM SINGH 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 CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am glad to see that everybody is in a good mood today.

SHRIP.M. SAYEED (Lakshdweep): You are always cheerful, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri R. Jeevarathnam will now speak.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATNAM (Arakkonam): Mr. Chairman Sir, as I rise to support the demands for grants for the Ministry of Agriculture, I wish to make a few points.

I can peel off from my memory the deflation of the Congress Party before Independence that, it would do away with land tax after India became a sovereign state. But even 45 years after Independence nothing has been done. So, I request the Government to withdraw land tax atleast for small and marginal farmers who do not have more than 5 acres of land. And farmers who use 3 H.P. or less rated motors for irrigation should be given concession on power tariff. They should not be charged 50 paise per unit of electricity as is done in case of large farmers. I learn that in the recent meeting of the State Power Ministers, it was decided to charge 50 paise per unit of electricity. But I would like to say that this should not be done for all farmers, Government should review this decision and charge less power tariff from farmers having not more than five acres

*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Tamil

of land and using 3 H.P. motors.

Sir, I request the Government to provide all kinds of seeds, like paddy, millet, maize etc., of cost to small and marginal farmers through B.D.O. offices in the country. This will be of great help to them. I have a few suggestions regarding my constituency. Pallipathu is a backward area with lot of agricultural potential. In spite of its role in green revolution the area has not developed. So, I request the Government to establish an Agricultural College in that area. Cheyyar in Arakkonam constituency is famous for sugarcane. Hence, I appeal to the Centre to set up a Sugar Mill at Cheyyar.

Sir, the Government provides subsidy on fertilizers. But this subsidy is given either through the producers or through the distributors of fertilizer. The farmers are unaware of this subsidy given by the Government. Therefore, the Government should devise a system under which the subsidy should be given at the point of sale of fertilizers to the farmers.

In North Arcot district there is not branch of NABARD. This district is setting records in the field of agriculture even with scare resources of water. So, in order to boost farming activities in North Arcot district, the Government should open a branch of NABARD there. Sir, lot of coconut trees are grown in an area. But the trees are hit and damaged by various insects resulting in disappointment and loss to growers. This damage can be stopped and trees saved if agricultural demonstrators are appointed in each panchayat union to advise the growers to use insecticides. They can also be guided in growing the right varieties so that more and more coconut trees can be grown. The demonstrators should be provided conveyance to visit their area to guide the coconut growers. This will be a boon to the farmers and will increase the agricultural production of the country as a whole.

As regards fixing of the support price for paddy is concerned, I have a pertinent point to make. On the agricultural front, Tamil

Nadu can be divided into two blocks, the South and the North. Southern part of Tamil Nadu comprises of Cauvery delta having perennial rivers like Cauvery Vaigai and Thamirabarani. This region has sufficient water resources. But the Northern region is devoid of such water resources. The farmers in this region have to depend on tube wells also. Sinking of tube wells, and electricity and diesel for motors and engines cost them heavily. Therefore, they spend much more than the farmers of Southern region. As such, while fixing the support price for paddy, the produce of Northern region should get a fair feel. The support price for paddy in the Northern Tamil Nadu should be fixed slightly more than what is fixed for the other region. I urge upon the Centre to take up this matter with the State Government.

Farmers are facing lot of difficulties in Tamil Nadu. They do not have a place to dry up the paddy after harvest; nor do they have godowns to store it. So, after harvest when they take the paddy for sale, either to Government societies or to private parties, about 10% is discounted on the quantity of paddy reportedly for moisture. Thus, farmers are put to inconvenience and loss. This is an important matter on which the Government should do something to alleviate the hardships of poor farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in some parts of Tamil Nadu, essential commodities are sold at a very high price. People are suffering a lot because of this hike in the price of foodgrains. So, I request the centre to release one lakh tonnes of rice to Tamil Nadu every month from Central pool. Such benevolence can only bring down the price. I wish to emphasise this point because, one kgs rice costs between 6-7 rupees in the open market, while in PDS shops it costs around 3 rupees. So, Centre should give as much as the States want. There is also the possibility of water scarcity in Tamil Nadu as summer marches ahead. Hence, Centre would do well to provide enough funds to the State enabling it to sink tube wells etc. to provide drinking water to the public. Or else, people will be exposed to severe water scarcity in

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the months to come. Since, 'prevention is better than cure' I urge upon the Centre to be farsighted and meet the requirement of the State.

In Tamil Nadu, there is lot of fresh water fish breeding. Because of bounteous rains recently, ponds and lakes in some parts of Tamil Nadu are full and rich in fish now. But the gain through sale of this fish is very little all the time. Because, Government give these ponds and lakes to cooperative societies at a very low rates. Certain persons with vested interest in the society get the contract at a low rate and mere fast bucks. For example, a pond having fish worth Rs. 1 to 2 lakhs is given just for 20,000 rupees to these so called societies. Government should put an end to this by going in for open auction of these ponds and lakes rich in fish. The fund thus raised could be utilized for the development of the area.

There are large scale poultry farms in our area each having fowls ranging between 20 to 50 thousands. But there are also small farms having a few thousand fowls. This kind of small poultry farming should be encouraged by the Government by providing loans through banks. This will go a long way in removing unemployment. This will also be of additional help to small farmers. Hence, an appeal to the Hon'ble Minister to look into this matter and do the needful.

Sir, the Milk Cooperative societies in Tamil Nadu are being managed by a privileged few these days. Elections have not been held in these societies. Certain associations are putting up hurdles in the way of elections to grind their own axe. This is not a healthy trend. Because of the alliance between Congress and ADMK, I do not intend to tell a few things about these societies. But I would like to tell the Hon'ble Minister to do his best to get the elections held there. I am sure he will make use of his office for a good cause.

Let me say few words about rural development. We have Jawahar Rojgar Yojna.

For this scheme, 80% is given by the Centre and 20% is contributed by the States. We got this Yojana passed in Parliament. But, Members of Parliament do not have any say in the implementation of the Yojana. We, M.Ps., do not know anything; how money is spent, what is the outcome? Nothing is known to us. We are at loss to understand as to what is happening to Jawahar Rojgar Yojana. When common man comes and asks a question about the Yojana, we are unable to answer. Then he tells us, 'why do not you take up the matter with the Centre? Why do not you assert?' This is what the people ask us. But it is very distressing and disappointing that we are not consulted as to how best the scheme could be implemented. In this regard, I have a suggestion to make. A committee should be set up headed by the District Collector in which the local M.Ps. and M.L.As. should be members. And this committee should monitor implementation of the Yojana. Otherwise we will not be able to face the public. When M.G.R. was in power, all the M.Ps. were consulted. But when Kasrananiddi came to power, he threw all norms to the wind and now the same method is being followed. So, I appeal to the Rural Development Minister to view this matter seriously and set things right so that public money is spent meaningfully with accountability. Even in case of IRDP and NRE, M.Ps. are ignored. Since we are responsible and answerable to the people, it pains us to know that we are not consulted. This situated must change immediately.

A word about agricultural income tax. First, the Government wanted to levy agricultural income tax. But somehow wisdom dawned later and they changed their mind. Government should not even think of levying agricultural income tax. There are many ways to increase the revenue of Government. Through industries we are to get about 1 lakh crores of rupees. So the Government should not resort to this method of levying tax. Such decision can only benefit the opposition.

Sir, we have an Act known as Share Croppers Act. Because of this Act lot of fertile wet lands are lying barren. Under this

Act a share-cropper who cultivated a piece of land for a few years becomes entitled to own the land. This has led to situation where in the land owners refer to let the land remain uncultivated rather than giving it to share-croppers and run the risk of loosing the land. Same is the case with contract-cropping Act. The late Mr. Kamaraj had brought in certain reforms in these Acts when he was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. But later, Government after Government have modified the Act doing irreparable damage to cultivation. Therefore, the Government should thoroughly review these two Acts so that lot of lands lying barren could be brought under cultivation.

Before I conclude I wish to say a word about Telugu-Ganga Project River Krishna is about to enter Tamil Nadu soon. There is a river known as Palar in North Arcot district. But there is no water in the river. It is a river for name sake. So, I have a suggestion to make. If the course of Krishna touching Tamil Nadu is diverted towards North Arcot via Vanniyambadi, it will benefit the regions where there is water scarcity. It can be taken right up to Chengalpathu through North Arcot and this can provide drinking water to people alongside over a stretch of 100 miles. This will benefit atleast three districts. So, I request the Government to accept this suggestion and divert the course of Krishna towards North arcot district. I thanked the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I suggest to the hon. Members, who want to read the newspapers, to kindly go into the lobby because that is the better place to read newspapers.

Now Shri Devegowda to speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Respected Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to express my gratitude Speaker, to give as an opportunity...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak into the mike, so that it would be audible to the reporters.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: and to express our views on the rural development, agriculture and animal husbandary, which are directly connected with more than 70 per cent of the rural population.

Last time the Demands for Grants of the Department of Rural Development was guil-lotined as your goodself knows. We had an opportunity only to express our views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. This time the hon. Speaker has given us an opportunity to express our views on the Rural Development which is totally neglected since independence.

Before I take up the Rural Development, I would like to say a few words on Agriculture. Agriculture is one of the main occupations of our people. The rural economy is totally confined to agricultural production on which more than 70 per cent of the population is depending. Some of our friends are under the impression that whatever the money that we are going to spend on agriculture goes to the big farmers or the kulaks; whatever name they are trying to attribute to them, I am not going to bother about it. But they must also know the reality. More than 30 per cent of the rural population is landless labour. The landless labourers minimum wages in the irrigation areas like Punjab goes up to Rs. 30 a day whereas in the non-irrigation areas, in whichever part of the country it may be, it will not go beyond Rs. 10 one Rs. 123. This is the fate of the unorganised rural sector labour. I only cited this for the benefit of some of those Members who always try to harp on saying that the big farmers are enjoying or are taking the entire benefit of our Plan allocations. In a nutshell I would like to say that it is not the fact.

At this juncture I would like to point out one more aspect. This House has appointed a Committee to go into the fertilizer pricing structure. This is the first time after independence that a Committee appointed by this august House is going into the pricing structure of a commodity that is used by farmers as their agricultural input. For this I must complement the Government and also the Minister of Agriculture who has shown his

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keen interest to have an indepth study about the subsidy issue, to know whether the subsidy goes to the farmer or to the industrialist or to the consumer of the food product.

Even today it is my experience-with a little experience as a Member of the Fertilizer Pricing Committee-that about whatever the information we would like to have, the industrialists do not want to cooperate. Let me be very plain on this issue. They try to suppress the information which is going to be helpful for the Committee to come to a final conclusion. With these remarks I only say that the Department concerned should cooperate to get the full information so that the Committee can give their findings, particularly on the fertilizer price and the subsidy factor-whether it goes to which section of the society-industrialists or farmers. That is a matter which has to be ultimately decided by the Committee on the basis of the information which we have sought.

Another argument that I have always come across from various experts is that the fertilizer price is not hiked for the last one decade. It is not the fact. Without knowing the full facts of the problem they try to argue that the fertilizer price is not hiked for the last ten years. I would like to quote from the Fertilizer Guide 1981 which has been published by the fertilizer Association of India. Urea in 1983 was Rs. 2150 per tonne whereas in January 1986 it was Rs. 2350 and in July 1991 it was Rs. 3300. Similarly the price of the nitrogenous fertilizer was hiked in 1983, 1986 and 1991. The ammonium sulphate was Rs. 2150 per tonne in 1983 and it was raised to Rs. 2300 and then to Rs. 3220 per tonne. I want to draw the attention of the House since people are trying to argue that the fertiliser prices have not been hiked. This is not the real situation. After decontrolling some of the items, since the last one year or from the last Budget, what is the position today? The present price position is like this for some of the decontrolled items like Ammonium Sulphate, Super Phosphate, Potash, etc. Last year Ammonium Sulphate was Rs. 1760 per tonne and now it is Rs.

3050 per tonne. Last year Super Phosphate was Rs. 970 per tonne and now it is Rs. 2000 in the open market. Similarly last year Potash was Rs. 1200 per tonne and today it is Rs. 1700. I have given the price position of some of the decontrolled items or products, to show as to how the prices have been hiked by the industrialists or the fertiliser manufactures, whether it is private sector, joint sector, public sector. They are all alike and the same.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Devegowda, reporters are missing half of your speech because you are moving away from the mike. Please try to be in front of the mike.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I am sorry, Sir. I will do it.

Next point is about pesticides. From the last year to this year, it has been hiked by 250 per cent 250 per cent hike us there, so far as pesticides are concerned. There is nobody to check this. This is the fate of the Indian farmers who have to live only on their agricultural produce and nothing else. I only try to draw the attention of the House because our own bureaucrats or the administrators or some of the so-called elite people try to argue that whatever money we are going to spend is not going to help the rural masses or the people who are dependent on agriculture. It is not the fact. Let them understand as to what exactly is the situation that is prevailing in this country. Since independence, we have completed seven Five Year Plans and four Annual Plans. But, what is the fate of the farming community or the rural people?

I am going to give certain examples so far as rural development is concerned, where it has directly helped the so-called people who are below the poverty line or the rural artisans or the agricultural labourers. I am going to give certain examples to show as to how their economic condition has been improved, after so many anti-poverty programmes. Only one or two points I would like to touch about agriculture. Recently one of the well-known agricultural scientists, Dr. M S Swaminathan has given a new

programme to eradicate poverty. While he has given his views on the agricultural production, he has also stated that the agricultural based exports can be stepped up to Rs. 40,000 crores, in case if we divert our attention towards the agricultural sector which is totally neglected. He has given examples of food crops, oil seeds, fruits, flowers, vegetables and various other items, which the rural cultivators or the farmers can produce so that foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 40,000 crores can be earned, instead of investing on the raw materials that is going to be imported from other countries for earning foreign exchange to clear our foreign debt or whatever it may be. I do not want to take much time of the House particularly on this issue.

Fortunately our planners or the Planning Commission today has come out with this. I have gone through the 'Economic Times'. It is an eye-opener for them. The opinion expressed by Dr. M S Swaminathan recently has opened the eyes of the Planning Commission and they have conceded that the Planning Commission has shifted its focus from the export of manufactured goods to farm products for a 13 per cent growth in export in the Eighth Plan. At least now they have opened their eyes for which I would like to compliment the Planning Commission or the head of the Planning Commission. At least they have now realised what exactly is the importance of agriculture and agricultural products which are going to earn the foreign exchange without depending on any so-called monopoly house or the so-called international financial aid by IMF or whatever it might be. I do not want to argue at this stage.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister, who himself is a farmer, to one more point. I am happy. I want to compliment him because he has taken a very courageous decision in the agricultural Consultative Committee. When we requested that the fertiliser subsidy should not be removed till the Committee report is given, he accepted it, and a unanimous resolution was passed under his chairmanship. That shows

the real concern about the farming community by our present Agriculture Minister.

Unfortunately he was unable to influence or prevail upon the Finance Minister to give more allocation for the agricultural sector. Last year, the allocation was Rs. 1,838 crore. But this year, it is almost similar. It is not enhanced. A sum of Rs. 1,879 is the budget allocation. I am unable to make out how this very sensitive sector, which is going to help nearly 70 per cent of the rural masses, has been ignored like this. I am unable to understand it. Even now, I would like to request our senior leader, Shri Balam Jakhar, to prevail upon the Finance Ministry to see that this sector should not be neglected and also see that at least enhanced allocation should be made in the coming days.

About the export, I would like to mention one more editorial which has appeared in the Economic Times where one Dr. B. S. Minhas has argued. I do not want to quote all what has been written in the editorial. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one fact:

"Should the burden of structural adjustment fall so heavily on farmers, no matter that the aim is poverty alleviation? Many agricultural experts will argue that such a policy is not only wrong but unworkable. They will also point to the recent boom in agricultural prices. Dr. Minhas will add that India has much greater scope for expanding farm exports than manufactured ones. There is much in what he says, and it seems inevitable that cereal prices will have to be raised significantly in the years to come".

Only this point I would like to touch because still we have to do a lot for this community. Government has given you an opportunity to head the department. As a stalwart, you must see that at least the so-called neglected community should be properly fed so that their economic conditions should improve, their living conditions should improve.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I have not touched the rural development. I have not opened my lips for the last 1.5 months or even from the commencement of this session because of my illness. So far as rural development, agriculture and these departments are concerned. I am totally committed, and I am totally involved. I do not want to unnecessarily waste the time of this august House. I request you to permit me to have my say. This is the first time in this budget session.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Definitely. Every Member is speaking for about 10 minutes. Mr. Devegowda, you can speak for 20 minutes.

AN HON. MEMBER: He is an important Member. (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: No, it is not a question of important or unimportant. Everybody is important.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has not spoken so far. That is the reason.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I now come to the per capita emoluments of the public sector employees. I am going to quote just for your kind information that in 1989-89, the per capita emoluments of the public sector employees were Rs.39,415. This figure of Rs. 39415 is given in the Economic Survey which is your own published document. I would like to draw your attention to the per capita income so far as agricultural sector is concerned. It is categorically mentioned in the Bhanu Pratap Singh's Report that the per capita income of agriculturists and their average income is Rs. 420.40 whereas the per capita income of the public sector employees has already mentioned by me. I have already quoted that figure. You see the difference. Do you want me to repeat it again?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the reporters are recording your speech. So, there is no need to repeat piece.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: As the Minister has asked, I will say that the figure is Rs. 39415. It is mentioned in paragraph 3.3 in the Economic Survey, Part-II I quote this figure only to impress on the Government that even now, the agricultural sector has been neglected totally. This is my grouse. I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to civil aviation. Where is the need for the Finance Minister to do this with all his serious concern of reducing the Budget deficit? He would like to cut down expenditure on various sides including non-Plan expenditure. Allocation for civil aviation last year was Rs. 433 crores and this year, the allocation is Rs. 1036 crores. What for and for whose benefit? Is it that only the upper strata of society wants to get the benefit? Only you and me and a section of the society travel by aircrafts and not a rural farmer. It is not going to benefit him in any way.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have spoken for 15 minutes. I have given you double the time.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I need another fifteen minutes. Why I am saying this is because it could be privatised and handed over to the private people. Where is the need for us to have civil aviation department? For what purpose should we have? Indian Airlines incurring a loss of Rs. 200 crore every year. Vayudoot is a loss of more than Rs.100 crores a year. With all your so-called economic reforms, you have not learnt a lesson as to how to help the neglected community or the neglected section of the society. For irrigation you have allocated last year an amount of Rs. 267 crores but now it is Rs.231 crores. This is how our planners and our so-called advisors work. But the Finance Minister is himself an expert and a man of integrity I have got the highest regard for him. I do know how he has got this kind of an attitude as rare as this sector is concerned.

Now, rural development is one of the most important sectors on which I request honourable Chairman to give me some time to express my views. We have implemented nearly 36 programmes after independent

from the days of late Shri S.K. Dey starting from national extension services until today the so-called the Indira Awas Yojana or the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana or whatever it may be. It is a combination of various schemes. What is the ultimate result of these schemes? The end result is today in this country, the rural population is lack of even the minimum needs. Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee has given a very beautiful report for which we must complain. He has taken great efforts so far as rural population is concerned. In his report, he has stated how rural population is lacking minimum needs. Even 30 per cent of the people today do not have the facility for metal roads. Nearly 21 per cent of the rural population have no facility even for primary and middle schools not to talk of colleges and technical education. Even today, 64 per cent of our rural masses have no hospital facilities. In this way, he has given a table showing all these aspects. I am not going to read out all the particulars, but hereafter wards, I urge that you must fight for the cause of this section of society. Let me assure you that in this task, the entire House is going to stand by you and there is no question of any party considerations on this particular issue.

Now, I am going to give some information to show how rural development is being totally neglected. I have already stated that in the current year's budget, the allocation has been decreased. Why and for what purpose? I really do not know. We have been elected to this House and we have come here. Are we to keep mum? Or, are we to ventilate our grievances and feelings? This is one of the things which worries me always.

In the Seventh Plan, allocation for Rural Development is 6.4 per cent of the total plan outlay. But now in the Annual Plan, it is reduced to 5.5 per cent. for agriculture sector and for rural development, the allocation in 1990-91 was 6.7 per cent, whereas in 1991-92, it is only 6.1 per cent. Right from Fourth Plan onwards, I have gone through the indicators that have been given by this very same Government, which show very clearly that there is a gradual reduction in the

allocation for rural development. This is one of the points which has to be considered by the Government.

I must thank the hon. Minister. On the other day, he has tried to convince this House and he also gave an assurance that his government is going to see that the allocation for rural development is enhanced by another Rs. 500 crore. It shows his real concern. Here is a man, who comes from the grassroot level and he knows the background of the rural masses.

Today, I would like to draw the attention of our friends to various issues in which we are still lacking. Nearly 30 to 35 per cent of our people do not have access to safe drinking water. I have gone through the figures mentioned in the Performance Budget. The Drinking Water Programme is going to be named after late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. I have no grouse over that. The Government says that it is going to cover all the villages in the next few years. I cannot understand this. What can we say if there is no time-bound programme even for a very minimum need such as drinking water? Forget about other aspects such as malnutrition, healthcare, etc. I am not going to touch them at all. But, even for drinking water, they cannot have a time-bound programme. When this programme is renamed after Shri Rajiv Gandhi, I thought they are going to give more importance to it. But what all they say is that they will try to supply drinking water to the entire uncovered rural population over the next few years. It is also stated that certain norms have been finalised for providing drinking water to the villagers. 40 litres of safe drinking water per capita per day per human being is the norm. I think this is a dream. If they are really going to provide 40 litres of safe drinking water per head, per day, I tell you, I will bow my head and salute the Government headed by Shri Narasimha Rao. But it is practically impossible. These are all just statistics and nothing else. You go to any village and conduct a random survey. Then you will see the ground reality. I suggest to the hon. Agriculture Minister one thing. He must have the courage to constitute a committee of this House to evaluate the

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follow up action and to make a review to see whether the money is actually spent and the targets are really achieved. What you have given in this Performance Budget and in all this literature is nothing but statistics. Unless you go there and evaluate, you will not be able to understand the field realities. I say this because on the one side, they are spending money for ambitious programmes without taking the practical realities and problems into account.

Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the IRDP programme. Under this programme it has been envisaged to supply marching animals to the rural poor. But the planners have fixed the target without even assessing the position. I would like to know whether in our country milching animals are available to the extent the Government has fixed the target. I would say that concerned agency will fail to fulfill the target. There is a pressure from the higher officers to fulfil the target. So, what they will do is that they will pass on one animal to several hands and thus show the record as if the target has been achieved and the money meant for this purpose has been spent through it has not gone to the real beneficiary.

As a a minister in charge of one district in Karnataka I make a surprise inspection on record saying that 10 S.C. families have been provided with a milching animal but it had actually gone to the House of a Village Pramukh. I went to the spot and asked the Police officer and BDO to see that all the animals are seized and that particular Village Pramukh is arrested. Next day he tried to influence those poor SC people and got a statement from them saying that since they have no place to house those animals they were kept in the Village Pramukh's house, however, all the benefits have been enjoyed by them. This way that Village Pramukh was freed. This is the state of the so called anti-poverty programmes. I would request you to look into this.

There is a scheme called Million Wells Scheme. It envisages to provide open irriga-

tion well free of cost to SC/ST and other poorer section of people. The specification for the wells 20 x 20 x 20 feet and the ceiling limit is Rs. 13,000. This is the peoples money which you are spending. It is not any party's money or not any one individual's money. But you have not provided any pumpset or nothing of that sort. I would like to know whether you will be able to complete the work within this limit of Rs. 13,000. I doubt that the money will be shown as 105% or 200% but in reality the money is going to be wasted.

In Karnataka as a Minister of Irrigation I introduced a Ganga Kalyan Scheme. Within the same money we could provide the pumpsets, wells and even the maintenance cost was met out of that amount only. So, for the benefit to the poor people, can we not revise our plan; can we not see that the money is spent properly?

For housing the Government has allocated Rs. 12,700 per house. I would like to know from the Minister as to how many houses constructed under the Indira Avas Yojana still exist today. A house built about two years back collapse today. Can we not change all these things with our experience? Government always say that no middleman, no contractor should be there but you show me a single piece of work that has been completed without involving the middleman or contractor. You can select any one State in the country; go there at random and see how the money is being wasted. Almost 50 per cent of the money is being wasted. All these things must be looked into.

With all the sincerity and with all the honesty at my comand, as a rural man who has got some rural background, I appeal to the Government to see that all these deficiencies are removed. Though I still have many points to make but I do not want to succumb to your anger. I will make only one point and then conclude.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a lot of Members who want to speak.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: I would like to make one point regarding rural communi-

cation, which has been totally neglected even after 45 years of our independence 17000 villages having more than 1000 population is not connected with road and all villages less than 1000 population has not been touched. This is the position.

Sir, I appeal through the Chairman that let the Government think over all these things, ponder over all these things. There are defects and those defects can be set right. If you what, I can give several other suggestions on the basis of my experience but due to shortage of time, I am unable to do so.

I once again thank the hon. Speaker for having agreed to discuss the Rural Development, Even Food on and PDS there are various anomalies. Unfortunately, I have no time at my disposal., therefore I am unable to express my views.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for having given me a little time to say something on this matter.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, discussion on Ministry of Agriculture is in progress. My hon. friends in this august House have got detailed figures in this regard. But I do not want to go into those details, Sir, everyone holds the view that India is a land of villages but no one is really bothered about the development of villages and the development of infrastructure these. I am of the view that all the Budgets which have so far been presented in the House were not complete. I would like to offer some suggestions in this regard to the hon. Minister. There is a need to draw a comprehensive plan for this purpose. I request you to take up measures with confidence. Yesterday, my friend Shri Nitish Kumar apparently had this apprehension as to how a person clad in a suit can talk about the interests of farmers? However, I know that they discuss and know about the basic problems being faced by the farmers....

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no harm in wearing suits made in India because it is not an imported....

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: But they know about the problems being faced by the farmers and I have heard them discussing about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussions on agriculture will remain incomplete unless the discussion covers the poor farmers, the slum dwellers and the fields whose which cultivation is done. So, it will be necessary to know about it. We will have to include the problems of these people in the future schemes. Only then I will accept that our thinking to develop the agriculture and rural development is going to take practical shapes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is said that development has taken place in the field of agriculture in the country, but where is this development? This is only on paper. If India lives in villages, agriculture should be developed in the villages. The schemes should be prepared in the villages itself for their development. But unfortunately all the schemes for agricultural development are prepared in the tall buildings in Delhi and the farmer remains unaware of the nature and extent of facilities the Government is going to provide him. I am not satisfied with the definition of rural development. The rural development should mean all round discussion about the villages and their development. Development of villages cannot be done only by electrification or by digging drains or constructing roads. Gandhiji dreams of the development of our villages after independence. Dindayalji also talked about the villages and gave his own definition of development of the villages.

But unfortunately when India got independence. Nehru's scheme was implemented to develop the cities. It led to the backwardness of Indian villages. Only the cities were developed and villages remained backward. So, the scheme which should have been prepared on the basis of Gandhiji's and Dindayalji's ideology, were not prepared. Rural development is not possible under Nehruvian ideology. Excuse me,

[Sh. Virendra Singh]

the Congressmen talk about Nehru's scheme for rural development that Nehru also thought about rural development. But his scheme was different from Gandhiji's scheme. It can develop the cities not the villages. The definition of rural development should be decided according to Gandhiji's and Dindyalji's definition of the villages.

I would like the panchayat raj system to be made a motivating force. Unless decentralised power upto the village level, development of villages is not possible. Panchayats should be made powerful. Conflicts and friction among the villagers are on the rise. We can remember that all village disputes were solved at chaupal before independence. Where that culture has gone? How it vanished? I think village disputes will increase and it will be a greatest hurdle in the way of rural development until the power is decentralised by the Central Government or State Government. It does not matter which party is in power. So I would like to say that we should also think of formulating a scheme to decentralise the panchayat raj system.

I would also like to say about the scheme for development of the people of rural areas. Schemes about them are prepared in Delhi. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am of the view that the villagers think that the schemes formulated at the primary level taking them into confidence and then approved at the highest level will be beneficial for them but the schemes formulated at Delhi for their upliftment and development of villages are beyond their comprehension and they do not know how they will be benefited by those. Therefore, I would like to suggest that these schemes should be prepared with the consultation of village people and these would be definitely beneficial. I request the hon. Minister that there is a need of preparing these schemes at the village level.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, people are migrating from the villages. The young people and workers are migrating from villages. It is a matter of great concern. Now this question is troubling us why the people are migrating

from the villages? The main reason is the lack of education facilities and unemployment. The village people, who want to get proper education, migrate to the cities because it is not available in the villages. Having completed their education they settle in the city itself. If the villages have proper education facilities, they would not settle in the cities and thus there would be no migration of educated people and educated society from the villages. People are migrating from the villages for employment. If the agriculture linked jobs were available in the villages itself, the farmers and young men, whose creative power could be used for agricultural development, certainly would not migrate to the cities. I request if industries, related with agriculture are developed, the villages will progress and the youth power which is migrating to the cities, will certainly live in the villages and villages will progress.

I would like to say something about the opening of agricultural research centre. If we want to develop agriculture and prepare schemes, we should open agriculture research centre in each tehsil. The research centre should be on the farmers, land and Government land should not be used for the purpose. I think if the research centre usher in a change the villagers will be willing to provide land for them and the discussion on agriculture development may also take place in these research centres and this village development may be possible.

I would like to say something about the village folk culture. First of all, the Government should know the meaning of the village folk culture. In the village people used to warm themselves from cowdung cakes, placed in a camp-fire sitting in a 'Chaupal' for recreation and development of the village culture and they used to solve all the village dispute there. They used to sing songs for recreation but those songs were not merely for recreation, they were the symbol of villagers' unity. They were the medium to create creative power in the village. So it will be wrong if we think that they were only for recreation. In folk culture people used to decide the marriage also by just sitting in Chaupals. There was no dowry system which

has become a bone today and with its devilish mouth it is proving a curse to us. It was not a blot (slur) in village society. Now it has become a curse and an evil practice. So a scheme must be prepared for the promotion of folk culture. It will be very useful for rural development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today folk culture is developed in Delhi. People are brought here from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and from the forest and they display the folk culture. But when the folk culture will be displayed in the villages then it will develop in the real sense and people would come to know its characteristics. They will realise its importance and its contribution in rural development or in the unity of village people. So I request that the scheme should not be prepared in Delhi for the development of folk culture and folk culture programmes should not be organised in Delhi. When late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was alive a great show was organised by spending crores of rupees in the name of folk culture. I request that such shows should be held in States and villages instead of Delhi so that people can understand the importance of the folk culture.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not talking here about the data. I am speaking on two or three importance topics. Hon. Minister should listen to me because it is an important point that we talk about the green revolution but have we ever thought about the irrigation system in our country. How the fruits of Green Revolution can reach the villages unless irrigation facilities are not made available. Today, there is no irrigation facility in our villages. We could not provide irrigation facilities to our fields so far. Approximately 70 per cent of our land is fertile. The plains of Ganga are regarded most fertile plains in the world. The plains of Ganga from Buxar to Barh Barhaya in Uttar Pradesh are deprived of irrigation facilities including thousands of acres area from Dokati-Diyara and the area up to Mahula in Buxer district is deprived of irrigation facilities while the people of this region are regarded the symbol of creative power but today they are jobless and are forced to adopt crime tendency. The main reason is that the fruits of Green Revolution

has not reached them.

I would like to say that unless the fruits of Green Revolution reach every village, the Green Revolution is meaningless. If sufficient irrigation facilities are provided to the plains of Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, they alone can produce more for the country as compared to Punjab and Haryana. Now the question is that our region should also be provided the same irrigation facilities as are provided to Punjab and Haryana.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rural development is not taking place. The cottage and small industries are declining. There was a time when a blacksmith, a carpenter and a washerman lived in the villages of this country. The blacksmith used to make pick-axe, spade etc. The carpenter used to make the implements needed by farmers. The washerman used to wash the clothes of farmers. The industrial development of the concept of Nehru and Narasimha Rao has totally ruined cottage industry in the village. I would like to ask why Tatas, Birlas and Dalmias are making pick-axe, sickle, spade etc. today which were made by the blacksmith of a village. Implements like pick-axe, spade and sickle made by the blacksmith in the village cannot compete with the implements made in factories of Tatas Birlas and Dalmias in the market. When implements made by big industrialists will get much publicity, the implements made by the blacksmith will not be purchased in the market. Therefore, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that he should show some concern towards those carpenters, blacksmith and Washerman, who were engaged in cottage industries in villages and led a happy life. And the big capitalists should not make those implements and thus should not dominate over their cottage industry, failing which the entire culture will vanish.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, how the implements like pick-axes spade and sickle made by the blacksmith will compete with the implements made by Tatas Birlas and Dalmias in the market? Their implements will not be purchased at all.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that Babu fought freedom fight in the name of Khadi. At that time the countrymen resolved to use indigenous articles but the industrial policy of the country has dealt a strong blow to village industries resulting in loss of market for the poor villages who weave cloth in villages. The cloth made by big capitalists and multi-national companies sells more. Nobody purchase the cloth made by weavers in villages. Therefore, I submit to the hon. Minister that this point should also be included in it and it should be given a thought to find out means of developing it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, when there is any discussion of sports, all the Members of this House begin to look at me. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you certainly evince much interest when there is any discussion on sports. I have observed it. Therefore please listen to me about rural sports.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the condition of rural sports and rural sportsmen in India has deteriorated a lot today which is quite distressing. Rural sports and sportsmen are on the decline. No publicity is given to them. Today I observe that people in thousands gather at several places to listen and watch the cricket match but the Government does not pay any attention to rural games like wrestling, kabaddi etc. which are recognised in Olympic games one day I requested the hon. Minister that the selection process of the sportspersons is wrong itself. Start it from village and I can claim that you will find talented sportspersons in villages.

Mr. Minister, although this issue does not relate to you, I would like that you should also write a letter to the hon. Sports Minister that rural games are declining and they should be improved. I tell you how they are declining and how can they be improved. All the sportspersons at the district level, at the State level, at the national level and at the inter-national honour. When they are young and keep their body fit by undertaking physical exercises so that they may win medal and raise the honour of the country but when they

retire from sports, they lead a miserable life. They have no means for earning their livelihood. They also face hardships in old age which they faced in their young age. So, keeping it in view, the rural youths never look forward to sports. It should also be taken into account. When Olympic games and Asiad are held, we compare the medal tally of India with China and Korea. There may be political differences with China and thought it attained independence later than in the works done by it for the development of rural sports are certainly commendable. China has started sports works later on but today it has become the biggest competitor in the sports world.

You should inform the Sports Ministry through a letter about the pitiable plight of the rural sportspersons and insist on it saying that it has also to extend its contribution to develop rural sports. You should also tell it to find out the difficulties of the rural sportspersons and what can be Sports Ministry do for solving these difficulties.

When Shri Kumaramangalam was re-playing yesterday I said that sports hostels are opened for rural development and rural youths joins sports in cities. the sports atmosphere of village and city the same. Disco culture is destroying the rural games.

MR. CHAIRMAN; You are deviating from your subject.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: It relates to rural development. Rural sports and sportspersons are certainly related to rural development.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kumari Mamata Banerjee had spoken very well on that issue.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Rural Sports builds the character of a man. It enhances his creative power. Therefore, I began to discuss rural sports with the hon. Minister. I also discuss rural sports separately.

Lastly, I would like to say that I had spoken about rural development, rural agriculture and Green Revolution. I would like to speak about dairy development. The

schemes formulated for dairy development are commendable. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri K. Pradhani.

The Government may have a lot of statistics. I have nothing to do with these statistics. My suggestions about rural development should be taken into account to make the schemes meaningful and to develop agriculture.

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demand for Grants for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Civil Supplies and Public Distribution.

15.35 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(i) **President Yasser Arafat**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) is to make an intervention.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much. In the morning, the House wanted me to keep the House informed about the matter concerning President Yasser Arafat. We are gratified and relieved to learn that President Yasser Arafat is safe and well after the forced landing of his plane in Libya. May, I through you, urge the House to join us in wishing President Yasser Arafat a long and happy life.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think, it is indeed a matter of great pleasure for all of us to get this good news from the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs.

[*English*]

15.36 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1992-93 CONTD

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

Our country is an agricultural country where 70 per cent of the people of this country depend on agriculture. Fertiliser is one of the main inputs for agriculture, to raise more production in agriculture. In the year 1950-51, the intake of fertiliser was 69 lakh tonnes and in the year 1991-92, it went upto 135 lakh tonnes. It is hundred fold increases in the intake of fertiliser and the production has been increased proportionately. The next important item that is necessary for agriculture is irrigation. There are three types of irrigation—flow irrigation, lift irrigation and under-ground water irrigation. Regarding flow and lift irrigations, Government is constructing projects in large scale. There dug wells and tube wells are constructed by the individuals wherever it is practicable. Government of India has provision to provide free dug wells and mini-wells to the small and marginal farmers. But the middle-class farmers are the biggest sufferers in this country.

After the implementation of land reforms, there are no zamindars and big landlords. All have become small farmers. The small and marginal farmers enjoy the privilege of the Government of free grants for tube wells and dug wells and so on. But the middle-class farmers, who are helpless, do not get any assistance for irrigation. They have to pay heavy interest for whatever little help they get. Of course, the National Financial Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is there. But it has got limited resources and it cannot provide finance to the extent required even to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes. In this regard I would like to draw the attention of the ministry of Agriculture and request them to examine this matter and see that more money is allotted to this Corporation so

[Sh. K. Pradhani]

that it can assist not only Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe farmers but other farmers also. in general so that the production is increased to a greater extent.

The agricultural operations last only for six to seven months a year in the rain-fed areas. I come from a tribal area where there are no irrigation facilities. The people living there have no work for five months in a year. After the harvesting season, they go to the forest to collect some minor forest produce and sell them in the market to purchase the essential commodities. When this is over they again go to the forest to collect some food- they collect tender leaves, roots of some creepers, eatable fruits and even bamboo shreds which are tender which they boil and eat for want of proper food. Since all these are not proper food for human consumption, many people get attacked by diseases and there are number of stomach problems. In this connection I want to submit that last year about 7,000 people died in my constituency, in my district. Our hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to release Rs. 20 lakhs for purchase of medicines.

MR. CHAIR MAN: Is it that 7,000 people died in your district out of starvation?

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Yes Sir. It is not due starvation alone. It is due to mal-nutrition. Doctors say that it is either due to mal-nutrition or gastro-enteritis or cholera. Whatever may be the name, it is all mainly due to lack of proper food.

The Government of India and the hon. Minister of Supply sent lot of foodgrains to that district. But there was no proper distribution. There were not sufficient doctors to look after and distribute the medicines. All these are with regard to Koraput district.

In Kalahandi district, this year, many people are leaving their villages to different places to earn their livelihood after the harvest season.

Sir, you must have seen press report on the 2nd of April that in Bolangiri district one tribal woman sold her son for just Rs. 20/- because of lack of food. She was starving and she sold the boy for Rs. 20/- This is the situation in the poor tribal areas of Orissa.

Sir, knowing all these factors our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had started JRY (Jawahar Rozgar Yojana) to send money direct to the gram panchayat to help the landless labourers, small farmers and marginal farmers to earn their livelihood during the lean period. But these schemes which were introduced by the Prime Minister have not been properly implemented only because the implementation work is done by the State Governments. They are appointing contractors, the work is not properly implemented, the scheduled rate is not contractors there, to pay the scheduled rate and to begin the work when there is no work, when there is no agricultural season.

So also regarding distribution of foodgrains. Subsidised rice has been sent to tribal areas where the tribal people have very low purchasing power and mobile vans have been sent to distribute foodgrains to different villages in the State. But, Sir, these commodities do not reach the people there properly only because the appoint as retailers private persons who have their own interest to sell their commodities on the way to the village and the villagers are deprived of foodgrains. When I approach the Government of India and say, 'These are the factors in our area, please help us; they say, Sir, we cannot help you, it is the duty of the State Government to look after this, we cannot do anything as ours is a federal structure, and they will do their jobs. Only we can give money, rice and whatever is possible'.

Sir, the Government has got full power over the State Government when we are dealing with the tribal people. In this connection, I will quote some provisions of the Articles of the Constitution. Article 339 (2) says:

"The executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to a state as to the drawing up execution of schemes specified in the directions to be essential for the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State.

There is another provision in the Fifth schedule, which reads as follows:

"Report by the Governor to the President regarding the administration of Scheduled areas: The Governor of each state having Scheduled Area therein shall annually, or whenever so required by the President, make a report to the President regarding the administration of the Scheduled Areas in that state and the executive power of the Union shall extend to the giving of directions to the State as to the administration of the said areas".

Sir, Article 365 says:

"Where any State has failed to comply with, or to give effect to, any directions given in the exercise of the executive power of the Union under any of the provisions of this Constitution, it shall be lawful for the President to hold that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution".

Sir, often it is said that the Sarkaria Commission is there and it prevents us to take any action against the State Government.

I will just quote a para from the discussion of Constituent Assembly and the remarks passed by Dr. Ambedkar:

**"Discussions in the Constituent
Assembly"**

In the Constituent Assembly, there was some discussion on clause (3) of Article 257 dealing with protection of railways, but none on Article 256 and the remaining clauses of Article 257. The provisions in Article 365, however, attracted criticism. Some members expressed an apprehension that the provisions of Article 365 might be invoked even in cases of minor infraction of a direction from the Union..."

The Chairman of the Drafting Committee, Dr. Ambedkar, pointed out: Once there is power given to the Union Government to issue directions to the States that in certain matters they must act in a certain way, it seems to me that not to give the Centre the power to take action when there is failure to carry out those directions is practically negating the directions which the Constitution proposes to give to the Centre. Every right must be followed by a remedy."

So, there is ample power with the Central Government to take action against the State Governments when they defy the directions or the suggestions given by the Central Government.

Sir, I come to Panchayat Raj administration. As I have stated earlier, I come from a tribal district. There are 44 high schools in my district. About five years back, we had a District Welfare Committee consisting of Members of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly. We found the result very bad there and so, we asked the Collector to send charge-sheets against the teachers. There are about 500 teachers in 44 high schools. These are not ordinary schools, but these are residential schools. Last year, only 70 boys had passed from 44 schools. The Collector sent charge-sheets against 100 school teachers and the Government of the State bluntly refused to take any action against the teachers saying that there was no necessity to take any action against these teachers.

[Sh. K. Pradhani]

My point is this. The Collector, the district authorities and the local representatives who are analysing the local matters on the spot, have got no say in these matters. The State Government is the final authority there. So, I want to say that decentralisation must take place. The Zilla Parishad Act should be immediately passed and the district administration should be given ample powers to punish every officer employed there, if he is found guilty. This type of administration with powers concentrated at the State Headquarter will not help the poor people, especially the tribal people to develop.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL (Siwan): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. When we talk of agriculture the villages of India and the blooming fields flash before our eyes but it is sad that the country, which was once known as a gold mine is today facing hardships and that is on the link of disaster and the main reason of it is that the agriculture and the villages have been neglected in the country for loans.

