

Technology for mixed farming of agriculture and livestock has been developed and recommended.

Exotic rabbits have been introduced for their adoption in Sikkim conditions.

The Krishi Vigyan Kendra established at Saramra organised 255 training courses benefitting 2009 farmers, farm-women and rural youths. It also organised demonstrations of improved package of production technology covering major food crops, pulses, oilseeds horticultural crops.

#### SAARC Reserve Fund for Economic Activities

639. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were any differences of opinion between the delegations of India and Pakistan on the creation of Reserve Fund for Economic Activities under the auspices of SAARC at the recent Maldives Meet;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of other member nations to the Indian stand?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAV-SINH SOLANKI): (a) to (c) At the recent Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Male, there was no proposal to create a Reserve Fund for Economic Activities. However, there was discussion, at the officials level, on a proposal to create, with external assistance, a Regional Fund for SAARC programmes in general. Most Member States, including Pakistan, favour the principle of creating a SAARC Regional Fund, although they differ on details. India believes that such a Fund is neither necessary, nor desirable, nor even feasible. The SAARC Council of Ministers decided to convene an Expert Group Meeting to examine carefully all the issues relating to this proposal.

12.00 hrs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURAJ MANDAL (Godda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, following the Supreme Court's order holding the levy of cess on mineral wealth in Bihar as unconstitutional, Government of Bihar is suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. The Chief Minister of the State met the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister in this connection. In this regard, I would like to point out that there has been no increase in the rate of royalty of Rs. 5 per tonne, which was fixed 15 years back. The State Government had written to the Union Minister of Energy on 13-3-91 to revise the rate of royalty according to the current value of rupee, but the request has not been considered so far.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the financial condition of the State has deteriorated to such an extent that the work on all schemes has come to a standstill. In this connection, the Chief Minister of the State had also given notice to sit on fast unto death on 29th July in front of the Prime Minister's office in protest against Centre's reluctance to solve this problem. Therefore, I want that the Government should take a decision in this regard today itself.

The situation in the State has taken an ugly turn because the State Government has been suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. The State Governments of Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa etc. are also suffering losses on this account. Since the financial condition of Bihar is critical, it is very necessary to take a decision urgently in the matter....  
...(Interruptions).....

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The revision of royalty on coal is pending for several years. The Central Government is not taking any decision on the royalty on coal to be paid to the State Governments. Why are they dragging the matter?

When there is financial crisis in the States, the Central Government is dragging the matter. Why are they not taking any decision on the revision of royalty on coal which concerns with all the coal-producing States, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. *(Interruptions.)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): The Finance Minister is absent.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This issue is pending for several years. Why are they not taking a decision? You can direct the Finance Minister to come and make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you start speaking on this issue at the same time, it can neither be understood nor go on record. One of the hon. Members from your side has raised this matter and it has gone on record. You know very well that we are going to have a discussion on the General Budget. This matter can be raised during discussion on General Budget. The issue can also be raised when the Demands for Grants of this Ministry come up for discussion. If you start speaking like this, it will be of no use.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: We want immediate statement from the Finance Minister. This issue is very serious.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chief Minister has announced that he is going to sit on fast unto death. Government of Bihar is suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: This is a very serious matter.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: In the month of February, the Finance Minister had assured this House that the royalty would be revised.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have been approaching the Government on this issue. We demand a statement from the hon. Minister.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: The Finance Minister should come and make a statement.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa): The State is suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily. The Central Government is giving a stepmotherly treatment.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: The Finance Minister should come to the House. You can direct the Finance Minister to respond to this matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

*[Translation]*

Please go to your seat and sit down.

*[English]*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the leader of the House is here. He can respond. Why can't he respond? Why is he dragging his feet on this matter? Why is it pending for so many year, for 7-8 years? Royalty has not been awarded. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't do like this. Please resume your seats. Please go back to your seats.

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE** (Bolpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sure no section of the House will treat it as a party matter. You find that the Members of Parliament from different States, from the three Eastern States are very much concerned. They feel agitated because so long the cess was being realised and royalty was being realised. Now, because of the Supreme Court's decision, the position has been qualitatively altered which has affected very seriously the financial provisions of these States. They are unable to meet the important expenses for which provisions have already been made in their Budgets, in their Plans. Now, because of this decision of the Supreme Court, all the States are agitated. This is a matter on which all the States are agitated. I request the Government to take up this matter seriously and urgently. After all, the Government are talking of consensus, consultation process and all that. Yesterday, they said: "We want the States to be benefited." Now, when the States are finding it difficult—even so many important steps are to be taken by the States—if the financial resources are being curtailed, it affects very substantially the plans and programmes of the State Governments. What are you going to say? The Leader of the House is here. The Finance Minister should be here. Let them make a statement as to what is being done. This is not for the first time today it is being raised. It was raised even in the Ninth Lok Sabha also. We have been making this demand for a long time.

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:**

A categorical assurance was given in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** Some steps should be taken. The Government should also react. I request the hon. Leader of the House to respond as quickly as possible, today or tomorrow. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday I raised this matter very seriously. The difficulty is that they are not trying to understand the feelings of the House and the State Government's point of view in the matter. This is a very serious matter. When the Chief Minister of the State says that he would go on fast unto death, the Central Government must realise the gravity of the situation ... (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

**SHRI A. CHARLES** (Trivandrum): Is it the way for the Chief Minister to behave?... (*Interruptions*).

We are with you. We extend our support. But this is not the way of doing things. ... (*Interruptions*)...

**SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:** Shri Charles, do you extend your support?... (*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** You know that Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal are backward States. The entire mineral wealth is concentrated in these States, yet the State Government do not have money to pay salaries to its employees. The Government of Bihar as well as other States have repeatedly been demanding enhancement of the rates of royalty. The State Government is suffering a loss of about Rs. 2 crore daily on this account, but the matter is not being considered in the Cabinet. The Chief Minister of Bihar has threatened to go on fast unto death if a decision is not taken in the matter by the Central Government. In spite of all this, the Government is not taking it seriously. We are left with no other option. Shri Arjun Singh is the leader of the House but this should have been replied by the hon. Minister of Finance. I would like to say through you that we want to respect all conventions. But they must understand

our helplessness. You understand the feelings of all of us. We want the Government to give an assurance and make a statement in this regard. Let the leader of the House or the Finance Minister tell us as to what steps the Government is going to take in the matter. We want a categorical assurance today, but it does not mean that we shall not allow the House to function. We are very agitated on this issue. Therefore, while maintaining the decorum of the House, we shall compel the Government to make a statement on the subject... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. All of you are well aware of the gravity of the issue. You have also said that the Chief Minister is going to sit on fast. But if such issues are raised during Zero Hour, can the Government respond to them without giving them careful consideration? If you want this issue...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What is the alternative?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am saying. If the issue is so serious, you can take it up with the hon. Minister. You can also place it before the Presiding Officer and find a way out if there is any. If you raise such issues during Zero Hour and want the Government to respond, it will also not be proper on the part of the Government not to respond. Your issue is definitely serious. I would say that this matter can be raised when debate on the General Budget takes place...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Just listen to me, please. You take your seats first. There are other avenues also. I am saying that the hon. Minister can be asked to clarify the policy in the matter when he replies to the debate on the General Budget. You can also give a notice for Calling Attention if you so desire. But if

you raise this matter during Zero Hour, how can a reply be given. This will serve neither your nor their purposes. *(Interruptions)*...

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Chhedi Paswanji, not like this. You do not get any thing out of this.

*[Translation]*

If you start speaking before I speak, I would not be able to say what I have to say. If you do like this, you are not going to get anything out of it. What I am saying is that you may raise this matter during the debate on the General Budget and then the Government could be asked to clarify its policy on the subject. It will create a lot of difficulty if you insist upon getting reply during Zero Hour.....

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): We are happy that you are admitting the seriousness of the matter. It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that until Budget is presented, we cannot bring a Calling Attention or an Adjournment Motion on the subject. We are bound by this decision and we honour it. The Chief Minister has been compelled to take this step. The work in the State has come to a standstill for want of resources and that is why he is going to sit on fast from 29th, 27th and 28th are holidays and thereafter the Budget will be presented. How then shall we be able to raise it? We do not want the Chief Minister to go on fast. We are accepting your advice as there seems to be no other way out. The leader of the House is present here. This matter concerns four States. My request is that either you accept our Calling Attention on this subject for tomorrow or the Minister should give a statement in the House...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. SPEAKER: If there is any serious problem, it is certainly discussed. But we see that what should

be discussed in the House and what not. If we will discuss each and everything on the floor of the House the whole time of the House will go waste. Please leave this matter and allow the matters included in the agenda to go on. You are welcome to my chamber for a discussion on this matter. If you want an assurance here, much of the time will be wasted. The time is yours, I have no objection if you take up this subject in Zero Hour, during Railway Budget or any other time.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
Please give an assurance.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not going to assure like this. You come to the Chamber and discuss

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
Please allow the Leader of the House to speak.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Honourable Speaker, Sir, the subject on which the Honourable Members are expressing their concern is certainly an important issue, there can't be any doubt about it. It is also true that the administration should express its view clearly in this context. The question is how to do so. I believe the whole House will have a unanimous decision as to how this important issue shall be brought in the House. This we have left to you, so please bring out a solution as early as possible...(Interruptions)...

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
It is a matter of the Government, why are you involving the Speaker?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Please listen to me...

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB. ACHARIA:  
The Government is not taking any

decision, the Government is dragging.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: It is not a question of not taking any decision .....(Interruptions)...

[Translation]

Listen to me please. I am not saying that I am thrusting some responsibility on Honourable Speaker. Speaker is all in all in this House. I am making this request only to know how Mr. Speaker will give the permission to bring this matter here. We are fully prepared. I say that if Mr. Speaker.....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
Please give a Statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Not in this manner.....

[English]

Please take your seats. We will meet in the Chamber and we will decide that the statement will come before the House as soon as possible, quickly.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SRIPAL SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Honourable Speaker, Sir, there is a branch railway line from Sambhal to Moradabad in my constituency and four trains have been withdrawn from that branch rail line by Divisional Railway Manager, Moradabad.

MR. SPEAKER: You are speaking about Railways and you want to take it up in the Zero Hour?

SHRI SRIPAL SINGH YADAV: I have already submitted that 1 SRN, 2 SRN, 3 SRN and 4 SRN trains have been withdrawn. I would like to draw the attention of the Honourable Railway Minister to restart these train services immediately.