

portions in the country. Jobs are not easily available to the educated youths despite the Government's assurance time and again to take measures to solve the unemployment problems very soon. Graduation is an essential qualification for all posts, barring a few. The statistics reveal that every year there is a constant increase in the number of educated unemployed. But they do not get jobs. Therefore, the Central Government should give sympathetic consideration to the question of increasing the upper age limit for recruitment in Central Government services and make an announcement in this regard very soon so that more employment opportunities could be provided to the educated unemployed persons and they could be saved from going astray.

[English]

(viii) Need to delete Forest pig from the List of Wild Life Protection Act to safeguard the interests of cultivators of Andhra Pradesh

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Forest pigs damage sugar-cane, ground nut, vegetables etc crops in Guntur, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Warangal, Khammam, Nalgonda, Cuddapah, Ananthapur and Kurnool districts in Andhra Pradesh. The loss of crops due to these wild boars runs into several crores of rupees. In Gusajale Co-operative Sugar Factory area several hundreds of acres of sugar cane crop was completely damaged by other wild boars. Farmers are fearing to grow sugar cane, so the factory is not in a position to receive adequate sugar cane, which is a great loss to the Farmers, Share holders and workers. But because wild boars is covered under Wild Life Pro-

tection Act, killing of this animal will become offence. So the villagers are not able to take any action even though they are suffering a lot. There is urgent need on the part of the Government to examine this issue and take necessary steps to bring amendment to Wild Life Protection Act deleting wild boar from the list of wild animals to safeguard the interests of villagers near the forest areas.

12.50 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1991-92

[English]

Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Food and Ministry of Rural Developments.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

Kumari Uma Bharti to continue

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARTI (Kharajaho) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in continuation of what I said yesterday I would like to state that rural development in our country has never been taken seriously, i.e. agriculture, village industries or handicrafts. That means earlier we were a predominantly agricultural country having faith in religion but now after 44 years of independence, efforts are being made to make it an industrial and secular country. I feel that we have miserably failed on both the scores. If I start explaining how we failed in secularism, it will be irrelevant, but I must dwell on how we failed on economic front now that I am speak-

ing-on this subject. After 44 years of independence, we have been caught in a vicious circle. Since our income is low, our savings are also low, the savings are low that is why our investment is low. Since the investment is low, the production is bound to be low, we think that we can come out of this vicious circle with the help of foreign money, but I personally feel that instead of hailing us out of this vicious circle, it will gradually push us towards economic slavery. After India attained Independence, Churchill had hinted at India's weakness saying with anguish that the people of India were not used to freedom because they had undergone subjugation for centuries and therefore very soon they would create for themselves another system of slavery. The type of economic progress we have made during the last 44 years, I feel, has led us to a system of slavery, especially economic slavery. Therefore, if we want to break the vicious circle to which I referred to just now, we shall have to take recourse to indigenous resource and focus our attention on the villages and agriculture.

This is true that it will take a long time to come out of this vicious circle considering the economic set up we have built for us. Therefore, we shall have to do re-thinking on the entire system under which we give step-motherly treatment to agriculture but at the same time gave preferential treatment to industry. As an Aya is employed to look after the child, in the same way agriculture is used to supply raw material to industry. I feel that it is with this view in mind that they are using agriculture to assist industry. If we see the position at present, agriculture has been given the status of a maid where as the industry based on

heavy machinery has been made a darling son and thereby spoiled son. If we look at the figures of 1950 and 1951, we shall find that share of agriculture in our national income was 60 per cent. But now it is just 30 per cent. It makes two things crystal clear. One other sectors did achieve progress in the post-independence period, but agriculture remained stagnant. Two, pressure of population on agriculture has decreased only by 5 per cent. Earlier 74 per cent population depended on agriculture but now 69 per cent depend on agriculture. It proves that agriculture's share in the national income has gone down to just one-half which in turn proves that unemployment and poverty in rural areas has increased. We have not been able to check this trend so far. There is no arrangement to provide avenues of employment in the rural areas with the result that there is mass exodus of people from the villages. They are migrating to cities economic condition of which is already weak and the result is that an explosive situation has been created in the urban areas which, I feel, is the main cause for disturbing the entire set up of the cities. Therefore, there is a need to make in-depth thinking on the agriculture sector so as to bring maximum land under cultivation and most of the cultivable land under irrigation. This will help in reducing the population pressure on land and checking migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. We shall have to provide avenues of employment for them in the villages itself. To achieve these objectives, industries based on handicrafts will have to be encouraged in the villages.

Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, agriculture in our country is not simply an

occupation, it is a way of life. The farmers have an emotional attachment with agriculture. I, myself was born in a farmer's family and my brothers are engaged in agriculture. Ours is a small family of farmers. Cultivation in our area is done by the use of plough and not by tractor. I have seen that before starting ploughing operations in the field, my brothers worship the land and before starting harvesting operations, they worship the crop. Why they do so is because the land for them is not just a source, they have an emotional attachment with land. In a way, it is their way of life. Land to a farmer is what mother is to a son. Many occupations such as animal husbandry are linked with agriculture but what is the state of agriculture and animal husbandry today? Our industries today are based on heavy machinery. Our agriculture too is following suit. In the name of modernisation, our agriculture is being westernised there by making it more and more dependent on mechanisation and chemical fertilizers. In the race for mechanisation, we have forgotten the importance of cow to our farmers. As and when the question of cow comes up, some people think that a communal issue is being raised. Like Ramjanambhoomi issue, this too is treated as a communal issue. These people feel hurt when we talk of abrogating Article 370. Similarly, when we discuss the issue of cow tearing, people link it with religion. The importance of cow in rural areas is not only religious, its importance is manifold. Today, 13 percent people are occupying 57 percent land in villages and these 13 percent only can afford tractors. A small farmer in the village cannot afford tractor and, therefore, he can only depend on bullocks. It is a folly on our part to

dream of a green revolution based on machinery and chemical fertilizers. We are committing this mistake because we are trying to imitate America and Europe. In USA, only 6 percent of people depend on agriculture as compared to 70 percent in India. The farmer in USA lets his fields remain uncultivated for 2-3 years in order to give land enough gap to regain its fertility, but the farmer in Indian cannot afford to do so, because the size of his land holding is very small and he has no other alternative source of livelihood either. He cannot afford to let his land remain uncultivated because if he does so, he will face starvation. Thus, fertility of land is falling. We would not have reached this situation in India, had we given due importance to cow, had we imposed a complete ban on the slaughter of cow and its progeny and the export of beef by not linking it with a particular religion. The hapless small farmer who cannot afford tractor is not in a position to properly cultivate his fields. [13.00 hrs.] He has not reconciled with electricity, fertilizer, and machinery. Small farmer has become marginal farmer, marginal farmer has become landless labourer and the landless labourer has become a bonded labourer. This bonded labourers is today doing the work of digging soil or has migrated to Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Lucknow and Kanpur as a labourer to build high rise buildings for the capitalists. Why we went wrong was that we were not able to understand what facilities were needed to be given to a small farmer or how important cow was to him. Cow yields dung which becomes manure, its off-shoot calf becomes bullock. Cow yields milk which is nutritious and helps make the children of the farmer healthy.

Can a tractor yield the benefits of milk, cow-dung and calf? 70 percent cultivation in the country is done through bullocks. Of the rest 15 percent is done through other draught animals. According to my estimate, only 10-12 percent cultivation is done by tractor. The entire economic set up of the farmer was linked with the rearing of cow and its progeny due to the immense benefits they yield to the farmer. Of late, foreign cow has descended on our soil. It is called V. I. P. cow. We do not feel like calling her mother cow. Indigenous cow looks as mother where as the foreign cow gives an appearance of a madam. These foreign cows are used to taking bath and live under the cool air of a fan. If a peg bruises her body, it refuses to yield milk. Indigenous cow is not so fanciful. Such whims and fancies are seen only among the Ministers belonging to the Congress Party or the officers of the level of I. A. S. or I. P. S. The indigenous cow goes to the pond herself to take a dip and is used to live in the open air. Above all, she knows to cultivate a feeling of love towards her master. Foreign cow is like a foreign woman who are miser in the matter of love (*Interruptions*) ... Religion was not the motivating force behind the agitation which the saints launched on the question of ban on cow slaughter. It was for the good of the farmer. Today, the we have eight crore draught animals in the country and to replace them 67 lakh tractors are needed. As of now we have only 6 lakh tractors. How then can we manage our agriculture? If the Government is sincerely worried about the welfare of the farmers, it should impose a total ban on the cow slaughter and its progeny and on the export of beef.

Association of farmer with the forests is as deep rooted as with the cow. Each and every tree in the forest is a deity to the farmer. This is so because it is the philosophy and culture of this country. We do not discriminate between different objects of nature that exist on earth as also between earth and space whether it is small creatures, vegetation or rivers as we sever them all. In the same way, the farmers have an emotional attachment with forests. But the forest policy pushed by the Britishers broke that relationship and still we are continuing with that policy in the same way as we are continuing with English language. The result of that policy was that a sense of protection which the farmer had towards the forests was no more there. This led to indiscriminate denudation of forests by the contractors. We should learn a lesson from our neighbour China in this regard. In China, unemployed people in rural areas do not rush towards cities as they get means of livelihood in the villages itself. The forest wastelands should be given to those families who do not have any means of livelihood. What happens in our country is that the land records show a particular land on forest, but in reality you will not find even a single tree on that land. I belong to a village. The people say that forest land cannot be cultivated as there are trees over there. But the fact is that more often than not our land record show only that land on forest land on which not a single tree is there. Let the villagers be given the right to grow trees on such lands as has been the case of China. Had we offered opportunities of employment in the villages through a programme of planting saplings and growing trees, grown up children of poor far-

mers, landless labourers, small and marginal farmers would not have migrated to cities. Today, we have 9 crore hectares of land on which afforestation can be done to give employment to 7 crore families of labourers in the villages itself. If rural unemployed and landless labourers are properly engaged in tree plantation, exodus of these people from villages to cities could be checked. Felling of trees in the forests have rendered the land naked. As a result thereof cycle of rains has been affected. The ultimate result is that we have not been able to provide adequate irrigation facilities, although we feel proud of having ushered in green revolution and increasing our food grains production three fold

Mr Deputy Speaker. Sir, what I want to say is that if we are to rejoice our achievements, it is better we go to the forests and do penance. Principle of Vedanta and spiritualism is to do self-introspection and not to be swayed by what is happening around you. If we do that it is all right but if we are to live in this world, if we have not to do penance on the banks of rivers, if we have not to go into the caves for self-realisation, we shall have to compare ourselves with others. We have forgotten the villages and have become complacent that we have increased our production three times, but the fact is that our yield is very low as compared to others. In our neighbouring country China, the area under rice is less as compared to ours, but they produce 16 crore tonnes of rice as compared to our production of 7 crore tonnes of rice. The reason for this low productivity is lack of irrigation facilities. Our yield per hectare of rice is just one third as compared to that of Japan. The reason is again lack

of irrigation. We did not pay attention towards irrigation during the first three Five Year Plans.

This was because agriculture was considered to be a subsidiary sector for supplying raw material to industry and also produce food grains to some extent. People could not understand that India is predominantly an agricultural and secular country. Industrialisation and secularism cannot be forced on this country. India does not have that kind of culture. If you try to impose it, you will not succeed in your effort. The country suffered a setback when there was a famine in 1965. At that time the importance of agriculture was realised and it was too late to know the main cause of the famine. In the last three Five Year Plans, the irrigation targets were low and the achievements were also of the same degree. The famine made us aware of the role of irrigation in agriculture. In the subsequent Plans high targets were set and this resulted in a satisfactory rate of progress. In the Third Plan the targets were low and the rate of achievement was 42%. In the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans the targets were high and the rate of achievement was 90%. This indicates that agriculture was completely ignored in the first three Five Year Plans. This point is further substantiated by a comparison of the first three five year plans with the Fourth and Fifth Five Year Plans.

According to latest figures, the Green Revolution is moving at a low pace. It has yet to gain momentum. This means that the Green Revolution has touched only the irrigated land which is only 40% of the cultivable land. 60% of the cultivable land is unirrigated. No thought was given to

the type of crops that could be grown on the unirrigated cultivable land. The Agricultural Universities in the country produce officers, not farmers. Such institutions should turn out people who are familiar with the latest techniques and can understand that a large part of land in our country is unirrigated. Graduates of agricultural universities should know how to bring about a Green Revolution on 60% cultivable unirrigated land. If at all there is Green Revolution it is on 40% of land area only. 60% of our area is totally dependent on rainfall and if irrigation facilities are not provided to this area, we can never become self-reliant. Crops could be grown if there is rainfall. Size of the land area on which seeds used to be grown has since reduced. Paddy cultivation too has come down. Various types of seeds like 'Sama', 'Kodon', 'Lathara', 'Raali' and 'Kutki' that were grown in the Bundelkhand region have become extinct. Nothing has been done to save such types of seeds from extinction. Such seeds are good for health. The wheat that we eat today does not have any nutritional value. The older varieties of wheat had high nutritional value. The earlier generation of farmers were very strong as they ate a diet having high nutritional values. My father had a strong grip at the age of 90. When I asked him the secret of his strength he told me that he ate 'Lalkatiya' wheat whereas we are eating husk in the name of wheat. So we must take steps to preserve the older varieties of wheat and other foodgrains.

Sir, when the issue of irrigation was taken up I had raised a point. The importance of irrigation must be understood. There are several large projects in which huge funds have

been invested, but there has not been any output from them. Nobody knows when these major projects would be completed. The files related to these projects have been pending for a long time. And those responsible for expediting the work are just drawing their salaries and not doing any work. They are also indulging in corruption. If smaller schemes had been introduced, irrigation facilities could have been provided sooner. In villages, small reservoirs could have been dug and short canals drawn for irrigation purposes. At places these schemes become operative in a period of 5—10 years. We cannot be sure as to when all the pending projects will be completed. In the case of irrigation also, we have tried to ape foreign countries. If other countries have big dams, India should also have them. Those countries could produce foodgrain in large quantities because apart from having big dams the number of people dependent on agriculture in those countries is relatively fewer. The situation in our country is not like that. Therefore, more attention to smaller and short term schemes would have produced better results. If we can change the existing set-up even to a minimal extent, we can get good results within a decade.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, our Kisan leader, Shri Dattopant Thengari made some suggestions and according to him if those suggestions had been implemented at least for six years, our country would have stood to gain. A sea-change can be brought about in the country's agricultural sector. Whenever there has been record production with the help of irrigation facilities and chemical fertilizer, the country has resorted to import of

foodgrain. We have imported through PL-480 and in such large quantities that farmers were not able to get remunerative prices for their produce. What was the need to import foodgrain at that time? In this way the Government betrayed the Farmers. Was it necessary to import the highly subsidised poor quality wheat at a time when the country's farmers were producing the maximum? Why were the farmers treated in this manner?

Sir, the I. M. F. had put pressure on the Government to cut down subsidies. Similar pressure was put by U. S. A. on European countries during the G. A. T. T. talks but they resisted it. The U. S. A. gives subsidy on production and export. The European countries also do the same. Perhaps our Government thought that we have become richer than the Americans and Europeans. Our farmers oversee their farms from helicopters. So we don't need subsidies. There was strong opposition to it all over the country and even quarters within the ruling party were opposed to it. As a result of that the Government had to compromise. I would like to know as to how to make a distinction between small farmers and big farmers. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is himself an agriculturist. From his dress and his lifestyle it appears that he has no similarity with small farmers. In any case he ought to know that even a person who has one hundred acres of land can declare himself a small farmer with a some manipulation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the land reform laws were implemented and the matter of redistribution of land came up, surprisingly the families in Bundelkhand area, who had 100 acres of land, declared themselves

landless. So their kins got land whereas those who were actually landless could not get anything. Will this type of bungling continue? That is why USA and other European countries are giving subsidy. I cannot understand as to when we became so rich that we do not need subsidy. Perhaps beggars cannot be choosers. When we have a begging bowl in our hands we will have to accept their conditionalities and we will be at their mercy. It will be a matter of shame for us and we would be forced to cut down subsidies. The Government cannot control the capitalists because the latter has a lot of influence over the so-called public representatives. No such step can be taken against the capitalists and on the other hand how many public representatives are there who really represent the farmers. Till the Third Plan, irrigation facilities and agriculture in general remained neglected. The reason for this was that efforts were made to formulate the national policies by people who were influenced by Western philosophy. How many people in the Central and State Governments really represent the farming community and what role do they play in formulating various policies? This is an important matter to think over.

Sir, I agree that Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru was full of enthusiasm about the development of the country. But the law of the country where he studied and was brought up, was not successful when applied in this country. We have different national problems and a different set of laws. Therefore, we have to think as to how the benefits can reach the rural masses and small farmers because benefits meant for small farmers are

always taken by the big farmers. In this regard I would like to say that there was a big co-operative movement in respect of commercial crops which proved to be a success. This movement should also benefit the small farmers who grow foodgrains, cotton etc. From the Ministry's Report of 1990-91 it appears that the small farmers have been ignored while making financial provisions for the agricultural sector. Tell me, is the Government contemplating anything about co-operatives, pulses-oilseeds and foodgrains and the measures by which farmers may be benefited and a revolution brought about in those fields. Nothings has been clarified. I want a reply from the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the reasons behind the decline in production of cotton mentioned in the report published by them. After ascertaining the reasons, is there any proposal to make arrangements in this direction? I would like to know the possibility of cotton being used in the handloom sector and the effect such a step would have in checking migration of industry from that place. It will also check migration of people from villages to cities. Something similar must be done for the benefit of sugarcane growers also. The farmers become happy for a moment when they see their heap of produce but later they realise that they have to pay the dues of banks and moneylenders. If a movement on the lines of the co-operative movement in respect of commercial crops, is launched in case of foodgrains also then it would be of tremendous help to farmers. If you want to make them happy, arrangements will have to be made for providing remunerative prices to them. For providing remunerative

prices, one C. A. C. T. was constituted in 1965. Thereafter, an expert committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Hanumantha Rao was constituted in 1990. Then a standing committee under the chairmanship of Shri Sharad Joshi was constituted and then another high-powered committee headed by Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh was constituted. Several such committees were formed and I think the present Government will also constitute another committee.

Sir, the main hurdle is that the recommendations of Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee, Sharad Joshi Committee, C. A. C. T. and Dr. Hanumantha Rao committee contradict each other. Let us ignore the recommendations of these committees and ensure that the farmers get remunerative prices and value for their crops paid by the consumers. Till now only 50% of the crop value reached the farmers and the rest is pocketed by middlemen. Will the support price for crops be determined by market price and the cost of production. I would like to say that the cost price of a Bajaj scooter is Rs. 6000 to Rs. 6500 but its sale price in the market is Rs. 14000-Rs. 15000. Why is it so? Why such concessions are not given to farmers also? Why are such concessions given to capitalists and industrialists only? On what basis will the support price be fixed? The support price should be fixed with a view to ensuring that the farmer receives 70% of the amount paid by the consumer. The F. C. I. has been set up to minimise the role of middlemen but the F. C. I. is itself playing the role of a middleman. F. C. I. is supposed to ensure that the farmer receives a substantial part of the amount paid by the consumers. The very purpose for

which the F. C. I. was set up has been defeated. F. C. I.'s holding charges have reached 85% which means that F. C. I. itself has become the biggest profiteer. Pt. Nehru used to say that if he were to come across any profiteer he would hang him on a lamp-post. I would like to ask the present Government, which professes to follow Pt. Nehru's philosophy, whether it will take similar stern action against all profiteers and particularly against the F. C. I. which has turned out to be the biggest offender in this respect. If the F. C. I. increases its margin, private traders too will increase their margin with the result that the farmer for whom the entire system has been woven stand to lose. He is deprived of all the benefits of this system.

Therefore, we want that maximum profit should go to the farmer who produces foodgrains. But it should not be like Punjab where the big landlord have wiped out the small farmers. When we think over the problem of Punjab we find that the rural youth is the worst affected. The wave of extremism in Punjab has converted the small farmer into a marginal farmer and the marginal farmer into a landless labourer. When the landless labourer youth did not get any employment, he was swaged by the wave of extremism. I feel that the extremism in Punjab grew only because forced by the circumstances, the rural youth joined the ranks of extremists and the situation become worse from bad. Since he was unemployed, it was but natural for him to get agitated and the result was the problem became more and more complex with the passage of time.