When we look at the miserable condition of the villages and agriculture then we are compelled to think that the whole of the city is under debt, "the whole of the city is in debt but my village is there to bear the burden". We see that today the whole burden is on the villages. Mr. Chairman, Sir, we all know that 66 to 40- per cent of the total labour force of our country is engaged in agriculture and all of us also know that 35 per cent of the country's total income comes from agriculture but it is so that despite all this, the present Congress Government is neglecting the villages and agriculture. These people are worshipping the multi-nationals and it will not be an exaggeration to say that the a conspiracy is being hatched through GATT against our country. In the coming days our agriculture will be mortgaged in the hands of the developed countries.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to submit that

the elderly people have said that foreign policy and foreign money to a country are always followed by a Foreign flag. I do not think that it is possible in our country but the aim behind the Dunkel proposals is that the developing countries, including India should not become self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains, since the developed countries know that hunger and foodgrains are sensitive issues for the developing countries will not listen to them but on the matter of hunger and starvation they will even make their countries dance at their tune. They will see to it that developing countries do not become self reliant in the matter of foodgrains because in this way they wish. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that our countrymen will survive by eating less, by facing sorrows but you must oppose the Dunkel proposals to enhance the respect of the country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the hon. Minister might be feeling very happy that 17 crore tonnes of foodgrains has been produced in the country but I would like to ask as to whether 17 crore tonnes of foodgrains are enough for our country, when the people are dying of hunger even today in the country., Only today a news item has appeared in the Hindustan to the effect that our Prime Minister has admitted that there had been some deaths due to starvation in Madhya Pradesh. In a country where the people are still dying of hunger, its ministers are patting themselves on their back by producing 17 crore tonne foodgrain, Only God can save such a country. I want to ask as to why are they happy by producing 17 crore tonne foodgrains. If we go into the decade prior to 50, then we will come to know that at that time per capita availability of food grains was 395 grams and today, after 42 years it is 500 grams. It means that we have been able to produce 105 grams foodgrains more in 42 years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even today there are many States in the country whose population growth is more than the increase in their foodgrain production. The population growth in Assam is 3.3 per cent whereas the food growth is 1.7 per cent, the population growth

in Madhya Pradesh is 3.4 per cent, and food growth is 2.1 per cent, in Kerala the population growth is 2.3 per cent and food growth is 1.9 per cent, in Maharashtra the population growth is 2.3 per cent and the food growth is 2.00 per cent in Karnataka the population growth is 2.1 per cent and food growth is 1.9 and in Punjab the population growth is 2.12 per cent and food growth is 1.2 per cent. Same is the position of Andhra Pradesh.

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIG. VENKAT SWAMY): Please tell about Andhra Pradesh also.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: In Andhra Pradesh the population growth is 1.7 per cent and food growth is 1.1 per cent.

SHRIG. VENKAT SWAMY: He is wrong about Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: The data of Andhra Pradesh is correct or wrong, we will see it later on. I agree with you that the data of Andhra Pradesh, given by me is wrong, but is all the other data of other states also wrong? Don't you agree that even today the population growth is higher than food growth in many states?

I would like to draw your attention towards one more point that we are growing foodgrains at very slow pace. In 1984-85 the production of coarse grain was 31.1 million tonne which in 85-86 had come down to 26.2 million tonne and in 1990-91 increased to 33.4 million tonnes. Are you increasing the production at this speed and shall we be able to feed the country at this speed? You take up the pulses and oilseeds. The production of pulses was 12.0 millions tonnes which is 14.0 million tonne today. I want to say so because today we are not producing as much foodgrains as we need to day. But take the case of our neighboring country China.

We had adopted the path of planned development simultaneously. Today its national growth rate has doubled an population growth rate has declined to half but we are

there from where we had started.

My next submission to the hon. Agriculture Minister is that you leave aside the example of China and take the case of erstwhile U.S.S.R. You see that the population of U.S.S.R. is one third of our total population and its production is twice more than ours. Today you see U.S.S.R. after disintegration, there the people are starving. I want to submit that the one who thinks and plans in advance is always happy. You Can draw a lesson from the conditions of your friendly country. God forbid, the same situation in our country? What will be the condition of our country? Crores of people will die of starvation. Therefore, you please muster your will power and get more and more money allocated for agriculture. Yesterday, Nitish ji was speaking. He had said that the 'Janata Dal Government had declared that they would spend 50 per cent of the total budget on the development of agriculture. You are not allocating even that much. You should make more allocation than this but you are not making. Since I have been the Rural Development Minister in Bihar, therefore I would like to say something about rural development in addition to agriculture..(Interruptions)

HON. AGRICULTURE MINISTER (SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR): Should the whole country be administered on the matter of Bihar?

SHRI BRISHIN PATEL: I am talking about the whole country if you are taking Bihar as the whole country we are happy. We have no objection.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I want to submit that for the development of the agriculture, small irrigation schemes should be encouraged. He might have seen in a village we also see when we go to village. There the people say if a drain is dug at a cost of Rs. 15 to 20 thousand then 20-25 acre of land can be irrigated. The people say that with a scheme of Rs. 10 to 15 lakhs in one thousand or two thousand acres two to three acre of land can be irrigated and good crop can be taken. You know that there is a problem of water logging.

[Sh. Brishin Patel]

You just find out a solution to water logging problem, you will see that country will make much progress in the agriculture sector. I want to submit that whether it is the fertiliser or the insurance of the crop, the insurance of the crop should be started. Earlier also many things have been said about it. I had said that the crop insurance scheme should be introduced. You can deduct the amount of premium from the loan, which is given to the farmers through cooperatives. All the farmers will go for the insurance of crops. If you have any better scheme in your mind for the insurance of crops then that should be introduced immediately. Without speaking much on agriculture, I would like to say something on rural development. Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to say that there are two important schemes in our country for rural development.

16.04 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

The one is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the other one is I.R.D.P. I prefer Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Since the Schemes which were made in Delhi for the development of the village are now being formulated by the villagers as per the requirement of the villages. Hon. Minister Sir, I you please muster some courage, and start determining priorities for the development of the village. First priority should be to link villages first by Kuchha roads and then Kuchha roads be converted into pucca roads.

The Government should decide the priority. There are two agencies like the R.E.O. and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana with the Government for rural development. These are meant for rural development including construction of roads. There is one more agency called Zila Yojana. The construction of rural roads is undertaken through this agency. The Government should sit up with the Planning Minister and decide the priority. Every village is to be linked with unmetalled roads in the first phase so that if Shri Balram Jakhar has to visit to any village of Bihar, he need not inquire whether his vehicle can go

there or not. Some funds should be earmarked under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for repairing the roads that get damaged during rainy season every year in order to make it transportable. The Government has three agencies, namely the R.E.O., the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the Zila Yojana. If the Government is able to coordinate the three agencies, more and more roads can certainly be constructed. The work relating to handling of earth is undertaken under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The hard crush work should be handled under the Zila Yojana. Black topping work should be undertaken by R.E.O. These agencies may be directed that there is no need to do any other work except the work entrusted to them. If all these three agencies handle the earth work, hard crush work and black topping separately, it generates corruption. In order to prevent such corruption, the Government should coordinate all these three agencies. There should be coordination in consultation with the Planning Minister so that more and more roads can be constructed in the coming days. Every year each Panchayat handles the work costing Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. 2.00 lakh. There are 30 to 32 Panchayats in a block. The work costing Rs. 40, 50 or 75 lakh is got done by an Oversear every year. Will he be able to get the work done? There should be a provision of appointment of one more oversear from the funds available with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It will provide an opportunity of employment as also he will be able to perform his duty properly at an appropriate time. It will not create hurdles in developmental planning. The Government allocates funds to every State under the head Jawahar Rozgar Yojana on the basis of quarterly report. The State which is unable to achieve its target, the Central Government effects a cut in the allocation. If any state is unable to achieve its rate of development due to strike, natural calamity or any other such incidence, the Central Government effects a cut in the allocation meant for the concerned State Government without fail. The Government should allocate funds on the basis of annual report. The Government is endeavouring to raise the poor above the poverty line through I.R.D.P. for the rural development. The Government should tell it

honestly as to how many people have been raised above the poverty line by it. Recently, a report on Bundelkhand has been published in 'Dharmayug' magazine. It is written there in and we all know that Rs. 3000 or Rs. 4000 are given to the poor for purchasing a cow or a buffalo. The Government should think that when even a she-goat cannot be purchased for Rs. 3000, how much milk a cow or a buffalo might be given which is purchased by a poor man with this amount which is given to raise the poor above the poverty line. Only God knows how will they be developed and raised above the poverty line. The Government gives cow or buffalo to the poor Harijans. But, Harijans have never enjoyed ownership. From the very beginning they never been the owners of these animals. They have the experience of rearing and feeding the cows the buffaloes of others. They have no knowledge of ownership. When you are making these animals available to them, training should also be imparted to them as to how can they rear a cow or a buffalo and how can they look after it. It will enable them to ascertain their future.

Through IRDP, the Government provides funds to women or youths for the purpose of Self-employment and other activities. Have you ever conducted physical verification to ascertain whether any asset is left which was provided to poor people to raise them above the poverty line? When I was the Rural Development Minister in Bihar I got a survey conducted and found that only 25 per cent assets were left and the remaining assets were missing. Since I have been associated with Bihar, I know comparatively more about it and its problems. But if you conduct physical verification of other States, I can claim that you will find the assets missing there too.

There is no market facility for selling the goods which are produced with the help of employment provided by Government. Sewing machine is made available to do sewing work. You make things available to enable them to run business in milk and fruits and vegetables. Have you ever thought about the availability of market facility for the things produced by them. The Government should

ensure market facility for it. The Government should direct District Collectors to arrange rural fair in every district for the purpose of selling the things produced by them so that their produce may reach the market through it. Other agencies should be also promoted to go to villages and purchase their products so that they may earn their livelihood, save money and lead a happy life.

Now I would like to discuss TRYSEM. The Government wants that the people may engage themselves in self-employment and become self-sufficient through TRYSEM. The Government should analyse its statistics. I have already said that physical verification should be got done about some schemes. The same is the condition of TRYSEM Scheme. During 1990-91, the Government had fixed the target to train 4 lakh 25 thousand and 314 people. What are your achievements? Just 35 per cent, that means you could have trained only 1 lakh 19 thousand 25 people. The statistics or percentage has no meaning in TRYSEM. The purpose of TRYSEM is to provide self-employment to more and more people. The Government has provided self-employment only to 51,560 people out of 1,51,000 people. Can we develop our villages with this ratio only? I would like to say that it is not possible to develop villages with this rate. But I would like to say if you want to save the country and develop our villages, you have to strengthen you will power. The Government is propagating throughout country that it would provide employment to one crore people every year through the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. But all of us are aware that the Government has effected a cut in allocation for rural development. I would like to urge upon the Government to enhance the allocation for rural development and agriculture in future. Only then our country will become prosperous and happy.

With these few words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI G.M.C. BALAYOGI (Amalapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on

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the Demands for Grants sought to be made available to the Rural Development in the Budget. Since my interest is in Rural Development, on behalf of TDP I oppose the Demands presented by the hon. Minister, as due importance is not given to the rural development. Sir, this is my maiden speech.

Rural Development in India, all the years, has become a slogan, a catchy word for political manifestoes and a sobriquet for allocation of soft money for the interest groups. The practical percolation of the huge expenditure is nothing but a scattered development in selected areas of growth like agriculture etc. but not in total upliftment of rural masses in all walks of life.

The economic, educational and health needs of majority of rural masses, particularly those belonging to SC and ST and backward communities are not being catered to fully under various sponsored programmes of the Government. Even after seven five year plans and allocation and expenditure of thousands of crores of rupees over the past forty years for overall rural development, the plight of rural areas remained as it is and so under developed and gap of growth and development between urban and rural areas is widening more and more. The root causes for this pathetic and deplorable state of affairs are quite ostensibly known ones. The lack of planning and political will to implement the programmes by checking the shortcomings in the implementation namely non-poor particulars, grabbing of benefits by prosperous villagers, miscalculation of the poor among the beneficiaries, misuse of loans, brokerage and widespread and all pervasive corruption in distribution of loans, subsidies. It has become the philosophy of Indian bureaucracy to meet the physical and monetary targets set out in the annual plan outlays for rural development without any regard to qualitative aspects or actual performance. There is no accountability on it and apart from this, political groups at every level work within and outside the system to mount pressure on the bureaucracy for subserving their dominant class

or caste interests. The net result of all this grim scenario is that the poor and destitute rural masses are left without getting their due share and their development has become a myth. I while strongly deprecating the absence of commitment and political will for ensuring development of rural masses, also suggest the following for making the various programmes under rural development more effective and result oriented instead of indiscriminate and unplanned pumping of money into the programmes.

The integrated rural development programmes, IRDP, for which provision of Rs. 375.64 crores is made in the Budget for the year 1992-93 has to be reviewed thoroughly and the District rural development agencies to which the funds are being given should be made accountable not only for meeting physical targets but also for constant monitoring of the progress of the families of target group of rural poor, which are identified as below poverty line families, to ensure that the subsidies provided to them are so utilised that they are brought up above the poverty line and that the objective of IRDP to provide income generating assets to identified families, is achieved. Without this monitoring, the pumping of funds in the pipeline of governmental expenditure is of no use. Not only this, rural growth centres should also be started in such of those villages as have some infrastructure facilities like transport, marketing, irrigation etc. and the management of the rural growth centre should be handed over to local panchayats with supervision by district rural development agencies. The information on all these welfare schemes should be got disseminated among those for whom they are intended through communication medium. A research and study group can also be engaged to look into the performance of IRDP and the aspects like the asset retention ability of the participants, extent of rise in standard of living, factors relating to wrong identification of beneficiaries and the methods to be evolved for right identification, avoidance of misuse of funds, evolving of support mechanisms for maintenance of assets and for dissemination of information for proper understanding and awareness of the schemes of ben-

efits among rural poor masses. The State planning boards must be more responsive, and be leaned away from the classic target driven approach and statistical complication of expenditure. These steps will go a long way in making the IRDP achieve its objectives and result in micro level implementation of rural development programmes.

Similarly the other important programme under rural development is Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The professed objective of this scheme is to generate additional gainstrengthening inful employment for the unemployed and under employed men and women and to improve the durable quality of life in rural areas and creation of sustained employment by rural economic infrastructure. Construction of houses for SCs and STs and freed bonded-labourers below poverty line as well as opening of irrigation wells free of cost to the poor and small and marginal farmers belonging to the above categories are also contemplated under JRY Scheme. In the Budget for 1992-93 provision of funds to the tune of Rs. 2046.21 crores is also made. The performance evaluated during the last two years reveal that the funds under this scheme are generally expended to create working mandays and to pay wages for rural labour involved in developmental programmes. This scheme has not solved the objective of creating gainful employment to create in turn, durable community assets. The very purpose of this scheme is to open up avenues of employment for these rural masses below the poverty line on a sustained and durable basis. But what is practically seen is the absence of mechanism for determining local priorities and preparing projects which may build up infrastructure in rural areas on self sustained basis and the mandays are utilised on uproductive and unsustainable schemes. The allocated funds are shown expended for the payment of wages to labourers in rural areas generally and the lot of labourers remain unchanged once the one-time payment of the Project is over and thereafter they are bound to seek new job avenues. This also has led to the exit of educated youth from rural areas because of lack of gainful employment opportunities for them. As a result, the rural scene has not

improved and the latent power of the rural educated youth in the villages is left unutilised. As such, I suggest that the funds under the JRY should be utilised for human resources development in every village and the educated youth should also be given opportunity to man schools, health centres, cooperative agencies and other viable and productive projects for overall development of rural areas in every sector. The funds under JRY Scheme are therefore, required to be utilised meticulously with proper planning and with yielding results for a sustained growth of rural economy.

Similarly there are various other programmes like Training of Rural Youth for Self-Employment (TRYSEM), safe drinking water scheme under MNP, rural sanitation and drought prone areas programme. The multiplicity of the Government agencies and departments, undertaking those programmes is also causing difficulty in the integration of one programme with another and the lack of inter-departmental authorities coordination for comprehensive implementation of the above programmes is another stumbling block in rural development. It can be better if all these programmes are integrated under one programme and one department, for effective and result-oriented implementation of the schemes for better rural development.

As such, I feel that the need of the hour is not just higher and higher Budget allocations but an overall comprehensive planned and integrated action plan for facilitating the success of the various rural developmental programmes. In this context, the Demands for Grants may be reviewed and necessary action may be taken.

Lastly, I want to suggest one more thing Rural development can only be achieved through proper implementation of land reforms; decentralisation of powers to local bodies just like Panchayati Raj institutions; and proper implementation of literacy and family planning programmes. We have got a three tier Panchayati Raj system. But the Panchayati Raj system nowadays lack the financial and political power to implement the proper programmes for the betterment of the

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rural areas. In this context, I would like to urge the hon. Minister of Rural Development. The Government is also intending to bring the 72nd Amendment Bill for the betterment of local bodies in this country. I would also request the hon. Minister to make arrangements for the direct elections to the local bodies in the Panchayati Raj system. Then only, the real local body system can exist in the rural areas, which can be useful for the development of the rural areas. Thank you.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants in respect of Ministry of Agriculture and other Ministries presented in the House and at the same time I would like to make some suggestions. The issue of farmers should not be viewed from party angle. The principles of all religions are good but they are not followed in the same spirit. This is irony. The manifestos of all the political parties, be it Janata Dal or B.J.P. or Congress Party, are good. All political parties make promises to do work for the welfare of farmers. But when they come to power, they don't pay any attention to it, whether it is the Government of Uttar Pradesh or Bihar or any other Government. I know that a lot has been done for the welfare of farmers in Maharashtra.

The agriculture in Maharashtra has made tremendous advancements. That is why Congress Party is in power there. I would like to cite an example. About 170 million tonnes of foodgrains are produced in our country. Is it not a big achievement? In the matter of vegetables, our country is at second number next to China in the world. We are next to Brazil in respect of fruit production. Can anyone ignore this fact. Thus, we have certainly made progress in the field of agriculture. My Hon. colleague has just suggested to control population. I do agree with him. Because the way the population is increasing in our country is dangerous for our country. No matter which party is in power but unless control population, Indian condition is not a likely to improve.

There is only one alternative that all of us should sit together and formulate a concrete programme only then will the solution to this problem emerge. Merely speaking is not the solution. That is why all the hon. Members should give serious thought to family planning and they need to formulate some concrete programme in this regard. But I would not like to go into the detail here and would like to extend some suggestions in connection with agriculture before the house.

Today the farmers do not want anything. They only want that their cost of production, should be fully met. You may not give subsidy, you may not give fertilizers but just give them remunerative price of the produce according to the cost of production and the farmer would be happy. He does not want anything more.

When there are elections, leaders of all parties tell the farmers that they will act as they wish. They are ready to fulfil all their desires, even the insurmountable ones also. If the farmer ask for the moon they promise that they will bring it for him. All the members of Parliament give this kind of an assurance to the farmers of this country, but once the elections are over, and they get elected and come to the air conditioned rooms, then they forget everything. After that none talks about the farmers. Balram Jakhar ji is a farmer that is why we have faith in him. Our agriculture Minister is a farmer, that is why we can pin our hopes on him that the farmers would get subsidy.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): He is a big farmer.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: There is no difference between small and big farmers. All farmers are alike. We should not distinguish between big and small, and there should be no controversy on this issue. If 5% of the farmers in the country are big, we should be proud of them that at least some farmers are in the category of big farmers. Although I wanted to speak more on this issue but as the time at

my disposal is short I would like to draw your attention towards Maharashtra.

Under the self Employment Scheme lot of work has been done in Maharashtra. No other state has achieved that much success under this scheme. A lot of attention has been paid to growing fruits and cleaning of bushes & weeds this year. At least 2-3 lakh hectare area has been brought under mango plantation and citrus fruits were also grown. How much progress has been made in the matter of fruit production, would be known after three years, when fruits come from Maharashtra. Mangoes and lemons would be brought to the market from there. We want a processing unit for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, under the Self Employment scheme many states have taken funds but adequate work has not been done. In Bihar, there has been a 20% cut in the funds. 46,000 Kilometres of road has been constructed in Bihar under the Self Employment scheme. Is this possible? All parties are alike. That is why I have joined this party. Ultimately, I like Shri Narasimha Rao's policy and that is why I have joined his party.

Sir, after giving some suggestions I will conclude. In the field of agriculture there is need for many improvements. There is need for marketing fruits and vegetables. This should be arranged both within the country and outside the country.

There is a need for improvement in the seed policy. We made the policy in 1988-89 and saplings, plants and seeds were imported but they were infected by diseases because of which further spread in our country as well. First Diana-Bod come and next came rongteat. There is need to check these diseases immediately. That is why I demand that the seed policy should be revamped.

In this connection I would request that the experts in Government organisation should be free to join private organisation and vice-versa. The regional and national level Government research institutes should select officials on deputaion basis so that

there is an change of information regarding the progress made in this field.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, our friend Shri Nitish Kumar has rightly said that there should be a Krishi Vigyan Kendra in every region. I would like to repeat it. Whether you have the funds or not is a matter for you to decide. But it is my suggestion that this is most essential. If you want that agriculture should progress in our country then this is most essential

Mr. Chairman, Sir, next, I would like to tell you that in the field of agriculture we are making progress at a slow speed because we are using low techniques in which a lot of time is being wasted. Therefore, I would request that select research bodies working for public welfare should utilize high technology and through the Government and private organisation we should achieve progress in this field. Though the new seed policy was formulated in 1988-89 but the Plant quarantine facility is not satisfactory. According to the new technique, N.E.P.G.R. should be given.

In our country, in the public sector State Seed Corporation State agro-industries organisation and NAFED are busy in the field of agriculture. They are being managed by I.A.S. officers who have little knowledge of trade and agricultural matters. The Scientists are knowledgeable and experts in their field, but the I.A.S. officers do not work properly, because they do not possess knowledge of that subject. That is why my request is that there is a need to keep experts in this field.

For the purpose on increasing exports in the field of agriculture an agriculture exports council should be set up by the government in every state in joint collaboration with the private sectors. The farmers should be given incentives out of the profits earned from exports. According to the international demand, arrangement for packing should be made, and for this material industries should be set up in the areas where goods are packed. Through the sea and air routes agriculture good export should be augmented. A lot of freight is charged on grape and

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mango. Rs. 50 is charged on grapes which is too much. That is why there is need for nominal tariff on agricultural goods which are exported.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the areas where good quality of fruits, spices and wheat are grown should be declared export zone and provision for roads, telephones storage should be made there.

For the purpose of giving impetus to agriculture exports in those countries where the markets are good and potential an independent cell called agriculture exports should be opened in India embassies to gain an insight into the everyday situation and it should be directly linked to the State exports councils. This shall make agricultural export much easier.

Bio-technology can be developed in the country. Through tissue culture, we can develop more and more plants in the country. A lot of research has been done in this field and you would observe that research is being done in almost every university. The research on dry farming is also going on.

The cost of cultivation in our country is enormous. I shall tell you the record of Marathvada region. The price of maize is Rs. 200 whereas expenditure is much more than that. Same is true in the case of Bajara also. The cost of cultivation of paddy and pulses is also much higher than the prices fixed for them. A federation has been made for cotton but the cotton bales have not yet been taken from the federation. There should be no discrimination in the matter of farmers. Till economic condition of the farmer of the country is not sound, the country will not become strong. Whatever our Agriculture minister is doing is absolutely correct.

