

directions may be issued to the State Governments to impose ban on lotteries. The Government of Delhi has to incur a loss of Rs. 100 crore after imposing ban on lotteries. But due to non imposition of ban on lotteries of other States, those states earn crores of rupees from Delhi and the Government of Delhi is bearing a loss of Rs. 100 crore. The Central Government should bring a Bill or issue an ordinance in this regard so that lakhs of people can be saved from being ruined.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Ordinance cannot be issued during the session

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the entire Bihar especially, Saharsa, Sonpaul, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Khagaria, Madhepura, Sheohar and Katihar districts are badly affected by floods. I would like to inform the House that the Kosi river originating from Nepal, earlier used to flow upto 200 kilometers but due to the policies of the Government its radius has been decreased to eight to twelve kilometers only. Flow of that river after embankment on eastern and Western banks is causing destruction in that area as a result of which people of hundreds of villages are rendered homeless every year. But the Government does not take measures to resolve this problem. This time also, Simari, Sidava and Nauhra of Hansulia division of Bakhtiyarpur of Saharsa district Rampur, Chhalwan, Urhar and Murli villages of Kanwali Gogari and Chautham divisions of Khagaria district have been cut off from the rest of the country. This problem cannot be resolved at the State Government level. No solution has been found till today to the problem of international rivers which originate from other countries and flow in our country, ruining the people and ultimately, fall into the sea with Ganga.

In 1993, the Prime Minister of India and Nepal had signed an agreement. As per the agreement, it was decided that a dam will be constructed over Pancheshwari, Kaguali and Kosi rivers at Thitha Pani in Nepal. Power will be generated as a result thereof and an attempt would be made to find a solution of floods due to Kosi river. I would like to tell you that the State Government has submitted the report to the Government of India but no action has been taken in this regard. Clearance has been given to the Pancheshwari river project in Uttar Pradesh but the Government has not paid any attention to the Kosi river in Bihar which causes havoc in the State. I would like to request the Government that the construction of a dam over Kosi river at Thitha Pani in Nepal should be undertaken immediately. Government should make untiring efforts for the construction of dam so that the people in my region do not suffer due to floods.

I would like to make one more submission that the Government should send a team there to survey destruction caused in that area and submit a report so that adequate compensation can be provided to the affected people.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI MANHARAN LAL PANDEY (Janjgir) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the Members of the House are expressing their concern about the problem of flood but on the contrary, Madhya Pradesh is facing the worst drought situation of this country this year. This State produces 30 per cent of the total production of the country. Out of 70 percent crop of soyabean which is cultivated in that State, 50 percent has been affected by drought. Paddy has been sown just in 50 per cent area and in rest of the area it could not be sown due to lack of water. The State Government is not in a position to provide seeds of soyabean and paddy. It could not make available these seeds last year also. Therefore, the condition of the farmers is still very bad. Farmers are not able to get seeds and labourers are not getting work. The State Government is not able to make adequate arrangements. Due to some political reasons the State Government is not in a position to improve the situation. Therefore, the Central Government should make available the seeds of soyabean and paddy to Madhya Pradesh and provide adequate funds to meet the situation of drought.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The house stands adjourned for lunch to re-assemble at 3.00 p.m.

14.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.

15.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Five Minutes past Fifteen of the clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

Calling Attention to Matter of Urgent Public Importance

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF BURNING OF SUGARCANE BY SUGARCANE GROWERS AND NON-PAYMENT OF THEIR DUES

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Food and Minister of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution towards the steps taken by the Government on the situation arising out of burning of sugarcane by sugarcane growers and non-payment of their dues by the sugarmills.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the period from 1st

October, 1994 to 30th September, 1995 i.e during the sugar production year 1994-95, 1476 lakh tonne sugarcane was crushed by sugar mills and 146.43 lakh tonne sugar was produced. This was a record annual production. But sugarmills have crushed much more quantity of sugarcane during the sugar production year 1995-96. 1505 lakh tonne sugarcane was crushed by sugarmills and 153.8 lakh tonne sugar was produced upto 30th May, 1996. Sugarmills have been functioning even after that period. 101 sugarmills were functioning till 1.7.96 whereas during this period in last year only 39 sugarmills were functioning. The crushing of sugarcane and production of sugar has surpassed the quantity of production in the past whereas according to the estimates of Agriculture Department the production of sugarcane has been 267 million tonne during 1995-96 which is quite less than the last year production of 271 million tonne. This matter was also taken up with State Governments and I would lay that information on the Table of the House if you allow me to do so.

So far as the burning of sugarcane by farmers is concerned, information has been collected from the State Governments. According to this information the reports of burning sugarcane in Hoshangabad and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh has been received which reveals that on an area of 134 hectares after the first harvesting the unprofitable crop of sugarcane was burnt. The State Government has also told that both these districts do not have any sugarmill and sugarcane is consumed by gur and Khandsari units only. Apart from it reports of small incidents of burning of sugarcane has also been received from Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra but in these areas the crop of sugarcane was not burnt by farmers?