Therefore if you want to give the farmers a remunerative price you will

have to do away with the FCI first. At the same time, storage facilities in the villages will have to be provided. Revolution has taken place in the field of cooperatives so far as commercial crops are concerned. The same kind of revolution will have to be brought about in the case of foodgrains as well. Only then the small farmer can sustain.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we have been caught in a vicious cycle. The vicious cycle is—low income—low saving, low saving—low investment, low investment—low production, low production—low income, low income—low saving and so on. There seems to be no way out. Therefore, if farmers are given remunerative prices their income will increase and so will their purchasing power. Increase in purchasing power will be turn increase their income; increase in income will result in increase in production and, therefore, increase in income and saving. Increase in saving will further result in increase in investment and, therefore, increase in production. Thus he would be able to come out of the vicious economic cycle to which I referred to a short while ago. Therefore it is essential to give farmers a remunerative price for their produce. As long as this is not done, the farmer will have no deciding power unlike other commercial crops. In the case of other crops, commercial crops in particular, the farmers have the deciding power and this is why they are happy. I do not say that they do not have any difficulties before them. The hon. Members present here will highlight their difficulties too. So far as I am concerned, I am conversant with the difficulties of small farmers, especially those who produce foodgrains. That is why I am

highlighting their problems. Moreover, their number in the country is the highest and they are the ones who do not get irrigation facilities. Take for instance the case of Haryana and Punjab. 60 lakh hectares of land in these states has been brought under assured irrigation and the result is that they are in a position to feed the entire country today. 12 crore hectares of land in the country can be brought under irrigation. In all we have 17 crore hectares of cultivatable land of which three crore hectares of land is under double cropping. Out of 17 crore hectares, 12 hectares of land is such which can be brought under irrigation. If we could harness our rain water, which otherwise go waste, and use it for irrigating the dry land, the land of this country can produce rich harvest. We did not pay attention to it. Our irrigation capacity is 8 crore hectares. Out of it, one crore hectare is such where we do have the capacity but water channels have not been constructed. I have myself seen in the village that proper water channels are not there. Therefore, only 7 crore hectares of land is in fact, under irrigation. The Government take pride in claiming that they have ushered in green revolution. Just tell them that in 1950-51, 5 crore hectares was under irrigation, which means that we have been able to add only 3 crore hectares under irrigation, which means that we have been able to add only 3 crore hectares to it during the last 44 years. In the matter of irrigation, we stabbed the farmer in the back and as such, he was deprived of its benefit. Then an attempt was made to stab the small farmer in the back in the matter of subsidy, but somehow he escaped this bid. Now that an opportunity has come to give him remunerative prices,

We are not adopting the system which is beneficial to farmers. I have gone through the Annual Report of the Department of Cooperation for the year 1990-91 and I do not think Government propose to do something beneficial for the foodgrains producing farmers so far as cooperation is concerned. I do not know whether any assistance would be extended to them or any encouragement in the field of cooperation would be given to them or not?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when a child is born weak, it is the duty of the mother to give that child nutritious food, sufficient quantity of milk and timely medicine. If small or an ordinary farmer is economically weak as compared to the farmer engaged in the cultivation of commercial crops, it is the duty of the Government to come to the aid of the farmer in order to uplift him. It would be better if the Government takes some steps in this direction very early. Otherwise, we are going to reach a situation for which Iqbal had recited an Urdu couplet. I do not know the situation for which he said it—

“Watan ki fiqr kar nadan musibat
aane wali hai. Teri baradion ke
mashbire hein aasmanonme”

If that happened, let me tell my countrymen—

“Tumhari dastan tak na hogi aas-
manon mein”

It will be very difficult to redeem the situation if we do not make amends right now. In the absence of avenues of employment in the rural areas, so massive would be the invasion on the cities by the people from the villages that it will become difficult to tackle the situation. Population pressure on

land is not easing to the extent desirable. The farmer is being subjected to gross injustice. I feel astomished to see that the economic condition of paddy grower continues to be weak but the rice mill owner enjoys the luxury of A. C. 1000 Maruti Car. Grower of pulses is in the same weak economic condition, but the pulse mill owner travels in luxury imported car. The same is true of oilseed grower and oil mill owner. They enjoy holidays in Shimla, Kashmir, Nainital, Himachal and numerous other tourist resorts at the cost of farmers. For how long will this injustice continued. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not indulging in empty talking, but I must warn that if industries are allowed to flourish at the cost of agriculture and farmer continues to be in a miserable condition, he is bound to rise in revolt. I want to submit that we must sense what is in store for us in this last decade of 20th century.

"Pandit tu to bola tha, pashan badal jayega, Mulla tu bhi bola tha Rehman badal jayega, Ab bhi avsar hai samajh lo nahin to, tumhare Ishwar ko bhookha insaan niga jayega "

This will be the position. If this happens in villages, the consequences would be horrible. (Interruptions) You are pointing finger at us but just look at your self, many fingers are pointing at you too. (Interruptions) You look into the mirror and see your face. You are trying to teach us. Who is responsible for the deteriorating situation in Kashmir and Punjab? Who made the Ramjanam Bhoomi Bahri Masjid issue complicated? If you make introspection you would feel ashamed of yourself. Don't ask us to look into the mirror.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): I would like to say that you might have seen your face in the mirror but we have seen here that is very beautiful. (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I did not know that the hon. Members came here to look at others' faces. The House has nothing to do with the looking at the faces. One should have some grey matter. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: Please make us understand once again the difference between brain and beauty.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Beauty is for display, but brain is to ask others to have a look into themselves. Therefore, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we might not have good faces but we have brain to ask others to look into themselves. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: The people want our faces in the treasury benches and your faces in the opposition.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: But for how long? Do not be proud. Try to keep balance. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: For the last 44 years Congress has been in the treasury benches and you have been in the opposition. (Interruptions)

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to ask that when the foodgrain production has increased, our targets for 1990-91 were high and the procurement was also good then why did the prices of foodgrains shot up? What is the reason behind it? May be I am not able to comprehend. But I fail to understand this paradoxical situation.

On the one hand there has been remarkable foodgrain production and the foodgrain procurement has also been notable but even then the prices shot up? Is there a possibility that blackmarketeering has acquired new dimension which we might not be able to see? Either I am not able to comprehend this paradoxical situation or the hon. Agriculture Minister should clarify the position while replying to the Debate. Otherwise foodgrain production will also increase and so would the prices. Why is there an imbalance between the two? At least this much should be made clear.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would come to the point which I was making earlier. If we say that the pressure of manpower on agriculture has reduced let us stop people from migrating to cities. If somebody has become an officer and wants to go let him go but the rest of the people should be given assistance under TRYSEM for setting up rural industries in villages itself. An ordinary person in a village might be as well knowing the loopholes in the TRYSEM and others schemes as I am. Same is true about IRDP. The officers make these schemes in their offices but when the Programme officer or BDO visits a village he simply asks the village women whether they can start poultry farming? Without asking them about their interests or the areas of activity in which they can contribute they simply thrust these things on them. What happens is that when an officer visits a village he asks the middleman. These middlemen are there in every village. Most of them belong to the Ruling party as the Ruling Party provides them everything. They are like leech sticking to every village and extracting every drop of

blood from the farmers. They do not have any work except this. They have once again become active and whenever a BDO or SDO visits a village, they invite him and when the officer asks how many people are to be given assistance under IRDP they give them a lot of voters who have voted for the Ruling Party. The BDO acts according to the advice of the middleman and sanctions funds indiscriminately and indulges in favouritism. Some get Rs. two thousand, others get Rs. 5,000 for rearing goats. Still others get funds for poultry farming or for rearing buffaloes or fisheries. (*Interruptions*). Why are you getting uneasy? Please listen to me. Why are you getting irritated? I think I have hit the nail on its head. I am a woman and I know the reality. Why are you upset? The way they are jumping in their seats, it seems I have hit at the right spot. My point is that these schemes should be reviewed and more scientific approach should be adopted. The IRDP should be reviewed by non-Government people and ways should be found out how it could more effectively benefit the rural poor.

I am reminded of an incident in a village near Pune. Some social workers went to that village from Pune and decided to serve the people there. They asked the villagers what do they want them to do. The villagers said they had everything, road, wells, Hospital electricity and water etc. The social workers went round the village and found there were no toilets in the village. They constructed toilets and left. After a year they came again and asked the villagers whether everything was O.K. and whether they wanted repairs of toilet etc. When they reached that place they saw goats in

those toilets. When they asked the villagers why they had done so the villagers replied that they had enough space to ease themselves but they had no space which was well protected for keeping their goats. I mean to say that we should not decide on behalf of the people of the villages. Let them decide and fix their priorities.

The way SDO's squander the funds of IRDP in the name of providing benefit to the rural people, it should be reviewed by non-professionals. I know the targets are also high and they have lots of funds. The innocent people do not know how much has been swindled away from them. I don't think there is as much corruption in any other area as there is in IRDP. The rural poor think that the funds are being sanctioned by the Government and therefore, they have to part with some share for the Government machinery but in fact they do not know that they are being deprived of their own money. Therefore, a comprehensive review needs to be made to find out what is wrong with the scheme and why it has not been successful. Had this scheme of IRDP been successful the problem of unemployment in rural areas would have been solved to a great extent. But this has not happened. The migration to cities has not stopped. This means there had been lack of scientific outlook and logic behind the developmental schemes and other schemes which were formulated to remove unemployment from the villages. Therefore, efforts must be made to make more land cultivable, bring more cultivable land under irrigation and formulate employment oriented schemes in villages.

When the Mughals came to this country, they first imposed taxes on

agriculture because they wanted to have a big army and the requirements of the army could have been met only by levying taxes on farmers. Then came the Britishers. They extracted money from industries and a time came when there were no industries left in the villages. Had we followed the path shown to us by Mahatma Gandhi, things would not have worsened to such an extent. Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya had also said that the country would progress only when villages progress and the farmers progress. This would begin when we provide employment to the unemployed rural youth first. To provide employment to the people in villages there are many areas like handicrafts etc. I would like to cite an example. I visited a place Vishanpur in district Gumla in Bihar. There three boys of that place passed IIT after completing engineering course and Ph.D. They all became voluntary workers and after marriage they consulted their wives and settled in a village. They wanted to set an example that how the development of village can be done without depending upon cities and how to absorb unemployed village folk in villages itself in gainful employment. They worked on the scheme and now their unit is functioning in 500 villages. If this example is followed by the Central Government, then employment in villages itself can be generated for unemployed and it will help in checking the present state of affairs. For this a strong will power is required and overall changes in the present set up is necessary. I would like to make a submission that whenever any Engineering colleges or Agricultural Universities are opened a polytechnic of each of them should be set up in the villages so that the village people

could be informed about the new techniques of agriculture and about the best ways of more agricultural production. These should evolve new and suitable techniques. Despite of producing white collared technocrats these institutions should produce knowledgeable farmers so that they may not go on following traditional methods or agriculture and do not depend mainly on rains for cultivation. They should use bio-fertilisers and should grow those crops which are beneficial to them.

Before concluding I would like to make a few suggestions. Instead of use of chemical fertilisers use of biofertilisers need to be promoted for the welfare of farmers. Using of imported chemical fertilisers will decrease the fertility of land and worsen the condition of farmers who are totally dependent on agriculture. I am not indulging in soothsaying. Earlier elders used to plant fruit bearing trees not for themselves but for the coming generations. For long the high number of dependency on agriculture cannot continue without maintaining the fertility of land. Therefore efforts need to be made for increasing application of bio-fertilisers instead of chemical fertilisers.

Secondly, Agricultural Universities need to pay greater attention towards traditional means of cultivation. Today, it is felt that farmers in the country lack agricultural acumen in comparison to the farmers of Europe and America. The Government believes farmer's thinking is unscientific and illogical. It is believed that thinking and technique of farmers evolved over the time is unscientific and irrational. But their approach is more logical than the modern

technology of cultivation. Therefore Agricultural Universities need to pay greater attention towards promotion and development of traditional means of cultivation.

Thirdly, big dams are not of much utility. In their place, canals constructed at a cost of 50,000 to one lakh or two lakh are of much help to villagers. In my constituency implementation of small irrigation projects have proved to be a better experiment. Dams built at a cost of Rs. 2,00,000 are of much help, atleast to the farmers residing in the reservoir area, who dig up wells and get more water in their wells and construct small canals for irrigating the fields. Small irrigation projects are definitely better than the large irrigation schemes.

Fourthly, domestic varieties of seeds need to be fully developed. These are nutritious and later on they will have to be ultimately developed. The root of several diseases spreading in the country especially in villages and decline in general health of villagers is due to the production and cultivation of imported varieties of seeds and their consumption. Production of domestic varieties of crops need to be encouraged, especially of wheat, which is consumed by one and all in villages, except those grains which are produced only for market.

Fifthly, through cooperative movement storage facilities at Panchayat level for storing foodgrains needs to be built up for developing proper storage facilities.

Sixthly, farmers need to be appointed on Agricultural Price Commission, which determines agricultural support prices of foodgrains. Today, some persons living in air conditioned

houses and travelling in air conditioned cars and wearing Safari suits call themselves farmers. They put their influence in determining the agricultural support prices. Who actually are capitalists and not the farmers and they do not have the practical experience of cultivation. The real farmers are those who even can not speak correct Hindi and have simple lifestyle—and are quite close to the nature. Therefore these real farmer should have proper representation on Agricultural Prices Commission. They should be consulted before fixing the support price of agricultural products.

Seventhly, the country has made record progress in the field of foodgrains production. But in comparison to Japan and China our progress seems to be dismal and in the production of oilseeds and pulses no appreciable change is noticeable. Attention and encouragement towards improving production of oilseeds and pulses is most desirable. Insurance facilities need to be introduced in every state. During the election campaign I have seen the whole crop of foodgrains in a village getting reduced to ashes, because of the collusion of overhead electricity transmission lines. This caused a great hardship to the children of small farmers owing land between two to four acres. They were all poor and among them was a sizeable number of harijans. When I accompanied officials to the village and requested them to pay compensation, then Rs. 100 per acre only was paid as compensation. Farmers owing more than 5 acres of land were not paid compensation. industrialists are given all types of concessions in the event of industries becoming sick, but to the farmers

Rs. 100 per acre is paid as compensation in the event of destruction of crop even when they are not at fault. The people granting such a meagre amount of compensations should feel ashamed. I think the gravity of the situation will be realised in future. I demand introduction of insurance schemes in villages. The sufferings would not have been much had their crops were insured. I myself arranged supplies of foodgrains for them from cities. Children of these farmers were forced to take up petty jobs for the whole year. If crop insurance is extended to all the states then the affected farmers will definitely get some compensation in the event of loss of crops. Though, that too they will get after repeated visits to the Government offices. Therefore I request extension of crop insurance to all the states for safeguarding the interests of farmers, otherwise farmers in general and small farmers in particular will suffer a lot.

My last suggestion is about reviewing of land reform laws. These were implemented, but not quite effectively. That's why the people who were entitled to be benefitted were deprived of that benefit. People say review of land reforms will be very much opposed. I demand that the excess land should be taken from the people who have grabbed it. Land reforms were not done in a proper manner. The big landlords who were holding more than 400-500 acres of land and had affiliation with ruling party, played a great mischief. A number of irregularities took place in this matter.

AN HON. MEMBER : She is referring to Madhya Pradesh.

KUMARI UMA BHARTI: Our party has come to power in Madhya Pradesh very recently and land reform laws have not been introduced there. The big farmers gave land to small farmers for cultivation and what happened thereafter? Their thumb impressions were taken on blank papers on the pretext that they have taken loans of Rs. Two thousand from them and they have mortgaged their land with them against the loans. Copies of mortgage deeds were not even given to the farmers. We continue to say that lands have been transferred to the harijans and tribals but actually it is not so. It is still with those landlords. If the whole system is not streamlined then the children of these farmers will be forced to launch bloody movements. They can do anything under duress.

Naxalite agitations are the results of these injustices. It is true that naxalite agitations are wrong, blood should not be shed. But the people who do injustice which in turn gives rise to bloodshed are not punished. Naxalites are either gunned down or killed in encounters. But what will happen to those who have committed atrocities. The persons who do injustice are only responsible for the bloodshed that takes place. Therefore it has become essential to review the Land Reform Acts.

I would like to submit that old link between forests and villages should be reestablished. As I have already submitted that due to this type of afforestation the farmers have lost hold on their lands. The condition of the farmers has deteriorated to the extent that those who enjoyed the status of at

least small farmers were slowly reduced to marginal farmers and then to landless labourers. Migration from rural areas to urban areas can be checked by afforestation. For this, we will certainly have to modify our forest policy so that a link is established between the forests and the farmers. My submission is that cow slaughter should be stopped and agriculture should be related to cow-tending and forests, then only the farmers would prosper. This way the cycle will start the farmer would get fair price as a result of which he would earn enough; his purchasing power would increase he would be able to save, invest and thus again produce more—in this manner the cycle will continue to more. However preference will have to be given to rural areas in this regard. I would urge upon the hon. Minister and other representatives of the Government that the country has to be saved from destruction and the policy of the Government is to be blamed for bringing the country on the verge of destruction. I would like to submit that Ram Janma Bhoomi and Kashmir problem may be solved but if the present economic set up is not changed and steps are not taken to uplift the rural areas, if unemployment and the number of labourers go on increasing in rural areas; if bonded labour goes on rising and their migration to urban areas continue; if the number of slums and the footpath dwellers continue to increase, the situation would become beyond control. Therefore, agriculture and rural policy will have to be modified so that rural areas in the country may develop.

With these words I conclude and I thank those Members who interrupted me.

[English]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR
RAWAT (Agra) : I beg to move :

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

[Failure to fix the procure-
ment price of agricultural
produce commensurate with
the cost of production.](1)

"That the Demand under the Head
other services of department of
Agriculture & Cooperation be
reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to provide special
financial assistance to U P
Government to encourage
agriculture in the drought-
prone areas of Uttar Pradesh]
(7)

"That the Demand under the Head
Department of Animal Husbandry
and Dairying be reduced to Re
1."

[Failure to prevent cow
slaughter and killings of other
healthy milch animals](10)

"That the Demand under the Head
Department of Animal Husbandry
and Dairying be reduced to Re
1."