I support the demands for grants. All the parties should come together to support the cause of farmers. We have a lot of barren land, and there is need to provide water to that area.

No doubt, the Government has imple-

mented the Minimum Wages Act, but until Minimum Works Act is implemented, people would not work and agriculture would suffer losses. Like Minimum Wages Act, Minimum Works Act should also be passed in the House. It would benefit the farmer.

Money has been spent on various rural development schemes. For example, though allocations were made for the housing scheme, no house was built. Similarly money was spent on road projects, but roads were not constructed. As such the Government should not hesitate to give priority to rural areas when matters related to rural development are discussed. Because, they are the most deprived lot. I would like to submit that our farmers should get remunerative prices for their produces.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE (Wardha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would, particularly, like to speak on agriculture because there is no sufficient time.

The Land Reforms Act enacted in the country has not at all been implemented. It was expected that with the implementation of the Tenancy Act, the Land Ceiling Act, Ceiling on Land holding Act etc. about seven crore acres of land would become available for distribution among the landless people, but that land was not available. Big landlords are still in possession of considerable land area in the name of their own families. But the actual tillers remained either landless or acquired very small pieces of land. Unless the Land Reform Act is implemented properly in the country, development in agriculture seems to be a remote possibility.

Another main problem is that there is no law to fix the service conditions of the agricultural labourers; In Maharashtra, out of the total labour force, 40 to 50 per cent are agricultural labourers, whereas in other states they are about 30-33 per cent. These agricultural labourers do not get even minimum wages. In Maharashtra the minimum wages for workers had been fixed long back. There does not appear any move to further in-

crease the wages. Similarly, the wages should be decided for the whole country. There should be a provision to give pension, provident fund and compensation in case they sustain any physical injury. The law to this effect should be implemented throughout the country. This is the demand of the agricultural labourers all over that country and the Government should think over it.

The Government of Maharashtra took a vague decision according to which if agricultural labourer after reaching the age of 65 years possesses even half an acre of land will not be called an agricultural labourer. Similarly, a petty worker possessing 2-2/1/2 acres of land will not be called an agricultural labourer, but a landlord. As per the above decision only a landless worker who reaches the age of 65 years would get pension. Is it possible? There is no vitamin in their food. Then how can we expect that they will live up to 65 years. Hardly one or two people will be available in this age group from among them. It is very ridiculous. It is just befooling the labourers that they would get pension. If the Government of Maharashtra makes tall claims in this regard, it is useless. People who can afford good and nutritious food retire at the age of 55-58 years. Then why the condition of 65 years has been laid for the agricultural labourers? Therefore, there should be a law consisting of all the above provisions for the agricultural labourers throughout the country.

It has been observed that Maharashtra is hit by drought after every 2-3 years and it is said that the State is industrially very developed.

It is wrong. Except for areas like Bombay, Pune, Thane etc. the remaining parts of Maharashtra are backward, not only from industrial but also from agricultural point of view. The reason is that though on an average the cultivable land all over the country is 31.4 per cent, in Maharashtra the percentage of irrigated land is merely 13.3. This shows development of Maharashtra in sugarcane is grown in its major part. Big land lords have constituted a sugar lobby. It is only they who get water. The crops of other farmers

get very little water. Many of the projects have been closed there. 5-6 years ago, some parts of the forest in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts were cleared to construct dams and canals. In the meantime, new Forest Act was also enforced. Crores of rupees had been spent and many people had been displaced. After spending such a huge amount on the work, the projects have been stopped now. Earlier, forests were cleared and dams had been constructed there. But now after five years it has been decided to grow forests by dismantling dams. This is the prevailing situation there. As many as 28 projects have been closed. The Karawafa Project and the Human Project have been closed. Similarly about 28 other projects in Chandrapur and Gadchiroli districts have been closed. More than Rs. 100 crores had been spent. Some projects have also been closed in Wardha. In upper Wardha, work on a project has been going on for the last 25 years and it can be completed within a year. However, while giving reply to my question it has been stated that it is not certain whether the project would be completed in the eighth plan or not. I would like to know as to what all this means? It means that irrigation projects are being deliberately neglected and no proper attention has been paid on this. This is my charge.

I would also like to make yet another submission about Maharashtra. Maharashtra is hit by drought after every 2-3 years. There are a large number States throughout the country which are hit by drought due to less rainfall. They include Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Orissa.....(Interruptions) I don't want to omit the names. But Bihar is also one of them. Starvation deaths have taken place at every place. I do not know much about Rajasthan, Gujarat, Bihar etc. But people are starving in the Sarguja district in Madhya Pradesh. People do not get work there. There was a news that in Chapalaitola district the daughter-in-law as well as two grand children of a person named Rubai Pandey died of starvation. He could survive only because he was admitted in a hospital. In this way 95 Tehsils in 28 districts of Madhya Pradesh are drought affected. The situation particularly in Shehdol,

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Vallabhnagar, Rewa, Rayagarh and Bilaspur is critical due to non-availability of foodgrains to the people. There are also reports that people are killing monkeys and cats for their food. The Government may investigate into the matter. There is a poisonous root which people boil 15 times before eating. People are dying of eating that root. Take for instance, the case of Maharashtra, I would particularly like to speak on Maharashtra.

As per the Government figures, about 29000 villages in Maharashtra are affected by drought. About 29,000 villages in 22 districts have grown less than 50 per cent of the total crops. It means that the cost of even sowing is not recovered. A major part of this area is also highly famineprone. Foodgrains could not be produced there at all. Neither Rabi nor Kharif crops grew. The Government has accepted it. As per the data gathered by the Government 29,000 villages are famineprone and though employment opportunities have been provided through EGS yet the workers do not get wages for 4-5 weeks together.

I can give you a number of examples. In Eetaki village of Amravati district in Maharashtra, a labourer named Subhash Jaghav worked. He did not get wages though he worked for five weeks. He approached the SDO and said that he was not asking for alms but wages. His wife was also working. He also told him that they had no food for the last 3-4 days. The SDO did not listen to him. The ultimate result was that the man fell down while working and died.

This is not the sole incident of its kind in which Subhash Jadhav died. The starvation death of Subhash Jadhav is a slur on the face of our State. Why did he die? Were foodgrains not available there? Foodgrains were there, but he could not buy it, because he had no money. Nobody gave him loan for 4-5 weeks and he died because he was not paid the wages he and his wife deserved from the Government.

Besides, I would also like to submit that

there is a taluka called Mokhara in Thane district. 70 children have died in Babur village under that taluka. But the Government says that only 40 children have died.

But there are reports from all quarters that 70 children have died of starvation, weakness and for want of medicines. The administration has said that only 40 children had died. Children are dying in other villages also. Maharashtra is facing a very dangerous situation. There is acute shortage of drinking water and animals are also dying of scarcity of water and fodder. Near about pet animals had perished in Kinwat Taluk during the last one week. Pet animals have perished in Pune district also. People have to walk 2 to 3 miles to fetch water. Some people have walked 25 miles to take their cattle to the banks of river Wardha. I would like to submit that such deaths have taken place in Peth, Surgana and Nasik district also. The Central Government has launched some schemes. Shri Sam Pitroda also want there to get the programmes of technology mission implemented, but due to non implementation of those schemes, these children died. The teachers, doctors and nurses do not visit their places of work in villages and put their attendance while sitting in tehsil. No one attends the dispensary. When this is the situation, what is the use of Government schemes. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to this.

Secondly, the Government of Maharashtra has asked for an aid of Rs. 650/- crores from the centre to fight this terrible famine like situation. But it is regretted that the centre has not provided any help till now. This is what the Maharashtra Government alleges. The State Chief Minister visited Delhi and met every one. The entire report was sent. But neither any team of experts was sent there, nor any assistance was provided. Therefore, I would like to know whether any drought relief will be provided to the Maharashtra Government to fight the deteriorating drought situation which has caused so many human deaths and loss of livestock. The Government had said that cattle camps will be opened, where the farmers, who have no arrangement, will

keep their cattle and fodder and water will be provided there. This was announced in October, 1991 and now it is April 1992 but no cattle camps have so far been opened. Does this not mean that only empty assurances are given and the Central Government pays no attention towards implementing them. The Government should pay attention towards this and a team of experts should be sent there and full assistance should be given to Maharashtra Government. An enquiry should be conducted into the deaths of cattle and people action should be taken against the officials responsible for this in those areas and. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to make yet another submission at the end. There is rampant bungling and corruption in the FCI. The officers are adopting a dictatorial method, due to which, there is widespread resentment among the employees. The situation has come to such a pass that the employees have decided to go on hunger strike from 15th of May. I would request that an enquiry should be held so that the situation might not turn explosive. Attention should be paid towards the irregularities and mal-functioning in the FCI. While opposing these demands. I conclude.

*SHRI PANDURANG PUNDLIK FUNDKAR (Akola): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the demands of Agriculture and other Ministries. It is a well known fact that India is an agricultural country. 75 to 80% of the population here depends on agriculture. If we see the condition of agriculture in our country after 45 years of Independence we find that it is really pathetic. The reason for this state of affairs is that we have neglected agriculture in this country for all these years. The contribution of agricultural income to the National Income from 1951 to 1956 was 60.5%, 1985-89 it was 33.7% and at presently its share in the national income is only 35%. Our agriculturists supply raw material to the factories which process it and in turn generate employment potential in the country. Therefore, agriculture is the backbone of our economy.

Sir, about 51% of the land in our country

is used for agriculture while this percentage in Canada is 54.5%, China 18%, Russia 10% and Japan 13%. But still there is scope for enhancing utilisation of land for agriculture in our country. We experimented Green Revolution in our country. But this experiment was successful in the states like Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh where irrigation facility was available. Where irrigation was not available, there this experiment failed. As a result the Kharip production in the country this year is very low.

When we got independence Mahatma Gandhi told us to go back to our villages and ensure development of our rural areas by working there. He also advised us to develop village industries and cottage industries there so that villages would be in a position to meet our own requirements. By developing small industries, it was hoped that our villages would become self-sufficient units. If villages developed, it was felt that naturally it would lead to the development of the country. But our rulers did not pay heed to this advice of Mahatma Gandhi.

Since 1951 we have started five year plans. We have completed 7 Five year plans and 8th plan has just commenced. But while formulating these plans, we spent only 20% of our budgetary allocation on 80% of population which lives in rural areas and where only 20% people live, there we spent 80% of budgetary allocations. This was the mistake we committed in planning. That is why the cities developed and villages remained backward. The rich became richer and the poor became poorer. The gulf between the rich and poor went on increasing.

When we implemented industrial policy in the country, agriculture was given a low place and low status. Ours being an agricultural country, agriculture should have got place of major industry. But instead of that we considered Iron & Steel, textile as major industries and gave all concessions and subsidies to them.

The Government also gave cheaper credit, power and other inputs were made

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

[Sh. Pandurang Pundlikfundkar]

available to these industries and they were given power to fix the prices of goods produced by them. But 75% of people in the country who are farmers, who work very hard, toil in the fields and feed the country do not have any right to fix the price of agricultural yield. Even after 45 years of independence, we grow cotton, jawar and other crops in Maharashtra, Punjab grows wheat. But who fixes the prices of these food grains? Certainly not the farmers. Industrialists were given so many concessions. The methods of fixing cost of production of industrial goods was fixed in this country. We can find cost of production of soaps, car, scooter in the country. But we have no mechanism to fix prices of agricultural commodities by taking into account their cost of production. Cotton is given in Maharashtra but its price is fixed in Delhi. Wheat is grown in Punjab but its price fixed in Delhi. Agriculture Price Commission fixes these prices. But farmers in our villages who are responsible for agricultural production do not even know what this commission is. And this commission fixes prices of agricultural goods without taking into account cost of production. Those urban-based persons who have not seen what agriculture is fix the prices of agricultural goods and as such they will not be in a position to do justice to our farmers. Therefore, myself and my party have always demanded that agriculture should be given the status of a major industry in this country. Though 75% of our population is engaged in agriculture, it has not got the place of industry in our country. Therefore, farmers have got no say in the matter of fixing prices of their yield. This is the basic mistake we committed. Therefore, I demand here that agriculture should be given status of industry. Farmers work very hard throughout the year to grow crops, oilseeds pulses etc. But if its price is going to be fixed by APC, I do not think farmers will get justice.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, who are the members of Agriculture Price Commission? When V.P. Singh Government was ruling and Devi Lal was Agriculture Minister there was discussion on this

issue. At that time we had demanded that those farmers who are actually engaged in agriculture, they should be members of APC. The Government had accepted this proposition in principle. But this principle has not been implemented that is why farmers are not getting justice.

Farmers have to purchase inputs like fertilizers pesticides at very high prices. As a result cost of production of agriculture goes up. Apart from high cost of inputs, the farmer has to bear brunt of ever increasing prices of essential commodities. Though the cost of production of agriculture and prices of essential goods are ever increasing, what is the increase in the prices of goods which he produces? Here it was pointed out that prices of pesticides have gone up by 250%. The prices of factory goods have gone up by 510.50%, where as the price of wheat went up by Rs. 15/- per quintal. Agriculture Minister said somewhere that this year Government will try to purchase wheat at Rs. 250/- a quintal. Yesterday, Government announced bonus for farmers. The Government is begging for the sake of farmers. Farmers do not want that they should get anything by begging. They want to earn money by doing hard work. While the Government has fixed the price of wheat at Rs. 250/- a quintal, the price of wheat in the market is Rs. 500 to 600 - a quintal. So who are the middlemen or agent? As long as we do not eliminate these middlemen or agents, farmers will not get justice. So, here I would like to make some specific demands. So, While the Hon'ble Minister will reply to the debate on demands, I hope he will announce agricultural policy which will bring revolutionary change in the lot of farmers and conditions of agriculture. As there is industrial policy for the country, there should be agricultural policy for the country which should be formulated by appointing committee of experts. We should bring about a fundamental change in the agricultural policy which we have pursued for the last 45 years. We should formulate such policy which would give priority to agriculture and give status of industry to it and thereby do justice to the farmers.

The Government has announced sev-

eral concessions to industrialists and taken care of their requirements. There are more than one lakh sixty thousand industrial units which are sick. Here in this House, Government sanctioned ten thousand crores of rupees for revival of these units. For industrialists the Government can sanction ten thousand crores of rupees. But, the Government is not prepared to give any concession to the farmers who are the backbone of our country. That is why the farmers are frustrated and helpless in our country. When the previous Government announced loan waiver scheme, there was lot of hue and cry in the country and many persons asked as to what was the justification of giving this concession of farmers and that policy was opposed at that time.

Sir, I come from Maharashtra. Mr. Ghangare has narrated the condition of Maharashtra. We grow 17 lakh bales of cotton in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Government is implementing Cotton Monopoly Scheme for the last 20 years which has brought revolution in the life of farmers. Maharashtra Government has been pleading with the Central Government to lend support to this scheme so that it becomes successful. We have been requesting the Central Government to extend this scheme for 10 years in the interest of farmers. But the Government is extending the scheme on year to year basis. Presently, the scheme is extended only for 3 years. In fact, the Central Government opposed this scheme. If this Scheme is going to protect cotton growers of Maharashtra, the scheme should be extended for 10 years.

17.04 hrs.

[SHRI RAM NAIK *in the Chair*]

Sir, onion is also grown in Maharashtra. But what is the condition of onion growers of Nasik. The price of onion has fallen. Nobody is prepared to purchase onion. Lakhs of quintals of onion are rotting. Neither NAFED nor Government is coming forward to purchase onion. As a result onion growers are facing severe hardship and their fate is doomed. Therefore I would like to demand

that Government should bring forward a bill in this House which should legally ban purchase of agricultural commodities below the level of support price. I will not mind if Hon'ble Minister does not take into account other demands which I have made. But I request him to accept this demand which I have made on this floor of the House and do justice to the farmers.

As pointed out earlier by an Hon'ble Member, there is drought in Maharashtra. More than 29000 villages have been affected by drought. More than 16000 villages do not have drinking water. It is misfortune that I have to raise the problem of drinking water here in this House even after 45 years of Independence. I am sorry to point out that farmers are not in a position to face the situation caused by drought. Their financial condition is really poor. As the Government has not given any assistance, scarcity of drinking water continues to be there in large number of villages. There is also scarcity of fodder and lakhs of agricultural labourers are migrating from Maharashtra. Government of Maharashtra is saying that it is not getting assistance from the Central Government and Central Government is shifting responsibility to the State Government. But in the process of shifting responsibility, the poor farmers are hit hard and their condition has really become miserable. That is why the Central Government should give maximum assistance to the Maharashtra Government.

In conclusion, I would like to make a few demands. If you really want to revolutionise agriculture and bring qualitative change in the life of farmers we will have to make certain basic changes in our agricultural policy. My first demand is that Government should declare agriculture as an industry. As cost of production is taken into account while fixing the prices of industrial goods, similarly while fixing prices of agricultural commodities their cost of production must be the deciding factor, purchase of agricultural goods below the assumed price should be made an offence by law. Units to process agricultural goods should be set up. These should not be centralisation of these units in big cities like Bombay, Pune, Madras, Delhi etc. They

should be decentralised and set up in Taluka places. These units should be run on cooperative basis and farmers should be made partners in these ventures. We should have such a policy by which all profits earned would go to farmers. But this is not happening. Many proposals of sugar factories and cotton mills are pending before the Government but these are not being cleared by the Government.

There was reference to crop insurance. Hon'ble Minister may say that crop insurance scheme cannot be implemented in respect of all crops. But if you want to do justice to farmers this scheme should be implemented in all the States and in respect of all crops. Farmers must also have some subsidiary industries. Farmers cannot subsidiary depend on agriculture. To make himself sufficient and enable him to lead life of dignity subsidiary industries should be started in villages. We can start subsidiary industries like fishery, dairing, poultry etc. Farmers should be given subsidiary and assistance for starting these subsidiary industries.

Land reforms are very important. We should accept the principle of tiller becoming owner of land. Farmers having wells should be supplied pumpsets. Maharashtra Government had announced programme for supplying pump sets but that programme has not been implemented. Therefore every farmer should have a well and every well should have pumpset. We should accept this as policy. Pending irrigation should be completed expeditiously. More than 150 irrigation projects in Vidarbha are pending for want of clearance by Forest Department. That is why irrigation is not available in this area. I would like to give only one instance of Adam dam on Yeotunal Akola border. This dam was constructed three years back. The water was stored in the dam. But as one of the canals passes through forest area, farmers are not getting irrigation facility through this project. Farmers are helplessly looking at water. This is the situation there. Therefore, these irrigation projects should be completed in a time-bound programme. Raw material and inputs like fertiliser, pesticides required by farmers should be supplied to

them at subsidised rates. Every farmer should be supplied a pass-book. 50% of the budgetary allocation should be spent on agriculture and rural development. This is the demand I would like to make.

With these words, I think you for giving me chance to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, as many as 20 hon. Members have spoken from yesterday till now and most of them spoke on agriculture. Some of the hon'ble Members spoke about rural development also, but none of them are present here today. I have come prepared to answer their points, but no one of them is present here. It is my duty that...

MR CHAIRMAN : You are intervening. Perhaps, the Members do not know.

SHRIG. VENKAT SWAMY: It is my duty to give some details before the House regarding the steps being taken by the Government on rural development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, Rs. 3000/- crore were allocated for rural employment programmes, whereas the Ministry of Rural Development spent about Rs. 7000 crore. 45 years have passed since we achieved independence, but the villages are yet to overcome the darkness. Work has been done at several places and we have to do a lot. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, we are making every effort to provide employment to youth in the villages where 75 per cent population of the country lives. These youth want work but do not get it. The reason behind this is that when there is seasonal work, they get work but after that, they again become jobless. The Government of India has introduced the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna to solve this problem. This was a dream of Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Because even after spending crores of rupees on rural development, there was no rural development.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now our friend

Shri Patel of the Janta Dal said that roads with coaltar should be constructed in every village under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna. It is a good suggestion. When I took charge of this department, I had asked my Ministry how much money would be needed for connecting these roads. I was told that the expenditure will come to nearabout 15 to 20 thousand crore rupees. Besides this, there will be a lot of expenditure on construction of bridges. Some roads have been constructed under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna and some through the Zila Parishads and State Governments. But we want to do more. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, we will try to allocate more funds for construction of roads.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in 1991, the budget for Jawahar Rozgar Yojna Rs. 2100 crore. Under the programme, 80 percent money is borne by the centre and the remaining 20 per cent is borne by the States. In this way, the budget of Jawahar Rozgar Yojna comes to Rs. 2600 crore. During the Primeministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi in April 1989, arrangements were made to provide funds to Gram Pradhans and Sarpanches at the earliest. After implementation of this scheme, the Pramukh, the Pradhan or the Sarpanch of the village were convinced that they would get financial aid at the village level and they can work for rural development. They have started their work. The main principle behind implementation of this Yojna was to check unemployment and extreme poverty in the villages and to see how to provide them work during the off season days. When there is no cultivation work the villages starve. The primary aim of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is to create some work in the villages, so that employment can be given to villagers and it is working in the same direction. Mr. Chairman, Sir, several of the hon. Members questioned about the working of the village Sarpanches or Pradhans. Many charges have been levelled against them. I think that those, who have not been able to do anything in the last 45 years, even after spending crores of rupees, are now making different kind of propagandas against these Sarpanches or Pradhans who have been elected from among the poor and given the

bureaucratic powers. I am not prepared to accept that they are not working properly. I know that because I visited several States and called for reports from many places. My Ministry asks the State Governments to send reports and sees whether the funds of Jawahar Rozgar Yojna are being utilised properly. Whenever there is some fault, we ask the State Governments to take full action on it and infact action has been taken at several places. For proper implementation of this Yojna, we have introduced the 72nd Amendment Panchayati Raj Bill. The elected body will be fully responsible for its proper implementation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware that in many states, there is no elected body like Gram Panchayat or Zila Parishad for the last 10 to 12 years which should have been responsible for proper implementation of this scheme. The main aim of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is to provide employment. Therefore, under this scheme 60 per cent of the funds should be provided for wages. I agree with the suggestion made by Shri Patel. He is also aware how much we can do in the villages. Funds are needed and we will try to construct more roads during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that the Indira Awas Yojna is also linked with the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, under which assistance is provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for building houses. In this Seventh Five Year Plan, we made every possible effort to provide 10 lakh dwelling units to people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Ministry of Rural Development issued instructions to all the states and emphasized the need to expedite the construction of these houses and the target has been achieved.

