

14.00 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (General)  
1990-91

Ministry of Water Resources

and

Ministry of Agriculture

(CONTD.)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants No. 78 relating to the Ministry of Water Resources and Nos. 1 to 5 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture. Time allotted is 15 hours and time consumed is 9 hours and 56 minutes. Balance time is five hours and four minutes. I have a very long list of Members who want to speak. In the beginning itself, I would request the Members to stick to the time given to them so that many Members can express their views.

SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN (Karad): I thank you very much for giving me the time to make some important suggestions.

Firstly, our country is an agricultural country. Since independence we have been trying to improve our agriculture. The whole world knows how we have tried our level best to improve our agriculture. We have taken up many projects and have been successful in achieving our aims. Within last 20 years the country became self-sufficient and our Government stopped begging or borrowing from big countries like America, England, etc. I am proud to say that now we are in a position to export foodgrains to those countries which could not grow anything because of geographical reasons.

14.02 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE in  
the Chair]

The credit for this achievement goes to our agricultural scientists and experts in the field. This credit also goes to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who started planning and research programmes to develop agricultural farming and industry. The result is that now we are one of the big countries producing sugar, wheat, maize and all other food items which human beings consume. Moreover, we are producing now many types of fruits and vegetables and oilseeds. All this has been possible because of our good irrigation policy.

Our Congress Government opened many agricultural universities in order to develop agriculture and farming. Many people did research in this field and went abroad to learn more about modern and latest technics in agriculture. The result of all this is that today our country is among those few nations which are called great nations.

Now I want to give a few suggestions. I feel that the ruling party has not fulfilled those promises which it made to the people before it took over the reins of the Government. The farmers are still dependent on financial aid. Then, there is no grant and they are not able to produce more raw materials for the industrial units. These big farmers can only make use of the research done and get benefit but not the small farmers. Our present Government should have a planning which should also help the poor farmers so that they can fulfil their aims and objectives. I think the young generation must also be taken into consideration and they should get assistance and encouragement so that they continue their farming and not take up other occupations. The children of the farmers should be looked after well and their children should also be looked after.

Madam, the girl-students of the farmers are not given adequate facilities. I suggest that the Government should have more hostels and more primary schools in the rural areas particularly for the girls. Sir, as we all know, 60 per cent of the women-folk work in the agricultural fields and they are of great help to the agriculturists and farmers. As it is

necessary to care for our agriculture and farming, we should also care for our women, particularly in the rural areas. Right from the childhood the girls should get education. They should get admission to the agricultural colleges also. In our country generally education is imparted to the male children, but the girl children are discriminated against in the matter of giving education. I request that agriculture should be made as a compulsory subject at the primary school level so that boys and girls may get the knowledge of the agriculture. In Maharashtra, I know, many schools have introduced agriculture as one of the subjects. It has been made compulsory and one hour is set apart for teaching the children about farming. During this time both boys and girls are learning how to do gardening, etc. It is also production-oriented and help the nation. Therefore, I suggest that a new policy should be framed and priority should be given to the farming and agriculture. I wish the present Government will take all these points into consideration and do justice for the growth of agriculture.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE  
(Malegaon): Madam Chairman, I would like to say something regarding agriculture.

"Admi Nahi Balwan Hai Samay Balwan  
Samay Samay Par Suvidha Na Milne  
Se  
Kisan Ho gaya Hairan  
Kisan ki Mang Hai Milna Chahiye  
Pura Pura Pasine ka Dam  
Janata Sarkar Ne Kiya Hai Vada  
Dhanyavad Dhanyavad."

Madam Chairman, the Government should formulate such policies under the which farmers, who work hard could get remunerative prices for their crops. I would like to thank the National Front Government for the policy it has formulated in this regard, but this policy should be implemented expeditiously.

Prior to me, an elderly and experienced leader has spoken a lot on the subject. He

said that the Congress had taken many steps in this direction in the last 40 years. I am not saying that the Congress has not done anything in this direction, but I feel that the schemes formulated for this purpose could not be implemented properly and their benefits did not percolate down to the farmers.

The Government knows what type of land is there in Maharashtra. A loan of Rs. 18,000 is being provided through the NABARD for digging of wells. A well cannot be dug up with this meagre amount in these days of high prices. There is a saying in Maharashtra which implies that it takes two generations for a well to be dug up. In this regard, I would like to suggest that about Rs. 40,000 to 50,000 should be given as loan for digging of a well. Besides, our farmers do not get electricity. They should be provided regular supply of electricity too.

A lot is said about the Green Revolution. A White Revolution should also be launched. A milk scheme should be launched immediately on the line of the one being run in Gujarat. This scheme is being run very effectively in Gujarat. Similar schemes should be launched in every State.

Agriculture should be treated at par with industry and a policy in this regard should be formulated accordingly. The traders themselves fix the prices of textiles being manufactured in the mills, but the farmers have no freedom to do so. The prices of his produce are fixed by the middleman in the market. This should not be allowed to happen. The farmers should have the freedom to fix the prices of their crops themselves like the traders do for their produce.