So far as the payment of prices of sugarcane to farmers is concerned, I would like to say that the statistics received on all India basis reveal that till 15th May, an amount of Rs. 5831.76 crores has been paid to farmers and still a payment of Rs. 1382.32 crores was due. This includes the Statutory Maximum Price (S.M.P.) of sugarcane and certain proportion of sugarcane prices fixed by the State Government and by themselves.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have up to date figures with me. In every part of the world farmers is encouraged for increasing the production but here farmer is discouraged. I would like to tell some facts to you and this House about the sugarcane growers in India. Farmers have produced sugarcane in large quantity during 1977-78, 1991-92 and 1995-96 and during these three years farmers have been exploited economically. In the year 1991-92 sugarmills were closed without completing the crushing of sugarcane and for a long time Rs. 700 crores of farmers remained due on sugarmills, and thus farmers had to reduce their sugarcane cultivation area. In 1993-94 the sugar production came to 98 lakh tonne whereas in 1991-92 this production was 1 crore 34 lakh tonne.

In 1994-95 sugar was imported even to meet the domestic demand. A large amount of foreign exchange was spent on it and sugar scam took place. Now as on date the sugar production has increased to 1 crore 63 lakh tonne but farmer has been exploited economically to a great extent. Farmers had to burn their sugarcane fields. Sugarcane Department went to the extent that it did not issue slips to farmers who had sugarcane but issued slips to middlemen who purchased sugarcane from farmers at a rate of Rs. 3 per quintal and sold to sugarmills at a rate of Rs. 68-71 per quintal. Officials of sugarcane Department earned a huge sum in connivance with the middlemen by exploiting the farmers. I would like to cite an example of Western Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh sugarcane officials conspired with the officers of Shamli Sugar mill and created an artificial break-down thus mill was closed down. The sugarcane commissioner of the State was also involved in this conspiracy. The crop of sugarcane of farmers is still in the fields, the Government could get it checked. As on date an amount of Rs. 1250 crores of farmers is due on mill-owners for payment of sugarcane...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : According to rules small clarifications or questions can be asked under the Calling Attention Motion and a speech cannot be made.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, The first orator could make speech, then questions can be asked. I have read that the first person could make a statement and other Members could ask questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright, you can ask a small question.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Rs. 1250 crore of sugarcane farmers are due on the mill-owners for the current year Rs. 950 crores of farmers are due on mill-owners in Uttar Pradesh only. (Interruptions) There is half an hour's time and I will conclude it in a little time. 1 crore 47 lakh tonne of sugar was produced during last year and this year the estimated production of sugar is 1 crore 63 lakh tonne. On 2nd July the hon'ble Prime Minister had made an announcement that 50 percent payment of sugarcane growers would be made immediately whereas not even 5 percent payment has been made so far. Farmers are in a miserable condition. 1 crore 23 lakh tonne of sugar is consumed by the country every year.

According to the figures of production about 3 crore 10 lakh tonne sugar has been produced in the country during the last two years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your question? I am intervening again.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Sir, the maximum consumption of sugar in the country would be 2 crore 50 lakh tonne. It means that we have 60 lakh tonne surplus sugar. I would like to say that efforts should be made to export atleast 30 lakh tonnes of sugar and Sugar mills engaged in export should be given concessions. My

suggestion is that excise-duty on export sugar should be reduced and it should be included under levy sugar. Whether the Government propose to double the buffer stock of sugar from 5 lakh to 10 lakh to expedite the due payment of sugarcane growers. Sir, whether the Government propose to increase the limit of stock for the wholesale buyers? Whether the Government propose to issue instructions for Reserve Bank of India and State Banks to increase the loan limit for sugar mills, so that immediate payment could be made to farmers?

Sugarmills of the country have a crushing capacity of only 40 percent. I, therefore request the Government to abolish the licencing system for sugar industry. But the dual system of levy sugar and free sale sugar should continue. Such a system should be created that old and new sugar industries both do not have to obtain licence for increasing their crushing capacity. I would like to give another information in this regard that small units of Khandsari are functioning throughout the country. At present their recovery is 6 percent. This recovery would increase to 9 percent if vacuum pan is allowed and licence system for this industry is abolished. Then there will be only 3 percent national loss. The quality of sugar would improve. This would increase employment opportunities in rural areas and save energy as they would produce Khandsari goods for their use through boilers. Farmers would get a competitive market and would not be compelled to take their produce to mills. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : We are not getting what the hon. Member is trying to say.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Sir, big farmers would also be able to set up those units. But small scale *(Interruptions)* Only that Member will speak who has given notice for Calling Attention Motion. I would like to give a suggestion for production of these units. Whether the Government would keep those crushing units free from the dual sugar policy and policy of levy sugar which crush 5 thousands quintal sugarcane daily? The levy sugar should be lifted only from those industries which have a crushing capacity of more than 5 thousand Quintals per day and whether Government will continue to extend those facilities to the sugar industry to start new mills which are available to this industry at present?

The sugarcane can change the fate of this country and the farmers of this country. The bagasse received after the crushing of sugarcane is used for making paper and large quantity of power alcohol can be produced from molasses obtained during sugar production. In Brazil power alcohol is being used for vehicles instead of petrol. As on date 80 lakhs vehicles in the world are running by power alcohol. In our country, one lakh liter power alcohol can be produced every year from the molasses produced from the sugarcane. Last week discussion was going on in the House about the prices

of petrol. This will help in saving foreign exchange and the country can become self-sufficient in the field of energy.

Indian Institute of Petroleum, Dehradun has been conducting experiments on the use of alcohol since 1980. This research laboratory of India has completed 42 lakh kilometer journey with alcohol mixed fuel engine. It has been found that with the use of alcohol the capacity of the engine increases and the discharge of smoke also reduces. I would like to suggest that there should not be any restriction on sugar mills to produce paper and alcohol. I would also like to mention that the Government of India should suggest the sugar mills of the country that to overcome the problem of energy high power boilers should be installed so that power could be generated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude within one minute.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government of India that after installation of Pressure Boilers every sugar mill can produce 10 times more than their requirement. For accelerating the pace of industrialisation in the country, I would like to suggest that Sugar Mills which intend to set up any number of industries in their complex or in collaboration with other mills for which they are capable of providing power generated by themselves, should be given concessions so as to encourage sugar Mills to install High pressure Boilers in their complexes.