So far as the question of providing employment under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna during the Seventh Five Year Plan is concerned, we created 350 crore mandays of employment during this period. I am presenting those very figures, which we have received from the States.

[Sh. G. Venkat Swamy]

So far as the question of drinking water is concerned, we have spent money from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojna funds for the construction of three lakh wells, to make potable water available to rural folk. We have also completed work on about two lakh schools by providing assistance from the JRY funds. We will take many more programmes in future, to strengthen the JRY. In this context, I would also like to mention that a Panchayati Raj Bill have been introduced in the House, which at the moment is the under consideration of a Select Committee, which is discussing its various aspects. Once it is passed, then the task of Rural Development can be taken up at the Sarpanch, block and Zila Parishad level. I hope that we would be able to make rural youth self-reliant to a great extent and remove frustration among them.

As you are aware, there are many problems concerning drinking water supply. There are many problem villages, where the water available is not fit for human consumption. We are making all over efforts to make drinking water available to these villages along with other rural development programmes. My friend Shri Patel will place before the House, all the details in this regard tomorrow. He has put in his best efforts. With the help of machinery water treatment has been done and thousands of problem villages are being supplied water which is fit for human consumption.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): At least make potable water available which you have failed to provide even after so many years of Independence. What could be more unfortunate than this? Please make necessary arrangements in this regard.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: I am trying to give those figures which you are demanding and which we have received from the States. All the information is correct. I am not making any tall claims that we have provided water to all the villages in the country. I am not making any such claim, but I have certainly said that since independence, we have

made every effort to make drinking water available to the maximum number of villages. The number of problem villages have been reduced from 1,62,000 to less than 5,000. If the hon. Minister wants to have the specific figure in this regard. I will send it to him in writing tomorrow. We have a total of 5,83,000 villages in the country, and if some problem villages have still been left out, please bring them to our notice. If you do that I assure you that action will be certainly taken this month or in the next month and necessary arrangements would be made. We shall make all possible efforts to provide drinking water to such villages.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, 80% of our population lives in the villages and the provision of potable water is not available even in 20% of the villages. The Government had set a target that it would provide tubewell and handpump facilities to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but it has not been able to fulfil it so far. There is no point in bringing to your notice the problem of individual villages. My constituency has an electorate of 15 lakh people and there are several villages where not even a single handpump is available. If at all they are available. They are at a distance 1 to 3 kms. The shortage of potable water in backward and hilly areas is more acute.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am aware that the people living in hilly areas have to fetch water from long distances. Our Ministry can make arrangements for such villages only through the State Governments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the money we have allocated for providing drinking water is properly utilised and the plan is sincerely implemented, I can assure you that there won't be any scarcity of water. The true picture would come to the fore, if it is investigated whether the money allocated for providing potable water, has been properly utilised or not (*Interruptions*) Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have many rural development schemes at hand. Our Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao comes from a village which fortunately falls within my constitu-

ency. He is well aware of the problems faced by the village folk and he has said in this House also the Government would like to make all out efforts to accelerate rural development by allocating more funds for the purpose in the Eighth Five Year Plan and also in future.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as I said earlier, it is not within the jurisdiction of the Union Government to directly spend money for the development of 5,83,000 villages. We just give the money to the States and rural development is the responsibility of the State Governments.

The Union Government formulated the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana for the benefit of those living below the poverty line. For that programme, we allocate funds to the State Government as per the requirements of each village. The State Government disburses the amount to Zila Parishads and from there it reaches the villages. Under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana scheme, 60% amount is spent in providing employment and 40% is spent in providing material assistance.

Sir, just now our friend gave comprehensive details about land reforms and land ceiling in Maharashtra. You know that the hon. Member had raised the same question, earlier also.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Home Minister is to make a statement. That is very important. Afterwards you can speak, Sir. We want to hear him.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: He is not present in the House. He has gone out, but his friends are present here. He had asked as to what Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has done. Shri Rao's village is in my constituency. He had surrendered 1700 acres of land in 1972. Thereafter, it was the responsibility of the State Government to distribute the land, but it didn't do it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister how much more time will it take? I am asking this because the Home Minister is to make a Statement.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Sir, I need 15 minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now let the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs make the statement.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: All right, I will speak later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let me say one thing. The Members should have prior information to the effect that you are making a statement. It was not done. I would not like this to be repeated in future. The members sitting in the Central Hall do not come to know of it. In future, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should see to it that the hon. Members get prior information.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM. M. JACOB): In fact, I had given the notice around 5 O'clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It should have been circulated to the Members here.

17.36 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

(ii) REVOCATION OF PRESIDENT'S RULE IN MANIPUR

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIM. M. JACOB): As the House is aware, on the

recommendation of the Governor of Manipur, the President had issued a Proclamation under Article 356(1) of the Constitution on 7th January, 1992 in relation to the State of Manipur. The Proclamation was approved by the Rajya Sabha on 25.2.1992 and by the Lok Sabha on 3.3.1992.

The Governor of Manipur in a recent report addressed to the President of India has recommended that the Proclamation issued by the President on 7th January, 1992 be revoked. The Governor proposes to invite the leader of the Congress Legislative Party to form Government on 8th April, 1992.

As recommended by the Governor, the Proclamation issued on 7th January, 1992 in relation to the State of Manipur has been revoked by the President with effect from today the 8th April, 1992. I also lay on the Table the Proclamation issued by the President today under Article 356(2) of the Constitution in respect of the State of Manipur.

17.37 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Proclamation dated 8th April, 1992 issued by the President revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 7th January, 1992 in relation to the State of Manipur

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated the 8th April, 1992 issued by the President under clause(2) of Article 356 of the Constitution revoking the Proclamation issued by him on the 7th January, 1992 in relation to the State of Manipur, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 414(E) in the Gazette of India dated the 8th April, 1992 under Article 356 (3) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1773/92]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This demand was made by us much before the recommendation of the Governor came. On its own, the Central Government should have taken this decision to revoke the Proclamation of the President's rule there (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): He is questioning the conduct of the Governor. It should not go on record. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I am not question the conduct of the Governor. I am saying that what the Central Government did was against the Constitution of India. (*Interruptions*)

17.38 hrs.

[English]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1992-93 Contd MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; MINISTRY OF FOOD; MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE; AND MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION -Contd

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Venkat Swamy to continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, that day I had told Shri Pradhan about land reforms and land ceiling. In 1972, our Prime Minister took the initiative to bring about land reforms in Andhra Pradesh. At that time, he surrendered 1700 acres of his land to the State Government. The latter did not distribute it and Pradhanji was referring to this (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Let the House know who was the Chief Minister at that time.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: You know it very well that the Ministry fell because of land reforms. I myself went there, met the collector, got the land distributed and informed Shri Pradhan about it in this very House.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: That was because of Telangana movement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is he yielding? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I agree that in 1982 Congress was not in power but from 1971 to 1982 Congress party was ruling the country. Why the distribution was not done at that time.

SHRI G. VANKAT SWAMY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you know that...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please talk about the present time and don't go into the past.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Shrimati Indira Gandhi for the first time convened a conference of Chief Ministers in 1972 and directed all States to pass legislation on land reforms and enforce the same. Many States brought the legislation. In this context you will ask me about the number of States which implemented this legislation. I am prepared to reply to this question also. Last year, in October the Prime Minister convened a conference of Chief Ministers. Mr. Prime Minister will not give his attention to it. The reality is that he does not want to listen to it. In the presence of all the Chief Ministers he agreed to it and give his decision that a sub-committee may be constituted. With regard to implementation, it was decided that a time-limit should be fixed for the distribution of surplus land and the target date was fixed 31st March 1992 and it was accepted by all the Chief Ministers. Thereafter he as well as I wrote letters. The outcome of this was that a conference of Revenue Ministers was once again convened before 30th June 1992 Is it not an achievement? I assure that we will certainly be successful since our Prime Minister has taken interest in land reforms and

has said positive things about distribution. In 1974, 72 lakh acres surplus land...(Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: I will congratulate you when distribution work of the surplus land will be completed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not fair to disturb frequently. Once is all right.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: The surplus land in 1974 was said to be 72 lakh acres. Out of it the position regarding 62.6 lakh acres has been received and 48.5 lakh acres has been distributed in all the States. Approximately 46 lakh people have been given land. This is the latest report.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: where have they got lands?

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: They have got it in this country. I am submitting the data regarding land reforms and land ceilings to you. At present 11 lakh acres of land is under dispute and the cases are lying at revenue level. Collector level high court and supreme court level. Our Prime Minister constituted a sub-committee of Revenue Ministers on 14th March 1992 to find out ways through which this problem can be sorted out. Your Revenue Minister Shri Vinay Chowdhury also participated in it. He was the convenor. The 11 acres of land which has been declared disputed by the courts. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: You are referring to Ceiling Act. In this regard I would like to mention that our Agriculture Minister is the biggest owner of Land and I would like to ask whether the Cabinet Ministers who have excess land propose to distribute it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should refrain from asking personal questions.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): It is wrong to comment on a matter about which you have no knowledge. An ignorant person is considered a defaulter.

SHRISURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Why don't you distribute it.

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: That has been already done. You have some misapprehensions.

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: The facts and figures furnished by me should be appreciated. I am keeping before you the decision of the sub-committee. As per the report submitted by the sub-committee, all surplus land should be distributed by 30th June, 1992. The second point relates to the 11 lakh acres of land which is at District Collector level, or Deputy Collector and court level. They have been asked to make every possible effort to deal and dispose of all the cases pertaining to the surplus land at Government level and distribute seventy five per cent of the aforesaid land among the people by 30th September, 1992. I hope that the stand taken by our Prime Minister Shri P.V.Narasimha Rao regarding the distribution of 5 to 6 lakh acres of land among poor by 30th September, the stand taken in land reform ceiling case, surplus land and waste land is accepted by all the Revenue Ministers and Chief Ministers and they are taking keen interest in it. The poor and the landless will be benefited to a large extent. Particularly the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be most benefited.

Without going further in to the details I would like to emphasise that Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is deliverance from suffering and a helping hand for the villages, for the hunger stricken, and the unemployed. In keeping with the stand taken by the Prime Minister we will make every possible effort to provide land to the landless people through land reforms.

As pointed out by the Prime Minister, as to when it will be done. I would like to say that we will try our level best to distribute 75 per cent of the disputed land by 30th September, 1992 which is under litigation. In a nutshell, I have tried to put before you the Primary issues relating to rural development. I am confident and at the same time I request that the out motions moved by the Members, for our Ministry may be withdrawn and the mem-

bers should encourage us by passing the demands of Rural Development department. Our endeavor in the eight five year plan would be to strengthen rural development by putting in maximum funds.

SHRI SRIBALLAW PANIGRAHI (Devgarh): I need a clarification regarding Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is the same thing, what does the Government propose in this regard?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can ask questions at the end of the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI SRIBALLAW PANIGRAHI: You know that members of all the parties demand for the monitoring at district level and participation of MP in it. When members of all the parties demands for it, then what is the reaction of the Government in this regard?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should not speak without permission. You are a senior member.

[Translation]

SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Every state has its own way of working. We are pursuing that. Our Members are urging of for their participation and in this connection we will hold deliberations with every Chief Minister and try to resolve your question.

[English]

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Sir, I want to seek a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No questions at this state. He has intervened. At the end of the debate you can ask questions. He will also remain present and you should also be present to ask questions at the end of the debate.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): In the BAC meeting held last, an issue had come up that there are a number of Members who want to participate in this debate. Though the original time fixed was ten hours, it was felt a little more time should be made available. Therefore it was thought that today we would have two hours more sitting and tomorrow we will have the reply finally at 6 p.m., so that the full time of 14 hours would be available. I think the House would agree to this proposal.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has given a reference to it that it was discussed in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I support the hon. Minister, since four departments were taken for discussion and in two days the demands of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Rural Development, Public Distribution System and Cooperative Departments were discussed for two days. Today is the third day and as such the time can be extended. (Interruptions) The time was extended.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: That is why it was extended (Interruptions) The time was extended on account of this. Yesterday it was extended by four hours, today by six hours and tomorrow by four hours.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): If the time allotted for discussion has not yet finished, then the discussion may be continued tomorrow.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: It has been decided that time for discussion should be extended by two hours which means that the total extra time would be four hours.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If the need arises,

then the time might be extended even tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Minister is going to reply tomorrow at 6 p.m., then, the time allotted for this debate would be more than 8 hours. So, today, we should not sit more than one hour.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You want to extend the time.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): How many names of the speakers are there in the list?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a long list of speakers. If we extend the time for debate tomorrow and day after tomorrow, then the list is quite long. It appears to me that there is consensus in the House for extending the time.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: It is a Ministry on which a large number of speakers would like to speak. I think comparably less number of speakers would like to speak on the Ministry of External Affairs as well as on Ministry of Commerce.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): A large number of members would like to speak on Ministry of External Affairs.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: No not as compared to this I am saying "as compared to the Ministry of Agriculture". Agriculture is our main concern. Majority of the members come from rural areas. Therefore, more time should be devoted a agriculture and time should be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, there is consensus in the House and the hon. Minister is also saying that the matter was discussed in the meeting of Business Advisory Committee also. As there is consensus in the House, we extend the time initially by one hour and after that we will look into the situation.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGLAM: Please extend it for two hours initially.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have to inform the members also. Many members have already left the House there would be no speaker then how will the proceedings of the House be conducted. So it would be better if the time is extended tomorrow. As an alternative, it may be extend for some time today itself ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: If a member whose name is called today is absent due to reason, he would be given chance to speak tomorrow.

[English]

SHRI S. S. R. RAJENDRA KUMAR (Chengalpattu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you for allowing me to participate in the Budget discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture on behalf of our AIADMK Party.

I rise to discuss the various needs of the people of Tamilnadu. To begin with, I would say that the agricultural products worth about crores and crores of rupees had been spoiled because of the floods of last year in our State particularly in the Chengalpattu District. The agriculturists have suffered a lot due to this and the Tamil Nadu Government, under the leadership of Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi, took immediate action in a war-footing manner by giving compensation to the affected agriculturists immediately. The amount sanctioned from the Central pool was not sufficient to compensate the revenue deficit last year. So, the Central Government will have to

come forward to give financial assistance in such cases.

There is a major scheme in Tamil Nadu for which the proposal is pending for a long time with the Government of India, that is 'Pandiyanu- Ponnambalaru Scheme', by which the agriculturists belonging to Periyar and Coimbatore Districts will be benefited. The Scheme is pending for the sanction of the Central Government and I urge the Government of India for an early clearance.

With regard to the public distribution system, the Tamil Nadu Government is in need of one lakh and fifty thousands tonnes of rice from the Central pool. But, now the Central Government is giving lesser allotment to Tamil Nadu and the Government is managing with this. Sir, there is a proposal to reduce the allotment of rice for this month to our State. I urge the Central Government not to reduce the allotment for the Tamil Nadu Government from the Central pool and arrange supply at least 85,000 tonnes of rice every month, so that the public distribution system may not face deficiency.

With regard to the rural development I wish to say that the Centrally sponsored schemes for providing employment for the rural poor are Jawahar Rozgar Scheme and IRDP Scheme. The allotment for these schemes are not sufficient and the Tamil Nadu is the only State which is utilising the allotment in a good manner.

In Tamil Nadu, our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi had allotted crores and crores of rupees at the Panchayat Union levels to provide the basic amenities to the rural people. This Schemes is not introduced in any other state of our country. The Tamil Nadu Government is having so much of revenue deficit because of the introduction of prohibition all over the State. The Government is losing about Rs. 340 crores of revenue by this. In this situation, it is allotting crores and crores of rupees to the Panchayat development. I request the Government of India to come forward to give financial assistance to the above scheme introduced by the Tamil Nadu Government in order to provide the basic amenities to the rural poor.

The Cauvery water dispute is a long-pending one and without the Cauvery water, the agriculturists in Thanjavur and Trichy districts were affected in large number. For solving the long-pending issue, the Government have appointed a Tribunal and the the Tribunal have also given its interim verdict to release 205 TMC of water for Tamil Nadu from Karnataka. It has been gazetted also by the Government of India. The Karnataka Government went for an appeal with the decision of the Tribunal and it has also been rejected two days before. Till now, the interim award of the Tribunal has not been implemented. The farmers in thanjavur, Trichy, South Arcot, North Arcot and Chengalpet districts are suffering a lot without the Cauvery water. The rice production in Tamil Nadu was very much affected by this attitude of Karnataka Government. There were riots going on by gazetting the interim award of the Tribunal in which most of the Tamilians and their belongings were affected. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Jayalalitha, requested the Centre for immediate compensation for which the Karnataka Government is not taking any action.

I request the Centre to give directions to the Karnataka Government to implement the interim award of the Cauvery Water Tribunal in order to save the farmers of Tamil Nadu and in order to increase the rice production of Tamil Nadu. And at the same time, directions should also be given the required compensation to the Tamilians at the earliest.

I request the Government of India to take immediate steps for the above suggestions of mine and do the needful at the earliest.

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE (Jalna): Mr. Chairman, Sir: I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution. All the departments are very important. But, at the same time, one cannot speak on all the subjects taking into consideration the time constraint. So, I will concentrate myself on the Food Department and that is also on

sugar.

In India, last year, in 1990-91, 120 lakh tonnes of sugar have been produced. India stood first in the whole of world in the production of sugar. In Maharashtra, also, 33 per cent of the total sugar, that is, 42 lakh tonnes of sugar is produced in Maharashtra. Maharashtra stood fifth in the whole of the world. In India, there are totally 493 factories. Out of them, 229 factories are in co-operation. Out of them, 130 factories are in Maharashtra and almost all of them are in the cooperative sector. Out of them, 94 are in production. All other factories in Maharashtra are in erection and other stages of the factories.

In the State from which I come, all these 130 factories, nearabout 35 lakh of the shareholders are involved. They have become members. 50 per cent of these shareholders are holding only one acre of land. 28 per cent of the total shareholders are holding two acres of land. So, in this way, 75 per cent of the total 35 lakhs are from the small farmers, that is, marginal farmers. All these farmers come together. They elect their board of directors. Board of directors elect the chairman and vice-chairman and all these representatives of the poor farmers run the factories in cooperation very smoothly. They have not gone only in production of sugar. But now almost all the factories have gone in sugar complex. Sugar complex includes byproducts, that is, distillery and also chemical oil plants, that is, acetone, acetic acid, paper plants, particle boards. Not only these, but most of the factories have even gone in education, technical education. Almost all of that area has developed like anything. As a chairman of Sugar Federation of Maharashtra, I will invite you since you are from Maharashtra.

18.00 hrs.

As the Chairman, I definitely invite all the concerned Ministers like Balramji, Food Minister and all those who are interested in the cooperative movement to come to Maharashtra and see what work is going on regarding the cooperative movement.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can invite after the session.

SHRI ANKUSHRA RAOSAHEB TOPE: I will take and show them what is going on in Maharashtra at any time convenient to every day.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(Shri Balam Jakhar): It is a very good invitation. Kindly accept it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think that there would be no controversy and nobody would question whether it is a parliamentary delegation or a delegation of parliamentarians.

[English]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE: The Shakar Sangh will lead the delegation. In spite of all these, even the sugar factories are facing lot of problems in Maharashtra of which I will only put forth very important and pertinent ones. In the Seventh Plan, Maharashtra got 38 licenses for the sugar factories. Two factories are in dispute. Nine factories have started their work and within six months, they will start commissioning and in October, 1992 all these nine factories will start producing sugar. About 27 industries, during the last two years, Government of Maharashtra has given orders to all these 27 factories. They have collected their shares up to the extent of Rs. 2 crores. Not only that, all these factories have paid the first advance of their collected share capital to the machinery suppliers. When the work was in progress, the term lending institutions like IFCI and others have sent letters to all these factories not to go ahead with their work and to stop their work until further orders. The IFCI and the IDBI are asking the Government of India to revise all the incentives. Due to the high cost, all these 27 factories have to pay Rs. 34 crores each and because of the same high cost, the term lending institutions are saying that they have to revise the incentives, otherwise, these

factories will not be able to get the loans. So, the work of all these 27 factories has stopped since the last two years. All sugar federations, our MPs, most of whom are Chairman of sugar factories, are pursuing the matter like anything but still we could not get any reply. As a result, the work in all these factories have been held up. Last month, Government of Maharashtra sanctioned Rs. 85 lakhs to each factory. This is the first share capital from the Government of Maharashtra but the condition is that unless the IFCI and the IDBI clear the loan portion, that amount will not be released. So, all these factories are now waiting for the revised incentive scheme from the Government of India. I met the Prime Minister, Food Minister and all the concerned Ministers. Nothing has come out in spite of the meetings held. The present incentives which we are getting now are as good as no incentive. That is why, the demand of incentives has come up. So, we must get 100 per cent free sale for ten years to the higher recovery zone, 12 years for the medium recovery zone and 15 years for the low recovery zone. Unless we get all these incentives, all these factories will not become viable and the term lending institutions will not give loans and the factories will not go ahead with their work. So, my earnest request to all the concerned Ministers is to expedite the matter and take a decision.

As regards Maharashtra, my another request pertains to levy sugar. We are having two zones because Marathwada, Vidarbha and Khandesh from the backward area of Maharashtra that is included in the north zone because of low recovery. The other part of Maharashtra is the south zone. So, for purpose of levy, we are having two zones but for purpose of incentives, we are having only one zone, that is, higher recovery zone. So, my request is even the part of the north zone should be included or should be divided into other higher recovery zones so that all the incentives will go to these factories and the factories will become viable.

Now I have come to know that even the ISMA the Indian Sugar Mills Association - which is an association of all the private

sugar industries in India, is opposing these incentives. These factories can come up only with the assistance of these incentives and the ISMA does not want the cooperative sugar factories to come up. That is why they are opposing the incentives. I know that the Government of India is giving top priority to the cooperative sugar factories. Therefore, they may not take any of their suggestions into consideration. And I think that these incentives will definitely be declared very soon.