[Failure to extend the white
Revolution to Uttar Pradesh
by giving special incentives
for dairy development in
the State](11)

"That the Demand under the Head
other services of department of
Agriculture & Cooperation be
reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to provide special grant
to Government of Uttar
Pradesh for agricultural deve-

lopment in all the villages of
Agra district.](65)

SHRI MOHAN RAWAL (Bom-
bay-South Central) : I beg to move :

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

[Need to take effective steps
for control of pests.](40)

"That the Demand under the Head
other services of department of
Agriculture and cooperation be
reduced by Rs. 100"

[Need to establish agro-Indu-
stries in Maharashtra for cat-
tlefeed and agricultural im-
plements](41)

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

[Need to develop fishing and
fisheries in coastal areas
of Tamil Nadu Kerala
West Bengal and Maha-
rashtra](42)

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

[Need to increase per hectare
productivity of foodgrains
by providing adequate re-
search and financial assi-
stance](43)

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

[Need to provide more finan-
cial assistance for animal
husbandry.](44)

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

[Need to have a comprehensive review of 'Intensive agriculture district programme'.](45)

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

[Need to encourage mechanised Co-operative farming.](46)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North): I beg to move :

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

[Need to provide timely help to the onion growers in Maharashtra by purchasing their produce.](47)

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

[Need to evaluate the performance of Oilseed Production Programme after the amalgamation of National Oilseeds Development Project and Oilseeds Production Thrust Project.](48)

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

[Need to distribute National Dairy Development Board's edible oil in adequate quantity of reasonable rate.](49)

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

[Shifting the office of the Fishery Survey of India from Bombay to Visakhapatnam.](50)

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

[Need to review the policy of insistance on Anand Pattern by the National Dairy Development Board while considering aid to dairy projects in Maharashtra.](53)

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

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

[Need to help pepper grower by fixing profitable prices.](71)

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

[Need to propagate coconut oil as harmless edible oil.](72)

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

[Need to encourage dairy farming by giving proper education to the farmers.](73)

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

[Need to establish Krishi Vigyan Kendra in every taluka.](74)

"That the Demand under the Head other services of department of Agriculture & Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to organise farmers for encouraging cooperative farming.](75)

"That the Demand under the Head other services of department of Agriculture & Cooperation be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to provide all the facilities to agriculturists through Cooperative Societies.](76)

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

[Need to propagate oil palm cultivation in Kerala alongwith coconut cultivation.](77)

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

[Need to conduct research to save the coconut crops from Mahati pest.](78)

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

[Need to conduct research on Cashewnut crop to prevent flowers from drying up.](79)

"That the Demand under the Head Department of Agriculture Re-

search and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to conduct research on dryland farming of arecanut crop.](80)

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

[Need to find out the remedy to the deadly disease killing pepper vine in Kerala.](81)

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

[Need to establish Central Agricultural University at Kasargod expanding Central Plantation Crop Research of India complex.](82)

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

[Need to develop oil palm plantation on even land.](83)

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

[Need to review the functioning of National Dairy Development Board.](84)

DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY
(Mandsaur) : I beg to move

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

[Need to bring various pesticides a under the purview of the Essential Commodities Control Order.](144)

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

[Need to make seed available to farmers on time through National Seeds Corporation.](145)

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

[Failure of the Ministry of Agriculture to remove anomalies among various regions in the cooperative sector of the country.](146)

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

[Need to effectively implement Crop Insurance Scheme throughout the country.](147)

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

[Need to provide adequate grants to Madhya Pradesh for promotion of Soyabean cultivation which is a leading state in the field of Soyabean production.](148)

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

[Need to establish an Agricultural Research Centre in Ratlam district in Madhya Pradesh.](149)

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

[Need to provide adequate assistance by Central Government to set up Agricultural Universities in agriculturally dominated State like Madhya Pradesh.](150)

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

[Need to provide adequate grants for animal husbandry for backward areas of Madhya Pradesh.](151)

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

[Need to put a ban on cow slaughter throughout India.](152)

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

[Need to provide adequate financial assistance to open new dairies in Madhya Pradesh.](153)

SHRI ANIL BASI : (Arambagh) I beg to move

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

[Need to provide Agricultural inputs to the small and marginal farmers in time.](199)

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

[Need to supply good quality seeds to farmers at fair price in time.](200)

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

[Need to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for agricultural produce.](201)

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

[Need to provide adequate research facility for plant protection.](203)

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

[Need to provide adequate research facility for seed development.](204)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : I beg to move

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

[Need to check the rise in prices of sugar.](8)

SHRI RAM NAIK : I beg to move :

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

[Inability of Food Corporation of India to properly stock

foodgrains resulting in colossal losses.](19)

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

[Inability of National Cooperative Development Corporation to reimburse the amounts invested by the Government of Maharashtra in the share capital of sugar cooperative factories.](20)

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

[Need to clear all proposals of Cooperative Sugar Factories pending with Union Government.](21)

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

[Need to check the rising prices of sugar.](22)

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

[Need to include transport and harvesting costs while fixing levy on sugar.](23)

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

[Need to grant adequate funds to the National Cooperative Development Corporation and to meet the shortages from the sugar Development Fund.](24)

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY :** I beg to move :

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

[Need to establish more
sugar mills in Madhya
Pradesh.](34)

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

[Need to provide timely cen-
tral assistance to the sugar
factories in cooperative sector
in Madhya Pradesh.](35)

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

[Need to ensure proper
functioning of food Nutrition
Boards so as to make them
profit earning units.](36)

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

[Need to modernise Jaora and
Dalonda Sugar Mills in
Madhya Pradesh to avoid
further losses.](37)

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

[Need to provide assistance to
sugar mills of Madhya
Pradesh for the Development
of sugarcane.](38)

SHRI MOHAN RAWAI : I beg
to move :

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

[Need to have a comprehen-
sive and effective land re-
forms policy for consolidation
of holdings.](19)

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

[Need to provide drinking
water and sewage and drain-
age facilities in rural
areas.](20)

**DR. LAXMINARAYAN PAN-
DEY :** I beg to move :

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

[Need to provide adequate
financial assistance for Dis-
trict Rural Development Pro-
grammes.](50)

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

[Need to provide adequate
funds for self-employment to
rural youth.](51)

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

[Need to check misuse of
funds under Jawahar Roz-
gar Yojana.](52)

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

[Need to check the misuse of
funds provided by UNICEF
for child care facilities.](53)

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

[Need to effectively implement Integrated Rural Development Programme.]
(54)

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants for Agriculture and Food & Rural Development. Out of the total available land in the country, 70 per cent of our land is not irrigated. It is mainly dependent on rain. It is rainfed. If the normal rain is there then in the rainfed land, there is a normal crop. If there is an erratic rain or no rain then the farmer suffers a heavy loss. So, the irrigated land produces more than three to four times of the crop that is produced in the rainfed land. That is why the Government propose to reduce the disparity of the production in rainfed and irrigated land by constructing water sheds. World Bank has given a lot of money for construction of water sheds for upgradation of land, generation of natural employment and to give better crop to the cultivators. During the Eighth Plan the Government propose to implement water shed programmes in 2594 blocks at the cost of Rs. 1140 crores. The main object of this water shed is to prevent depletion of forests to develop pasture land to construct irrigation projects horticulture and so on. But, I would like to point out that shifting cultivation practice is there in our country and the tribals cut large number of trees in large number of areas and they burn it with the intention to grow crops there only for a temporary period. Their intention is if they burn the trees, they can avoid the labour of removing the trees and it gives fertiliser to the land. But, after two to three years, they leave the land

and go away to another plot to cut again some trees and burn it again. When I approached the forests officials to sell the timber, they said that it was not available for sale because the case is lying in the court and it could be sold, but it has to be exhibited in the court. A number of years pass like that. But, there is no action against the people. If they are convicted also they are sent to jail because they cannot afford to pay the fine. If they are convicted, they are sent to jail for 7 days, 10 days or 15 days. But, conviction is not the cure. It cannot stop the tribals from cutting forests. So, my suggestion is that the tribals who are interested in cutting forests, they should be rehabilitated in a proper site and given bullocks, seeds, fertilisers and other things so that they will not go to the forests to cut the trees and burn it again. Through a question of mine, No. 1647 dated 5th August, 1991, I had asked whether the Government has given any money to prevent shifting cultivation. The Government had said that the Agriculture Ministry has released funds to the tune of Rs. 13.2 crores, 15 crores and 15.4 crores in the years 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively. My State Orissa got Rs. 2.49 crores in the year 1988-89, 1.7 crore during 1989-90 and Rs. one crore during 1990-91. But, Sir, I fail to understand how the money is spent. I enquired from the Forest Officer, the Revenue Officer and the Collector to know how this money is spent, how the tribals are benefited but I did not see a single person who has been rehabilitated out of this money. Therefore, I would draw the attention of the Ministry to this and urge them to release more money and, at the same time, see that the tribals are

rehabilitated in their proper places and are not allowed to cut the trees.

Then, I come to the price fixation. Support price is fixed and given to the farmers just before the sowing season, simply to encourage them to invest more in agriculture and also to supply agricultural produce to the consumers at reasonable rates. On the recommendation of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices, the Government fixes the price of foodgrains. Now, what are the factors that are taken into account? The factors are: the cost of production, trends in market prices, demand and supply, effect on cost of living, industrial cost factor, changes in terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors and so on. The Hanumantha Rao Committee has reported:

- (1) Valuation of labour at the rate of minimum wage or actual wage, whichever is higher;
- (2) Managerial output at the rate of ten per cent; and
- (3) Adjustment of procurement prices if the investment is higher.

We cannot increase the support price of the foodgrains as and when we like because we have to see that the consumers get foodgrains at a reasonable rate. But from the Report we have seen that at present our country produces seven quintals of paddy per acre on an average. As I have said earlier, the rain-fed land produces only three to four quintals and the irrigated land produces about ten to twelve quintals. So, on the whole, when I calculate the actual labour and other inputs for one acre of land, it comes to Rs. 1,700 and

the average production of paddy is about seven quintals per acre. The latest figure available for my State, Orissa, is four quintals per acre. If the average production is four quintals per acre, it comes to Rs. 1,600.

Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) is another subject on which I want to speak. IRDP was started during the year 1981-82. The Government wanted to give subsidy to the tribals at the rate of fifty per cent of the project. The total subsidy they wanted to give them was Rs. 5,000 for tribals and Rs. 3,000 for general people. For small farmers and marginals it is 25 per cent and 33.1 per cent respectively. But due to lapse of time and the price rise, now the cost of project has gone up.

14.00 hrs.

The income for deciding the poverty line was Rs. 3,600/- in 1981-82 and now the Government has put it at Rs. 6,400/-. It is almost double. The subsidy and project also costs more. The Government should increase the subsidy proportionate to the price rise and the ceiling of subsidy should be raised from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- and from Rs. 3,000/- to be paid to the small and marginal farmers to Rs. 6,000/-.

I will make one more point and conclude. It is regarding the rural roads. It is a programme taken up by the Government under the Minimum Needs programme during the year 1981-82 and even earlier. During the Seventh Five Year Plan they wanted to cover 100 per cent of the villages having a population of 1,000 and more in tribal areas and 50 per cent of the villages having population of 500 — 1,000 in that area, all these villages to be linked with roads.

(RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*)

14.02 hrs.

Now in this year and during the last year also we have released money under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana instead of RLEGP and NREP. This JRY money is spent in the country to employ the people who are unemployed in the villages and to give them the much needed livelihood and construct some durable assets in their Panchayat areas.

But they are only constructing some projects within their own Panchayat areas and the long roads which were needed to be connected from one block to another and from one Panchayat to another have not been taken up. The funds are exhausted for their own Panchayats and, therefore, they are not taking interest to construct the longer roads to connect distant places. The Government of India gives special assistance to those places under Special Problem areas, which are affected by dacoits etc. Orissa is also affected by naxalites and Bihar is also affected by naxalities.

I think the Government should consider about these areas and give assistance to these areas on a 50 : 50 basis that is Central Government and State Government sharing the cost equally, as it is done in the Special Problem areas, so that the State Governments can construct the long roads connecting from one block to another or connecting distant destinations.

Lastly, irrigation is the only way to increase production. The small and marginal farmers get Jeevandhara free of cost whereas the middle class farmers do not get any subsidy for it. As there are no big farmers nowadays,

after the application of ceiling laws. I suggest that middle class farmers also have to be given some special assistance to construct irrigation projects like tube wells, dug wells etc.

With this I conclude my speech. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIV SHARAN SINHA (Vaishali) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion regarding agriculture. Agriculture is linked with the farmers and they depend on each other. Farmer cultivates, and agriculture is not possible without farmer. When we refer to farmers I am reminded of a great patriot, a great revolutionary, Sardar Bhagat Singh who had said at the time of his hanging that independence day is not far when the farmers and labourers will rule. Today I pay my tributes to the sacrifice he made. That great revolutionary is remembered even today. There are many categories of farmers — marginal farmers, small farmers, medium farmers and big farmers. But all are cultivators. Agriculture labourers too spend their whole life in fields. They are landless labourers. About 80 per cent of the farmers do not have their own land. Only 10-20 per cent big farmers are land holders. Land of these landlords will have to be acquired to be given to the landless labourers for the development of agriculture. It will have to be distributed in a legal manner so that they are not rendered unemployed and do their agriculture in a proper manner. Farmers require a lot of inputs and equipments in agriculture. The cost of the required inputs the equipments have gone very high. Fertilisers, seeds, pesticides and means of irrigation have become too costly.

Rural farmers generally cultivate their land with the help of oxen. Perhaps no attention has been paid to the fact that the price of oxen being sold is too high. It has led to the ox scarcity. Because slaughter house owners pay high prices to get the oxen and this leads to the scarcity of good oxen. Farmers are suffering loss due to this.

I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention to it so that agriculture does not suffer due to this. The issue of fertilizers has been discussed extensively and I would not like to repeat the same. However, my opinion is that the Government should provide free fertilizers and loans without interest to the small and marginal farmers just they have provided the facility of free boring for irrigation to the landless farmers. It would be in the interest of the country and also the production to provide as much facilities to the farmers as we can.

Irrigation is very essential, agriculture cannot take place without it. Irrigation is of two types. The most popular and beneficial irrigation in rural areas takes place through boring. The price of pipe meant for boring has jumped to Rs. 30-40 from Rs. 10-20 per foot. It is beyond the reach of the farmers. Therefore the Government should pay attention to it and make arrangements to provide the boring facility at cheaper rate. Not only this, farmers are being exploited so far as the matter of purchasing diesel, electric motor pumps etc. is concerned. They have to pay a high price for these things. He works very hard, the agriculture expenditure has risen high. The foodgrains produced for our own consumption and also the products manufactured in factories are equally essential for life.

There is a lot of difference in the prices of these two items. Some correlation should be brought about in it so that the disparity in the prices of industrial and agricultural products can be removed otherwise the farmers will continue to be exploited and they will never become economically sound. As such the Government will have to give a serious thought while deciding the agriculture price policy. Feudal attitude is adopted while deciding the agriculture price policy. Who participates in the process of making policy? The representatives of big farmers participate in it. Eighty per cent farmers are small and medium farmers and they do not have any organisation so they are unable to put forth their views. That is why they do not have any say in it. We should find out a way to associate representatives of these farmers in this process and their suggestions are also taken note of. Only then can justice be done to the farmers. The new agriculture policy has not been formulated till date. It is there in the newspapers that it will be formulated soon. The new industrial policy has been formulated but not the new agricultural policy. Therefore, for the development of agriculture, it is necessary to see as to what kind of policy the Government wants to follow and agricultural policy should come before us as early as possible. The policy should initially be presented to this august House and then the opinion of every farmer should be sought and their suggestions should be invited. Irrigation is the main among the things needed for agriculture. Many people have stressed upon and will continue to stress upon this aspect and I would like to raise certain local issues.

Two major projects for irrigation in North Bihar were launched. One was the Kosi Project and the other Gandak Project. At the instance of Nehruji the work on Gandak Project started in 1960 but it could not be completed till the end of the sixth Five Year Plan. Its aim was to provide irrigation facility to 14.8 lakh hectares of land. Only seven hundred and fifty hectares of land could be brought under irrigation. That work was stopped during the Seventh Plan period on the plea that the remaining work will be completed in the second phase. But the second phase is yet to come. I urge upon the Government to definitely complete the work on Gandak project during the eighth plan so that entire area of Gandak could be brought under irrigation and agriculture production could be increased.

Similarly work on Kosi irrigation project should also be completed. It is irrigation on which agriculture depends mainly. This is why I have referred to it. There is one important point. We all know that in North Bihar 9 lakh hectares of land remains submerged which causes the loss of around 25 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains annually to farmers. It is not an ordinary problem. If this problem of water logging can be overcome foodgrains as much as 25 lakh metric tonnes can be saved and the lot of farmers will improve.

I request the Government to pay attention to this but since it is a major project it will take some time. It can be completed in piecemeal. I am giving a specific example. In the entire Baya command region in Ganj. during Kharif season three lakh ninety thousand acres of land is submerged in water with the result that the crop is

totally destroyed. It is a part of my constituency. Every year during monsoon forty lakh quintals of foodgrains is damaged. Similarly, during Rabi season, at the time of sowing two lakh seven thousand acres of land remains submerged in water and it is very difficult to drain it out. This causes a loss of foodgrains to the extent of 26 lakh quintal annually or in other words loss of 66 lakh quintals of foodgrains is suffered by farmers annually in the entire Baya Command area. As such the Agriculture and Irrigation Department should jointly pay attention to this issue. If it is left on the State Government on the plea that it is a state subject then in simple terms, the state cannot do anything to tide over the situation. Both the Departments of State Government should attend to this issue.

The Government have set up command Development agencies in various places. There are more than seventy command development agencies in the country. In North Bihar, there are two agencies namely—Gandak Area Development Agency and Kosi Area Development Agency. Both the agencies have initially done a commendable job. Attention has been paid by them towards creation of irrigation potential and proper utilization. Keeping in view the drainage system and agriculture production they make the necessary arrangements. Thereafter, they have to arrange for pattern of crop. Besides this, it is also the responsibility of the agencies to impart training to the farmers through the agricultural universities and the experts. But unfortunately, these agencies are not functioning at all. They only work to draw salary and T.A. Since they come under agriculture department, I

request that if you really want the development of command area then you should implement the principles under which the command development agencies were set up. That work should be speeded up. Talented people should be deputed. What is happening at present is that a person who is going to retire after three-four months is appointed as the Chairman of the agency. Being on the verge of retirement, he wants to spend these months with ease and comfort. This process is going on. I request the Government not to neglect command area development agencies because they are doing a very important work.

Mr. Chairman. Sir. regarding the farmers Mahatma Gandhi had said that they are our "Daridra Narayan", i.e. Gods of poor. Lal Bahadur Shastri had equal respect for the farmers and soldiers and gave the slogan "Jai Jawan. Jai Kisan" The farmers who were referred to as "Daridra Narayan" he Gandhiji were called "Jai Kisan" by Lal Bahadur Shastri. They are in a deplorable condition at present. The farmer himself is getting poor and his condition is deteriorating. Nehruji had said that we can wait for every other work but we cannot wait for development of agriculture. Work on Gandak scheme which was started by Nehruji was suspended at the second or third phase. Whosoever. Government was in power it worked against the Nehruji's dreams and principles. Indiraji had also highly commended the role of the farmers. Rajivji had also said that the farmers are the backbone of the country but today they are economically moving from bad to worse and Government's wrong policies are responsible for

their present plight. Nobody is prepared to mitigate their sufferings. Since the farmers do not have any organization, no one listens to their voice. If the farmers are united or organised, Government in power will definitely have to give ears to their voice and agriculture will develop.

To conclude, I would like to say a few words, about the development of villages. An excellent scheme by the name of Jawahar Rojgar Yojana was started. The aims and objectives behind it were marvellous. But what is happening today. Jawahar Rojgar Yojna has become a 'Loot Yojana' why it has happened? The Village 'Pramukhs' have been holding these posts for the last 15-20 years and they are running bogus committees. It would have been much better if these schemes were prepared after obtaining opinion of the people by holding a general meeting of the Gram Panchayats. But in fact, they have been holding bogus meetings of the 5-7 persons for finalising schemes. Generally schemes are prepared arbitrarily and these are not implemented and if at all, implemented, no one is there to exercise control over it. Mukhiya of Panchayat, Sewak, B.D.O. and Overseer divide the loot among themselves. The Mukhiyas, who had not even a bicycle, are maintaining ambassador cars today. The public are very sceptical today about these schemes, although these are very good schemes. Then, should we drop these schemes? No, these should be implemented but not in the form of the loot-scheme. Some kind of improvements must be made. I tell you how it should be done. The collector either himself or his representative should attend the general meeting and issue a certificate. In that

meeting the M.L.A. or his representative and the M.P. or his representative should also be present. That meeting cannot be bogus when all of them are present there. There should be effective control over the expenditures made on such schemes and their implementation. The Government should think about the methods of control, this too is not a big thing. Some officer or people's Representative may be deputed alongwith the collector, B.D.O., M.L.A. and M.P. to supervise these schemes. Crores of rupees are being wasted without any monitoring of these schemes. So, improvements are required in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your suggestions are really praise-worthy. Now please wind up Thakur Sahab.

SHRI SHIV SHARAN SINHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I speak very rarely. I would like to say one thing more, about Gandhiji's dream, decentralisation of power. He said that all the powers have been centralised in Delhi. He was of the view that only the head of a tree must be in Delhi and the roots must remain in villages but it is just the reverse here. As a result the tree has dried up ultimately. Any way ours is a democratic system but it is not the same everywhere. So some improvements are being made in this regard. 'Gram Panchayats' were constituted for this purpose only. Now, through the Gram-Panchayats we want to establish a true democratic system in the country. But the progress is very slow. We have to accelerate it. This is the responsibility of the Central Government. It should see to it that these Panchayats are constituted properly and they work honestly. The elections for the Panchayats

have not been held for the last 20-25 years in the States and the Central Government has remained a mute spectator only. This is the ultimate responsibility of the Central Government to watch each and every happening and to remove any kind of hurdle in the way of development so that a democratic set-up may function smoothly. Therefore, I request the Central Government to make necessary changes, wherever necessary, in order to constitute Panchayats in a proper manner, this is their responsibility to see that these institutions function regularly.

Lastly, I would like to say that the development in agriculture is the development of the country. This is right that more attention was paid to industries during the First and Second Five Year Plans. But after some time it was realised that we will have to make progress in the field of agriculture first. Then it gained momentum but at the same time industries lagged a bit behind. Then it was decided that both agriculture and industry must go together. I hope that our country can develop in the true sense now as agriculture and industry are progressing together. According to Gandhiji the condition of the lowest man of the society is the barometer of a country's progress. The basis of evaluating our country's development should be the progress made by the poor or the weaker sections of our society. I hope that the Central Government as well as this House will evaluate the country's progress through this angle only.

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHARI (Hissar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir. I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry

of Agriculture. I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister for putting the Ministry of Agriculture in charge of a senior leader, who is well aware of the problems of the farmers. And now we have become hopeful that this Government would be able to find some ways to resolve the problems of the farmers.