Now I would again like to request the Government of India to ensure that the sugarcane arrears are paid to the farmers without any further delay and provide compensation to the farmers whose sugarcane crop could not be harvested and who had to burn their sugarcane crop. An inquiry should be conducted about the corruption rampant in the Department of sugarcane. Uttar Pradesh and the persons found guilty should be punished. Corruption is rampant not only in the officers at the lower level but also U.P. Sugarcane Commissioner is also involved. Penalty should be imposed on those sugar mills which have deliberately closed their sugar mills in connivance with the Department of Sugarcane without achieving their crushing targets on the fake ground of break down in the mills.

License system should be abolished for sugar industry. If the Government is hesitant to do so then at least small scale industries having a crushing capacity of 5 thousand Quintal should be allowed to adopt Vacuum Pan Boiling so that 3 percent National loss and economic exploitation of the farmers could be stopped in the future.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the condition of sugarcane in Poorvanchal and want to comment just for one minute on the statement given by the hon'ble

Minister in the House just now. He has said that as on 1st July, 1996 101 sugar mills were functioning but during this period last year only 39 sugar mills were functioning. This is not a good signal. If by July, only 101 mills were functioning then it is clear that the system was not working smoothly and as you have said that you are enable to manage the sugar mills.

Secondly, it has been mentioned that the payment of Rs. 5831 crore has been made, after which there is a liability of Rs. 1383 crore, but I want to say that in Poorvanchal very less payment has been made. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister the reasons for less payment. I would like to draw your attention especially towards the sugar mills located in Deoria constituency viz-Chhittani, Khadda, Laxmiganj, Baitalpur, Deoria, Bhatni, Gauri Bazar, Padrauna, Katkoia, Kaptanganj, Savarhi, Ramkala and Partapur. Why the percentage of payment is so low in these mills?

I would like to draw your attention specially towards a sugar mill in Gauri Bazar in which no payment has been made for the last 24 months. At this time their outstanding amount without interest is Rs. two crore and fifty six lakhs. We were anticipating that the Minister of Textiles would be here because the mismanagement is related mostly to the Ministry of Textiles. This Gauri Bazar mill is the mill of British India Corporation. I have already told the secretariat that the Minister of Textiles should be present in the House but he is not here. This mill is under the control of the Ministry of Textiles and in this mill no payment has been made for the last 24 months. This mill was closed during the last season. I want to know by when payment would be made. You must know that the entire economy of Gauri Bazar is based on crushing and sale the sugarcane. If the farmer does not get its payment for 24 months then he manages his household by mortgaging his slip for which he has to pay 25 percent interest. Therefore there is a need to pay attention towards the payment of arrears to the farmers by this mill.

My third question is when this mill is closed for so many days then what measures have been taken? This is applicable to all the mills operating under the control of the Ministry of Textiles which are incurring losses. No repairs has been undertaken and no money has been spent. I would like to know the policy evolved in this regard?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, Please conclude

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I would like to ask by when payment to farmers by this mill and the other 14 mills, which I have mentioned would be made. From the next year this mill is going to be closed then what will happen to the distribution of its sugarcane? The system has completely paralysed.

(Interruptions) We have not taken time more than half an hour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You ask your question.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : The system has been paralysed completely. Production of sugarcane has increased 100 times but for the last 50 years no new mill has been established. This mill has become outdated and its crushing capacity has reduced to one tenth. You are saying that till July, 101 mills were operating. This is the major criticism. I would like to ask whether you would try to set up some more mills in this area during the next two years? Its management has been paralysed. Therefore action should be taken in collaboration with the Department of sugarcane. This is not the case of only Poorvanchal but all those sitting here are adversely effected by the sugarcane management in U.P. This is the only area in which no new sugar mill has been started. Farmers are increasing their production. This will result in economic development of that area. Government system especially the Government of U.P. has been paralysed. Therefore, please reply soon and moreover solve the problem immediately.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is very serious matter. Hon'ble minister has himself admitted that the sugarcane farmers could not get their 21 percent dues. But he could not explain as to why they could not get this 21 percent dues. It is a huge amount. I think that due to not getting the proper price for paddy and wheat the farmers have diverted towards producing sugarcane. This, you have explained correctly. But you have not explained as to why their 21 percent dues are not given to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from hon'ble Minister through you that Hon'ble Prime Minister has considered it a serious issue and announced that dues amounting to Rs. 500 crore of U.P. sugarcane farmers shall be given to them. But hon'ble Members has not mentioned anything about other states. I would like to ask especially about Punjab that what is the amount of dues of Dasisha and Patra sugarmills in Punjab and the amount of money given to sugar mills last year out of the Sugar Development Fund created by the Government, from which Rs. 14 per quintal is received. The incentive given by the Government to grow sugarcane was Rs. 77.50 crore in 1993-94 and Rs. 50.026 crore in 1994-95 and at present the total amount in this fund is only Rs. 1012.6 crore. If the Government intend to solve this issue, I think the amount from this deposited in this fund can be given to the farmers. Therefore, I would like to ask from the hon'ble Minister as to whether he is ready to do so?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thirdly I would like to ask an important question regarding reduction in the sugarcane of the farmers. 20 percent reduction has been made in the Patra sugar mill of Punjab. There has been 20 percent reduction per 100 Quintals of sugarcane. Whether it will be given back to them? There is no such rule to make reduction in an arbitrary manner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the fourth point is regarding the incentive given by the Government to sugar mills under which many facilities have been given to the mills and the levy sugar has been converted into free sugar but it was followed only by 24 percent sugar mills. I would like to ask as to whether the Government cannot take strict action so that all the mills can follow it. In our Gurdudaspur, Deputy Commissioner has issued instructions to the mill then that mill has done the crushing of all the sugarcane of that area but the other mills have not followed that. Had the Government been serious in giving instructions and implementing them, all the sugarcane of the farmers could have been crushed by the mills. Due to laxity shown by the Government the sugarcane is not being crushed.