I have one more request. All these factories are of the Seventh Plan. Unless the incentives are made applicable to all these factories, they will not become viable. The declaration of incentives is one thing and to make them applicable to all the factories covered under the Seventh Plan is another thing. Therefore, both these things should be done. Then only these factories will get the incentive of loan from the IFCI and IDBI.

One more point which is very important for the sugar industry is that of sugar Development Fund. This cess is imposed from 1.6.1982 under the Sugar Cess Act, 1982 for collection of a fund to financing the development of sugar industries. From 1982-83 upto 1990-91, nearabout Rs. 901 crore have been collected from all the factories by levying a cess of Rs. 14 per bag for the purpose of its distribution. But how much is the loan sanctioned uptill now? Against Rs. 901 crore, only Rs. 588.16 have been sanctioned and the total disbursement uptill now is only Rs. 364.50 crore, which is not even 50 per cent. This is the disbursement that the SDF or the Government Food Department have made so far. This is a very slow process. Actually, this Fund is created for the purpose of developing the factories by imposing a cess of Rs. 14 per bag. But they are not sanctioning and disbursing the loans. My request is that expeditious steps should be taken to sanction and disburse the loans and all the factories should get the loan immediately. I may mention here that this year also, only an amount of Rs. 110 crore is proposed against a collection of Rs. 170 crore for this Fund.

The rules which have been amended

are very tough. The factories will not be able to get any of the loans easily. As per the amend rules, there is a provision that a factory will not become eligible to get the loan, unless it starts commissioning. This is a very wrong method. A new factory should be made eligible for a loan, after the ordering of the machinery. The erection of a factory and sugarcane development should go on simultaneously so that when the factory starts its crushing programme, there will not be a shortage of sugarcane and factories can be run cheaply. so, I request that there should be a change in the rules.

There is also a provision in the rules that a factory will not be eligible to get any of the loans for seven years continuously after its commissioning. These loans are for modernisation, for rehabilitation, for cane development and for research activities. But there is a ban for the first seven years. I feel that this seven year ban should be deleted and each case should be considered on its merit.

This loan is treated as a soft loan with an interest rate of six per cent. Now, there is again an increment in the rate of interest from 6 per cent to 9 per cent. So, this soft loan is being converted into a hard loan. This find itself is created by imposing a cess of Rs. 14 on each bag. Therefore, I request that the rate of interest should be kept at 6 per cent only and the provision of increasing it to 9 per cent should be deleted.

Nowdays we are not getting the realisation price of sugar. In fact we are not getting the cost of production of sugar. We have a dual price system and a partial control system. There are rumours in the market to decontrol the sugar but the Government has not made clear either publically or in Parliament its intention with regard to this. But, I would say that if decontrol is done then, all the PDS will go. Our Prime Minister is giving top most importance to PDS. So, in order to maintain the PDS and also to make sure that the sugar is made available to the poor section of the society at the concessional rates, decontrol of sugar should not be there and the present policy of dual prices should

[Sh. Ankushrao Raosaheb Tope]

be done away with.

I would like to say a few words about export-import. At present SEG Corporation is taking care of the export-import of sugar. Now, because of its privatisation some of the private traders have approached the Government to get the permission for export. We do not have any objection if you give them permission. They should be given the permission but under the Export Promotion Act if they are given the permission then all the factories will bear the losses. The losses are borne by the factories and all the benefits are enjoyed by the traders and SEG workers. I would say maximum export should be done and private persons should also be given the permission but the losses should not be borne by the factories alone. They should be borne by the person who is trading in that field.

Lastly, I would say something about the three levy zones. Since the last 20 years the State of Maharashtra has been demanding to levy sugar. There are two zones; North and south but in south zone there is a Central Zone also. In the south Zone only Kolapur, part of Sitara and part of Sangali comes and for levy purposes other parts of Maharashtra come under the Central zone. The Minister should take this into consideration.

I hope the Minister will take this into consideration all these suggestions. While concluding I would say that an immediate decision should be taken by the Government on the point of incentives, to be given to the factories.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Chairman, sir, the Demands for Grants for the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, agriculture and Civil Supplies are being discussed in the House together. I rise to oppose these demands. India is a country of villages. Just now the hon. Minister has said

that there are five and a half lakh villages in our country. Mahatma Gandhi said that India lives in villages. Even after 45 years of independence, the people in the villages are living a very miserable life. They are feeling distressed and anguished. Sixty per cent of the people in the villages live below the poverty line and contribute forty per cent a national income through agriculture. Despite that, the standard of living of the people living in the villages is continuously declining. Government always makes wide publicity that it is implementing many programmes for rural upliftment as Jawahar Rozgar Yojna, Rural Water- Supply Programme, Drought Relief programme, Drought prone area Development programme, Desert land development welfare programmes and self-employment schemes. etc. But the disease aggravates with every dose of medicine. Now the Budget of this year has been announced and funds have been allocated. Even after the devaluation of the Rupee the funds to this sector have been reduced. In 1991-92, 3508 crore of rupees had been allocated for Ministry of Rural Development, but this year it has been reduced by 22% and only 3100 crores of rupees have been allocated. Still wide publicity is being made that rural sector shall be developed. Our Rural Development Minister has just now said that Government would formulate plans for the development of villages. But how could the plans be implemented without funds.

A reference was also made towards India Avas Yojna. For that the same amount has been kept this year also as had been kept last year, though there has been so much of price rise. Government had assured the people that it would bring down the prices within hundred days, but now the Government is saying that prices would be brought down within a period of three years. The same amount of funds have been allocated this year also for Indira Avas Yojna as were allocated last year. Earlier the price of a bamboo stick was only Rs.2 where as now it costs rupees twenty but allocation of funds had not been increased. Is the Government making arrangement for killing the people under the dwelling units built under Indira Avas Yojna.

Just now the hon. Minister had spoken about the supply of drinking water. The hon. Minister said that only five or six thousand of villages are yet to be provided with the facility of drinking water supply. I know that one lakh villages out of five and a half lakh villages are still without drinking water arrangements. Government figures are untrustworthy. If an electricity line passes near a village, the Government claims that the village has been electrified. If a single tubewell is installed in a Panchayat, the Government claims that all the villages under that Panchayat have been provided with the facility of water supply. The fact remains that Government has failed to provide drinking water facilities to one lakh villages. While it is ready to invite multinational companies like Pepsi Cola etc. to loot this country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Condition of the roads connecting villages to the urban areas is rather worse. I come from Bihar. The condition of roads is so worse that it is difficult to know whether there are ditches in the road or road is to be located among the ditches.

18.19 hrs.

[SHRI P.M. SAYEED in the Chair]

Government is asserataing that villages are bring developed. In seventh five year plan Government had proposed to connect all villages having a population of 1500 to urban areas by metalled roads, but not to talk of matalled roads, even kachha roads have not been constructed to link such villages.

Similar is the situation with regard to agriculture. For agricultural sector 1049.75 crores of rupees have been allocated. Compared to previous year's allocations, these funds appear to be greater than previous year allocations, but if the devaluation of rupee is considered, then it has declined by 3%. After green revolution Government is now talking of bringing while revolution. No attention is bring paid bringing while revolution. No attention is being paid towards cattle-houses. Cattle breeding centres are in a very bad condition though research and training in those centre is continuing for the

last twenty years. These centres are not working properly and nothing is bring done to improve the breed of bulls. Calves are to be turned into bulls, but these are turned into bullocks.

Villages are for agriculture but even these multinational companies are being invited to participate in it. According to Mr. Dunbel subsidy for agricultural Sector should not exceed 10% but in his own country-America, they are providing a subsidy of 39.1% to the farmers, whereas only 6% of the population depends on agriculture for their living, but in our country 75% of the population depends on agriculture for their living but even then they are not prepared to provide more than 10% by way of subsidy and they have reduced the subsidy. Yesterday the hon. Minister declared a bonus of Rs. 25 per quintal but who would be the benefactor, the marginal farmer the rich or the middle level farmer? Big farmers only will sell the wheat. But small farmers, marginal farmers or agricultural labourers also sell wheat at the time when any of his family member falls ill or when he has to deposit school fee or college fee of his son. They have to spend money on marriages also. They sell wheat at the time of crop. But after six months they have to purchase wheat at higher rates. It is the same wheat which is sold by big farmers. That is why it has been suggested to enhance the rate of wheat in the same year. If the Government enhances the rate of wheat from Rs. 250 to Rs. 350 per quintal, it will benefit the small farmers and agricultural labourers and they would not be compelled to purchase wheat at higher rate after six months. Therefore, I would like to say that the price of agricultural produce should be fixed in a such manner as suggested by Dr. Lohia

"Anna Daam ka Ghatna Barhna,
Anna Ser Ka Bhitari Ho,
Karkhaniyan Maal Ka Daam Laagat
Kar Se dyodha Ho"

The difference between the price of wheat what we sell today and purchase price of wheat what we purchase after six months should not be more than one Anna and like

wise the sale price of any industrial production should not be more than one and half of the cost price i.e. there must be reasonable balance between the price of the agricultural and industrial produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, subsidy has been reduced. It should be restored. Dunkel has said one more thing that if we have to purchase the patent seed than we will have to abide by the G.A.T.T. agreement, it means that we will have to continue the import of seeds at higher rates for five years and when the period of that agreement will over then we will be bound of purchase the seeds at their terms even if the rate is Rs. 500 per kg. The multinational companies will be free to quite under the exit policy and our agricultural structure will be ruined.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Krishi Vigyan Kendras should be opened for the purpose of increasing agricultural production. In Bihar a number of Krishi Vigyan Kendras were sanctioned during the Janta regime. But the setting up of these a Centers have been postponed with the new Government coming in to power. Soil testing should be done for the advancement of the agriculture. But poor people can't go to the Centre to get the soil tested. Mobile vans should be arranged for the purpose. I hail from Bihar which is one of the biggest states of India, are wise. There was a time when Bihar was recognised as the largest producer of foodgrains. It's population is one tenth of the total population of our country. The people are laborious there. They come to Haryana and Punjab to do work. Bihar produce 40 per cent of total production of minerals in the country but the condition of Bihar is the worst. As regards per capita income, our position was seventh at the time of independence. Now it has gone down to the lowest. The Central Government is responsible for it and not the Government of Bihar. You may find its cause in first to Seventh Five Year Plans. Bihar's population is 10 per cent of the country but in the matter of allocation of funds it has been only 2- 1/2 per cent to 32 per cent or at the most 4-1/2 per cent. As per 1961 census, the agricultural labourers were 22 per cent which has been increased to above 41 per cent in 1991.

There has been braymentation of holidays. In such circumstances, unless we enforce land reforms, the condition of agricultural labourers can not be improved. Besides, the Minimum Wages Law should be enforced strictly.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention one thing more. Electricity is needed to run any industry or agriculture based industry. If electricity is not supplied, cultivation and irrigation can't be done. We are unable to provide employment without it. But situation in regard to electricity in Bihar is the worst. Through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to complete the construction of Kanti power project at the earliest in order to overcome the pathetic condition of North Bihar. In Maharashtra, 15 lakh pumping sets are run with the help of electricity for the purpose of irrigation, where as in Bihar, only 2-1/2 lakh pumping sets are run. As compared to 15 lakh pumping sets run with the help of diesel in Uttar Pradesh, only 2 lakh pumping sets are run in Bihar. For the purpose of agriculture, 12 K.W. per hour per capita electricity is provided in Bihar where as it is 190 K.W. per hour in Punjab.

When our Government was formed in 1977, we took initiative to set up the Kanti thermal Power project in North Bihar to generate electricity. The proposal was to construct 660 M.W power house, 220 M.W. power house was constructed during our time. The construction of remaining 440 M.W. power house was stopped. There is no provision of electricity to North Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan. The situation regarding fertilisers is the same in Bihar. 57 kilograms fertiliser per hectare is made available in Bihar where as it is 156 kilograms in Punjab. The labourers of Bihar go to Punjab to work in the fields, where maximum fertiliser is made available. Same is the case with the supply of insecticides. 285 grams insecticide per hectare are supplied in Bihar where as in the case of Tamil Nadu 10,700 grams insecticides are supplied. We supply fertilisers and minerals. Our land should remain fertile. In Bihar, the per capita cultivable land is less because the number of agricultural labourers is increasing. There is 0.17

hectare of per capita land in Bihar where as in Punjab it is 0.6 hectare land. As a result, the per capita income of a farmer in Punjab is Rs. 3500 per annum where as it is Rs. 1016 per annum in Bihar. Similarly we are lagging behind in the matter of production. In 1970 the per capita foodgrain production in Bihar was 153 kilograms where as in 1990 it was 125 kilogram.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI MANJAY LAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, horticulture is necessary for small and marginal farmers. For the purpose of horticulture, the funds have been enhanced this year Rs. 165 crore have been provided. But no board has been set up for its development. There is Coir Board and spice Board in South. Bananas and "Leechies" are produced in a large quantity in north India a specially in Bihar. The 'Leechies of Muzfarpur is very famous. I belong to that area but there is no food processing industry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented. More attention should be paid towards fisheries. 50 lakh fishermen are engaged in fishery in the coastal areas. The Government have permitted multi-national companies to enter into the trade. They are also engaged in fishery and this will ruin the families of 50 lakh fishermen. Besides agriculture science and food processing I would like to say that these should be run properly by co-operative societies so that farmers may be prosperous.

Mr. Chairman, sir, regarding pulses and oil seeds I would like to say that seeds of improved varieties should be provided in the rain fed areas and water scarcity areas. If this is done the production of pulses and oil seeds can be increased.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I thank you very much and oppose this Budget.

[English]

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTA-

NAYAK (Bolangir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Agriculture Minister for new initiatives in agricultural sector. Agriculture is the main occupation of 80 per cent people of the country staying in rural areas. This is the major source of employment for the rural people. Agriculture is linked to monsoon in the country. Due to lack of adequate irrigational facilities and unscientific landuse pattern the country has 1.7 million hectare areas of cultivable waste land and 23 million hectare allow lands. These utilised lands are becoming economically unviable due to lack of infrastructure. The biggest problem is to turn the lands into an arable one. Out of 329 million hectare, 173.65 million hectare is problem lands and out of this drought prone area is 26 million hectare. Due to pressure of population and livestock the yields from land have been declining.

In order to take an integrated approach to the land use problems, a Central Land Commission should be constituted. Government have constituted an apex body called national Land Use and Wasteland Development Council under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Board should meet frequently to review the situation and provide policy directions to States and Union Territories.

Coming to management of common lands, Government should evolve a policy of people's participation and benefit distribution from management of common lands early. Illegal encroachment on common lands should be discouraged.

The pressure of grazing and livestock population is an allied problem of agricultural lands. The livestock population has increased by 43 per cent in the past 30 years, resulted in deterioration of pasture lands and vegetative cover, exposing the soil to widespread erosion. In order to check this, there is an immediate need for a pragmatic and an effective policy for development and optimum utilisation of country's grazing resources.

Agricultural labourer, small and marginal farmers are the most sufferers in case

[Sh. Sarat Chandra Pattanayak]

of drought. Faced with lack of employment they used to migrate. In my constituency Bolangir, 200 villages of 12 blocks are the most affected. The Government should set up a small and Marginal Farmer Development Agency and devise suitable schemes to provide employment to those people.

Coming to cooperative sector, though N.C.C.F. and NAFED are operating these organisations have not reached to backward areas, where the services are required by the people. In Bongomunda, Titlagarh, Muribahal blocks of my constituency, onion growers are unable to get remunerative prices due to lack of storage facilities. Since the area is a drought prone one, Government should ensure the requisite facilities to the onion growers of this area.

The Government has initiated a crop insurance Scheme to protect the interest of farmers. But the scheme has not been expanded to drought prone area of Orissa. It should be extended to Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Koraput districts of Orissa early.

In order to provide gainful employment to rural people, agricultural diversification programme should be initiated. Horticultural crops have a great potential. Horticultural crops like vegetable, potato, spices should be cultivated in semi-arid zones of the country. The Government should consider the feasibility of implementing horticultural crops scheme in Bolangir and Kalahandi districts of Orissa. By setting Agro Business Consortium, the Government should ensure employment to semi-skilled rural labourers of this region. Despite launching a National Seeds Policy and Indian seeds have a major export market, we are unable to exploit it fully and the Government should devise ways and means to promote Indian seeds abroad.

In fishery sector, though the Government has set up Fish Farmers Development Agency, it has not been able to tap the potential of backish water aquaculture, mariculture. Vigorous steps should be under-

taken to tap these potentials.

Dry land cultivation is an area which needs more attention of Government. In semi-arid zones, this can help to generate employment and income. The Government should formulate a dry land agriculture policy for the current decade.

Integrated pest control and management watershed management, seed development in cereals, pulses and oilseeds should be the area of Research and Development activities in the current decade.

Though the Government is expending a lot of money for anti-poverty programme yet the result is not satisfactory. The main objectives of the programme is to create employment opportunities for rural people. But in my Constituency Bolangir, people are migrating from the rural areas as there is no scope for gainful employment. Hence, some special grants should be provided to the Bolangir district under this scheme. Jawahr Rozgar Yagna was launched by our Government to provide livelihood and create infrastructure. Though the State Government constituted the advisory committee yet the Parliament representative has not been given an active role. Hence, there is no proper monitoring. The Chirman of the Committee should be a Member of Parliament.

Though the Central Government has launched rural water supply scheme yet the achievement under the scheme is far from satisfactory. In my area there are 250 to 300 problem villages where the weather problem is very acute. The Government should finalise a time bound action plan to provide drinking water to these villages by 1992-93.

Though the Government has launched revamped public distribution system to ensure supply of essential items yet it has not reached to the problem villages of my areas.

The State Government of Orissa is not sending any proposal for the betterment of the poor people of my area. As the House also knows, the western part of Orissa Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Koraput -

are very neglected. That is why the Central government should interfere in the State affairs and without the proposals also, they should provide the public Distribution system to ten to 12 blocks of Bolangir District and also they should get water facility.

With these words. I support the Bill and I conclude.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (Hapur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to participate in the discussion on Demands for Grants of four Departments, i.e., agriculture, Rural Development, Fertilisers and Public Distribution System.

In view of the Budget I cannot support these Demands for Grants because the interests of the poor, farmers and Jhuggi Jhonpri dwellers, unemployed and women have been ignored in the Budget. That is why I oppose these Demands for Grants.

It is said that India is primarily an agricultural country. Out of total population of 85 crore, 80 per cent population is of farmers. I don't mean that a person who represents a particular caste or religion is called a farmer. I mean that a person who cultivates and produces foodgrains and provides food to the people of the country is a farmer. The farmers are the backbone of the country. Their profession is agriculture. Fertiliser is the key input for agriculture. The policy which has been framed by the Government in the country is wrong. Our country is not self-sufficient, in the matter of fertilisers. We have to import fertilisers, from abroad. The Government have curtailed the subsidy on fertilisers. owing to rise in price of fertilisers, the cultivation has become costly affair for farmers. They are not able to grow as much quantity of crops as they desire. That is why our policy is anti-farmer.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second point is regarding irrigation. There are small and major irrigation schemes going on in Uttar Pradesh. 24 major irrigation schemes of Uttar Pradesh are lying pending with the

Central Government and some of them have been lying pending since 1982. The Government is not clearing these.

The medium irrigation scheme under which the Central Government sets up tube wells with the World Bank assistance has also failed. Tube wells are not maintained properly. Sometimes the operator does not come, the tap is stolen the transformer is burnt and the wires are dislodged. That is why even this plan is also not working. I, therefore suggest that the Government should not install tube wells by taking loans from the World Bank. Instead, it should provide money and encourage him to set up tube wells himself. The minor irrigation scheme is a free boring scheme under which the Government provide pipes. The pipes are of poor quality. After the pipe are fitted, the money which is given to farmer does not reach them. That is why the minor irrigation scheme is useless. Villagers lack proper means of irrigation, because of which they sustain loss in agriculture. That is why the Government should make adequate arrangements for irrigation.

I can count the number of anti-farmer policies of the Government, I would like to give one example. Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of sugarcane. The sugar mills which exists in U.P. are able to crush only 33% of sugarcanes. Only one third sugarcane is crushed in mills and 2/3rds of sugarcane are crushed by expellers and crushers. The farmers resort to distress sale of sugarcane to expellers and crushers at 1/3 of the price that the mills fix. This makes the economic condition of farmers miserable. All the Governments make tall claims about the farmers and talk about their development, but there is a wide difference between what they say and what they do.

45 years have elapsed since the country became independent, but till today no stable policy has been formulated regarding agricultural prices. Whatever price has been fixed has proved to be less beneficial for the farmers. The main reason is that there has been no special improvement in the economic condition of farmers especially of the small and marginal ones. From various stud-

[Dr. Ramesh Chand Tomar]

ies conducted by agricultural scientists, it appears that the farmers do not by make any profit on their total production because in the market they do not get reasonable prices for their produce. The cost of agricultural inputs viz. irrigation, seeds, manure machines, transport, loans etc. have undergone a spectacular increase. That is why in the agricultural price policy should be formulation the national interest which will protect the interests of the farmer. For this, it is necessary that the should proper co-efficient and co-relation among the 4 price indices.

- viz. (1) price index of agricultural produce
(2) price index if agricultural input
(3) price index of gross domestic product (G.D.P.)
(4) retail price index of agricultural produce

If there will be proper co-relation among the above four price indices, then the price will not prove disadvantageous for anyone. Therefore, the agricultural produce should have a standing price policy on the above basis and it should be implemented so that the farmer does not feel disappointed from the economic point of view even after producing more.

I am distressed to say that in the last three years, despite assurance given by many governments, the agriculture policy has not so far been presented in the House. Therefore, while formulating the future agriculture policy, these suggestions should be kept in mind.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here, I appeal to him to declare the agricultural price policy at the earliest.

I would like to say some thing about village development. The investment on village development has been moagre. In the 1992-93 Budget the total funds allocated for village development were Rs. 2610 crores. This was 5.4% of the total Budget any provi-

sion. Last year it was 5.8 per cent. During the decade form 1980 to 1990 it was between 6.4 per cent to 6.6 per cent. In this way the reduction of funds for village development is very painful. 85% of the total funds on village development are spent on two schemes i.e. I.R.D.P. and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. The hon. Minister of Rural Development was talking about the Jawhar Rozgar Yojana he said that in this way earth is tied pillars are erected and houses are built under the Indira Awas Yojana I would like to say that the objectives for which the Jawahar Rozgar Yozana was started have not been attained. Is it the Jawahar Rozagar Yojana or the Jawahar 'Raid-mar " Yojana?