We greatly rever Lord Rama as he has given us life and so are the farmers who provide us foodgrains. No one can survive without grain. Even a great Yogi, who consumes fruits only, is dependent on the fruit of labour of the farmers. They plant the trees, which provide fresh air to a saint and to all of us. So I consider the farmers as younger brother of Lord Rama. One of their main problems is of getting seeds of good quality in time. In this country the area of irrigated land is very less. Most of the land is dry and barren. Government should encourage research in dry land farming, seed development. Proper attention should be paid to the distribution of seeds in time. Today we find the farmers shifting to crops due to lack of irrigation facilities, the pressure of population growth is also mounting. It is my personal experience. In 1947 when our country got independence, my grand father owned one hundred and fifty acres of land but now, my sons and nephews do not have even an acre of land. As I have already submitted, attention has to be paid to multiplication of seeds and research in the field. The farmers who have only small units of land are taking interest in growing sun-flower but they do not get seeds easily. So their interests may be looked after.

Irrigation-facility is essential for increasing the yield. It is the result of

adequate irrigation facility in Punjab that it is ahead in agricultural production. Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh have been able to provide foodgrains for the whole population of the country as proper irrigation facilities are available in the State. Irrigation projects like Satluj-Yamuna link-canal should be completed at the earliest and it requires a strong political will. Then the farmers of Haryana alone can produce extra grains worth Rs. 100 crores. The Government should think seriously about this.

I would like to say that there are disputes between riparian states and other states which do not have rivers. The Central Government should constitute a high level committee to solve all these problems. There should be optimum utilisation of water, which almost go waste, so that the production may be increased. Government should make such arrangements.

The sprinkler and drip irrigation system may be introduced in the uneven and rocky areas of Rajasthan and Southern part of Haryana. The Central Government should give special grants to the State Governments which may provide sprinkler sets to the farmers at subsidised rates. The farmers should be imparted training in this system. I would like to request the government to make arrangements for supply of fertilizers besides providing irrigation facilities to them. These are quite necessary for more production. The land in which fertilizer has been used once, would not produce desired crops unless the dose of fertilizer is repeated. The decision of the Government to withdraw subsidy on fertilizer is against the interest of not only the farmer but also the nation as a whole.

Leave aside big industries, the Government gives as much subsidy as Rs. 20 lakh even to small industries. Even two generations of a small farmer cannot have income equal to the subsidy which a small industry gets from the Government. This discrimination must be removed and agriculture should be given the status of an industry. My submission to the Government is that facilities being given to industries should also be extended to agriculture.

This apart, when it comes to marketing, we see that the price of the product manufactured or produced in the industry is determined by the manufacturer himself. But when a farmer goes to the market to sell his products, he does not know as to what price it is going to fetch. Many times, he has to wait for days together in the Mandis for disposing of his produce under trying conditions. This is the fate of the farmer who produces his crops by his sweet and hard labour. Therefore, through you, I would request that in order to mitigate the problems of the farmers relating to marketing, storage facility should be provided in the village itself whether it is through the F.C.I., any other agency or marketing committees. The industrialist has got the facility of hypothecation of his goods with the bank to get advance money. The same facility should be made available to the farmer as well, so that he could hypothecate his produce to the bank to get money and may sell it when he gets remunerative price. I would request the Government to take some definite steps in this direction.

Besides, the farmers engaged in cultivation of grapes are also facing

difficulties. I have myself seen in Hisar district that the crop of grapes ripens and the farmer goes to the Mandis for selling, but no buyer comes forward to purchase it at any price, with the result that they have to sell it at the distress price. Through you, I would request the Government to set up a juice industry or an agro-based industry either in the public sector or otherwise so as to augment the income of the farmers.

The Ministry of Agriculture has taken up the work of setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras. I would like to mention that the Ministry has made provision for setting up of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the 16 districts of Haryana. Of these, the work has been completed only in three districts so far. The funds have not been allocated for the remaining 13 districts. I would request that the Central Government should provide funds for setting up Krishi Vigyan Kendras in these districts also so that farmers could be given training therein. These Kendras can also impart training to farmers in the use of machinery and implements. I hope the government would take steps in this direction.

As regards insecticides and pesticides, I would say that there is no control over their prices as a result of which the farmers are forced to pay a higher price. Incidence of crop diseases has risen. The paddy crop, in particular, has been severely hit by a number of diseases this season due to scanty rains, therefore, there is an urgent need to pay attention in this direction. At the same time, arrangement should be made to ensure that genuine insecticides are made available to the farmers at a reasonable

price. They should also be made conversant with the techniques of using the insecticides so that the accidents which take place during the course of their use could be checked.

The Government have extended the benefits of insurance for all kinds of articles, but the farmer whose crop totally depends on the vagaries of weather is not fortunate enough to get such benefits of insurance. I want that Government must pay attention in this direction also. For the purpose of crop insurance, the village should be treated as a unit, because it has been seen that even in the village when a natural calamity like hailstorm hits the crop, not the entire crop of the village is equally affected. Whereas the crop in one part of the village suffers total damage the other part remains unaffected. That is why I demand that instead of block or tehsil being made a unit, a village should be made a unit for the purpose of crop insurance.

There is a need to make basic changes in the method of fixing the support price of farmer's produce. The Government fixes dearness allowance on the basis of price index. The farmer too needs all essential commodities. While the prices of these commodities have gone up steeply, the purchasing power of the farmer is going down. All these things should be taken into consideration while fixing the support price of farmer's produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the position today is that even a well off farmer cannot afford a car, whereas the owner of a very small industry maintains one or two cars. If at all a farmer has a car, it must have been bought from some source other than agricultural income. He can maintain

a car only if one of his family member is engaged in some gainful employment or is running a small industry besides agriculture. The condition of the farmer today is very pitiable. He is not in a position to send his children to good schools for education. In this regard, my suggestion is that the children of farmers should be given the benefit of reservation in the matter of admission in institutions associated with agriculture, such as Agriculture Universities which produce agriculture graduates or veterinary colleges which impart education in animal husbandry or T.I.T. (Textile Institutes).

Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views. I am fully confident that under the leadership and guidance of Shri Balram Jakhar, the problems of the farmers would certainly be solved. With these words, I thank you very much.

[English]

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

I oppose these Demands for Grants because the basic objective of the Agricultural Policy and strategy pursued by this Government as well as the previous Government of the present ruling party is to protect and safeguard the interests of a few zamindars, landlords along with a few monopolists and multinationals. It is not meant for the small and marginal farmers, sharecroppers and agriculturists who constitute the vast majority of our farming community. The only goal of our agricultural

planning is to increase production somehow or the other. As a result, production has increased constantly since Independence. But have our rural poor, farmers, agricultural workers and rural artisans been benefited anywhere by this enhanced production? Has there been any change in their living condition? Has there been any change in their social and economic status?

Sir agricultural production has increased but at the same time poverty and hunger of our farmers have also increased tremendously. Their miseries and sufferings have increased. The process of chosing land by the marginal farmers has been continuing on the one hand but on the other hand, concentration of land and other rural assets in the hands of a few is also going on. Sir, our farmers are being advised for the last two decades to grow more and accordingly, they have grown more. But what have they got in return? They have got deprivation and more deprivation. Foodgrains production has doubled. In 1991 it is even more than doubled compared to the quantum of foodgrains produced in the year 1965, when the so called Green Revolution was first introduced in the country. Two and a half decades have in the meantime, passed away and the Green Revolution programme has been implemented with utmost importance throughout the country. But the per capita availability of foodgrains per day has declined. It is much less now, than what it was in 1965. The per capita availability of cereals and in particular, of pulses has been declining over the years. In the Seventh Plan Midterm Appraisal Report, presented by the then Govern-

ment in this august House, it was stated that the bottom 30 per cent of the rural households owned only 4 per cent of the rural assets, excluding land, while the top 30 per cent owned 78 per cent. My question is this. Has there been any change in the distribution of rural assets since the presentation of the Midterm Appraisal Report? There has been a change, no doubt. But it is not for the good. On the contrary, the change is worse for the poorer sections of our rural population. So, one is at liberty to draw the conclusion that the more our farmers produce, the less they will get for their own consumption. This is the only philosophy working behind the agricultural planning of the Government.

Agricultural production has increased but productivity per unit has declined. This is a matter of serious concern. The Economic Survey 1990-91 admits that the slower growth in foodgrains output is mainly attributable to the deceleration in the growth of yield per hectare from 5.8 per cent per annum in the Sixth Plan to 3.4 per cent per annum in the Seventh Plan.

So we find that in all spheres of agricultural production be it cereals or be it pulses or be it non-foodgrain crops, there has been either a lower growth rate or a negative growth in productivity during the Seventh Five Year Plan. When this is the situation the Government is trying to increase production by bringing more and more land under cultivation, by bringing more and more land under high-yielding varieties programme and by bringing more and more land under assured irrigation, I would like to make it clear here that I am not

opposed to the idea of bringing in more and more land under cultivation or under high yielding varieties programme or under assured irrigation. I would rather emphasise that such endeavours must and should be made more vigorously to maximise our production. But at the same time, what I want to say is that this cannot continue as an everlasting and never-ending process. The land that has already been brought under cultivation in our country is of much higher percentage of the total geographical area than that of any other major country in the world.

To cope with the gradual increase in our population, our foodgrains production must be increased. But what is more essentially required is a higher growth in productivity. But why is our productivity not increasing? What are the factors that stand in the way of increase in productivity? What is to be done to eliminate the hurdles? These are the questions to which we have to find out the answer. My answer is that high concentration of land in the hands of a few, which is being used as an instrument for total exploitation of the actual tillers of the land is the main stumbling block.

Secondly, the landlessness of a very large number of the working farmers and lack of operational control over the land on the part of the sharecroppers are the factors which adversely influence the growth in productivity.

Thirdly, the existence of feudal production relation in agriculture is itself an important factor which inevitably contributes to the lower growth in productivity.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can I interrupt for a minute ? I have to go for a meeting at 3 O'clock. So, with the consent of the House, I would request Shrimati Basava Rajeswari to come and take the Chair.

14.51 hrs.

(SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI
(in the Chair))

SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : According to the Annual Report 1990-91 of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, the Ministry of Agriculture, the total number of operational holdings in the country is estimated at 97.16 million and the total area under cultivation is 164.56 million hectares. The marginal holdings account for 57.8 per cent of the total holdings while the area covered by these holdings account for only 15.6 per cent. On the other hand, the large and medium holdings account for 10 per cent of the total holdings but 48.7 per cent of the total operated area. In other words, only 25.65 million hectare out of total 164 million hectares under operation are held by the marginal holdings which constitute 57.8 per cent of the total holdings while the large and medium holdings which are only 10 per cent of the total holdings cover 80 million hectares of the total operated area.

The big and medium holdings which are 10 per cent of the total holdings includes 2.4 per cent very big holdings. This 2.4 per cent very big holdings account for 22.8 per cent of the operated area measuring to 37.5 million hectares. The average size of our holdings is 1.69 hectares. But the average size of the big 2.4 per cent holdings is more than 16 hectares while the average size of the marginal

holdings which is 57.8 per cent goes to only 0.45 hectare. This shows the extent of concentration of land in the hands of a few. This indicates the extent of feudal exploitation prevailing in rural areas.

So, what is needed is that the agricultural planning should be viewed through the eyes of the working farmers. What is needed is that the basic and radical land reform has to be made. What is needed is that structural change should be made in our agrarian system. The most important components of the land reform programmes are to distribute the ceiling surplus lands among the land poor farmers and to confer tenurial rights to the share-croppers. I am sorry to say that the Government has given a go by to the land reform programmes.

Under Ceiling laws only 19 lakh hectare of surplus land has so far been distributed in the entire country. If we want to increase productivity, we should have to give effect to the land reform measures; we should have to give land to the tillers; we should have to give tenurial rights to the share-croppers and then we should have to provide them with the crucial inputs like fertilisers, pesticides, bank credits along with local resource based and labour intensive minor irrigation facilities. If it is done, not only the productivity will increase but it will further result in accompanying improvement in the economic condition of the rural poor.

But I am sure, this Government cannot do that. Because the political power in rural India is vested in the hands of the landlords and big farmers who act as the vote bank of the ruling party at the Centre. I would like

to cite in this connection the example of West Bengal. The *Economic Survey* of 1990-91 points out that West Bengal which was agriculturally a very backward State a few years ago has now come to occupy the first position among the States so far as the growth rate in foodgrains production in the Seventh Plan period is concerned. This growth rate for West Bengal has been 34 per cent, followed by Haryana 24 per cent, Punjab 23 per cent, Bihar 21 per cent and Uttar Pradesh 18 per cent.

In the production of rice, West Bengal now occupies the first position among the States. The average production data for the last five years shows that West Bengal is the Second highest potato producing States just after Uttar Pradesh.

Now, the question is: How has it been possible on the part of an agriculturally backward State like West Bengal to achieve such a success? This is the result of the basic strategy followed in the rural sector in the State. This strategy begins with sincere and wilful implementation of the redistributive land reform programmes with the direct involvement and active participation of the rural poor. I have stated a little while ago that 19 lakh hectares of land have so far been distributed in the country. Out of 19 lakh hectares, 20 per cent goes to the credit of West Bengal alone, though this State owns only 4 per cent of the cultivable land in the country. In addition to that under "Operation Bargav" 14.26 lakh share-croppers have been recorded which have provided them with the security of tenure. Seventy per cent of the cultivable land in this State is now

under the ownership and operational control of the small and marginal farmers.

Sir, the Government claims that the cost of production—one of the hon. Members has already stated and I also want to mention—forms the basis of determination of the procurement price or minimum support price. The policy of the Government seeks to provide adequate incentive to farmers for increasing production and supplying foodgrains at a reasonable price to the consumers.

Madam, now the cost of production of a particular crop is not the same in all parts of the country. It depends upon area to area, from region to region. So, the procurement price or the minimum support price of that particular crop may be reasonable and even remunerative in one area but it may not be so in other area.

Whenever, the procurement price is increased, it is followed by a higher rate of increase in the issue price. A farmer, particularly a marginal farmer is a producer and a consumer at the same time. He is to pay much more as a consumer for the increase in the issue price than what he gets as a producer. The landless farmers, the agricultural workers, who produce nothing for sale have to bear the burden of increased issue price. So, the question of supplying essential commodities to these poor people at subsidised rate through public distribution system arises.

The Government agencies do not enter the market in time for purchasing agricultural produce, particularly cash crops which results in distress sale by the small and marginal farmers of their produce.

15.00 hrs.

So, the small and marginal farmers do not even get the minimum support price. These are the problems which should be taken into consideration. A number of employment generation and poverty alleviation schemes have been launched in the field of rural development. We are relentlessly talking about the aims and objectives of all these schemes. Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is such an employment generation scheme. The basic objective of which is to generate additional gainful employment for the unemployed and under employed in rural areas. It further aims at creating and strengthening the rural economic infrastructure and assets required for the improvement of overall quality of life.

But allocation usually made for this programme is so meagre that with that money neither such a colossal problem like rural unemployment can be fought nor the rural economic infrastructure and assets can be strengthened for creation of sustained employment. The employment which is provided to the rural unemployed under this programme is of a very short duration which, in fact, can make no impact on the unemployment problem. The outlay for this programme was Rs. 2100 crores last year. This allocation has remained the same this year also. But in view of the unprecedented price hike employment generation will reduce this year to an extent resulting in deepening the overall crisis in the rural sector.

Another such major poverty alleviation programme is the Integrated Rural Development Programme. It seeks to enable the

identified rural poor families to cross the poverty line. Its main target group is the poorest of the rural poor i.e. people belonging to the destitute and very poor groups. It has been estimated that the number of the people living below the poverty line has declined from 37 per cent of our population at the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan to 26 per cent at its end. It means that 11 per cent of our population have crossed the poverty line during the Seventh Plan period. I am a bit afraid that in one fine morning in the near future probably we shall hear that poverty has been completely eliminated from the country. All people living below the poverty line have been raised above it. Rural poverty is so deep rooted that it cannot be outrooted by providing subsidy of one or two thousand rupees or so and another three or four thousand rupees as bank loan to a member of a family belonging to the destitute group or very poor group.

There are wide differences among the findings of the evaluations of the programme made by different organisations, institutions, and individuals regarding selection of beneficiaries, regarding income generation, regarding availability of infrastructure facility etc. They have pointed out so many shortcomings and inherent weakness of this programme. The question arises how the beneficiaries are identified. The finding of the concurrent evaluation is that 65 per cent of the beneficiaries have been selected in the meeting of the Gram Sabhas. Who controls and dominates these Gram Sabhas? It is the vested interests, the landlords, the big farmers and the village money lenders. These are the people who are responsible for such alarming poverty in

the rural areas. It is hard to believe that the controlling authorities of the Gram Sabhas would do anything harmful to their own interest. Raising people above the poverty line is no doubt harmful to them.

In certain cases, the beneficiaries are selected by the officials. Anybody who wants to be selected has to satisfy the officials. People who are more capable of satisfying officials are provided with wider chance of being selected as beneficiaries. The poorest section of the rural people is less capable. So their chance of being selected as beneficiaries is also less. Any person requires to wait for a very prolonged period in between two dates—the day when he is selected as a beneficiary and the day when he is paid the amount of subsidy and loan. During this period, such beneficiary has to run from the post to the pillar, from the selecting authority to bank officials and he has to spend money also. So, it needs to be taken care of that this awaiting period is substantially narrowed and the entire amount of subsidy and loan is paid to the beneficiary.

Besides, adequate infrastructural facility should be made available to the beneficiaries.

Adequate arrangement for replacement of the perished assets of the beneficiaries has to be made properly.

After-care and Government support measures for the assisted families should be strengthened.

Marketing facilities have to be extended for the beneficiaries.

The beneficiaries should be made aware of the Group Insurance facility.

Without doing all these things, how one can expect that the destitutes and the very very poor people will cross the poverty line so easily?

The Annual Report of the Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, claims that the families belonging to the destitute and very very poor groups had crossed the revised poverty line in 16 per cent cases. Now what is the poverty line? The poverty line is the per capita monthly expenditure of Rs. 107 in rural areas at the 1984-85 prices. Taking the present price level into account if the poverty line is updated then, I think, the incident of crossing the poverty line by beneficiaries belonging to this destitute and very very poor groups will come down closer to zero per cent

With these words, I conclude

PROF. K. VENKATAGIRI GOWDA (Bangalore South) : Madam Chairperson, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Food and ask for more grants in order to increase food supplies and arrange for its proper distribution.

Food, clothing and shelter are the best necessities for human existence. Of them, food is the most important. But unfortunately, food supplies are inadequate to meet the population even at low nutritional standards.

India's population at present is 85 crores and the population is growing at the rate of 2.3 per cent per annum. But food supplies are not growing at the same rate. There is certainly a food gap. In the years when there is a rise in food supply, general price index falls, and the inflation rate also falls. In the

years when there is a fall in food supply, there is a rise in general price index and there is also a rise in the inflation rate. Thus there is a correlation between food prices and the general price index.

In the First Five Year Plan there was emphasis on agriculture. Food supply increased, food prices fell and general price index also fell. In the Second Plan the emphasis was on heavy industries. Food supply fell, food prices rose and the general price index rose. There was a balance of payment deficit. Imports rose more than exports and this necessitated foreign borrowings. Thus in India it is the food prices that govern the general price index. It is for this reason that there is the need for adopting a food supply strategy in our plan of development in order to realise growth without inflation.

I have got some statistics. The food availability per capita in India is low. China has reached the production level of 300 million tonnes for a population of 110 crore. It represents a per capita availability of around 330 kgs. per annum as against 200 kgs in India. The food supply should be at least 100 million tonnes higher than at present to match the Chinese achievement. We should aim at a per capita availability of 300 Kgs by 2000 A.D. This requires production level of 300 million tonnes by 2000 A.D. If China could produce more than 360 million tonnes of food from less than 100 million hectares of arable land, why should we not produce 300 million tonnes of food from over 143 million hectares of arable land and that too before 2000 A.D. if not now? This requires adoption of food supply strategy based on additional irrigation, preventing water logging and

salination, use of pesticides, use of subsidised fertilisers, crop rotation and scientific farming in general in order to increase farm output and food output in particular. Without food supply strategy we will not be able to achieve non-inflationary growth or growth with stability which is the objective of growth policy.

The food supply strategy is incomplete without an efficient public distribution system. At present, the public distribution system leaves a lot to be desired. The fair price depots have become unfair price depots as they wreak with corrupt practices. Food stocks are sold in the black-market to hotels and restaurants and the card-holders are told that the stocks have not yet arrived.