Sir, fifthly, I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up plants for manufacturing by-products near the sugar mills. If this is done sugar mills can earn profits. I would like to suggest the Government, through you, to issue more licences in order to open sugar mills particularly in Punjab, Haryana and U.P. If more mills are opened in the area where there is more production of sugarcane, the people of that area will be benefitted.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister, through you, that many sugar mills which were in co-operative sector earlier were sold to the private sector and the sad part of this aspect is this that these mills were sold to such persons, among them there is a member of Parliament. Thus the Government have given such relaxation that they have sold the seeds of the sugarcane to the farmers. They have sold the seeds of the sugarcane to the farmers and those who planted the sugarcane, were not paid their dues they could not get the money from those who were given money. When the farmers launched agitation, they got them beaten with the help of policemen. Thus, this type of corruption is going on there.

Sir, the cost of the Patra mill was estimated Rs. 50 crore and it was sold for Rs. 11 crore and 6 lakh only but only Rs. 3 crore and 5 lakhs have been given so far. The full amount of Rs. 11 crore have not been given so far. This corruption is going on. The same thing is in the case of Dasuha. Thus, four mills have so far been sold in Punjab. Other mills are also being sold in the same manner. Earlier these mills were declared as sick mills.

Sir, when I was a minister in the co-operative Department in the Cabinet of Surjit Singh Barnala, these mills were made viable and each mill earned a profit of Rs. three crore of that time. We had distributed Rs. one crore, as a dividend to the people and made expansion of these mills which incurred Rs. two crores each mill. What are the reasons that today these mills are running in losses. I would like to urge upon the Government, through you, that if the hon'ble minister really wants to help the farmers then he must distribute the money among the farmers from the sugarcane Development

Fund and the amount of dues for Rs. three crore of Patra mill may be recovered. At the same time dues may be recovered from those also who have paid the amount deducting 20 per cent.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a request.
... (Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No other person is allowed. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Minister will reply.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : I would like to inform about the statement made by the hon'ble Minister. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow those whose names are not in the list.

(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : If you permit me then I shall speak. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow those whose names are not in the list.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane that was burnt in Hoshangabad that is in the zone of sugar factory while the hon'ble Minister has mentioned that it is not in the zone. I only want to inform this much.
... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well, the hon'ble Minister shall reply.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : If you permit me, I shall take hardly 10 seconds' time. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can not allow those whose names are not in the list. (Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : The information given by the hon'ble Minister is not correct. It is a false information. Therefore, I was urging that the sugarcane being burnt in Hoshangabad is in the zone of sugar factory and the rest of the half is under district Verli. But hon'ble Minister has told that it is not in the zone.
... (Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You all are educated people. You have read rules. Those whose names are not included in the list, cannot be allowed.

[English]

Nothing will go on record.

* Not Recorded

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon'ble members. The matter of the major interest of the farmers has been arised by asking a supplementary question whereas it is raised through a Calling Attention Motion. The supplementary question covers main points. I have given my statement on those points like burning of sugarcane by the sugarcane farmers and the situation emerged on the issue of payment of their dues by the sugar factories. There are some important points. The first issue raised by the hon'ble member Shri Amar Pal Singh regarding burning of sugarcane in U.P. I want to clear the position in this regard. I want that the position should be made clear in the House. I want to clear the points raised by the members. The day the sugarcane was burnt in U.P., we sought information through a fax and on 4th July we received the information. This information has come from the State Government. The information is :

[English]

No such incident has been reported to the Government so far. However, the cane commissioner has been asked to give details."

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Care commission itself is involved in this matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You may ask your question later on. I am on my legs and have not completed yet. Whatever answer I shall give will be based on the facts. The answer will not be according to your wish. I shall tell you the truth and the fact...(Interruptions) I have just mentioned the information given to us by the Government of U.P. Just now an hon'ble member has told about the burning of sugarcane in Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am disallowing them ans you are going on replying them.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I shall do what you shall permit me. You are the supreme authority but if the House wants some information then we shall give the information. The Government is fully ready to give reply. I would like to inform the hon'ble member about the burning of sugarcane in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

"Most of the sugarcane was burnt in the secondary growth after the first harvesting and being uneconomical for gur making. It was burnt for making the field ready for the coming Kharif season."

[Translation]

Second growth of sugarcane after the first harvesting was burnt because Kharif crop was to come and there is no sugar mill...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : This was what I was saying that there are two sugarmills there...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. That is why I wanted one minute's time from you...(Interruptions) Sugarcane Development Authority had given money and sugarcane was implanted...(Interruptions) They were willing to buy sugarcane but did not purchase...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Shri Tripathi and Amar Pal Singh have expresse their concern regarding the payment of arrears of the sugarcane growers of U.P. The outstanding payment of the sugarcane growers of U.P. is as follows : In the year 1994-95 payment of Rs. 2507 crore was made. This year i.e. in 1995-96 payment of Rs. 2706 crores has been made upto 15th July...(Interruptions). An amount of Rs. 742.42 crores in still due.