If you go to the villages you shall get to hear a lot about this. In villages every other day clashes take place over the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana funds. The Government officers and officials in collusion misutilize the funds of the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Just now the Members of the Janata Dal were saying that when the scheme started some amount of money was kept aside for the Indira Awas Yojana. Inflation is increasing day by day. But the money which has been kept aside for this scheme remains the same. Because of this that money has not been fully utilized. Kindly implement this scheme taking into account the inflation, Money should be distributed properly. In fact, in its implementation, we have come across many difficulties which can be attributed to lack dedication on the part of Governmental machinery. In the implementation of these schems. lack of adequate funds and the benefit of fund allocated is not reaching the lowest rung and these are the main obstacles. In the Budget there is lack of resources for the creation of employment avenues in villages.

The Ministry of Industry had submitted a proposal for opening 177 development centres so as to create 24.5 lakh more employment opportunities and demanded funds, but the Ministry of Finance has negated this plan by providing inadequate funds for this purpose. the Finance Minister had also a proposal to set up development

centres in 247 backward districts by the year 1977.

A sum of Rs. 5 crore was supposed to be provided to each Centre so as to provide all facilities to these centres. That is why this plan should be implemented fully, otherwise unemployment will increase in village areas. The swarm of village youth keep running to wards cities which will make the cities crowded unnecessarily. A stage may come when cities will be ruralised. Full privatisation of village development programme is not justifiable.

The hon'ble Prime Minister recently in a seminar has given indications for privatization of village development on an experimental basis. I do not agree with this. After 42 years of development a new thinking is emerging which is indicative of the fact that the system run by the Government has failed. Will mere privatization help to realize all possible goals in the area of village development which has not been possible till now? together with policy, intention, dedication, honesty, resolve and proper evaluation etc. Are the pre requisites for the success of any programme. Some time back the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had accepted this truth that if one rupee is sanctioned for development only 15 paise reach the lower levels, the rest is lost mid-way. No matter whether the scheme is controlled by Governmental machinery or a private party but for the success of a plan active participation of the concerned people should be ensured. For this purpose, instead of giving grants from the Centre or State Governments, arrangement should be made to mobilise resources at the level of the village. The active role should be played by villagers. The Government should only have a supervisory role to play.

THE MINISTER STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (Shri G. Venkata Swamy): Then, you want to give it to officers again.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: You talk about Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and say that unemployed youth should be provided employment under it. Have you ever made

any assesment of the programme? The Government officials and other officials in had to get the jobs executed on contract basis.

The facility of potable water should be ensured to each family of every village. All the villages should be linked with the main roads through the approach roads. Such arrangement should be done that no child in any village should have to walk more than one kilometer for his primary education. The facilities of health Centre, post offices, market, secondary education, seeds, fertilisers, veterinary hospital etc. should be made available maximum at a distance of 3 kilometers only. In view of the aforesaid suggestions separate allocation should be made for construction of sports stadia in rural areas, for providing employment to atleast one member of the every poor household and for ensuring proper educational facilities at all the levels for the entire scheduled castes and scheduled tribes population.

I oppose these demands for grants and thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRI KRISHHANA DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla); Mr. Chariman, sir, I rise to support the demands for grants put forth by the hon. Minister in respect of the Departments of Agriculture, Cooperative, Agricultural Research, animal Husbandry, Dairy, fertiliser, Poultry Form etc and Civil Supplies and Public distribution.

First of all I would like to submit that generally the hon. Members sitting uptill late and the hon. Members belonging to the backwards classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are invited to speak only in the end. I would like to say that they also should be allotted adequate time to express their grievances. All the newly elected hon. Members want to take part in the proceedings of the House.

While supporting the demands for grants, though there is shortage of time, I would like to submit especially that there are a number of fruit growers in Himachal Pradesh. In Himachal Pradesh two crops are grown viz of

[Sh. Krishana Dutt Sultanpuri]

potato and apple and third is of ginger. Last year there was an agitation and 3 youth were shot down. What has the Government, which claims to be protector of the poor, done in Himachal Pradesh? All this has happened in the regime of the B.J.P. in the State. It is very unfortunate that when I raised the demand for conducting a judicial inquiry, by a High Court Judge to probe the incident and to expose the National Front Government supported by you, it was turned down, and I would also like to highlight the injustice. Now with the farmers during those 11 months of their rule. At that time outstanding loan of poor was not waived off. Chaudhary Devi Lal, who claims to be champion of farmers interest, is no more an hon. Member.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Outstanding loans of farmers in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have been waived off by the respective B.J.P. Governments.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: You have done a good job. You have waived off the loans of only those farmers who are the supporters of B.J.P. show me the list, whether the outstanding loans of Harijan farmers has also been waived off? Definitely not farmers have been deceived. Mr. Jakhar, who is a former Speaker and a farmer by profession and now a powerful Minister.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: In Madhya Pradesh alone outstanding loans of Rs. 764 crore have been waived off.

SHRIKRISHAN DUTTSULTANPURI: This needs to be verified. Recently the Insecticides were not being made available to the farmers for spraying, recently I have written a letter to you that the State Government has stopped the supply of insecticides to the farmers.

It is alleged that adequate funds are not made available for the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. if the funds are not adequate then is

it not the responsibility of the State Government, which claims to be well wisher of poor and farmers, to supplement the funds. Whatever the government of India can do is doing, but even these are being misused. I openly challenge and level an allegation that under the 'Antyodhya' Programme, which I have not fully understood, the list of big owners of trucks should be scrutinised, the Himachal Pradesh government is poor under misusing the funds in the name of poor under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and Rural Development. I would like to request you that you will have to take steps for the betterment of people of hill area. When the congress (I) was at the helm of affairs in the State the support price of apples was Rs. 2.60 per kg. for farmers. In the farflung areas which are not connected with rail and roads, the farmers have to carry the apples on their backs with great difficulty to the nearest road heads. Then they transport it to mandis. But they are being exploited by the middlemen. The Government of Himachal Pradesh made 3-4 promises. What were those promises? I do not know all but at the time of swearing in of the State Government, promised that they will increase the support price to Rs. 5 per kg from Rs. 2.60 per kg. I am not telling lie at all. They announced the support price of Rs. 5 per kg, to supply salt at 25 paise and to make wage rates equal to those of Punjab. At present wage rates prevailing in Punjab is Rs. 35 per day. They also promised to do away with the tribunal set up for the Government employees. Similarly many promises were made. Only these sort of people have ruined the entire country. There are many parties in the country. One is National Front. What National front? Have done any good for the country. Now Shri .P.V. Narasimha Rao is our leader. Earlier Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi steered the country. they worked hard to transform the country. That's why the nation marched forward. You alleged that the nation has been mortgaged to the IMF. But who will do such a nefarious thing of mortgaging the country. I would like to submit that we must speak after careful thinking. When you raise the issue of the policy for farmers, what is your idea of a farmer? Farmers are being offered remunerative prices at present. But, it is the

middlemen who are exploiting them. Azadpur mandi receives fruits viz apples, bananas, litchis etc. from all parts of the country. Have you ever tried to gather first hand information about the ongoing exploitation of the farmers over there. It is alleged that impropriety has been observed in the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana.

Will Shri Jakhar and the members of the Cabinet do this work? Is it not our duty to accomplish the task? It has been said that prices of items distributed through PDS is also high. The Government had assured to roll back the prices within 100 days and we promised the electorate to serve them for five years. You ruined the country just in eleven month. At that time the prime Minister was from the other party and now he is your leader. The entire time of the House is wasted in futile discussions over Bofors issue and the matters related to the farmers, Harijans and Adivasis are not taken up. We have listened to everything you have said and we have been fed up of all that. You say that you are a patriot. I would like to know about your patriotism? Do you consider your act of favouring the construction of Mandir and demolishing the mosque as patriotism? Another act of your patriotism is to launch Rath Yatra to Kashmir to unfurl the National flag, as if the national flag is not being unfurled in Kashmir. Do you consider it right way to administer the country? Do you want to help the farmers in this manner? Keeping this in view I would like to submit that it is not proper to pass remarks on the Ministers to defame them. Such activities bring bad name to the country. I would request even the leaders who guide you that hence forth competition is between us. These Janata Dal Members who make so much noise, have divided, therefore the competition is between us. I would like to submit that whatever is said in the House should be in the interest of the nation. You say that the matters of the farmers should be discussed. My submission is that there are small villages in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and the government should formulate schemes for the development of those villages. I would like to ask whether the State Government, since it came to power, have sent any scheme to the

Central government. They are not formulating any scheme. They have no time for it. The Government is to be blamed for the hardships people face there. I would also like to submit that recently Shri Jakhar had gone there, I was also with him. There is an Agriculture University and the student of that University refused to receive their degrees and would away.

19.00 hrs

in protest. It was only when the hon. Minister said that they were like his children and requested them to come back that they received degrees. They have state not been provided employment till today. The agricultural scientists have put the entire responsibility on the Central government. Now they want everything to be done by the Central Government State Government may squander its coffers and Rest on lay the blame at the doors of the Central Government and the Congress.

The Congress party has always taken the country aheads and enabled the farmers to become self-reliant, but I feel aggrieved when it is alleged that the fertilizer being imported from outside will destroy the fertility of our land. Just now, an hon. Member submitted that the quantity of fertilizer being imported is inadequate, and that subsidy should be given on fertilizer, but when Uma Bharti ji said that the fertilizer being supplied by IMF spoil our land and reduce the production, he too must have been present here. Shri Jakhar had informed that 90 Kg. of fertiliser is consumed in China where as own consumption is much less. Now you are demanding subsidy on fertilizers, it means that you intend to destroy agriculture completely. In your opinion only cow dung should be used as fertilizer no matter whether anyone takes care of the cow and whether it survives or dies. You believe in these things but at the same time it must be borne in mind that if cattle are to be reared, they have to be fed properly. This party is a party of 'Lalas' (traders) and 'Lalas' (traders) do not know what to do and what not to do. I am saying this because these 'lalas' claim to be protectors of the nation. I

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would like to submit that more funds should be allocated for developing the transport facilities in the hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh and other States where vegetables, apples, potatoes etc. are in abundance but trains and road facilities are not adequate. So far as the support price is concerned, Congress fixed Rs. 2.60 p. for apple crop and that should be increased to Rs. 5/-. I would like to urge Shri Jakhar that when support price is given for coconut, lichi etc., and every crop the farmers grown in other parts of the country then the same policy should be applicable to the fruits grown in hilly areas - whether it is pear, peach or apricot.

I am also grateful to the scientists who have shown the path, of green revolution in the country. Punjab is far ahead in the production of crops though there is terrorism in the State and the persons who have won the election's in Punjab are really very brave and the key to their success is that they associated themselves with the farmers. That is why congress party has won the majority there and at other places too. During the next Assembly election or after 2-3 years, when elections would be held you will be more cautious. You have concentrated your energies on levelling allegation against us and on involvement with IMF, without bothering to give creative suggestion for the development and progress of the country. You are obsessed with IMF and continue to claim that we are compromising the sovereignty of the country.

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Whenever you are in the Chair I get an opportunity otherwise my name would have been struck off. I would like to urge the hon Minister to kindly get the things monitored there in future because centre has no control over State Government. The State Government fails to achieve anything but even then the opposition tires scath us and wastes the whole day. Thus the Government have to look into all these matters because people have handed over the responsibility of the country to them. Our party under the leadership of Shri

Narasimharao will move ahead and we want to show certain concrete results within a period of three years and improve the condition of the country and provide better facilities to the farmers. We hope that Shri Jakhar, Shri Kamaluddin and all others would make efforts to take the country ahead.

With these words, I conclude.

*SHRI B.H. VIJAYA KUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Chariman, Sir, I wish to speak in Telugu, and hence I am requesting the Hon'ble Minister through you to have earphone on.

Sir, as is well known, India is a predominantly agricultural country where more than 80% of the population depend on agriculture alone. subsidy on fertilizers has been withdrawn to a large extent. Due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country. Already, farmers are very poor in the country. With the withdrawal of subsidy, they will have to face many more hardships. I want to make a few suggestions. If my suggestions are implemented, I am sure the farming community will be relieved of the burden to a large extent.

Quality seed are essential for good crops. If we want that the production of the food-grains in the country should go up, then we have to ensure that quality seeds are supplied to the farmers in time. Now whatever amount we are allocating for the development of quality seeds, is being spent on the salaries of Scientists and Professors in our research institutes. the present allocation is too insufficient to meet our massive requirements. Hence, our Agriculture Minister, Hon'ble Balram jakhar should see to it that sufficient funds allocated for the development, production on mass scale and distribution of quality seeds. Quality seeds must be available to farmers in all parts of our Country well in time. Otherwise not only the farmers, but the country itself would suffer a heavy loss. Now, what is happening is that seeds developed at certain institutions are being advertised. Farmers are told through advertisements etc that seeds developed at so and so institute are of a high quality. But

*Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Telugu.

those seeds are not sole to the farmers. In the name and brand of those seeds the inferior quality seeds are being sold. Middlemen, as usual, are exploiting the poor gullible farmers. You know the fate of the crops when inferior quality seeds are used. The production of food grains in the country suffers. Hence, I appeal to the Hon'ble Ministers to take extra ordinary precautions to ensure the supply of quality seeds to the farmers. He should not spare any effort in this regard.

Similar is the case of fertilizers. Lot of adulteration is going on in the fertilizers. This is a fact which is known to everybody. No Hon'ble Member can deny this fact. I think, even the Hon'ble Minister also knows about this fact. In my district, Sir, the district collector caught many persons red handed for adulterating fertilisers and selling them. But no one was punished. No action was taken against them. If the adulteration of fertilisers is allowed to go on unabatedly, what would be the fate of farmers in the Country. We have removed the subsidy on fertilisers. As a result, the farmers are now forced to pay more for purchasing the fertilisers. If the fertilisers purchased at exorbitant rates by the farmers turn out to be adulterated ones, one can imagine the plight of poor farmers. Then what happens to farmers? What happens to our production? Hence the Government has to take stern action against the culprits who adulterate fertilisers. It may be true, that the supply of fertilisers is a State Subject. Even then the Central Government has the responsibility to mentor the supply of unadulterated, good fertilisers to the farmers throughout the country. The Union government should issue guidelines to the States, if necessary, to correct the situation. The Central Government must be alert in ensuring the supply of unadulterated fertilisers to the farmers.

Then, Sir, the supply of water is also equally essential for good crops and the enhanced production of food grains in the country. We are building big dams and projects for the purpose. The time has now come to think afresh about the utility of major projects in the Country. We spend considerable time in clearing the projects. Then

execution of those projects also take considerable time. Due to longer periods of construction, the cost of the project goes up manifold. In stand it is better, I feel, if we take up the construct a of smaller projects scattered all over the country. That would ensure the assured water supply facility to the farmers. Needless to say, it contributes in increasing the production of foodgrains manlyield.

Sir, I wish to say a few words about the functioning of F.C.I. farmers are being cheated by F.C.I. Food Corporation has to purchase grains from the farmers. Farmers have no their go but to sell their produce to the F.C.I. If the grain is damaged by the cyclone or heavy rains, the Food Corporation refuses to purchase such grain from the farmers. Then, the middlemen slowly step in and bargain with the farmers. Finally, F.C.I. compels the farmer to pay bribes to the diddlemen before it purchases the affected foodgrains. I will prove this if at all it is required. The presence of middlemen is must if the F.C.I. has to purchase the produce from the farmers. The farmers are losing heavily on this account. The Government should take notice of this fact. Similarly, the supply of bags also depends on bribery. If you bribe them, you will get the bags. If you do not pay them, you will not get the bags. I should not be misunderstood. I am not criticising the government just for the sake of criticism. I am revealing certain truths here, to bring them to the notice of the government, so that they can take steps to correct the situation. There is one more thing that I would like to mention in this connection. Some traders in villages get fertilisers from the company, through dealers and supply the same to farmers on credit at exorbitant rates. In return, they, the traders get grains from the farmers at a throw away price. They hoard the grain and dispose off the hoarded grain when the prices rule high. Thus, traders are sucking the blood of poor farmers. Farmers are suffering heavy losses on account of these unscrupulous traders. The Government must have to do something in this regard. It can bring a legislation to prevent the traders from pressing such kind of illegal activities. Trade, it may be a State

[Sh. B.H. Vijaya Kumar Raju]

Subject. But the Central Government cannot remain a silent spectators. It has to protect the interests of farmers. We are treating the farmers too lightly. There is a wrong notion prevailing in the Country about farmers. Since farmers are exempted from the income tax, people think that they are very rich and earn lakhs and crores of Rupees. But the perception is quite wrong. No one knows the difficulties of farms. They pay exorbitant prices for them. they toil day and night throughout the year. They face droughts and floods. In spite of all this, there is no guarantee that they if we take up the constructing of smaller projects scattered all over the country. That would ensure the assured water supply facility to the farmers. Needless to say, it contributes in increasing the production of foodgrains manifold.

Sir, I wish say a few words about the functioning of F.C.I. Farmers are being cheated by F.C.I. Food Corporation has to purchase grains from the farmers. Farmers have no other go but to sell their produce to the F.C.I. If the grain is damaged by the cyclone or heavy rains, the Food Corporation refuses to purchase grain from the farmers. Then, the middlemen slowly step in and bargain with the farmers. Finally, F.C.I. compels the farms to pay bribes to the middlemen before it purchases the affected foodgrains. I will prove this if at all it is required. The presence of middlemen is a must if the F.C.I. has to purchase the produce from the farmers. The farmers are losing heavily on this account. The Government should take notice of this fact. Similarly, the supply of bags also depends on bribery. If you bribe them, you will get the bags. If you do not pay them, you will not get the bags. I should not be misunderstood. I am not criticising the government just for the sake of criticism. I am revealing certain truths here, to bring them to the notice of the government. So that they can take steps to correct the situation. There is one more thing that I would like to mention in this connection. Some traders in village get fertilisers from the company, through dealers and supply the same to farmers on credit at exorbitant

rates. In return they, the traders get grains from the farmers at a throw away price. They hoard the grain and dispose off the hoarded grain when the prices rule high. Thus, traders are sucking the blood of poor farmers. Farmers are suffering heavy losses on account of these unscrupulous traders. The Government must have to do something in this regard. It can bring a legislation to prevent be trader from pressing such and if illegal activities. Traders, it may be a State subject. But the Central Government cannot remain a silent spectator. It has to protect the interests of farmers. We are treating the farmers too lightly. There is a wrong notion prevailing in the Country about farmers. Since farmers are exempted from the income tax, people think that they are very rich and earn lakhs and crores of Rupees. But the perception is quite wrong. No one knows the difficulties of farms. They go to other place for purchasing the fertilisers. They pay exorbitant prices for them. they toil day and night throughout the year. They face droughts and floods. In spite of all this, there is no guarantee that they will reap good crops. Finally they are at the mercy of traders who pay a very low price for the produce. On the other hand, traders for doing nothing get all the benefits. Hence the Central Government, keeping the difficulties of the farmers in view, should be alert all the time, and if necessary issue guidelines to the State Governments whenever necessary to protect the interests of the farming community. Some revolutionary changes have to be introduced in the agricultural sphere to enhance the production. Even to this day our agriculture remains at the mercy of rain God. If there are no rains, there will be drought and there will be no crop. If the rains are heavy, the standing crops get washed away. The stored foodgrains get damaged. And, since the Country is of continental proportions, in one areas there will be drought and in other area, it will be floods. We failed to evolve a scientific method of cultivation during all these years. Paucity of funds come in the way of evolution of scientific method of cultivation. Well, we have done away with subsidies. It makes the Government more responsible in the matter of protecting the interests of the farming community.

Sir, since the time available at my disposal is very short, I would like to talk about rural development very briefly. Around 1920, the Indian National Congress adopted a Resolution according to top priority to Rural development. As we were not independent then, we could not achieve much in the progress of rural areas. But unfortunately, even after independence, we did very little to improve our rural areas. There is some development here and there but it is very negligible. Just now, one Hon. Member from Bihar has narrated how the DRDA loans are being misused. That is the position everywhere in the Country. Often we are invited to such functions where loans are distributed as we happen to be the public representatives. Milking animals, sewing machines etc. are usually distributed on such occasions. Let me tell you, the amount is swelled by bank officials, local officials and the middlemen. Nothing is reaching the poor. The Government has withdrawn subsidy on fertilisers. Even those small benefits through various schemes are not reaching the poor in the rural areas. Schemes are there but the intending beneficiaries are not deriving any benefit. Here, in this august House, we discuss about the budget, the allocation for the rural development etc. But we do not discuss about how far the allocated budget for the rural development has been utilised properly. Let me tell you, Sir, even the meager allocated amount has not been spent properly. We have to alert the administrative machinery to monitor whether allocated funds are used properly or not. We have to tone up the administration wherever we go we find the same milking animals, the same sewing machines, the same oil engines etc. Meetings and functions are different but the distributed things remain the same. The same animals or things are distributed and re-distributed. We will find false bills, false vouchers everywhere. Limitless corruption pervades in all the places. If such a situation is allowed to continue, I fail to understand how our rural areas develop. Now is the time for self-introspection. Attest for our satisfaction, we have to ensure that all the welfare schemes are implemented honestly and sincerely. Sir, we disassociate with our main party, so as to support the Government

which is wedded to the upliftment of the poor. If the Government fails to uplift the poor by implementing all the measures meticulously, then it will not only be embarrassing for us, but equally embarrassing for the Government too. I hope, the Government would show utmost concern for the upliftment of the poor in the rural areas. The Hon. Minister said the Government would construct 10 lakh houses for the poor. But where is the land? Well, you may manage to acquire the land, that land or plots will be full of water during the rainy seasons. There will be no proper approach roads. The construction, would as usual, remain faulty. They may collapse any moment endangering the life of the inmates. Hence, it is not sufficient to say that we are going to construct 10 lakh houses. The Government should see to it, that the houses are constructed properly at proper places and the occupants would really be happy to live in those houses. This is my request, not a criticism against the Government.