Food supply at a reasonable price should be targeted to the poor and the weaker sections of society. This is the only way in which food prices and the rate of inflation can be held in check. Thus adequate food supply and its proper distribution at lower prices should be the objective of food supply strategy. The reduction of food price through the adoption of food supply strategy is the first step in the attempt to ensure macro economic stability.

The Eighth Five Year Plan, in its final form, will be released in April, 1992. The Planning Commission will do well to design food supply strategy in the interest of non-inflationary growth and macro economic stability if the country is not to make a dash on hyper inflation. Therefore, I demand a larger grant to the Ministry of Food to increase food supply and to arrange for its efficient distribution.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR
(Mayiladuturai): I rise to support the

**Demande for Grants of the Ministry
of Rural Development.**

I would draw the attention of the Minister of State for Rural Development and through him to the Minister of Rural Development who is also the Prime Minister of India, to the very first pledge made by the Congress Party in the time-bound portion of its Manifesto. Our Manifesto stated that the Congress Government will in the first hundred days re-introduce and pass the Constitution Amendment Bill on Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika for devolving powers on units of local self-government. It is a matter of deep regret that the President's Address did not even refer to these Constitution Amendment Bills despite the fact that this is the first pledge made by the Congress Party in the Congress Manifesto. It is most distressing to find in the Government's Business which is proposed to be brought in the First Session of the present Lok Sabha, that there is no indication at all that Government propose to reintroduce the Constitution Amendment Bills relating to Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika. I want to remind the Minister of State for Rural Development that 65 days have already passed since he was made the Minister of State for Rural Development. This House or this Session of the House has only another three weeks to go. If the Constitution Amendment Bills relating to Panchayati Raj and Nagarpalika are not brought into this House within the next three weeks that is to say during the pendency of the First Session of this Lok Sabha, we are going to cross the target of 100 days which is one of the important promises that the Congress Party and specifically its former leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi made to the

Congress Party to the people of India to get elected to come to this House. How important Panchayati Raj is to the fortunes of this country, let alone the fortunes of our party is stated on Page 12 of the Congress Party Manifesto where it is stated that the Congress Government intended these two Constitution Amendment Bills "as the most important milestone in the country's pilgrimage to true democracy; which is Power to the People". If, therefore, the people of this country and the Members of this Lok Sabha are to take our promises seriously it is of the utmost importance that either the Government bring forward the two Constitutional Amendment Bills or explain to this House why it has not been able to do so and when they propose to do so.

I had hoped when I raised this point in the Debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address that in its reply the Government would give us some indication as to when these Amendment Bills would be brought forward. I regret to say that the Government did not refer to these Amendment Bills at all in its reply to that Debate. We are now having one more opportunity. We are going to have the Minister of State for Rural Development or his Minister reply to this Debate. I hope. I pray for the sake of the Congress Party's credibility and for the soul of Shri Rajiv Gandhi that our Minister of State will let us know what they propose to do about Panchayati Raj.

In the months that have passed since that dark day in October, 1989 when a handful of 83 Opposition Members in the Rajya Sabha thwarted the will of 830 million Indians by rejecting the Constitutional Amend-

ment Bills, there have been at least two important developments underlying the need for such a Bill. Before I mention what these two developments are, let me refer back to the statement which Shri Rajiv Gandhi made in this House where he said, that "before coming up with these Constitution Amendment Bills, we have gone deeply into the experience with Panchayati Raj of not only Congress Party Government but also non-Congress Governments with Panchayati Raj". He said that many lessons have been learnt not only from the Congress experience of Panchayati Raj but also the lessons learnt from the non-Congress Governments. He said that some of these lessons were negative and some of these lessons were positive. He stated that on the basis of 40 years of experience of attempts to realise Mahatma Gandhi's dream of giving power to the people, we were bringing forth these Constitution Amendment Bills. He sought the cooperation of the other side, the Opposition sections of the House, on the ground that this was not a partisan Bill but a Bill based upon the experience of all, Congress as well as non-Congress.

Having given this introduction, I would now like to refer to the two incidents that have taken place since October, 1989, which have underlined the need for the Government to bring forward this legislation immediately. I begin with the experience of a Congress Government because I wish to continue the spirit in which Rajivji brought forward this legislation. The Karnataka Government, in 1990, finding that the Panchayat elections had handed over a large number of local bodies to non-Congress parties, and

itself enjoying a three-fourth majority in the State Assembly, brought forth certain amendments to the Panchayati law of that State. Precisely because the Congress High Command found that those amendments were not in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution Amendment Bill, the High Command prevailed upon the Karnataka Government not to press forward those specific amendments and instead to attempt to recast the Karnataka Panchayati Raj legislation, keeping with both the letter and spirit envisaged in the Constitution Amendment Bill. Therefore, I am pointing to the specific experience of a Congress State Government coming under its own local pressures to not bring forward a form of local government in that State which was not in keeping with the Constitution Amendment Bill.

The second incident I wish to refer to is of the Madhya Pradesh Government which was run for the first time by the BJP. Here again, one could have hope that in view of the importance which the BJP has always attached to local government, and the support which I confess we hoped we would get from the BJP in the Lok Sabha when we were bringing forward this Amendment Bill, we found that a totally partisan effort was made by them, first to say that they would do nothing about the Panchayats that had been elected under the previous Congress Government and then, under cover of the night, to suddenly attempt to hold Panchayati Raj elections and to screw the laws and to screw the rules governing those elections as to make the result a foregone conclusion that it required the intervention of the High Court to stop a

totally illegitimate attempt at eroding institutions of local government.

Now, if the experience since October, 1989, with both a Congress State Government as well as a non-Congress State Government has not been happy in regard to ensuring genuine democratic local government, you can understand, Madam, why it is that Rajivji was so insisted that we must accord Constitutional sanction and Constitutional sanctity to the third tier of our government. We have got, Rajivji said, democracy here in the Parliament. None of the acts of Congress governments or non-Congress governments has been able to derail democracy in Delhi, democracy at the level of our Parliament. Equally in our States which have been run by Congress governments as well as non-Congress governments, and even by anti-Congress governments, our experience has been that no State Legislature has really effectively been able to derail democracy at the State level. The reason why they have not been able to do so is that both democracy in Parliament as well as democracy at the State level is guaranteed, sanctified by the Constitution of India. You cannot derail democracy in Parliament or in State Assemblies without derailing the Constitutions. But you can derail democracy at the third tier, the local government democracy, without upsetting the Constitution. The reason for this is that there is virtually no provision in our Constitution for democracy in the third tier.

In the absence of democracy at the grassroots level the superstructure of our democracy is fragile, brittle and unstable. We cannot be certain of having a firm democracy in our country

until we have the firm foundations of democracy in our country. To bring forward those firm foundations not only in rural India but also in urban India, Shri Rajiv Gandhi introduced in Parliament the Sixty Fourth and Sixty Fifth Constitution Amendment Bills which deal respectively with the Panchayats and Nagarpalikas. And the revolutionary new thoughts contained in those Bills which include apart from the empowerment of the people, 30 per cent reservation for women in local government bodies, reservation in terms of their proportion of the population for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and real devolution which provides for the devolution of not only authority but also powers, responsibilities and finances to the local government bodies, and for the meshing in of rural development with urban development through the unique mechanism of committees for district planning, which would be drawn both from the Panchayati Raj institutions as well as the municipalities in each district of India. All these revolutionary new ideas were designed to give true shape to Mahatma Gandhi's dreams. It has become our responsibility to give true shape not only to Mahatma Gandhi's dream but also to Shri Rajiv Gandhi's dreams because he died before he could realise his mission.

That responsibility rests upon our honoured Minister of State for Rural Development. I plead with him that before the session is out, the Constitution Amendment Bills be brought in, if not two Bills, then one combined Bill may be introduced. I agree that we do not have the strength to be able to pass these Bills. But if we bring them in and they are referred to a Select Committee, then it should be possible

to arrive at a basic consensus which should enable us to take the first step towards realising Shri Rajiv Gandhi's dream.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Madam Chairman. I would like to say my thanks for having given me this opportunity to speak on a very important Demand which is concerning the rural masses.

I have been hearing a healthy debate on both sides, starting from Sister Uma Bharatiji and our young Shri Aiyarji, who spoke in support of the upliftment of the rural masses. Today the entire political parties are dependent on the rural masses. Almost all the political parties are now trying to woo the rural masses for their existence. But, at the same time, some people try to say that the affluent farmers are still exploiting the rural masses and they are taking away the entire benefit of what is given and what is going to be provided by the Central Government and State Governments.

I would like to make myself clear about the plight of the so-called rural masses. If there is one sector which has been totally exploited sector or under-privileged sector or unorganised sector with lack of education or uneducated sector and exploited sector in our country, it is only the agricultural sector. These people who are dependent on the agricultural sector for the livelihood are totally tortured by all these issues mentioned above. But again the intelligent class wants to divide this sector by classifying them as small, marginal farmers.

I would like to draw the attention of this hon. House to the point that some of our friends still say that the surplus land that is in the hands of the big farmers has not been distributed. I do not know. But after the implementation of the Land Reforms Act and after it has been brought under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution, how the feudal lords are existing in the country today?

The political scenario has been changed for the last 30-35 years. Several parties have come to power in various States. So, it is not in the hands of one political party; we cannot blame anyone political party if there is any lacuna or lapse. In Karnataka, I would like to say, not even a single feudal farmer is existing today. For the information of the hon. House, Madam Chairman herself has got about 2-3 hundred acres of land earlier. Today she is a small farmer or a marginal farmer. I don't know to which category she belongs.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not have any land for your information.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : That is why I am telling, after the implementation of the Land Reforms Act in Karnataka, the entire credit should go to late Mr. Devraj Urs and all the Opposition Parties, at that time I was the Leader of the Opposition. A Land Reforms Law has been enacted unanimously on the floor of the House. No political party is obstructed. If any such legislation has been brought forward in other States, I do not think there is any so-called feudal farmer..... Interruptions.

AN HON. MEMBER : Kerala is the first State.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : Yes, I agree, I congratulate you. I do not want to minimise the importance of the Kerala Land Reforms Act. But why some of the friends are still saying now that there are big landlords, big farmers who are eating away the entire benefit given to them by the State or the Centre. One of my friends from West Bengal—I do not know, the Administration is in the hands of the Communists. I have got the highest regard for Shri Jyoti Basu, who is the Chief Minister of West Bengal. But how the so-called feudal farmers are existing in his State, I cannot understand. Is there any problem for his Party who are running the State to implement the land reforms and see that the surplus lands are distributed to landless people?

I do not want to divert much on this issue because it is left to the concerned States and the political parties who are at the helm of affairs. But I would like to say with all sincerity at my command that this is one community or one sector which has been totally neglected and today the fate of the Indian farmer is this. The Indian farmer is born out of debt, he will live out of debt, he will die out of debt and he will pass on his debt to his successor who is his son or his brother, who is going to take care of it. This is the present situation of the Indian farmer.

Sir, I am happy to say that today the Agriculture Ministry is headed by a farmer and I have got the highest regard for him. But unfortunately, Sir in his period—I do not want to blame the Prime Minister because this very important Ministry has been divided

into 6 or 7 components. I do not know why it has happened. Sir, I think he is capable of handling all these departments. Babu Jagjivan Ram has been handling Cooperation, Fertiliser and Irrigation and Agriculture and all Rural Development. All these Departments were under one Ministry headed by a Minister whether it is at the time of Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed or Babu Jagjivan Ram. This Department has to be in the hands of one Minister because this has got interlinked problem and I do not know why under the regime of one of the seasoned politicians and the present Prime Minister who has got a lot of experience and who is one of the seniormost Parliamentarians, this Department has been split into various parts. I cannot understand it. I do not know what type of compelling reason was there for such a decision to be taken by the hon Prime Minister.

Sir, I want to ask the hon. Agriculture Minister why the post of D.G. has not been filled up. I cannot understand it—several important posts which have been held by the IAS officers, are those not to be technocrats who are well versed with the problem of our agriculture? Why the technocrats have been ignored and only the IAS officers have been allowed to sit in those chairs? I am sorry I have no grouse with the IAS officers, but only I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to take care of these problems. These are all very important problems because we are going to provide infrastructure so that other developmental activities take place in a proper direction.

Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House on various

issues. They are not new and everybody knows about them. My sister Kumari Uma Bharati has also mentioned some of the important points which I am not going to repeat. But, it is inevitable on my part to repeat some of those points to further strengthen my argument. In our country, the average growth of the agricultural sector in the last seven Five Year Plans is 3.19 per cent, whereas in Pakistan it is 4.192 per cent, in China it is 4.91 per cent and in Burma it is 4.98 per cent. This is the position in the neighbouring countries. Why we are technical. What is the reason for it? Some of our people are trying to find fault by saying that the lands are concentrated in the hands of some feudal farmers. It is not so. I would like to substantiate this argument. Today, nearly 100 million holdings are there in this country whereas the holdings in 1960-61 were 49 million. The land had been split among the family members. In 1960-61, out of 49 million land holdings, about 31 million land holdings were held by small and marginal farmers. Today, 100 million is the holding. The actual land in possession of each holding is 0.6 per cent. This is the situation where it had contributed for the lesser growth, even though we have made some exercise to improve our agricultural production. I would not say that the Government had not done anything in the last 40 years. But, due to the abovementioned inherent problems, this country's expected growth so far as the production is concerned had not taken place. Further, during all these seven Plans, if you go through the number of years where we had suffered due to drought, you can see that in every 10 years, we had suffered severe droughts for four years.

This is one thing which everybody should keep in mind.

Madam, I can understand that the time is very short. Now, what are the ingredient factors for the growth of our farmers? The credit, irrigation, technology and marketing are the contributing factors for the welfare of the farming community. I would like to say as to how irrigation has been totally neglected after 43 years of our independence. After we had implemented seven Five Year Plans and about four Annual Plans, the achievement in irrigation is hardly about 70 per cent. If the total water that is available in this country is to be utilised, we have to spend about two lakh crores of rupees to utilise it. I can say that it is something unimaginable. In every Plan, we are providing about Rs. 14,000 or Rs. 15,000 crores outlay for irrigation. But, this is not going to help to completely utilise the irrigation potential in our country to the best use of the farming community.

I would give certain figures to show as to how the investment in the agricultural sector had been made in the years 1980-81 and 1987-88. In 1980-81, the public sector investment was Rs. 23,617/-whereas the investment in the agricultural sector was Rs. 4,537/-. In 1987-88 Rs. 35,776 was the

public sector investment whereas the agricultural sector investment was Rs. 4,197/-, which comes to 11.7 per cent.

Our hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech said :—

“We would continue to ensure that 50 per cent of the Plan resources are invested in the agricultural and rural sector.”

I do not know how these figures have been arrived at.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Agricultural Minister to these figures and I request the Government not to give such misleading figures. I am not going to keep quiet as this is one of the major subjects to which I am totally committed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : For God's sake, give me some more time to deal with the subject. If you want, my Party and I will not speak on other issues in future debates but do not curtail my time so far as these Demands are concerned.

The Central Plan outlay sector-wise is as follows :—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Agriculture	Rural Development	Irrigation and Flood control
1990-91	1,584	2,664	223
1991-92	1,858	2,702	267

The total Central Plan outlay is Rs. 42,969 crores out of which these are the three components which are directly connected with the rural and the farming community.

It will not tally with the statement made by the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech that “we would continue to ensure 50 per cent of the Plan resources are invested in the agricultural and rural sector.”

That is why, I do not know how this 50 per cent figure has been arrived at. I would like to have the clarification from the hon. Agriculture Minister.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. House to the credit position. After the Budget was placed in this House, some of the nationalised banks have stopped loans to the farming community even though the agriculture sector is the so called priority sector. This has gone on record. It has been published in several newspapers. The reason is the non-recovery of the loans.

That is why, I would like to insist that the credit system should be implemented according to the recommendations of the Kushru Committee which has been appointed by the Reserve Bank. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this report. I do not know what happened to that Committee's report. I do not know whether it has seen the light of the day. Please let me know where it lies.

As far as the inter-State disparities of credit is concerned. Punjab farmers get Rs. 415 per hectare whereas Assam farmers get Rs. 6 per hectare.

Credit for agriculture during 1979-80 all loans put together in this country per hectare comes to Rs. 80/- and during 1983-84 it comes to Rs. 124/- per hectare.

This is the disparity. How can we continue this type of disparity?

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : You have fixed ten minutes. I can understand the seriousness of the problem of time. But unfortunately we are

going to deliberate on various issues which are unimportant whereas on this vital issues we are short of time.

But anyway I can give various instances how this sector has been neglected totally from 1947 after independence. This is very important because I have seen some of the intellectuals argue. In 40 years of development, the rural sector has not been taxed. This is one of the arguments that is going to be advanced by the so called intellectuals who are drawing plans and schemes for the sake of the upliftment of the so called uneducated and under privileged masses in this country. We are totally in their hands.

Mr. Jakharji, when you were sitting as Speaker, you were fighting for the cause of the farmers. But fortunately today you are the Minister for Agriculture. You have to show the strength and vigour to the farming community to fight for the cause of the farmers. That is what I expect from you.

I will give figures to show how credit has come down out of the total net credit from banks for the agricultural sector. It is very important.

In 1984, Rs. 41,378 crores was the net credit of banks out of which Rs. 6,531 crores was the agriculture credit.

In 1990, the net bank credit was Rs. 97,037 crores out of which agriculture credit is Rs. 16,967 crores. I will take just one minute and I will give you the figures. This is the figure that has been quoted by our former Governor of Karnataka Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh. As far as the rural *per capita* income is concerned, regarding agricultural sector the decrease is 5 per cent, and 84

per cent is the increase so far as the non-agricultural sector is concerned. This pertains to the period 1970-71 to 1988-89. As I said earlier, the decline in the case of agricultural sector is 5 per cent. This is the fate of our farmers so-called economic policy which has ruined the agricultural sector so far as the economic growth is concerned.

I am now going to touch the very vital aspect of credit. Today, the credit rate that has been fixed in the priority sector for agriculture is 18 per cent for agricultural sector. But it has now declined to 11 per cent after the so-called IMF sitting on our head. The Banks have already started going back on it so far as this priority sector concerned. In this connection, I would like to suggest to the hon. Agriculture Minister that this percentage of lending should be enhanced to 25 per cent. Today, the total bank deposit is something like Rs. 200 lakh crores. In the next ten years — by 2000 A.D. — the bank deposits will go to Rs. 650,000 crores. So far as the farming community is concerned, the lending business is not a fair affair. It is not a loan mela. Of course, the loan mela has been promoted by our former Finance Minister. I don't find fault with him because he is very much committed to the small people and the poorer sections of society. It might have gone wrong in so far as the implementation aspect is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I am going to conclude. I am only insisting upon the hon. Minister that so far as the priority sector is concerned, the percentage should be enhanced from 18 per cent to 25 per cent. The advan-

tage of credit lending should go to the farming community.

About *per capita* income. I was telling that during 1970-71 it was Rs. 425/- in the agricultural sector; in 1988-89 it was Rs. 420/- with a decline of 5 per cent. In the case of non-agricultural sector it was Rs. 972/- during the year 1970-71 and it increased by Rs. 1783 during 1988-89 and there is an increase of 84 per cent.

Regarding fertilizer. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister that I do not want the subsidy business. On that day, in this August House here, I argued vehemently about the abolition of the subsidy. I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to agree to constitute a Committee consisting Members of both the Houses of Parliament. Let there be a Parliamentary Committee assisted by a body of experts. Let us find out how this whole drama of subsidy works. Is it meant for the purpose of the farmers? Or, is this subsidy going direct to the farmers or to the factory owners? I am going to give all these particulars in such a Committee. The hon. Finance Minister has stated that they have not raised the fertilizer rate for the last 10 years. That is the argument that he has advanced while trying to defend the decision of abolition of the so-called subsidy. I would like to ask one question. What is the cost of naphtha? What is the cost of naphtha which is the base material that we are going to use to produce fertiliser in this country? I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister what is the effect of reduction of the excise duty from 300 per cent to 150 per cent. Is it not going to have any bearing on the fixation of fertiliser prices. I want to know

whether these things have been taken into consideration by the so-called Cost Fixation Committee. Is the one Joint Secretary or the Additional Secretary whoever he may be, who will be incharge of the fixation of the fertilizers price, going to safeguard the interest of the farmers or the producers or else of whom? Have you got confidence in the Members of this House? Please agree to constitute a parliamentary committee and let it be assisted by an expert body. We will examine, where things have gone wrong, how it is going to help producers or the so-called factory owners.