During his tour to Lucknow, the hon'ble Prime Minister has given an assurance publically and the Government is implementing it expeditiously. So far as the protection of the interest of the farmers is concerned, we think that the country cannot prosper without the prosperity of villages and farmers. We believe that village, farmer and poor all have become synonyms...(Interruptions) Please listen carefully...(Interruptions) The hon'ble Prime Minister has taken interest in ensuring payment to farmers as a result of which an amount of Rs. 252.24 crores has been paid out of the total outstanding amount of Rs. 900 crores upto 15th July. This report is upto the day before yesterday. Today also payment has been made. The report about the payment made yesterday will be available by tomorrow morning...(Interruptions) The Prime Minister has publically declared that half of the amount i.e. Rs. 450 crores will be paid by the end of this month. But we have just crossed the half. The Government is committed for the protection of the interests of the farmers. (Interruptions) Please listen first. ...(Interruptions) This Government not only speak but also translate their utterances into action...(Interruptions) This has been proved Rs. 252 crores of the outstanding amount of the farmers of sugarcanes of U.P. has been paid...(Interruptions). The same we hear of Bihar. This order is issued for the whole country. In U.P. it has been done expeditiously because public declaration was made there. The order given to R.B.I. is made applicable to the whole country...(Interruptions) If the hon'ble Deputy Speaker gives permission then I am ready to give information about every state (Interruptions) Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra has raised the question of Punjab...(Interruptions)

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Tell me about what was not given for the last 24 months...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The rest half of the outstanding amount shall be paid by the end of this month...(Interruptions)

How long this Government will continue...(Interruptions) Let the Government work. Support the good deeds done by the Government and Co-operate them, we expect only this much from you...(Interruptions) You do not want to listen. Please listen.

Rs. 439 crore was outstanding upto 15.05.1996 in Punjab out of which the total payment made upto 15.05.1996 is Rs. 343 crore. Then do you want to know about Bihar?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Also tell us about Bihar and do not forget to discuss about mills under the Ministry of Textiles...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Rs. 231 crore was outstanding in North Bihar out of which payment of Rs. 128 crores has been made.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Hon'ble Minister, the clearcut question of Shri Tripathi was that when will be the payment of the outstanding amount on the BIC mills under the Ministry of Textiles shall be made. This is an important question...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the full reply, the rest you may ask afterwards.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I am ready to believe what he says. I am not saying that he is wrong but the problem is regarding the payment during this year. But there is a mill whose payment has not been made for the last two year. Find it out and inform this to the hon'ble Minister...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Hon'ble Member, please have patience. The entire country as well as the Government share your concern. First, you listen to every one, one by one.

I was stating that Rs. 231 crore were due for payment in north Bihar out of which farmers received the payment of Rs. 128 crore. There was no amount due for payment in South Bihar as there is no mill...(Interruptions) You wanted information about Haryana...(Interruptions)

In Maharashtra, the position of South Maharashtra, north Maharashtra, Central Maharashtra and total Maharashtra, are different. The figure of all the three parts is given together. The payment of Rs. 635 crore were due in South Maharashtra out of which payment of Rs. 574 crore has been made. In north Maharashtra Rs. 342 were outstanding out of which the payment of Rs. 766 crore were outstanding in Central Maharashtra out of which the payment of Rs. 711 crore has been made. I am laying this information on the Table of the House.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister is not taking up the issue which

has been raised by Tripathi ji time and again. Tripathi ji has raised the question about the source of the funds from where the amount will be sent to the mills owned by the Ministry of Textile. It seems from the statements of Devendra ji that his as well as Shri Laloo Yadav's constituency has been Chhapra. There is a sugar mill in Chhapra and due to closure it is at present under the Ministry of Textiles. Why is he not giving information about that?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am replying while you are continuously speaking. When you were asking question, supplementary questions were being asked. You should listen to their replies. If you do not want to listen then it is alright. Just now, the hon. Member wanted to know about Poorvanchal and Tripathi ji about Gauri Bazar area. I would like to tell them in this regard

I had already stated that I am equipped with all informations. As per the bank limit, Rs. 22.50 crore have been sanctioned for Gauri Bazar and Ramkola. Reserve Bank of India and other Banks have been instructed to take positive initiative for immediate payment. Out of that, payment of Rs. 19 crore has been made while you stated that no payment has been made.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Please check the figures, they are not correct. The payment of Rs. 2.50 crore is due in my area

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Alright, I check it up. I am talking of the payment made upto 29.6.96.

15.53 hrs.