We have taken up afforestation, social forestry, constructions of roads and buildings etc under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna. Now, the Surpunches and the heads of the villages are being threatened with imprisonment if the amount is misused. With the result, no one is coming forward to take up any work, funds allocated under the scheme are lying unutilised. In certain cases huge amounts meant for the scheme are also being withdrawn from the banks. The Government must take appropriate measures to see that the Yojna is implemented effectively.

Sir, I want to say a few words about the supply of protected water. I would agree with the Government that the amount allocated for the supply of protected water has been utilised properly to some extent. In coastal areas there is a need to install more desalination plants. The water now available there is saline and not fit for drinking. There is no other alternative available in these areas to supply drinking water. Already some desalination plants have been installed there. There is a need to set up more such plants so as to cover the entire coastal belt.

[Sh. B.H. Vijaya Kumar Raju]

Finally, Sir, without taking much of your time, I would briefly mention about Public Distribution and Civil Supplies. It is an important subject. It is important, because the entire economy is dependent on this system. There is already a criticism against the budget presented this year. It has been said that the budget presented this year. It has been said that the budget has ignored the down-trodden, middle and small farmers. In order to allay the fears of the people who are at the lower rung of the society foodgrains, clothes, edible oil and pulses should be supplied to these people at a cheap price through Public Distribution System. No-where in the Country the public distribution is functioning well. Poorer sections are subjected to lot of exploitation. But, in Andhra Pradesh, Public Distribution System was effective to certain extent. For this, I would laud the efforts of the former Chief Minister Shri N.T. Rama Rao. He deserves all the credit. Benefits of the public distribution system reached the poor during his tenure. Similarly P.D.S. is equally effective in Communist ruled States like West Bengal and Kerala. The Hon. Minister for Civil Supplies and Public Distribution should take all the necessary steps so as to make the system effective throughout the country. One gets a doubt whether public Distribution Systems is functioning at all in certain parts of the country. Hence I repeatedly urge the Hon. Minister to tone up the Public Distribution System as it is intimately connected with the people especially the poor in the country. The fact that the poor are benefices of this systems should not be forgotten.

Sir, I will just take a minute to speak about the land reforms. Perhaps Andhra Pradesh is the only State where the land reforms were effectively implemented. They were introduced in the State when Shri P.V. Narashimha Rao was the Chief Minister of State. I was a Member of the Legislative Assembly then. But one should not jump suddenly to the conclusion that all the available surplus land has been distributed among the landless poor. Justice is yet to be done.

Many faulty declarations were filed. Cases were filed in the Courts. Lords have almost used and misused every mean available to them to save their surplus land. The best way to implement the land reform effectively is to include the subject in the Ninth Schedule of the constitution. Thus, we can take away the matter from the jurisdiction of the Courts. The Government needs a political will to implement land reform effectively. Danger awaits. The Nation if the land reforms are not implemented effectively in the near future. Hence I appeal to this government to show necessary courage and political will in implementing the land reforms and thus saving the nation from peril.

Sir, thanking you for the opportunity you have given to me to speak. I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

*SHRI PALAS BARMAN (Balurghat) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the demands for grants pertaining to Ministry of Agriculture. Ours is an agricultural country. 80% of the entire population depends on agriculture. Moreover 50% of the population live below poverty line because our agrarian system depends on nature. We need proper irrigation facility, high quality of seeds for agriculture. But it is a matter of regret that the farmers are suffering even today for want of these important requisite. Except in Kerala and West Bengal land reform has not been implemented in any State. So land is still in the possession of the big farmers and Zamindars. Land has not been distributed among the poor farmers, the tillers of the soil. Here lies the failure of the Government with regard to proper implementation of land reform Act. As a result, the big farmers, the Zamindars are enjoying all the benefits while the poor farmers are at the receiving end. The irrigation facilities are far from adequate. We have till today a large portion of fallow land in our country which can be converted into fertile land by means of definite action plan. The Government have failed to initiate any developmental measure in the villages. So the rural areas has emend in darkness

even after 45 years of Independence. There is no communication, the roads or transport have not been developed or are in bad shape. Some of the villages have no road at all. There is no drinking water. Those of us, the lucky educated few who stay in the cities have not idea about the plight of the rural population. We, the educated class who can afford have shifted to big cities thus cutting off connection with the village. The rural people cannot fulfil even their minimum want, the bare necessity of life.

We know land is not increasing in preparation to population. So there is scarcity of land. In this situation, we have to grow crop not once but twice or thrice a year. Otherwise the misery of farmers will aggravate. Moreover now the farmer must take up other type of profession also. He should not depend on agriculture only. But because of lack of roads and communication, the rural people cannot change their work also. There poverty-stricken people must be engaged in some other work so that they are able to get the minimum necessities of life.

There has been widespread publicity of seeds of good quality. But the people in the villages are still using the old typed seeds. So naturally, they cannot produce high quality crop because of low quality seeds and fertilizers. Moreover, the price of fertiliser has been hiked gradually and the small farmers are feeling the pinch.

I do not feel the Government has any consideration for the small farmers, the sharecroppers. Of course, there are many schemes or projects like I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P. or R.L.E.G.P. But the allocation in those projects is far from adequate. If we have a round of the villages, we would find that most of the villages have not at all been benefited by these projects. But the media, the newspapers are coming out with all kinds of publicities how the lot of the farmers has been ameliorated by these projects or schemes. But in reality it has not been so. The poor farmers, the tillers of the soil who provide food to all of us have been regulated by the Government. Enough attention has not been paid to their plight by the Government. No

well-conceived plan has been evolved for their amelioration. In the budget provision for them has remained to the minimum level.

When we talk of irrigation we find that foundations have been laid in so many states for irrigation but the scheme has not started or has remained half-complete. We have Tista project in North Bengal. The Central Government had paid Rs. 5 Crore and Rs. 25 crores loan till now and West Bengal Government have spend Rs. 359 Crore. After the completion of this project, North Bengal would have a green. reevaluation. 9 lakh hectares land can have irrigation and in the Master Plan 13 lakh hectare land would get irrigation facility. Had this important project been completed in time the farmers of North Bengal would have been benefitted. But we do not know when the work of Tista Project would be over. Every project should have a time-bound programme. After starting an on-going more Project, you cannot leave that halfway. What type of programme is this? Even the village panchayat are better in this respect. If they start any scheme they complete that very scheme within a definite period of time. But our Government of India start the scheme but never complete it. So how do you expect the people to have confidence in your performance. they feel to be discriminated and that is why communalism, separatism are raising their ugly heads every where. Why it is so? People were not born to fact starvation. The poverty, the deprivation have been responsible to make people shun their inborn qualities of compassion or patience. they are losing sympathy, patience and resorting to violence. so my request is the Government must think seriously in this regard and try to complete the half-finished projects as soon as possible.

In this a connection, I would like to draw your attention to another fact. We know 80% population stay in the villages. That means 80 crores people reside in rural area depending on agriculture as the only means for survival. I feel that if we could ameliorate the lot of this vast section of society by providing good seeds fertilisers, irrigation facilities, we would be able to increase their purchasing power. If they have the purchas-

[Sh. Palas Barman]

ing power, they can buy the industrial produce. Then the sick industries responsible for stagnant economy can be made viable. there would be no more the threat of closure or lock out. But the Government fail to Channelise plan in this direction. Their only target is for large investment in the industry without any fruitful outcome. They are not taking any initiative to increase the purchasing power of the rural population. Then how the industries would run? So we find lock out, closure in industrial field. The Government must start thinking in this regard. Ours is an agricultural country and if we could just improve the miserable condition of the poor farmers, if we could increase their purchasing power, then the economic crisis of the country can be solved. Our sick and closed industries then can be made viable. We do not have to depend on developed countries with a begging bowl. Our country is richer than many countries both in natural or mineral wealth. We need proper planning for mobilisation of resources.

So my appeal to the Government is that they must evolve well-conceived plan, must take into account the miserable condition of the vast majority of the population. It is a matter of regret that the plight of the farmers has not been looked into even after 45 years if In dependence. The upto date device has not been adopted in the field of agriculture resulting in the alarming condition of the poor farmers. Taking into account all these factors, I have no other option but to oppose the demands for grants. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI (Hissar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Rural development, Food and public Dissolution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all would like to; thank the hon. Prime Minister for handing over the responsibility of this agricultural country where more than 70 per cent of the total population are engaged in agriculture,

to Krishi Pandit Shri Balam Jakhar who knows the problems of the agriculturists. There are certain good indications in the present Budget which ensure that adequate attention would be paid to agriculture, The farmers profession is such that even after toiling in the fields and spending on crops, they are not sure that crops would reach their houses safe, because there is always a threat of natural calamities like hailstorms and other diseases to his profession, therefore, the Government implemented the Crop Insurance Scheme and a provision of Rs. 40 crore has been made for this. The amount of Central Crop Insurance under the General Insurance was increased from Rs. 3, 60,00,000 to Rs. 29, 55,00,000 But this amount is very meagre. A broad policy should be formulated in this regard. The village should be treated as the basic unit Under this & Crop Insurance Scheme. Sometimes it is seen that during hailstorms, half of the crop is destroyed and half is saved in a village. Some scheme should be evolved in this regard and the village should be treated as the basic unit. The allocation for horticulture has been increased to Rs. 19 crore and 30 lakhs from Rs. 1 crore allocated in the last Budget. It shows that the Government is paying proper attention to this and there will be development in this field.

Similarly, the steps taken to increase the allocation for centrally sponsored schemes from Rs. 72 crore and 88 lakhs to Rs. 112 crore and 40 lakhs and the allocation for Special Cultivation Scheme for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from Rs. 8.5 crores to Rs. 14 crore and 80 lakhs are highly commendable. Mr. Chairman, sir, there was a great expectation till now that like the industrial policy on agricultural at the earliest. It is very necessary to bring an agricultural policy like that, because agriculture, which is the biggest profession in our country, is not able to contribute to our national income as much as it should, A comprehensive policy should be formulated in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir there is a big problem for the farmers, children, particularly the educated ones who are unable to get employment. The present situation in Punjab

might have arisen due to political reasons, but economic reasons is the main reason behind it. the farmers' educated children can either go in for military service, police service or work in some office. employment is a big problem for them. The child of a small shop-keeper or a businessman does not hesitate in booking after his shop or his business. But due to our present education system farmers' children look upon cultivation as an unremunrative profession and therefore do not want to take up cultivation. The graduate and post-graduate children of the farmers who try to educate their children as much as possible, have no interest in cultivation. Therefore, it is necessary that a net work of agro-based industries should be spread in the villages. Processing and dehydration plants should be set up in villages where potatoes and onions are produced. The educated youth of farmers should be absorbed there on priority basis. Similarly, sugar mills, spinning mills and textile mills should be set up place where sugar-cane and cotton are grown. Industries should be set up in the villages on the basis of crops produced there. we should pay attention to encouraging agro-based industries and the farmers' children who are educated should be absorbed in them on priority basis. Only them, we can achieve some success.

Sofar as self-employment is concerned, schemes like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana are quite beneficial for the rural unemployed people. But, I would like to suggest that all the educated youth of this country be encouraged to set up small scale industries. Besides this the Government should also provide protection to the goods manufactured by these industries. Small items like soap, salt etc. which are also being manufactured by the big industrial houses today, should be reserved only for the small scale industries. The Government should fix minimum price of every item by working out their cost of production, If there is less consumption of their goods in the market and price of goods go down, the Government should fix a support price or make some such provision, As it is not possible to absorb all the educated youth in the jobs, the Government should pay serious attention to it . Otherwise, these

youth will be misled and used for political activities. During the last four years, lives of hundreds of educated youth had been ruined in Haryana. They were given country made guns and pistols. They have indulged in vehicles snatching or some other criminal activities. I am afraid the situation prevailing in Punjab today could also arise in Haryana and Delhi. Therefore, it is necessary to pay attention to provide employment to educated youth.

I am all praise for the farmers of our country for increasing the foodgrains production. Even-though, our population has increased by three times since independence, the farmers have produced enough foodgrains to feed the 85 crore population of our country. The should be commended for this. From time to time, our Government has formulated various plicies, under which, agricultural universities have been set up, scientific researches have been conducted. A 'Lab to land" programme was also introduced by the Government. I would like to congratulate our agricultural scientists for their important contribution to this sector. But I would like to submit that in the agricultural departments in our States, I.A.S. officers are being appointed as directors. This is not proper. I would like to request the Centre to direct the State Governments to appoint agricultural experts as the directors of these departments.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, agricultural graduates are also neglected. Since equal time is required to get an agriculture-ral degree and a degree in medicine and engineering discriminations should not be made with the agricultural graduates. There is no provision of internship for them and their pay-scales and grades are also very low. therefore, I would like to request that agricultural graduates should also be given such incentives. The target of agricultural production in the current year is 17 crore tonnes and there is possibility of increasing it more. Royalty is paid to the States which are rich in minerals. This is a natural wealth. But there should be some arrangement for farmers also, who toil hard to produce foodgrains and feed the timing millions of the country. The farmer has

[Sh. Narain Singh Chaudhri]

the first right to get royalty. When the F.C.I., some other Government Agency or any State buy foodgrains from any other State, the farmers of that State should be given royalty to 50 paise per kilogram of the total foodgrains purchased.

Besides this, one of our friends said a lot about sugarcane. But there is lack of sugarcane testing and training units. The newly established agricultural units in Haryana face an acute shortage of technical personnel. Therefore, keeping in mind, the large scale production of sugarcane in the State, I request the Government to set up a sugarcane testing and training unit. Even now, of the sugarcane remains to be harvested. Therefore, the situation calls for the establishment of more sugar mills.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly, the 'Murra' breed of buffalo is the best in Haryana, but this breed is gradually on the verge of extinction. To preserve this breed, the Government should set up a Central Cattle Breeding Farm at Jind. Land was acquired some time back for this very purpose and the Government should not further delay the establishment of this farm. Further, the State faces an acute shortage of quality seeds. To overcome this problem, the Government should set up an elite Seed Testing laboratory in the State.

It has been observed that sunflower seeds are brought from Gujarat and they Cost Rs. 750/- for an acre. Even after that, there is no guarantee about the quality of the seeds. Therefore, it is very essential to pay special attention towards seeds. The most important point I would like to raise here is that despite being self-sufficient in foodgrains, it's very painful to hear people talking of importing wheat. It is my request that instead of thinking in terms of foodgrain imports, we should start looking our export potential.

Apart from this, the agricultural crop loan, which is a soft loan should be made available at an interest rate of 6% and duty on agricultural implements should be re-

duced and made available to the farmers at reasonable rates.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, although I wanted to say a lot more, I shall conclude as per your directions and I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I had hoped that I would be able to say all the points I had in mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You took seven minutes more than others.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI: All right, Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH (Domariaganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Demands for Grants of the Departments of agricultural Development and Food and Civil Supplies. As many of the hon. Members correctly observed, agriculture is India's mainstay and the majority of our population lives in the villages and agriculture is their main source of livelihood. Sir, although it is said that we are self-sufficient in foodgrains, yet the condition of our farmer is very pitiable. Their children are not able to receive good education from schools or colleges in the cities. This is primarily because the farmers don't receive remunerative prices for their produces. The Cost of agricultural imputes including water, fertilizer, power tractor etc. have undergone manifold increase, but the prices of foodgrains have not gone up at the same ratio. The prices have not gone up at the same ration like the prices of essential commodities including clothing. As a result, agriculture is in miserable condition. The standard of living of rickshaw pullers in the cities is much better than that of the farmers in the villages of Uttar Pradesh. It is because the farmers don't have the necessary funds and are not able to do their work in time.

It is my request to the hon Agriculture Minister to fix remunerative prices or agricultural produces and stop exploitation of farmers. If an agricultural policy is formulated and honestly pursued, I see no reason why the farmers should not get remunerative prices. If proper irrigational facilities are provided

and remunerative prices are paid to farmers, there will never be foodgrain shortage in the country. Then this country will never have to import wheat, rather we would start talking in terms of exporting foodgrains.

Further, the agricultural research undertaken in the universities should filter down to the villages. No doubt, demonstrations are at present held in development blocks and also are agricultural fairs, but this is not enough. The agricultural scientists should be encouraged so that they contribute towards increased production.

Along with this comes the issue of food. There are many sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. However, much of the sugarcane remains to be harvested. Many applications for licenses to open new sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh are ending before the Centre. They have not yet been sanctioned. Similarly the sugar mills have not received money for their modernisation programmes, as a result of which crushing of sugarcane has come to a standstill. The sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh, on an average are able to crush less than 35% of the total produce and the farmers are forced to sell the rest to crushers. Although the procurement price of sugarcane in Uttar Pradesh is Rs.42/- to Rs. 45/- per quintal, the farmers are faced to sell their produce to the crushers Rs.30 to Rs. 32 per quintal. The farmers are helpless and are not able to get their produce crushed in the expellers. It is my humble request that the government should set up more modernised sugar mills at appropriate places in the country.

There is not a single sugar mill in the Siddarth Nagar district in my constituency. The sugarcane produce of the area were therefore sold to sugar mills in Basi, Waterganj, Khalilabad etc. The sugar mills at Khalilabad have also been closed. As a result the weighing machine was not installed during November-December.. With great difficulty, the sugarcane produce was lifted. Even now, more than 50% of the produce is lying in the fields. It is my request that new sugar units should be set up in my constituency. I would also like to mention here that the farmers don't receive the prices

for their produce even after three years. The Government should make proper arrangements for the reimbursement of arrears. One shall not forget that the farmers chalk out their future programmes, including that of marriages in the family and provision for the forthcoming year's production etc., on the basis of the price they receive for their produce. It all depends upon price they get for their produce. If they don't get their money in time, they won't be able to do their work.

Just now, it was said here that sugarcane production during the year 1989-90 was 109.8 lakh metric tonnes and that during 1990-91, it was 119.5 lakh metric tonnes. Certainly, there has been an increase. We have such an abundant sugarcane production in the country that if more sugar mills are opened and proper arrangements are made for the crushing of sugarcane, then we shall be able to export sugar and earn valuable foreign exchange.

Earlier, it was stated that 50% of the budgetary provision would be kept aside for rural development, but the present allocation is inadequate. This won't help in all round development of the rural areas. The hon. Minister said that under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana roads are constructed, 60% of and the remaining funds under the scheme is spent on employment and the remaining 40% is preceded in the form of material. Some work is certainly being done under the aegis of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, but not upto the optimum level. This calls for proper monitoring. Under the Government's arrangement for undertaking free boring, pipes are made available to the farmers, but they are of inferior quality and the farmers are compelled to take them. Therefore, an arrangement should be made wherein boring work is done and some money is given to the farmers, in place of these inferior quality pipes. In my opinion it would be better if the remaining amount is given, upon receipt of a completion report to the effect that the boring work is being done in an excellent way. There is a provision to install 10 lakh tubewells under the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Similarly, there is also a provision under the aforesaid scheme to repair and renovate ponds and other

[Sh. Rampai Singh]

[English]

irrigational facilities in the villages, 50% of which should be for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The villages are not benefiting much from it, because the villages Pradhans (headmen) and others, using their money and muscle power, are taking the money, by presenting bogus documents pertaining to the repair of ponds etc. Therefore, proper arrangements should be made in this regard. Further instead of wasting money on the 10 lakh tubewells by digging ditches and ponds, the money should be spent on the repair of irrational facilities, whether it be drainage, tubewell or canal.

With regard to the rural water supply scheme, the hon. Minister said that arrangements for the same have been made in a number of villages. Now, Mark India pumps have been installed for the same, but in our area, there are certain places where the water bearing strata is not such that the pumps can go as deep as 100-150 feet down. Hence, these places acute water shortage. In the expanding Shohartgarh-Kakkarhak area on the Indo-Nepal border, the water available in the upper strata is unfit for human consumption. One has to go down. The Government should get a survey conducted in the area, allocate more money wherever necessary and drinking water available.

The upliftment of women remains a distant dream. Under the Indira Awas Yojana linked to the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, there is a provision of only Rs. 8,000 for one dwelling unit. This provision was made at the time of the launching of the programme. The prices of all commodities have gone up and it has become difficult to build a house with Rs. 8000/- Consequently, some of these units remain incomplete and those completed are built with sub-standard material. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into it and see to it. that dwelling units are built in the space provided for. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia):
Sir, I like to oppose the Demands for Grants for the Ministries of Rural Development, Food, Agriculture and Civil Supplies.

Sir, 69 per cent of our population lives in the rural areas and live on agriculture. So, no basic problem in our country can be solved without making any structural changes in the land ownership pattern and there are no alternative measures to land reforms.

In the sixth Plan a promise was made for a time-bound programme and also for enacting necessary legislation to impose a ceiling, taking over and distributing the surplus lands. In the Seventh Plan a new concept was introduced, and it was conjunctive. That meant that the land reforms will be a part of the poverty alleviation programme and land reforms will be the basic means of production.

Land is a State subject, but the Union government also has some responsibility. So many land reforms legislations have been passed in different States. a total of 222 land reform legislations have been passed in different Assemblies. But except West Bengal, Kerala and some areas of Andhra the enforcement of land ceiling laws and distribution of the surplus lands was not done properly.

Sir, about 74.5 per cent of the cultivable land holders operate only 26.7 per cent of the land, while 22.6 per cent of the land is concentrated in a group of landlords holding two to four per cent of the holdings. In this situation the Union Government should monitor the distribution of lands done by the State Governments.

Besides there is a problem regarding the cultivators.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Mahato, please take your seat for a minute.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-
TRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY
AFFAIRS (SRI RANGARAJAN
KUMARMANGALAM):

I know Dr. Laxminaryan Pandeya may not like it. But there are two or three speakers who would like to speak on the subject and who are going out of station. They want to speak now. they have made a request to permit them to speak now. It for the consideration of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD
(Salempur): What is this joke. Do we have quorum in the House?

DR. LAXMINARYAN PANDEYA
(Mandsaur): There are many Speakers from our side as well. If you can sit, we will call them. As you suggested, we are prepared to sit for another tow hours till 8'0 Clock.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-

MANGALAM: All right, if you don't support the idea, let us postpone it for tomorrow.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you say so, we will adjourn at eight O' Clock. How much time more do you want, Shri Mahato?

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: I will take some time more.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you take tow more minutes?

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: I will take ten more minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may continue your speech tomorrow.

Now the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

20.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 9, 1992/ Chaitra 20, 1914 (Saka)