About the retention of price, a factory which has been owned by the Government gets Rs. 4000 as the retention price whereas a factory which is owned by an industrialist or by a private sector will get Rs. 5000 as the retention price. Why is this disparity? I cannot understand this. A factory which has been commissioned in the same year with the same capacity gets hardly a retention price of Rs. 4000 whereas a factory which is under the control of the so-called industrialists or the vested interests gets Rs. 5000 as the retention price. In this country, a farmer owning fifty acres of land has become a vested interest man whereas the Birlas and Tatas, for whom we are working, here. For what purpose, have we come to this House? I would like to ask this question. Are we working for industrialists? I do not understand. Even after forty years, we politicians will not be able to turn the table against industrialists. We might have done several mistakes in the past in our planning. But you are here to set right our mistakes. I am sorry to say, I have no dry axe to grind. I may be affiliated

to one political party today — I am today a member of the Janata Party — but I was basically a Congress worker in 1947. That is a different matter. But one man who fought for the farming community was the late Choudhary Charan Singh from 1960 onwards. With all sincerity at my command. I would like to say that he was very much committed to the farming community. I cannot forget him. I am not bothered about whether he belonged to this party or that party. (*Interruptions*) Do you know the cost of inputs? The cost of inputs for the farming community goes up to 90 per cent out of which the cost of industrial input goes to 78 per cent. We are unable to control the price of industrial produce which is going to be used by the farmers as their inputs like fertilizers, diesel, pesticides, agricultural implements etc. because we are safeguarding the interest of the so-called industrialists. Have we taken the cost of industrial inputs into consideration while fixing our remunerative price, the procurement price? It will not even meet 25 per cent of the industrial input price. (*Interruptions*)

I will conclude if the hon. Minister agrees to constitute a parliamentary committee on the fixation of rates of fertilizers. Otherwise, there will be various other arguments to convince the hon. Minister. If you agree to constitute a committee to go into these matters, I will switch over to other subjects.

About lending of loans, can you not introduce a pass book system? Can we not provide the pass books? The gold has got the value. A man who has got his own money in the bank, he can go and draw that money. But my land has no value. Even if a farmer has got

fifty acres of land, if he goes to a bank, to draw money, he has to face all sorts of problems by going to village accountant, or the revenue inspector or the tehsildar to get certain documents to produce them before the bank to take some loan. Is this the way that we should deal with the farming community? Can we not find the easiest way? Can we not find a way which is going to help the farmers to get the loan by just going to a bank and showing the pass book and saying, "this land is worth of so much money and you give me this much money as loan." Can you not provide that type of facility to the farmers? These are all basic problems that should be solved. I have got several ideas in my mind. I have implemented so many things when I was a Minister in Karnataka.

Today, some of my friends were telling about what is called Integrated Rural Development Programme I have not yet completed my points on the Agricultural Department. I only try to say some points for the consideration of the hon. Minister, because there are various other areas to be covered in Agricultural sector

My first point is — please try to implement some of the useful recommendations of the ICAR Committee given by Shri G.V.K. Rao, as Chairman.

The second point is that those recommendations made by Hanumantha Rao Committee, Bhanupratap Singh Committee and Kushru Committee, which are helpful for the upliftment of the farming community, may be call out and see that those recommendations are implemented without any further loss of time. Even those recommendations made by

High Power Committee on Fertilizer prices and High Power Committee on Agricultural Produce and costs may be taken into consideration and some of those useful recommendations may kindly be looked into and see that they are implemented.

The third point is about the Single Window Agency. How many types of loans are we giving to the farmers? How many types of cooperative institutions have we got? There are so many banks — Central Land Development Bank, Apex Bank, Grameena Bank, Primary Cooperative Societies, Industrial Cooperative Bank and other nationalised banks. Why do you want to ask the farmer to go from one place to the other for some financial assistance? You want to provide the industrialists with all the facilities through a single window agency and they get all the benefits they want. Why not for the farming community, which constitutes about 65 per cent? This is a fact India is basically an agricultural country and we wanted to totally neglect this sector. I am unable to understand this. Please, with all your wisdom introduce a single window system and abolish all types of these various so-called financial lending agencies. Please bring them under one umbrella and under one agency and see that whatever money is required, is given well in time. It should not be given in a period, when there is no use to the farmer. It should be given well in time.

Similarly, pass-book system should be introduced and priority for lending should be increased from 18 per cent to 25 per cent and the interest should be charged at the rate of six per cent. We have implemented this in Kar-

nataka. The NABARD gives a loan, charging interest at the rate of 12 per cent, if the farmer is going to pay the loan well in time. Five per cent subsidy is given by the State Government, so that the farmer will have to pay only seven per cent. We have taken that decision in Karnataka. So far as the abolition of the loan is concerned, I have got my own reservations. I do not want to argue at this stage because, to convince this House, I require more time. Whatever the commitment that has already been made by the previous Government, that is, the total abolition of the loan given to the farmers, should be implemented for one time benefit.

We demand for remunerative prices. There are recommendations of the various Committees for providing procurement price, support price and remunerative price. But tell me which one of those recommendations have been implemented. Tell me about the market mechanism which has been there to interfere, to save the farmer from the distress sale.

There is no need to come to this House, as a Member, to draw Rs 5,000/- as emoluments. It is better to become a member of an Apex body of the Cooperative Societies at the national level, which is more attractive and can live the life like a Maharaja.

The dual price policy is going to bring a bad name to you. It is not at all going to help you, if you want to save Rs. 2,000 crores on subsidies. I am sorry to say that this dual price policy, so far as fertilizers is concerned, is going to destroy the image of the ruling party and the Congress. Why have you taken such a decision, which has far-reaching consequences? Please do

not do this. If you want to collect some money, I can show you various ways and means, to reimburse this amount of Rs. 2,000 crores, which is going to be saved by the abolition of the fertilizer subsidy. Why do you want to harass the farming community? I am only requesting you to take a bold step to abolish the dual price policy, instead of introducing a card system in the name of small and marginal farmers. You must take action totally abolish the dual price policy. How much is the consumption of fertilizers in this country? In Punjab, the consumption is 150 Kgs per hectare, whereas in Assam the consumption is only 15 Kgs per hectare. In what way it is going to help the farmers. Out of 426 districts, 100 districts are going to consume 80 per cent of the total fertilizers. You can understand this and such is the case that the so-called dry-land farmer is not going to get any benefit.

MR. CHAIRMAN · Shri Devegowda, please conclude.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA · I am going to conclude in two-three minutes.

16.00 hrs.

Please stop the import of agricultural commodities and save the farmer from the distress sale. I do not want any help from this Government. The other day Mr. Rao, Telugu Desam Member, asked the Hon. Finance Minister that we should be allowed to sell our produce freely. The Hon. Finance Minister immediately said · We are not coming in your way of selling your produce freely.

Why are you introducing the levy system. Why should the farmer be given a levy if you permit him to sell

his produce according to his choice? Why do you want to import food products like sugar, edible oils from outside? You are going to spend Rs. 1,500 crore every year on import of edible oils. I asked the Central Government as Irrigation Minister of Karnataka to give Rs. 300 crore loan every year to complete our irrigation projects. In turn, we are going to repay that loan by growing oilseeds and supply to State Govt. every year. This is the demand I have made to the Central Government but the Government of India has no ears and no eyes and heart to consider our request.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: With folded hands. Madam. I request the Hon. Members to spare some more time for me.

With 120-day duration, we can produce our own oilseeds. We are going to spend about Rs. 1,500 crore on foreign exchange. When we are facing such a crisis in our economy, I cannot understand why you cannot encourage the Indian farmers. There is no need of your market mechanism. We are going to have our own price. That is why I wanted to request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to establish a department for the export of commodities. So far as the agricultural commodities are concerned, it should be set up under your Ministry. I wanted a cell for a periodical review within your own Ministry for export of agricultural produce. A separate finance corporation should be set up for promoting the export of agricultural commodities.

There should be a time-bound programme of ten years to complete all

the ongoing major and medium irrigation projects and also to utilise all the available water for the benefit of the farming community.

I request that a Krishi Vigyan Kendra should be set up in every district.

Regarding drip and sprinkler irrigation, you can give 50 per cent subsidy to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and 25 per cent to all other farmers so that by using less water we can have more produce. You should encourage drip irrigation. There is one of the important suggestions I am going to make. There is only one financial institution called NABARD to lend loan for the farming community. It should be further strengthened by giving all facilities

Lastly, only one or two points I would like to emphasise about the so-called rural development. Various schemes have been formulated for the improvement of the rural masses under Rural Development Programme. 36 schemes have been implemented during the last 40 years for the upliftment of the rural landless labourers and unemployed poor people. I do not want to blame the schemes. But due to improper vision, all schemes have not been useful to improve the condition of the rural masses. More than 50 per cent of the money has been eaten away by the middlemen.

Half a million well scheme has failed because an amount of Rs 13,000 is going to be given to each beneficiary which will not be properly used. In turn, I suggest that the scheme about wells may be got executed by the government agencies and it should be handed over to sche-

duled castes and backward classes without any financial burden to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat, Mr. Devegowda. I have been repeatedly telling you to please conclude.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA : Do not ignore the so-called rural masses who are ignorant, uneducated and under privileged. If you ignore the rural masses and the rural sector, then it will be more dangerous than the external threat and the threat in the border of our country. The internal revolt by our rural masses and the farming community, if it will take place, will be the biggest danger to our country and no Government at the State or the Centre will be able to contain them.

With this warning, I conclude my speech.

**DR. (Shrimati) K S SOUN-
DARAM** (Tiruchengode) Madam
Chairman, on behalf of the
AIADMK, I thank you for giving me
an opportunity to participate in the
discussion on the Demands for
Grants relating to the Ministries of
Agriculture, Food and Rural
Development.

I begin my speech with the ever-
living line of Thiruvalluvar a great
poet in Tamil.

"Chulandrum Acrcpinadhu Ula-
gam Adhanaal
Ulandhum Ulaghae thalai."

It means :

"The world cycle has its axis in
agriculture. Hence that agriculture
leads every other industry."

His saying is true even in this modern
world. Man has to depend on food
even though he has so many facilities
by the advancement of science. Pro-
duction of food items is necessary
which in turn require agricultural
revolution. This can be done only by
giving encouragement to the agri-
cultural sector.

Madam, land in our country is very
fertile. Labour is cheap and our far-
mers are hard working. Despite all
these favourable conditions, our
country could not achieve the desired
progress. Under the present irrigation
system, 70 million hectares of land is
under irrigation and 210 million hec-
tares of land is under cultivation.
There will be 45 per cent of land
which may not be under irrigation.

Madam, agriculture depends on
water mainly. I take this opportunity
to appeal to the Government to
nationalise all the water resources in
the country. There has been a demand
for several decades for linking up river
Ganga with river Cauvery. Let Mother
Ganga see her Sister Cauvery to make
the Indian Union rich. Let Mother
Ganga see her Sister Cauvery in the
years to come and in the era to come.
This is the opportune time to devise
ways and means to see her Sister
though the fruits are to be harvested in
the decades to come. This is the
opportune time to devise ways and
means to see her Sister. Likewise,
major rivers should be connected.
Madam, Tamil Nadu could be en-
riched by diversion of the West flow-
ing rivers originating in the Western
Ghat region of Kerala. Nearly 1,20,000
hectares in Coimbatore, Madurai,
Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli
districts would benefit through this
river.

Regarding Cauvery, many obstacles are being created to Tamil Nadu. In the meantime, to compensate the injustice done to us, nature is showering justice on us by good monsoon. Mettur reservoir is full. Yet, the shrinkage in the area of paddy crop to the extent of 1.5 lakh hectares would have been avoided if Karnataka had honoured the interim order of the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal. If water was let to Cauvery adhering to this pattern of flow, not only Tamil Nadu could have raised its Kuruva crop but Karnataka too could have created space in their reservoirs, to receive the subsequent floods and utilise it for their benefit. To utilise water effectively, Government can increase the subsidy by installing drip irrigation for crops and sprinkler irrigation system for oil crops such as groundnut vegetables, etc. The present level of subsidy is not enough. We want at least Rs. 10,000 as subsidy per hectare for all the crops. At present, the Government of India is already giving subsidy at the above rate to the oil seeds crops only.

I thank the hon. Finance Minister for reducing the proposed hike in the price of fertiliser from 40 per cent to 30 per cent in general for farmers and completely exempting the small and marginal farmers from the increase in the price of fertiliser.

Diesel is an essential input for all types of agricultural operations. The farmers will appreciate the Finance Minister for leaving the diesel price untouched. Madam, farmers would also like to have electricity to meet their requirements. If they do not get sufficient electricity at the time of their need, then their area cannot be put under irrigation.

Just like Australia, Thailand and some other places, we should also develop horticulture besides modernising the Indian farming, so that the economic conditions of our farmers would improve. We have 12 Farmer Training Centres in Tamil Nadu. To make the training more effective, we are in need of more funds for preparing training material such as booklets, posters, video tapes, audio cassettes, etc. We are also in need of more such training centres to cover the entire spectrum of the farmers. Since a large number of sugar mills are located in Tamil Nadu, I request the hon. Minister to take steps to increase the production of jaggery for export to foreign countries.

Madam, farmers of Periyar District in Tamil Nadu produce turmeric which fetched us Rs 14.34 crore worth of foreign exchange in the year 1991. To promote the production of turmeric I request the Centre to establish a Turmeric Research Centre in Periyar District.

The first measure to promote agro-based industries in Tamil Nadu would be to regenerate the State Agro Industry Corporation. TAI is doing a good job by manufacturing pesticides and processing the sunflower seeds to produce the "Sanola" brand of oil. It should be given assistance for modernising its equipment.

Madam, I also request that a regional centre of ICAR may be set up in Madras because this will help the TAI to promote new companies jointly with the private sector for producing processed food, especially, mango concentrate, mango pulp, mango juice and tomato concentrate. Also, adequate marketing arrangements should be made and remunera-

tive prices should be given to the farmers and they should be free from the clutches of the middlemen.

The programme for cultivation of Basmati rice has been taken up in 21 districts of three selected States in Tamil Nadu. Tiruchi, Periyar and Tanjore Districts are suitable for the cultivation of Basmati rice. This programme should be extended to those areas also where integrated programme for rice development has been taken up.

We are also short of oilseeds. We have to rely on imports. We should give more incentives and subsidies for the production of oilseeds in the country. Agriculturists should be trained for allied professions such as dairy farming, poultry farming, sericulture and bee-keeping. This would be very useful to the farming community.

Madam, the young generation must also be taken into consideration and they should get all assistance and encouragement so that they continue to remain in their farming profession and are not forced to take up other occupations. Also, agriculture should be made a compulsory subject at the primary school level, so that children can acquire knowledge of agriculture. A new policy should be framed and priority should be given to the farming and agriculture sectors.

I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture to give importance to the State of Tamil Nadu with regard to small irrigation schemes as well as water supply schemes for assistance by the Centre and also the World Bank.

I would conclude by saying that justice has to be done to the people of

Tamil Nadu. This justice will be in the interest of the common man, the country and the world as a whole. It will also be helpful in providing foodgrains to the people of our country. With these few words I conclude and I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Demands.

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Madam, Chairman, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. I would like to put before the Hon. Minister the following suggestions regarding Agriculture and I am sure the Government would consider them on top priority and implement them.

The Cauvery Delta in the Tanjore District of Tamil Nadu does not get pure water for irrigation. The drainage water mixes up while flowing along the Delta region. Concrete canals should be constructed by Government which will cater to the needs of the farmers in this region so that pure water may be made available for agricultural purposes. The quality of the materials used for construction of the concrete canal should be properly monitored by the authorities so that the canal is strong enough to withstand the inclement weather.

The drainage and the irrigation canals should be separate so that pure water could be ensured for irrigation.

It has been noticed and found that in the whole of South East Asia, a village by name Siddhamalli in Tanjore District has the unique distinction of providing water for irrigation through canals and the fields are evenly bulldozed to provide unifor-

mity in the flow of water. The yields are encouraging. Government should take this as an example and provide separate concrete canals for the proper flow of water and this must be properly maintained.

Government should also take steps and educate the farmers to avoid wastage of water. When the water from the Mettur Reservoir is released, the flow of water to the Delta is not uniform and hence better water management schemes are necessary to prevent wastage of valuable water.

The farmers of the Tanjore District are practically idle for six months in a year, since water is not available throughout the year. During the lean season, the Government should encourage them to take up village industries which will be a source of income for them. Government should set up small centres which can finance them and train them in making coir mats, tinned fruits, like mango and other products.

The Plan allocation funds should reach the common farmers. Middlemen should be avoided, as otherwise the real and the needy farmers will be the losers.

Power is the major problem for the agriculturists in this district. Government should evolve schemes for alternative sources of energy and install windmills and provide power to the farmers which will help them for better irrigation. Government should set up more research centres in the district of Tanjore which is purely an agricultural area.

Procurement of paddy and preservation of the yields should be taken over by the Government instead of leaving to private undertakings.

Government should have modern Godowns in strategic procurement centres and their maintenance should be directly under the Food Corporation of India which can properly monitor the arrival of buffer-stocks and store them hygienically for consumption.

Roads should be properly laid and all the villages should be connected with the cities which will facilitate better and faster transportation. Government should allot funds on priority for these schemes and communication network in these remote areas should be strengthened.

Mini-buses should be introduced between various villages and the frequency of these buses will improve the lot of our people.

Farmers should be provided with small tractors which will enable them for speedy agricultural operations in the fields. Orientation Courses for the farmers should be conducted and the Government should set up centres to educate the farmers on modern methods of agriculture to get more yield in their lands.

There are some suggestions for ground water resources. Tanks and lakes in many parts of Tamil Nadu are to be deepened so that during rainy seasons they will automatically get filled up. When the rains fail water can be filled up from the rivers.

River silt should not be removed for construction of buildings. This will considerably affect the filtration of potable water. If the sand is required it should be taken out from the middle of the river evenly which will not affect the flow of water.

In spite of sufficient flow of water in the rivers there is acute scarcity of water in many areas. It is a pity that the situation has not been improved. This needs the thorough ground water survey by the Ministry.

Bore wells should be installed in large scale to provide pure drinking water in all villages.

In a developing country like ours, feudal lords, *Zamindars* and *Rajas* are only an Utopia. Now, some of our friends speak about these people who are not in existence in the India of today.

I would like to say that there are only talented farmers who have become affluent and that is not a loss but a gain to our country.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU (Tenali) : Madam, Chairman, on behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I rise to speak on the Demands of the Ministry of Agriculture. It is a vital demand.

Madam, at the outset, I oppose this Demand because due recognition has not been given to this vital sector.

In the beginning, I would like to draw the attention of this House towards a statement that has been made by our hon. Prime Minister when he was addressing the nation after assuming charge of the Office of Prime Minister of our country.

"Agriculture will receive the Government's closest attention. The progress made so far should be consolidated and conditions created for greater and diversified progress. Close attention will be paid to expanding irrigation, development of dry land agriculture, extension

services will be strengthened and modern technology brought to the door-steps of our farmers. A fair price for the farmers will also be ensured."

Madam, on hearing this statement, people in the rural areas, particularly in the agricultural sector, felt really happy that here is a Government that will really going to look after the welfare of the farming community. This statement coupled with the promises that have been made in the Election Manifesto of the Congress Party that the Party is committed to roll back the prices on all the fronts have given the people some hope that this Government is going to look after the welfare of the farming community. It is unfortunate that in a most unprecedented manner, the hike in prices of fertilizers has really given a death blow to the farming community and shock to the farming community. There was an increase of 40 per cent at a time, in the cost of fertilizers. All the Opposition Parties have raised their voices protesting this particular hike. Even the farming community, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, have agitated. For the first time, the farming community have taken the agitation to streets for the anti-farming decision of this Government.