(SHRI CHITTA BASU in the Chair)

You had raised a basic point. There are 101 mills in your area. This time the production of sugarcane was more and the crushing was also more. You had stated that the Sugarcane crop was in the fields and that should be sent to mills immediately for crushing...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI CHITTA BASU) : Sit down, please. I am on my legs. Mr. Minister, sit down, please

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the rule. What is it that you are doing? Just listen to me

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not allowed you

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : That is all right. But the matter relates to the sugarcane users - the textile mills - which is not being replied...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The senior Members should persuade him. This is the Call Attention Motion. There are certain set procedures. I do not like to describe the procedure now. The procedure is that only those Members whose names are there in the list are entitled to put questions by way of seeking clarifications arising

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon'ble members. The matter of the major interest of the farmers has been arised by asking a supplementary question whereas it is raised through a Calling Attention Motion. The supplementary question covers main points. I have given my statement on those points like burning of sugarcane by the sugarcane farmers and the situation emerged on the issue of payment of their dues by the sugar factories. There are some important points. The first issue raised by the hon'ble member Shri Amar Pal Singh regarding burning of sugarcane in U.P. I want to clear the position in this regard. I want that the position should be made clear in the House. I want to clear the points raised by the members. The day the sugarcane was burnt in U.P., we sought information through a fax and on 4th July we received the information. This information has come from the State Government. The information is :

[English]

No such incident has been reported to the Government so far. However, the cane commissioner has been asked to give details."

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Care commission itself is involved in this matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : You may ask your question later on. I am on my legs and have not completed yet. Whatever answer I shall give will be based on the facts. The answer will not be according to your wish. I shall tell you the truth and the fact...(Interruptions) I have just mentioned the information given to us by the Government of U.P. Just now an hon'ble member has told about the burning of sugarcane in Madhya Pradesh...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am disallowing them ans you are going on replying them.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I shall do what you shall permit me. You are the supreme authority but if the House wants some information then we shall give the information. The Government is fully ready to give reply. I would like to inform the hon'ble member about the burning of sugarcane in Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

"Most of the sugarcane was burnt in the secondary growth after the first harvesting and being uneconomical for gur making. It was burnt for making the field ready for the coming Kharif season."

[Translation]

Second growth of sugarcane after the first harvesting was burnt because Kharif crop was to come and there is no sugar mill...(Interruptions)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : This was what I was saying that there are two sugarmills there...(Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very important matter. That is why I wanted one minute's time from you...(Interruptions) Sugarcane Development Authority had given money and sugarcane was implanted...(Interruptions) They were willing to buy sugarcane but did not purchase...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Shri Tripathi and Amar Pal Singh have expresse their concern regarding the payment of arrears of the sugarcane growers of U.P. The outstanding payment of the sugarcane growers of U.P. is as follows : In the year 1994-95 payment of Rs. 2507 crore was made. This year i.e. in 1995-96 payment of Rs. 2706 crores has been made upto 15th July...(Interruptions) An amount of Rs. 742.42 crores in still due.

During his tour to Lucknow, the hon'ble Prime Minister has given an assurance publically and the Government is implementing it expeditiously. So far as the protection of the interest of the farmers is concerned, we think that the country cannot prosper without the prosperity of villages and farmers. We believe that village, farmer and poor all have become synonyms...(Interruptions) Please listen carefully...(Interruptions) The hon'ble Prime Minister has taken interest in ensuring payment to farmers as a result of which an amount of Rs. 252.24 crores has been paid out of the total outstanding amount of Rs. 900 crores upto 15th July. This report is upto the day before yesterday Today also payment has been made. The report about the payment made yesterday will be available by tomorrow morning...(Interruptions)The Prime Minister has publically declared that half of the amount i.e. Rs. 450 crores will be paid by the end of this month. But we have just crossed the ha' The Government is committed for the protection of the interests of the farmers. (Interruptions) Please listen first. (Interruptions) This Government not only speak but also translate their utterances into action...(Interruptions) This has been proved Rs. 252 crores of the outstanding amount of the farmers of sugarcanes of U.P. has been paid...(Interruptions). The same we hear of Bihar. This order is issued for the whole country In U.P. it has been done expeditiously because public declaration was made there. The order given to R.B.I. is made applicable to the whole country...(Interruptions) If the hon'ble Deputy Speaker gives permission then I am ready to give information about every state (Interruptions) Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra has raised the question of Punjab...(Interruptions)

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Tell me about what was not given for the last 24 months...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The rest half of the outstanding amount shall be paid by the end of this month...(Interruptions)

How long this Government will continue...(Interruptions) Let the Government work. Support the good deeds done by the Government and Co-operate them, we expect only this much from you...(Interruptions) You do not want to listen. Please listen.

Rs. 439 crore was outstanding upto 15.05.1996 in Punjab out of which the total payment made upto 15.05.1996 is Rs. 343 crore. Then do you want to know about Bihar?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Also tell us about Bihar and do not forget to discuss about mills under the Ministry of Textiles...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Rs. 231 crore was outstanding in North Bihar out of which payment of Rs. 128 crores has been made.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Hon'ble Minister, the clearcut question of Shri Tripathi was that when will be the payment of the outstanding amount on the BIC mills under the Ministry of Textiles shall be made. This is an important question...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the full reply, the rest you may ask afterwards.

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : I am ready to believe what he says. I am not saying that he is wrong but the problem is regarding the payment during this year. But there is a mill whose payment has not been made for the last two year. Find it out and inform this to the hon'ble Minister...(Interruptions)