I fully support the view expressed by the hon. lady Member who spoke before me, in regard to cyclone. The country suffers loss due to cyclone. The Congress has ruled the country for 40 years and they formulated the policies about flood and drought according to their own considerations. Drought and flood hit different parts of the country simultaneously. A policy should be formulated to

[Sh. Haribhau Shankar Mahale]

check both.

The Government has introduced a Crop Insurance Scheme also. All crops should be covered under this scheme and there should be some facilities for protection from floods. My submission is that entire agriculture should be covered under insurance. It will be good if more irrigation facilities are provided for agriculture. At present, in Maharashtra irrigation facilities are available only for 12 per cent of land, out of which 6 per cent land is being irrigated by wells and the rest 6 per cent by canals. There is a scheme named Parnar Scheme on Paschim Vahini river in my constituency in Maharashtra. This river flows into the sea and not much use is made of its water for irrigation. I would like to request that if the Paschim Vahini river could be linked with the Poorvi Vahini river, large areas of land could be irrigated. A present, only half of the area of my constituency is covered under irrigation. I want to say that the Government must think about providing more facilities for irrigation.

There are many sugar mills in Maharashtra and some of them are in the name of tribals, but they neither appoint any tribal Director nor give jobs to tribals in these mills. It is necessary to provide jobs to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in these sugar mills because it is the Government who spends most of the money on these mills. Out of the total expenditure on these mills, 15 per cent is being spent by the farmers and the remaining 85 per cent by the Government. In spite of this, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are not being provided jobs in these mills. Therefore, the Government must pay attention towards it.

There are 4-5 power projects in Maharashtra. I have the list of these projects with me but I do not want to waste the time of the House in such details. I would like to request the Government through you to approve

these projects.

The session is going to be over in a few days and after the Janata Dal M.Ps. return to their respective constituencies, the farmers will ask them about the steps taken by the Government for writing off their loans upto Rs. 100,000. What reply will they give? No decision has been taken so far for writing off loans upto Rs. 10,000. Sometimes they say that half of the amount will be borne by the State Governments and the remaining half by the Central Government. The Government should formulate a clear-cut policy in this regard before the end of the session. It is the responsibility of the Central Government because it had stated earlier that loans would be waived but at that time, it did not say that the State Governments will also have to bear half of the expenditure on this account. My demand is that the Government should clearly spell out its policy regarding writing off of loans before the current session comes to a close.

Today, the farmers carry the burden of higher rates of interest. Earlier there were mahajans (money lender) and Pathans who used to lend money to the farmers on higher rates of interest in Maharashtra, but now the Banks have replaced them. I demand that loans should be given to the farmers at lower rates of interest. I am saying this because they had promised to write off loans. Personally speaking, writing off loans is not a good policy but the loan should be given at a lower rate of interest. Besides, the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes should be given loans without charging any interest. When the Government of Maharashtra wrote off loans to the tune of Rs. 50,000 crores, only 100 tribals were benefited under that scheme. I would demand that the loans of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes should be waived.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

\*DR. VISWANATHAM (Srikakulam):  
Madam Chair persons, I am grateful to you

\*Translation of speech originally delivered in Telugu.

for providing me an opportunity to speak. This is my maiden speech though I entered this august House five months ago. I am 60 years old. Madam, it is my proud privilege to be a member of this august House. It is rare privilege to be in the company of veteran parliamentarians like Prof. Ranga, Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

Air, water, food and shelter are the primary necessities of man. We also recognise the fact that education is also equally important. Madam, many promises are quite often made before coming to power by everyone. But all these promises are conveniently forgotten once they come to power. What we see today is the mere repetitions of the same old story. The Chairman of the National Front, Shri N. T. Rama Rao declared that the Government would solve the Punjab problem in a day. Now the National Front Govt. is in the saddle and five months are already over. The problem remains where it was. When a newsman confronted the Chairman of the National Front with the question as to how he was going to solve the Punjab problem, the Chairman of the Front replied that he would solve the problem if the front is voted to power. This episode is just an example to show how the promises are ignored by those who are in the power. The gap between the precept and practice still persists. Madam, a day's or a month's good rain is sufficient enough to meet the rear requirement of the people in the country. The heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh in last couple of days is an example. All that we have to do is to collect and store the water for future use. An integrated planning is necessary for that purpose. But it is most unfortunate that there is always a scarcity of funds to implement the schemes to construct projects for storing water. The standard reply 'no funds are available' is the only answer we get from the Government when any scheme comes up for implementation. We are able to find enough funds for an unproductive expenditure. For productive purposes there will be no funds. It is most unfortunate. Unproductive expenditure is much more than the productive expenditure. It is really very strange

that we have enough water for irrigation purposes but we have no water to drink. The Govt. has failed miserably in providing protected water or potable water in every village in the country. Statistics reveal from time to time the number of wells dug and the number of tube-wells fixed. The development does not go beyond the statistical figures. There is no monitoring as to how many tube wells are functioning properly. There is no mechanism to monitor the digging, drilling and functioning of wells. The Government remains silent about the functioning of these wells.