This injustice has been inflicted on them. The result is that three farmers have lost their lives in Andhra Pradesh in agitation. This is the dividend that has been paid to the farming community. I take this opportunity to pay my homage to the people who have laid down their lives for the cause of agriculture. This country must only be thankful to farmers and agricultural scientists for feeding the teeming millions. I have also to

remind you in this connection that if at all something has been done to the agricultural community, it is only the non-Congress(I) Governments which were earlier formed in this country, which had done. During 1977, for the first time, fertiliser subsidy was introduced by the Janata Government. Now that subsidy has been lifted by this Government. In 1990, a loan of Rs. 10,000 was waived by the National Front Government thinking that the rural indebtedness was very high on the agricultural sector. Sri NTR in A.P. waived 90 crores interest on Coop loans and extended 5½% interest rebate. Now, this has been criticised by this Government like anything. In this connection, let me point out that the successive Governments have waived the loan and bad debt in the industrial sector to the tune of Rs. 80,000 crores. The past history speaks as what type of treatment has been given to the agricultural sector and the non-agricultural sector. The National Front Government has also gone to the extent of allocating 50 per cent of the Plan fund to the agricultural sector and rural development. Right from Independence onwards, the industrial sector has been made a competitive sector to the agricultural sector. This is the most unfortunate thing. An equal treatment has not been given to the agricultural sectors. To substantiate my statement, the contribution from the agricultural sector to the GDP of this country has gone down from 54 per cent to 33 per cent. Not that this country does not require the industrial growth or the prosperity in the industrial sector; but, at the same time, due recognition, due share should also have been given to the agricultural sector; and there we have miserably failed. This is the result why

the farmers and the agricultural scientists have also got this type of treatment in the present day. There is no due recognition to the farmers: nobody is going to venture, nobody is coming forward to offer his daughter or sister to a farmer's son who is committed to agriculture; everybody is looking for a bridegroom who is working in some office and getting his monthly salary. I must say that there is a security for all other sectors; whereas there is no security for the agriculturists and the agricultural sector; that is how we have left an impact on the agricultural sector.

Agricultural research in this country is with no direction. Even the post of the Head of the ICAR is vacant for the past two years and the research destinations are guided by the bureaucrats. Several senior posts are also vacant in the ICAR; and there is a need to fill up the posts immediately. If it is to be the fate of the agricultural research, where do we land?

Mr. M. S. Swaminathan, a world renowned agricultural scientist, who has almost taken all the international awards, who has dedicated all his life only for agricultural research and contributed for Green Revolution, could have been long back recognised for the award of Bharat Ratna in the country. He is the committed son of the soil.

When engineers and politicians could be recognised for that award, why not agricultural scientists in this agricultural country be decorated with that award where 75 per cent of our population live on agriculture? In this connection, I would like to point out as to how the fertiliser hike is going to mar the prospects of the agricultural sector.

I now compare per hecter consumption of fertilisers of our country in relation to other countries. Bangladesh is using at the rate of 72.3 kg per hectare; China is using 55.1 kg per hectare; India is using 50 kg per hectare, which is the lowest among the Asian countries; Israel is using 78 kg; Japan is using 381.5 kg; Korea is using 305 kg; Korean Republic is using 406 kg; Pakistan is using 66.8 kg and Philippine is using 56.4 kg per hectare. Among the Asian countries, India's per hectare consumption of fertiliser is the lowest.

Fertiliser consumption has got a direct bearing on productivity. That has been proved beyond doubt. Leaving aside the other inputs, fertiliser consumption has got a direct bearing on productivity. In our own country, when we look at the different States, Punjab is consuming as much as 179 kg per hectare and achieving a productivity of about 3300 kgs. as against the All India average of 49.6 kg. fertiliser consumption and about 1600 kgs. foodgrains productivity. Rajasthan State is consuming hardly 14.6 kg. This is how fertiliser consumption has got a direct bearing on productivity.

Under these circumstances, we have withdrawn all the subsidies on fertiliser and we are now discouraging the farmers from using fertilisers. With all the agitations, the Finance Minister has come up with a proposal of vertically dividing the farmers that for small and marginal farmers this hike will be exempted and for the big farmers, it will be reduced to 30 per cent. Our senior colleagues and several other colleagues have mentioned that there will be difficulty in classifying as to who is the 'small farmer', who is the 'marginal farmer',

and who is the 'big farmer'. In this country there are no records for this. Now, the farmers are thrown at the mercy of the Revenue Department people. Earlier they have been going only to Agriculture Department Officer for obtaining the permit. Now, because of this politically motivated division as 'small and marginal farmer' and 'big farmer', the so-called small and marginal farmers have to go to the Revenue Department for obtaining a certificate and then approach the Agriculture Department Officer with that certificate for obtaining a permit for fertiliser and then go to a dealer for obtaining fertiliser. so, they have to approach three agencies now for getting one bag of fertiliser. Is it justified in this country that a farmer has to approach three agencies for getting a bag of fertiliser?

As my senior colleague Shri Deva Gowda has pointed out, that this is going to bring a bad name not only to the Congress Party but also for all the politicians and the bureaucrats if we are not going to have a common price for all these people.

In most of the States, unwritten tenancy is prevailing. There is no written tenancy in most of the States. What will happen to all these tenants? Who will be cultivating the land? These tenants will neither go to the Revenue Department for obtaining a certificate nor go to Agriculture Department for obtaining a permit for a bag of fertiliser since they cannot claim any ownership over the land. They will be forced to purchase in the open market on par with the big farmers.

The Finance Minister has also said that the hike in the fertiliser price will

be compensated in the procurement price. The procurement price is not going to be given for all the commodities. The procurement price is not going to be uniform for all the commodities. And also the small and marginal farmers, who constitute more than 70 per cent, will not be producing for the market. Let the wisdom prevail on the Government and I urge upon the Government to withdraw the hike that has been imposed on fertiliser totally.

The *per capita* food production in this country for the past ten years is almost static. If we divide the total period into three stages after independence, the first 14 years, right from 1950 to 1966, the agricultural production was static. In 1965 the green revolution had set in. From 1965 to 1968 the agricultural productivity had increased from 629 kg. per hectare to 1023 kg. per hectare. There was a tremendous improvement during this period. Once again from 1981 onwards, the agricultural productivity had only increased from 1023 kgs. to 1173 kgs. on an average per hectare. So the effect of green revolution was spread hardly over 10 to 12 years. And later during the past one decade, the effect of green revolution had denigrated almost and became static.

The *per capita* foodgrain availability in this country is static all these years. In 1951 the *per capita* foodgrain availability in this country was 394.9 grammes per day. In 1961 it was 468.7 grammes per day. In 1988 the *per capita* foodgrain availability had gone down to 446.5 grammes. If at all, that anybody is thinking that agricultural production in this country is very comfortable, he is only living in a

fool's paradise. We are not comfortable. We could not make any dent as far as agricultural production is concerned. The *per capita* foodgrain availability between 1961 and 1988 itself speaks abundantly that agriculture has not made any strides.

There is another curious thing. In India, the *per capita* calorie consumption is 2159 as against 2600 calories that are required to keep the body and soul together. In India we have been consuming hardly 2159 calories. Here in this connection, I want to mention about one study that has been made by the World Bank. The World Bank has commented that it is sad to reflect that with the average figure of 2159 calories India faces badly in respect of key indicator in the standard of living of the people. Like all average figures, this average figure in case of India fails to reveal the true picture. While some segments may have calorie availability of more than 2159, for a very large segment the corresponding figure may be considerably lower than this average. 43 per cent of the people who are below the poverty line in this country are hardly consuming between zero and 1000 calories. That is the reason why mal-nutrition, under-nutrition, still-born babies, infant deaths have been happening only among this 43 per cent of the population, who are below the poverty line. If you say that the food production is comfortable, it is not correct. A lot of boost has to be given to agriculture. The agriculture has been put to competitive to sector industry. The industry when it is growing up, is made to surpass the agriculture. If these two sectors are simultaneously developed, any country can prosper. One sector cannot grow at the cost of the other

sector as is happening in India that industry is growing and agriculture is losing its ground.

In this country when there is a Pesticides Act of 1968 in force, the penal provisions are not being implemented against the offenders. In most of the States samples are being taken and sent to laboratories for analysis. But there were no instances where the offenders have been punished. So, I urge upon the Government that any adulteration in agricultural inputs must be dealt with seriously and offenders should be punished on par with the economic offenders and the provisions of Essential Commodities Act are to be extended to agricultural input offenders also.

The dryland farming is to the extent of two thirds of the total area in this country. Though there is some improvement in dry land technology, there is still lot to be generated for dryland agricultural research and also suitable cropping patterns to dry land farming and scarce rainfall regions.

Water management is another vital aspect as far as productivity is concerned. When rainfed farming is suffering for want of water, irrigated cultivation is suffering with excess water, the evils of excess water are more than no water.

In old Ayacut areas salinity is getting increased over years and thereby the productivity is tremendously going down particularly in Krishna Godavari Delta regions the P.H. in certain soils has increased even upto 9 per cent against 7.4 per cent some 50 years back. This is the reason why the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sent up proposals to Government of India for modernisation of irrigation canals and drainage system.

Transfer of technology from laboratory to land is very much distorted. Transmission losses in extension service is to the tune of 65 to 70 per cent also in certain cases since the transfer of technology is done through by the most incompetent non-technical sub-assistants at the field level. They are only promotees of godown watchman in the State Agricultural Departments. And this is the reason why the KVKs are to be extended in each district and the Diploma holders are to be produced and recruited at the ground level for effectively transferring the technology that has been generated at the highest competent level of the scientists. Unless the lowest cadre is actually trained, this will not be taken care of.

Before concluding, I must mention a few projects which are pending in agricultural sector, as far as my State is concerned. Some of the projects which are pending with the Government of India and also with the ICAR are: (i) Strengthening of fisheries research in Andhra Pradesh; (ii) Brackish water prawn hatchery; and (iii) Buffalo Research Station, Goat Research Station and Duck Research Station. These are also important research priorities on which most of the people are dependent. There is practically no research that has been generated for buffalo research, goat research or duck research. Bobbili and Godavari breeds are to be improved through Buffalo Research Station, Southern Region Buffalo Research Station, originally planned at Ungutur, is to be taken up immediately.

For fourteen Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), all the formalities have been

completed and they are to be implemented.

There is no National Research Station in the entire Andhra Pradesh. This is a very peculiar situation. There is a very lopsided distribution as far as these National Research Stations are concerned. So, I urge upon the Minister that the following three National Research Centres be set up in Andhra Pradesh :

- (1) National Research Centre on Pulses.
- (2) National Research Centre on Grapes.
- (3) National Research Centre on Mesta.

These are to be immediately started in Andhra Pradesh . . *(Interruptions)*.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESHWARLU : There is no proper guideline for the allocation of funds in the ICAR. The funds are neither being distributed or based on the population of the State nor on the land under cultivation. It is only at the discretion of the ICAR.

PHD formula is functioning in the distribution of ICAR funds 'P' stands for Punjab, 'H' for Haryana and 'D' for Delhi. They will be grabbing major portion of the funds of the ICAR. This PHD formula is a very peculiar formula. Except these three, the other States are not receiving proper attention.

Tissue culture, biogenetics and biotechnologies are the three areas which have been assuming lot of importance. We are almost forty-fifty years

behind some of the neighbouring countries in this direction. All the ornamental flower and orchard plants are propagated based on tissue culture technology. We are just at the initial stage in this regard. So, the country has to pay lot of attention to this tissue culture.

In my own constituency, once in every three or four years, the cyclones and floods have been playing havoc. There is no security nor insurance coverage for the loss of crops that have been subjected to loss once in almost every three-four years. That is why we have been suggesting that let there be a Cyclone Rehabilitation Fund from which farmers can be compensated in times of distress.

With this, I would thank you for the opportunity that has been given to me.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla)
Madam Chairman, at the outset I would like to quote from the writings of Guru Rabindra Nath Tagore. He had said that the land where we are born is the land of our villages. The country is in search of love from its land and draws nourishment from it. Our teachers are ignorant of this fact and roam here and there in the world of thoughts like clouds. If clouds do not shower their love and affection in the form of rain the relation between Man and Earth will never be fulfilled. If these noble thoughts just vanish in the air we would not be able to achieve a lot. I want to submit that on the one hand the great scholar created a bond between Man and Mother Earth whereas on the other hand the attitude of the Government towards agriculture farmers and sons of soil has been indifferent.

Madam, 40 percent of the people in this country are living below the poverty line. This is the opportune time when we should think about agriculture and foodgrain production. If we want to become self-reliant we will have to pay attention to the needs of 30 crore people in this country who are not getting even the essential commodities. Hundreds of people are dying of starvation. The main reason is that there is a lot of disparity between the prices of goods that the farmer sells and the goods that he requires. Consequently he has to pay more and his purchasing power is meagre. The farmer has to sell his produce according to the prices fixed by the Committee under the Ministry of Agriculture. There is no such Committee to govern the prices of industrial goods and other commodities. The farmer is incurring loss in all the commodities that he produces. He does not even get the cost of production. I want to submit that we should fix the prices of produce in a logical manner. We should take into account the cost on fertilisers, power, water, investment on land and the interest thereon while calculating the cost of production. Not only this, we should bear in mind that his entire family is engaged in the work and if they had worked somewhere else each of them would have got wages at the rate of Rs. 20—25 per day. If we take this also into account the cost of production would automatically increase. But unfortunately these things are not taken into account. Thus, his requirements are not met as the prices are high and he does not have adequate purchasing power. When he goes to the market to sell his produce people dictate him the price. Similarly, when he goes to purchase

anything he is again dictated the price and he is at the receiving end

Madam, what has the farmer achieved after 44 years of country's Independence? Last time also I emphasized that we have done planning in every field except agriculture. China and other countries which became Independent almost with us are far ahead of us today. China produces 300 kilograms of agriculture produce per head today. But we are lagging behind in this field. Even after lot of efforts we have not touched the 17 crore tonne mark. Merely making tall claims for self-satisfaction will not serve the purpose. There is only 10,000 crore hectares of land under cultivation in China whereas there is 14,000 crore hectares of land under cultivation in India. Even then we have to beg for foodgrains. The Government is not ready to pay the farmer even the cost of production of his produce. Not only this, it has given another blow to the hardworking farmers by increasing the prices of Urea and fertilizers. The farmer is working hard day and night. In 1950-51 the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister had to go with a begging bowl around the world for foodgrains, as the country was starving. The farmers took this up as a challenge and the situation today is that they toil hard in the fields to make the country self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains. Now when he was trying his level best in this direction, the Government gave him a big blow by withdrawing the subsidy and increasing the price of fertilizer. We will have to seriously think whether we want to spend foreign exchange in purchasing foodgrains? If the subsidy on fertilizers is withdrawn, the farmers would produce less. The produc-

tion of all items whether it is wheat, sugarcane or anything else would decline. There would be no other alternative then, but to seek help from foreign countries and import wheat, sugar, pulses from there. This Government is anti-farmer and a friend of American and foreign farmers. It will give money to foreign farmers but not to its own farmers. The Government will have to import foodgrains to meet the local requirements, if this subsidy is withdrawn. The foreigners would thus enjoy on the hard-earned money of consumers and farmers.

The population of the country would increase manifold by the year 2000. According to an estimate our population would be 100 crore by 2000 A. D. What would we feed our people then? If the Government harasses the farmers like this it is obvious that they would stop working in the fields and shift to other trades. I would, therefore, appeal to the hon. Minister, through you to alleviate their sufferings and bring them out of this crisis and provide maximum assistance to the farmers so that the country becomes self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains.

The people in the country do not get nutritive food and the entire population is affected by malnutrition. This is all because of the defective agricultural policy. The policy should be such which would safeguard the interests of not only the farmers but also of the consumers. The farmer is also a consumer in a sense. Farmers sell many things and also buy several things for consumption from market. If the suffering of farmers are not mitigated, then situation will deteriorate. I request the hon. Minister, to also give concessions on the goods

bought by the farmers for use. On the lines of concessions to industrial sector, facilities should be provided to farmers also. Concessions and facilities like issuance of quotas, permits and other relaxations like sales tax and income tax exemptions for a number of years are given to industries coming up in particular areas. So why does the Government not care to provide facilities to the farmers feeding 100 crore people of India? Why are the facilities being withdrawn from the farmers? Farmers are not being provided remunerative prices and most unfortunately even he does not have the facility to bring his produce to the market. Go and see the conditions in villages. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is also a farmer, but he is a big farmer. The other day he was saying about his physique and height. He is not only tall in height but also in holding. That's why about small farmers. (Interruptions). One of my friends mentioned about the thousands of acres of land owned by him but I do not want to go into it. Has the Government ever thought about the condition of small and medium farmers of the country? Farmers produce food for the country, but have to negotiate kucicha roads upto 20 km as metalled roads are not existing in villages. Roads are not there to facilitate the farmers to bring their produce in the markets. Farmers want to produce foodgrains, vegetables and milk but roads are not there to facilitate them to bring his produce to the market. Milk drawn in the evening gets spilt before morning. This is the problem of farmers. They are quite industrious and dynamic but are unable to do much. Farmers want to market their produce in 'mandis' for economic prosperity, but face dif-

ficulty in transport it. Now the rainy season has set in. Earlier there was drought and he was suffering from drought.

Now in the country because of climatic changes both drought and flood conditions continue for a longer time. Floods are again expected in the near future. Has the Government taken any permanent measures to check recurrence of both flood and drought conditions in the country during the last 40 years after independence. If anything has been done then tell us. (*Interruptions*) Can the recurrence of floods be checked? You cannot even imagine to do that. You live in hills and you do not know anything about floods you cannot even think about that. Have you ever tried to understand the sufferings of farmers? He has been indulging in politicking for a number of years here in the House and that is why he is not aware of the problems of farmers. He is so much enchanted by the amenities available here that he talks of just apples and nothing else. He only talks of apple, but I talk of the interests of farmers. Conditions is very bad today.

Farmers nowadays are facing a number of hard ships. Villages have not been connected by metalled roads. The Government may not do anything much for farmers, but at least should connect villages with metalled roads and provide electricity and water to farmers for development of farmers and villages. The Government may withdraw everythings except these and the farmers will progress on their own.

You have failed to provide power in villages so farmers come in the grip of

drought. If power is available round the clock, then farmers will not bother for anything. Parliament House is supplied uninterrupted power, but in villages people rejoice and occasionally even distribute sweets on resumption of power supply which facilitates irrigation of fields. If the provision of round the clock power supply was made by the Government, the farmers would have holdly faced the drought conditions. Villages are supplied electricity for four to six hours daily and the Government has not formulated any scheme to augment power generation. Hydrop electric power plants have been set up to generate power by utilising the rainwater of the reservoirs of dams. If the rainfall is scanty then power cannot be generated and the fields would not be irrigated. Fields of farmers are drying up because of shortage of power.

17.03 hrs

[SHRI P. M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Mr Chairman, Sir, through you I request the Government to make available water and power to farmers and construct all weather metalled roads in villages for the farmers to progress of their own. A farmer is one who holds his head high even when leading a very difficult life. Farmers work to save the country from facing starvation, but the Central Government pays scant attention towards them.

As per the statistics supplied by the Government the target of fertiliser consumption for 1989-90 was fixed at 121.30 lakh tonnes. At one place it is mentioned that in 1950 total fertiliser consumption was 69,000 tonnes, in 1988-89 it was approximately 110.36 lakh tonnes and the target for 1989-90

was fixed at 121.30 lakh tonnes. More the fertilisers more the foodgrains production. Recently fertilisers prices have been hiked and it will adversely affect agricultural production, because the farmers will not be able to use much fertilisers. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present in the House and I again appeal to him to taken up the matter in the Cabinet meeting. The question of small and large farmers should not arise at all. An unfortunate situation has developed. In my constituency most of the farmers are small farmers. I would like to raise one issue Hon Minister I do not know much but the people were saying

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (Shri Balram Jakhar) : I am prepared to give all the land to in exchange of just 100 acres of land.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I do not know much about the hon. Minister But I have heard that in Punjab and Haryana because of the ceilings, 'Benami' transfers of lands have been made. I am not levelling any allegation. Land has been transferred in the names of Gainda Singh Jarnail Singh, Karnail Singh etc. but nobody knows where do they live. Strangely, lands has even been transferred in the names of even dogs and when the question of land ceiling arises the farmers say that they are well within the ceiling limit and do not own land in excess. If the land has been distributed in this manner, then definitely the hon. Minister falls in the category of small farmers. But I am not levelling any such allegation against the hon. Minister.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : You are free the day whatever you like. If some persons are owning land in

excess of the ceiling, then it reflects the weakness of the Government. It is the weakness of the Government that it has failed to acquire the land, in excess of ceiling under the land reforms. It is the duty of the Government to bring the culprits to book. I also had land in excess of the ceiling but gave the entire area of land to 'Mujaras' or tillers for no compensation.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has clarified his position. The hon. Minister is a farmer, he may be a small or big farmer. I am not challenging him on the size of land holding. But I simply want to say that he owns more land than me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please address the chair and do not enter into a dialogue with each other

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr Chairman, Sir, he is the hon Minister of Agriculture and the 'Messiah' of the farmers. Please get the proposal of withdrawing the subsidy dropped.