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from the statement made by the Minister. Therefore, you are not entitled to put the question because your name is not there.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, I think you can continue to reply to the questions raised, not the other questions which are not related to your statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you give answer only to those points which are there in your statement.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (Meerut) : My question has not been replied to.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Tripathiji was raising issue related to 101 sugar mills. These mills were functioning. The production of sugarcane has been more this time, thereto the crushing work has also been more and subsequently the production was also more. The country this time, has produced 158 lakh tonnes of sugar so far while last year it was 146.43 lakh tonnes. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, you please address to me.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : There fore, 101 sugar mills are still doing crushing work. The issue which Shri Amar Pal Singh was just raising ..*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not reply to them. Please address to me.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I was stating as to why these sugar mills are still doing the crushing work. There was a problem that sugarcane crop was still standing in the fields. Therefore, the sugarmills were given permission to do crushing work till late and guidelines were issued to utilise the sugarcane crop still standing in the fields as soon as possible. As a result of this, 101 sugar mills functioned till July 1 and 4-6 mills are still doing crushing work. Till yesterday, the problem of standing sugarcane crop, was to be solved..*(Interruptions)* Some hon. Members have stated that the payment of sugarcane arrears has been made in only Uttar Pradesh. I would like to inform the hon. Members that the hon. Prime Minister had taken personal interest in Uttar Pradesh publically and the dues to be paid were much in Uttar Pradesh also. Last year Rs. 1300 crore were estimated as dues to be paid to farmers in the whole country. Therefore, Circular, through R.B.I. was issued to all the sugarcane producing

states for speedy payment of arrears. This circular has already been sent. I do not want to mention here the order given by the hon. Prime Minister. The circular was sent to every state where there was arrears. The Government is determined to pay off the arrears due in any state of the country. I hope that the payment of 50 percent arrears in Uttar Pradesh will be made in this month and efforts will be made to make payments in other State Advisory Price and our Statutory Minimum Price and this is the main reason of the delay in payment. Therefore, this Government is determined for the interest of the farmers ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, the reply given by the Government is totally unsatisfactory. He does not know the pains and problems of the sugarcane farmers. There is no mention about providing adequate compensation to them. Therefore, as a protest against this role of the Government, we all the Members of the Opposition boycott the House

15.58 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Ram Naik and some other hon. Members left the House

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House shall now take up the next item on the Agenda, Matters Under Rule 377

Shri Harin Pathak..Not Present

Dr. Ramvilas Vedanti..Not Present

Dr. Krupasindhu Bhoi.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI rose. *(Interruptions)*

16.00 hrs.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H. D. DEVE GOWDA) : I welcome the hon. Members from the Opposition. When this issue was raised I was in a meeting and I got a little late

If you permit me, Sir, I would like to make myself clear about whatever arrears are pending to the sugarcane growers. In so far as the sugarcane growers are concerned, whatever you are interested in, we are also equally interested. So, there is no question of having a battle here.

I may tell this august House that after I took over the office, the first meeting that I had was with the Chief Secretary of UP, with the Cane Commissioner and the Industry Secretary. I called them and I had two days' meeting. Rs. 900 crore is pending for the cane growers and they have been put to a lot of inconvenience. There is nobody to ask about these things; nor is there anybody to tell them. I will tell you very frankly, because there is no elected Government in the State for the last one year. There is President's rule in the State for about one year.

I took a decision here. Not only that, I went to Lucknow and had a meeting there. I would like to inform this House that out of Rs. 900 crore, as a first instalment

Rs. 450 crore would be paid within one month. I have taken the decision...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. If I knew that this issue was going to come I would have brought all the detailed material.

I came to know that some factories are not cooperating to draw money from the banks. I have called the banking sector people also and told them to advance money on the stocks, whatever stock that is piled up in different sugar factories. But unfortunately the method or the system that has been adopted in UP is something different as compared to other States.

I would like to make it clear that in Karnataka - please do not mistake me if I quote this—Rs. 800 crore worth of sugar is lying in factories, stocks having been piled up in sugar factories. There are 28 or 29 sugar factories. But there is no question of such arrears. We tried to clear almost all the amount due to the cane growers. Here and there small arrears of about Rs. 15 lakh or Rs. 20 lakh or Rs. 1 crore may be there. As a Chief Minister I tried my best to clear all the arrears.

This time they have been grown excess cane. So, crushing is a problem. I do agree. In Maharashtra it is there; in Karnataka it is there; in Tamil Nadu it is there; in UP it is there, everywhere the problem is there. That is why we have taken the decision to give clearance to all the people who want to establish sugar factories whether in private sector or in cooperative sector. We do not want to keep even a single paisa pending. I instructed my colleague, who is in charge of the Food and Civil Supplies Department in this regard. We do not want to hold up or delay even one sugar factory being put up. We want to clear all the projects.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Delicense them

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please listen to me. I am grateful to you for the advice given. *(Interruptions)*

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : There are certain problems. Before taking a decision, I must also take care of the interests of the sugar factories established under the cooperative sector. Whether it is Maharashtra or UP indiscriminate establishment of sugar factories without knowing the cane position is going to damage the cooperative sector. That is also one point we want to bear in mind. Before we delicense it, we must examine thoroughly about the implications of the delicensing business. That is why I have not taken a decision. The matter is under the consideration of the Government. But there is one point that I want to make clear. The State Governments also have got certain responsibilities. Do not be under the impression that the entire burden is going to be carried by the Central Government.

In Karnataka, I have taken a decision to go the extent of giving nearly Rs. 42 crore relief to the cane growers. With all my financial constraints, I never hesitated to go to the rescue of the farmers. Though I do not want to tell this, the other States should also adopt this very same procedure that we have adopted.

We have done it and here in Uttar Pradesh even after I made the Finance Secretary and the Banking Secretary agree to cooperate with the sugar factories to release a certain amount of money pledging the stocks, the money goes to the cooperative societies. These are the middlemen there. The money will not go to the cane growers. The system in Uttar Pradesh is somewhat different. This is a new system which I have experienced only now. It is totally different. The money is not going to the cane growers directly from the sugar factories. The cooperative societies are the middlemen. They are going to distribute the money. What is going to be given from the factories after this arrangement is being made? *(Interruptions)* That is what I want to say. *(Interruptions)* They have to pay that. There is the middlemen between the grower and the factory owners, another organisation, and that is the cooperative society. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : But, Sir, these societies belong to the cane growers. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : That is all right. I know that already. Why should that system be there and what is the advantage? I want to know that. I do not want to cast aspersions on the system. I am going to examine this system as to whether it is advantageous from the point of view of the growers or it is not going to help the farmers. This issue is going to be examined thoroughly by the Government and if it is not going to help the farmers we want to avoid the middlemen. Directly, the cane grower should get the price for what he is going to supply to the factory. I have asked the Chief Secretary to examine that because I cannot directly take any decision. It is only through the Chief Secretary and the Governor that I have to handle this issue till elections are held. After the elections, if you come to power, we will see what you are going to do and if we come to power, you will see what we are going to do.

In the meanwhile, this Government is not blind. This Government is not sleeping. I would like to tell you very frankly that so far as the farmers are concerned, I am going to do what best I can. I want to clear Rs. 450 crore in a month. That is the instruction I have given. They have already made the payment up to Rs. 240 crore or Rs. 250 crore and for the balance of nearly Rs. 200 crore payment is going to be made. *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : After some time, please. After he finishes, I will allow you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, you have allowed the Prime Minister on a Calling Attention Motion. Now, this is a question of matters to be raised under rule 377. My name is on top of the list. *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : He has got the right to intervene in the House at any point of time.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : But he has intervened on a Calling Attention Motion. *(Interruptions)*

MR CHAIRMAN : I have called Dr. Bhoi.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, my name is on top of the list.

MR. CHAIRMAN : His name is on top. He is occupying the floor. You cannot.

(Interruptions)

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : After that, would you please allow me to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get the chance according to the rules. Now, please sit down.

16.10 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) **Need to effectively implement National Malaria Eradication Programme in Orissa**

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : The recurrence of Malaria in different districts of Orissa has caused a great concern to everybody in the State. The disease has spread to the tribal districts in a menacing speed.

The Malaria was under control in the State for some years when the National Malaria Eradication Programme (NMEP) was implemented. Subsequently, it was found that the NMEP is not being implemented efficiently and there were all kinds of negligence in the implementation of the programme. Now, people of every district are suffering from Malaria and death toll is increasing every year in Koraput, Rayagada, Malkangiri, Nawarangpur, Gajapati, Phulabani and Keonjhar districts. Cerebral Malaria is taking a heavy toll in the tribal districts.

Unless Central Government intervene in the matter and take drastic steps to control Malaria, the people of the State will continue to suffer. As such, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to control Malaria in Orissa.

(ii) **Need to Strengthen Panchayati Raj Institutions in Andaman and Nicobar Islands**

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Andaman and Nicobar Islands is one of the most remote, isolated Union Territory in the midst of Bay of Bengal directly administered by the Union Government. At present the Administration is run under Article 240 of the Constitution by appointing one Administrator who is designated as Lt. Governor. In the past there was a Pradesh Council. Though recommendatory, it functioned on the pattern more or less like an Assembly and five Councillors working as Ministers to aid and advise the Lt. Governor in the matter of administration of A and N Islands.

Unfortunately, when the new Panchayati Raj institutions were created under the Panchayati Raj

Municipal Regulations, 1994 in line with the 73rd and 74th Amendments of the Constitution, the Regulations of Pradesh Council has been repealed. The elections of Gram Panchayats, Panchayat Samitis, Zilla Parishads and Municipal Councils were held and elected persons have taken over the responsibility under the Regulations. For these institutions, not a single rupee has been provided as financial assistance for the year 1996-97. The Finance Corporation which was appointed long back for this Financial recommendation has so far made no recommendation. It was expected that an interim report will be given by them but nothing has been done. It is also astonishing that the same Finance Corporation is operating from Delhi and not in the Islands. It appears that the Government is not interested to strengthen the Panchayati Raj Institution to carry out its duties and responsibilities as per the Regulation.

I, therefore, wish to draw the attention of Government of India to issue immediate directions to the A and N Administration to take immediate necessary action for providing all assistance to the Panchayati Raj Institutions in A and N Islands.

(iii) **Need to supply of Gas from Tapti Fields for Power Generation at Pipavav in Gujarat**

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Gujarat is making rapid progress in industrialisation. The pace of development in social sector is also substantial. Progress requires energy as a prerequisite. Unfortunately, Gujarat has limited local fuel resources. The Union Government has made commitments about earmarking of gas from Tapti Fields for power generation at Pipavav in Gujarat. Delay in allocating Gas for power stations in Gujarat will push the State which has been pioneer in the use of gas into a deep power crisis.

I would, therefore, request the Central Government to do justice to the legitimate demand of Gujarat by honouring expeditiously the commitment already made.

(iv) **Need to provide financial assistance to Government of Bihar for early completion of Uttar Pradesh Koel Irrigation Project.**

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH (Aurangabad) : Three districts of Bihar i.e. Aurangabad, Palamu and Gaya will be benefited by the Uttar Koel Project in the State. In the absence of irrigation facilities, all the three districts have become terrorist affected areas. All major works on this project have been executed. Construction of main canal and the dam has been undertaken—Due to delay in the rehabilitation of the displaced persons, the work relating to construction of gate is held up. }

The Central Government is, therefore, requested that additional financial assistance may be provided to the Government of Bihar to complete the Uttar Koel