Fertilizer should be made available to farmers at uniform rates. The Government have created a rift between the small farmers and big farmers by making provisions only for the small farmers? Who are the big farmers? When ceiling of 18 acres, 16 acres and 12 acres of land has been imposed then there are no big farmers. Moreover, the Government proposes to withdraw the subsidy. It would encourage corruption. Do the Government intend to increase corruption. If not, they should lessen the restrictions. Restrictions and control give birth to corruptions. Restrictions would lead to corruption amongst the farmers. My submission is that the

Government should provide subsidy and also reduce the prices of fertilisers:

Mr Chairman, Sir, inspite of bumper crop of sugarcane this year in the country, particularly in my constituency, there is scarcity of sugar. The reason being insufficient number of sugar mills. The number of sugar mills is inadequate. The farmers produce sugarcane and take it to the private crushers where jaggery is prepared. But they fail to get the required output. The ratio of juice extraction from sugarcane is also inadequate because the crushers are old and not sophisticated. The result is that the production of sugar is less which causes shortage of sugar. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister and the Government that if they really want the cane growers to get remunerative prices of their produce, more sugar mills should be set up. Therefore, maximum number of sugar mills should be set up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time the Government in their reply to my question had stated that they could not open sugar mills in Government Sector and public sector but could issue licences for private sector. My submission is that the Government should conduct a survey in this regard and issue licences to set up these mills wherever possible. The Government has liberalised the Industrial Policy but is it for other commodities only and not for setting up sugar mills for increasing agricultural production and for ensuring that farmers get remunerative prices of their produce? I would like to submit that Aonla is my constituency and not even a single sugar mill is there.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Nagpur): You visit Maharashtra to assess the situation.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I will certainly come if you invite me. I would like to submit that the Central Government should issue licences to set up new sugar mills in Uttar Pradesh. Not even a single sugar mill is there in Aonla whereas production of sugarcane is more than that required for three mills. Farmers have to take their produce to one place or the other, they are in great difficulty. Sugar mills are very essential to improve the lot of farmers.

I would like to point that the Government have imposed zonal restrictions. Farmers produce wheat but cannot sell it out side his zone. Thus, the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at very cheap rates. Has the Government imposed restrictions on other products or it is meant only for agricultural produce. We would sell our produce wherever we want. Imposition of restrictions has made the farmers dependent on the Government. But if an industrialist sets up his factory in Goa or Amritsar, he is allowed to sell his products in any part of the country. When there is no such restriction on industrial goods, there seems to be no rationale behind imposing zonal restrictions on the movement of agricultural produce. Therefore zonal restrictions imposed on the movement of foodgrains should be withdrawn.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is no zone system.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: It is there. Due to the essential Commodities Act the farmers are in great trouble. Their difficulty is that nobody

is ready to purchase their produce until the old stock is exhausted in the market. This has been causing a great difficulty to the farmers.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Do you mean that Essential Commodities Act should be abolished?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I do not mean that. My submission is that it should be modified so that farmers do not face difficulties. It is very ridiculous that in the prevailing circumstances the Government makes tall claims regarding the development of rural areas. I would like to submit to the Government that 60 per cent funds of the Budget should be allocated for the upliftment of poor farmers which would lead to the rural development.

I would like to say one thing more. The population of farmers is increasing in the country today whereas the area of land remains the same. Land cannot be increased and thus they are running towards urban areas in search of a living. The condition of rural areas is so bad that there is no place to live. Therefore, agroindustries should be set up at Panchayat level or Development Block level to stop the youth from running to the urban areas so that he may get employment near the place of his residence. The farmer will make progress only when this burden lessens. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you deviate from the main issue. Members will interrupt.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: I am not deviating. I am simply addressing you. But when I noticed that someone interrupted. I looked behind. If some-

body attacks from behind, one has to look *(Interruptions)*

As I have already submitted that neither drinking water nor energy resources and primary schools are there in rural areas. The Government should provide these facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude my speech after making one or two more submissions.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present. Some big organisations are under the Ministry of Agriculture and one of them is Council of Agriculture Research. It has been functioning for the last more than hundred years; crores of rupees are being spent on it. I was one of the members of its committee last year and I got the opportunity to observe its functioning quite closely. Thick research books have been made available but the poor farmers are ignorant of the research made for their benefit. I had submitted in the last meeting whether it was an Indian Council of Agricultural Research or an English Agricultural Research Council because the whole literature was available in English medium. I think that not even one per cent of the Indian farmers know English. They know Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Marathi, Gujarati and other regional languages then why the literature is not provided in regional languages. If the Government is capable of making these arrangements they should provide it in regional languages so that the farmers may read it to benefit themselves. I would like to urge the hon. Minister to look into the matter and make this provision.

Secondly, there are many institutions under ICAR. There is an IBRI

institution in my constituency which has been accorded the status of university. During the last two years there were big agitations and demonstrations against the Director, who was alleged to be involved in huge corruption. Ultimately he was suspended and a C.B.I. inquiry is pending against him. A local leader wrote a letter. I have no means to verify the veracity of the contents of the letter. The person, to whom the letter was addressed, alone can clarify. According to the people it has been mentioned in the letter that if the concerned individual had continued as Director of Agriculture during the election period, the Congress Party would not have faced defeat there and hence it was pleased to reinstate him immediately. Mr. Chairman, Sir, although a C.B.I. inquiry is still pending against him and he has not yet been absolved of the charges of corruption, surprisingly he has been reappointed to that post. His wife is also serving in the same institution. Does it seem proper for such a prestigious institute like I.B.R.I. of the Agriculture department that the husband and the wife loot the Institution and penalise the employees of the Institution. There is a very deplorable staff of affairs.

I had mentioned to the hon. Minister of Agriculture also regarding the heavy pressure being brought on him by them. As per Parliamentary Convention I would not like to name the persons. But I know that there are many well-wishers of that particular officer, who have mounted pressure on the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I know this also that an imported Fomenta machine for growing grass and producing was purchased by I.B.R.I. The persons who purchased

the machines have got full patronage to loot the country or the Institute. Who has seen that Fomenta machines....

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is saying that an attempt is being made to bring pressure on me. Can pressure affect such a healthy person. The guilty will not go unpunished. He did not worry on this score.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I would like only to say as to why he has been re-appointed to that post when the C.B.I. inquiry is pending against him. Will he show all the relevant files to the C.B.I. What inquiry the C.B.I. will make against the person who himself is holding the highest post in that Institute. What will be outcome of such an investigation? Who will dare to depose against him? All the documentary evidence can be destroyed by him who has been appointed to the post of Director despite C.B.I. inquiry pending against him. I do not want to take the names of those leaders, officers and ministers who tried their best for getting him reinstated. Excuse me Sir it is a matter of investigation. It is very unfortunate. Mr. Minister, Sir, that you handed over him charge while a C.B.I. inquiry is still pending against him and it has neither submitted its final report nor acquitted him of the charges.

MR CHAIRMAN : But that case is still pending.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : A C.B.I. inquiry is going on against him and he has been assigned duty. Mr. Chairman, Sir please protect our interests. He has been made In-charge of the same Institute as is under investigation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a big fertiliser plant in my area... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken much time.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I shall conclude my submission within two minutes... (*Interruptions*) I shall take a little time. In my area there is a fertiliser factory of IFFCO which comes under the Ministry of Agriculture. The land-owners, whose lands were acquired for this factory have not yet been provided any employment. Through our efforts they got temporary appointment for 15 days only; but the General Manager of the Factory has now stopped this practice also. It is a sorry state of affairs. On the one hand you have enacted a rule that the persons whose lands have been acquired will get employment and on the other you are not providing them with any job. Previously they have given employment for 15 days and now it has been reduced to 7 days only and in future, General Manager of the Factory will discontinue this practice also on the ground of vacancy. But the unfortunate aspect of this is that outsiders are given employment and the local people are being ignored. Just three days before, the people got appointment in the factory. The people appointed are not technical hands but clerks, receptionists or peon. Does it mean that our villagers are not fit even for the jobs of clerks. Are there some instructions not to give jobs to them whose lands are acquired or is there some policy not to give jobs to the poor? So, all these things may be investigated. I can give you the exact dates... (*Interruptions*) I am talking of IFFCO project at Aonla. There a Guard died on duty. We requested

the concerned Authority to employ the deceased's wife as a peon on compassionate ground. In response I got a long letter explaining that job cannot be given to her as there is no such rule in that institution. But I have the information that after the death of an officer of the same institution, his wife was given a job on the same ground. Why this double-standard? You talk of creating a socialist society but in practice you do not follow it. An officer's wife can get the job but a peon's wife cannot.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am overwhelmed by the farmer's plight. I am much worried. I beg your pardon for speaking in these terms. This issue is related to my area... (*Interruptions*)... Let me give a chance to review their problems. I am not talking of any politics. I am not criticising the congress. So you should listen to me. Such a critical situation is the result if the policies adopted by your party. Despite 44 years of freedom, the country is on the verge of starvation and the farmers are living below the poverty-line.

I would conclude after saying one thing more. Shri Madhu Dandavate the Finance Minister in the previous National Front Government had announced waiver of loans of the farmers upto Rs. 10 thousands.

AN HON. MEMBER : You too were in that Government.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : We were very much there that is why I am referring to this otherwise I had not need to refer to it. It was promised by the then Government to waive off loans upto Rs. 10 thousands. But I am sorry to say that the new Government of Uttar Pradesh has not been following this

policy. The loans of those dishonest farmers who had not paid even a single instalment against their loans were waived off and they are enjoying the family of their misdeeds but the loans of those who had paid half of their loans or who had got loans after pledging their assets, have not been waived off.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the new Government of Uttar Pradesh has made a very big announcement. I am not publicising their deeds. The farmers in U.P. have not been paid the arrears of their sugarcane sold to the Sugar Mills for six months to one year. Now the Uttar Pradesh Government has announced to pay their arrears amounting to about Rs. 69 crores before 1st November. *(Interruptions)* This has been announced by the Uttar Pradesh Government *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to say to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that whatever I have said is not with a view to criticise any one. These are the problems before the farmers whether they grow sugarcane, cotton, wheat or paddy. They are not getting proper price for their produce. They are not leading a prestigious life. There are no arrangements for their children's education. Whereas the cultivation is on a turning point in which education is a must. The time of traditional cultivation is over now.

Sir, lastly I would like to say that Rs. one and a half lakhs are required for purchasing a tractor. So the small farmers, who cannot afford tractor and pumping set, remain dependent on bullocks for their farming. *(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, cows are not protected in this country as they as well as bullocks and other cattle are being frequently slaughtered. Sir, through you I urge upon the Government to stop cow slaughter in the country by amending the Article 48 of the Constitution because they are the back-bone of the farmer's economy in our country. Even an old cow is useful for them as it provides dung which is a good fertilizer. Today, cows are being slaughtered at the behest of the Government of India for exporting beef in order to earn foreign exchange.

Lastly I would like to say that an amendment should be made in the Article 48 of the Constitution so that the progeny of cow can be protected and the interests of the farmers can also be looked after. With this measure they can get good oxen at cheap rates. It is very difficult now for the farmers to afford oxen. One pair of oxen cost Rs. 12 to 15 thousands, our men of Uttar Pradesh might be knowing it well that there is shortage of milk mainly due to shortage of cows.

With these words, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to pay attention to the farmers of India. He should speak in favour of farmers in the cabinet meetings and not in favour of the Minister of Industry and the Minister of Finance. I conclude now.

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikkaballapura) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants of the Ministries of Food, Rural Development and Agriculture. While speaking on demands I would like to give some suggestions for the consideration of the Govt. of India.

Agriculture is the main profession of the majority of the people in our country. There was a time when our country used to import food grains. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister the situation improved and our country became self sufficient in foodgrains. Her policies enabled the farmers of this country to improve their living conditions. Majority of the people in the country are agriculturists and hence it is not enough if we become sufficient in foodgrain. We must be able to send foodgrains to the whole world. Our country has this capacity. Our country has all the natural resources and environmental conditions are conducive to boost our agricultural production. There is great demand for foodgrains in the international market and hence we have to increase our exports. This can be achieved only when the farmers get all the facilities and the production of agricultural produces increase. The national average of irrigation land is only about 25%. The rest of the land i. e. 75% is fit for cultivation but water facility is not available. There is no shortage of water in our country. We have our major rivers like Ganga, Brahmaputra, Mahananda, Kaveri, Krishna, Godavari etc but the irony is that most of the water of these rivers flow into the Sea. Therefore it is very essential to utilise this surplus water of all these rivers. Then only we would be able to supply foodgrains to the whole world. In America only 7% of the population are agriculturists. Even then they are capable of producing sufficient quantity of foodgrains for their country. They also export foodgrains. In India our agriculturists are behind when compared to the agriculturists of the above-mentioned

countries. There are several reasons for this. Some of them are :

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannad.

1. Supply of good seeds;
2. Manure;
3. Marketing facilities;
4. Transportation facilities;
5. Power Supply;
6. Water.

Now I would like to elaborate the above points. Farmers in the villages are able to get proper seeds on time. The suppliers are not bothered about the convenience of farmers. We can expect bumper crops only when the farmers get goods well in time.

Water is the main ingredient of agriculture. Farmers should get enough water for farming. Unfortunately in our country many parts have faced drought situation every year. Even drinking water would not be available in the areas which are affected by drought.

Electricity is another vital input without which agriculture cannot improve. The centre should make it a point to provide electricity to the farmers. They should get top priority in this aspect.

It is shocking to note about the prices of agricultural produce. During harvest season the prices would be very low. The prices would shoot up when there is short supply. How can we expect the farmer to progress if the prices of agricultural produce swing in this manner like a pendulum. This discourages the farmers. The farmer is like a rabbit in the forest which would be hit by the hunter at the end. I am a farmer and I have first hand

experience of agriculture. Even today I live on agriculture. Infact agriculture is the best education.

The living condition of a farmer would become very clear if we compare his life with that of a business man or even a shop-keeper. A shop-keeper who sells beedis and cigarettes leads a better life than a farmer. A farmer possessing about ten acres land cannot lead a life like a shop-keeper. The farmers' living condition in our country is really pitiable. How many persons belonging to farmers families have become graduates. Engineers and doctors. I request the Hon'ble Minister to get the statistics in this regard. There is a wide gap between the standard of living of farmers and merchants. The farmers have been neglected by the entire society in our country.

The farmers are not able to get the cost of their inputs. There is saying in Telugu. I quote :

"Oka Ekaram Cheruku Pandiste
Oka. Kilo Bellum Raabadi"

which means that a farmer cultivating sugarcane in one acre of land gets only one kilogram of jaggery. An attender or peon in the bank would lead a better life than a farmer possessing ten acres of land. Hence it is very essential to provide all facilities in time to the farmers. If a farmer applies for a loan he gets it only after six months. Steps must be taken to release the loan directly and within short span of time. Middle-men should be avoided. Drought situation is prevailing in many parts of the country. Except a few States in the north like Punjab and Haryana all other States in the country have to face drought situation one year or the other. If there is a drought this year

then the farmers need atleast three more years to recover from that effect. He continues to be debtor for generation.

Fertilizers also do not reach the farmers in time. While extending subsidy on fertilizers by way of restricting it to certain classes of farmers like small and marginal farmers the Govt. appears to give a differential treatment. Small farmers and marginal farmers should be able to get the subsidy to the maximum extent. Transportation facilities should be available to the farmers. Similarly pesticides should be made available to the farmers in time.

We can grow more food than any other country in the world if all the facilities are provided to the farmers in time. Agriculturists should not be looked down upon in the society. Infact no one would come forward to offer his daughter in marriage to a farmer. This disrespect to the farmer should go.

There is a wide gap between industry and agriculture though the latter is supposed to be the priority sector. Industry is flourishing and agriculture is perishing. Agriculture is being neglected by one and all. The injustice to the farmers cannot be tolerated any more in this country. We cannot have a policy of applying butter to one eye and calcium to the other.

Infact agriculture should be given special attention. "Jai Kisan" should be our motto. Farmer should be given priority in all respects. He should be respected and honoured. Infact, he deserves it. If we have achieved any progress in the country it is mainly due to farmer's hard work.

The Hon'ble Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar knows all these facts. I also hope that he would take proper steps in this regard. The life of the farmer should improve because he is the backbone of the economy of our country. He leads a prompt life. He has open mind and he works sincerely. Therefore the Government should take all steps to encourage the farmer in his endeavour.

There are water disputes between States pending for the last several years. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have the Kaveri water dispute. There is a dispute between Punjab and Haryana. Uttar Pradesh and Haryana too have water disputes. There are many such water disputes. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister as to when he is going to solve these water disputes. Unless these disputes are resolved the concerned States cannot achieve progress in the field of agriculture. I appeal to the centre to take note of this point and to solve the problems of water disputes immediately.

There are jilla parishads and village panchayats. How are these institutions functioning? Immediate steps have to be taken to rectify the mistakes in the functioning of these institutions. A tank in my constituency was damaged four years ago. A substantial amount was to be spent on the repair work. But the money did not reach the destination. Why is this delay? So far no repair work has been done. Then what is the use of jilla parishads. The officials of jilla parishads and village panchayat should be held responsible for all these lapses. In this regard my suggestion is that we should have unfirm village panchayats, jilla parishads throughout the country.

Sir, the Hon'ble Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar is not only a veteran parliamentarian but also an agriculturist with rich experience. He made it a point to see some gardens when he was in Bangalore recently. He took keen interest and visited a grapes grove. Similarly the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development also takes interest in the development of villages. He was born in a village and he has visited hundred of villages to understand the problems of farmers.

I believe both of them would plan new schemes and execute them for the benefit of farmers

Our Hon'ble Prime Minister has stated recently that he would take Public Distribution System to the remote villages. This is a right step in the right direction. But how can the Pulic Distribution System reach the remote villages unless the farmers improve their production. Farmer feeds the whole country. He is the most important person in our society. We can bring Rama Rajya in the nation only when farmer prospers. Rama Rajya was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. To make this dream come true, we have to assist the farmers in his endeavours. I hope that Government would take steps to help the farmers. The farmers would enable the country to usher in a new era of progress and prosperity. Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this vital issue and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI E. ANAMFED (Manjari) : Mr Chairman, I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture

Much has been talked about agricultural development and also the problems of the farmers in this country.

Many of the hon. Members have also referred to the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1990 and requested the Government to explain the stand *vis-a-vis* the Agricultural Policy Statement of 1990. The Agricultural Policy in this country after Independence has been evolved over the years in a haphazard manner. For the first 20 years, the focus was on building institutional, administrative infrastructure in the rural areas. And after that, we had to see the second phase in the agricultural sector which started from 1952. A beginning was made with the process of setting up infrastructural facilities and also the community development agencies. If one will examine the history of our agricultural sector *vis-a-vis* administrative facilities, we will find that it was only in 1959 the Government had encouraged people's participation in the development process, in the development of the agricultural field, accordingly, the Government had taken certain steps to set up a three-tier structure of the Panchayati Raj at the District level, at the Block level and at the village level.

For some time we have been speaking a lot about green revolution and everybody was proud about the green revolution. As a matter of fact, one will see that even after the green revolution, there is evidence to show that poverty, ill-health and illiteracy are not eliminated from our rural people and the rural area. And the Government now strives hard to make some progress in this field. It is, in this respect, I must say that several incentives

have been given to the agriculture. But at the very same time, inadequacy in Government assistance has been mentioned already by some of our friends in this House.

At this juncture, I would like to mention about the decision of the previous Government in regard to coconut and the benefit they have promised to coconut cultivators of Kerala. After fairly a long agitation by the people and the Government of Kerala, the Government of India have included coconut and declared coconut as an oilseed. But I am sorry to say that although they have declared coconut as an oilseed, no effort whatsoever has been made by the previous Government to give the benefit under the Technology Mission to coconut cultivators. Now, the present Government, I hope, will take necessary steps to extend the benefit for coconut as an oilseed. I have received a letter from the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture that Government will be instructing the Department to extend whatever the benefit which is due to a commodity which has been declared as an oilseed. I hope the Government will take early and expeditious steps in giving this benefit to coconut cultivators.

Another thing I would like to mention is the about the attitude of the Government towards fisheries industry. Fishery is also one of the very important segments in the agriculture. But unfortunately, Government assistance to the development of fisheries is awfully inadequate. India enjoys 2.02 million square kms. of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which comes to around 5700 kms insofar as coastal facilities for fisheries are concerned. If

the inland fisheries development facilities are to be taken into account, that will come to about 29,000 kms. Fishery production from the fresh water ponds comes to about 7.53 lakh tonnes. India has the potential to produce 4.5 million tonnes of fish every year. India is one of the seven nations in the world which produces much more fisheries from whatever facilities we have in this country. I have some figures which will show that our fish production in 1950-51 was 7.5 lakh

tonnes and it increased to 32.5 lakh tonnes in 1989-90.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may please continue tomorrow. the House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 28, 1991/Bhadra 6, 1913 (Saka).