Madam, the major quantity of foodgrains being grown only in five states out of 25 states and 7 Union Territories in the country. If assured water supply is ensured for 6 to 8 months in an year, the farmers in these 5 states can grow three crops. The production of food grains in these States will be sufficient enough to feed the country. The remaining State should be made to grow cash crops. Kerala is known for its cash crops. The reason is that the people in this State are educated and know what crops their soil permits. They are getting good returns for their cash crops. In return they are purchasing foodgrains at a cheaper rate. This is how they are reaping benefit. Their education is behind their success. Hence I emphasise again that special efforts should be made to educate the illiterate farmers. Illiteracy is the bane of our farming community.

Madam, the population growth is another major problem which is crippling the nation today. If we go through the figures of population at the time of independence and the present day, we at once come to the conclusion that our population will surpass the world No. 1 China population very soon. At the time of independence, though we had lesser mouths to feed, we had no sufficient foodgrains to feed them. Fortunately, we are in a position to meet the requirements of the growing population. At the same time we should not forget the fact that only the population grows and expands and not the land. We should recognise that there is the elasticity only in the case of population and not in the case of land. Only blind and ignorant can

[Dr. Viswanatham]

afford to forget this truth. Hence everyone in the country should recognise this fact and adopt family planning. If we are really interested in the welfare of country, we have no other go but to control our population growth. Matching grants and efforts should be made to grow foodgrains to meet the requirements of that population. Keeping the ecological conditions in view, we should also decide the crops which have to be grown in various regions. The Government should work in that direction. Madam, we have no dearth of talent. We should use the services of experts. The Government should depend on the expertise rather than its whims and fancies. Otherwise we will not progress. No doubt, the cultivation methods in the country have undergone changes. For example, we are using hybrid varieties now. But for use of the hybrid variety, and high yield of food production in the country would have remained static resulting in many hunger deaths. Many more new methods should be introduced and science and technology should be put to proper use to grow more food.

Madam, coming back to the drinking water problem, many villages in the country do not have drinking water facility even to this day. The common sight in our rural areas is that though a canal runs alongside of a village, its water is not made available to the villagers for drinking purposes. Villagers still depend on wells and ponds. This is not a good practice. This water is not hygienic. Though we have many experts around, no plans or programmes were evolved to provide protected water to the villagers. This is most unfortunate. Dr. K.L.Rao, an eminent engineer prepared a plan to link Ganga with Cauvery. But his scheme has not seen the light of the day. We have been squandering away money, the way we throw grains at birds for feeding them. We are not able to find money for a worthy scheme like K.L. Rao's scheme. The National Front has promised heavens to the people for coming to poor. Atleast this Government should see to it that enough money is made available to

worthy schemes. The National Front has promised many things for the welfare of farmers. They promised that there will be tremendous transformation of rural areas within a short span of time. But ironically, we do not have even a Minister for Village Development. When they could not appoint a Minister for Village Development, I do not understand how they think of development of the villages and villages. We have a Minister for Ocean Development, but we have no Minister for Village Development. It shows how sincere they are about their election promise. This is most unfortunate. One should not forget the fact that a village is not just synonymous with agriculture. Villagers are as important as agriculture. Hence there should be an around development of village. A soldier protects the country and the farmer feeds him. The Government is providing all facilities to the children of soldiers. But the children of farmers were totally neglected by the Government. While the son of a soldier can expect a better job, the son of a farmer has no such opportunity. Soldiers children can get all education facilities, while the children of farmers have no such facilities. Even the farmers belonging to forward communities can not dream of such treatment to their children. Madam, it may not be possible to provide educational facilities to each and everyone. 40% of our population is below poverty line. The Govt. can atleast provide these minimum facilities to the children of the families which are below poverty line. If you can not do even this, atleast provide education to their girls. By educating a girl you will be educating the entire family.

Madam, the allocation made for education and family welfare is negligible. There is an explosion of population. Yet the allocation for the family planning for this year is Rs. 100 crores, less than the previous year's allocation. With this meagre amount, I do not know how the Government can control the population. Is it the view of the Government that there will be some sort of civil war and it will lead to a reduction of population. If they think so, I am sorry for it. Now the family planning in the country is voluntary. But Madam, only when people are educated

they volunteer for family planning. In a country like where illiterates are more, the voluntary adoption of family planning has no meaning. We may have to wait eternally till everyone in the country turns out to be a literate. I shudder to imagine the future of the country if this voluntary system goes on endlessly. Forcible methods were adopted sometime ago which have been done away with. now. China has succeeded in controlling its population because of its forcible implementation of family planning. Madam, in the name of voluntary adoption of small family norm we are deceiving ourselves. I do not think that we will be more advanced than China, if we have more population. People may be illiterate. But those who are ruling the country are not illiterate. Hon'ble Members present in the House are not illiterate. But how many of us are speaking for the family welfare. How many of us are pleading the cause of family planning. Madam, the reason why I am saying so much on family planning is that our basic necessities like air, water, food and shelter are solely dependent on the size of population. There is not enough money for providing incentives. A man who undergoes an operation should be given a cheque of Rs. 20,000/- so that this can take care of this child after attaining 20 years of age. Paying a paltry amount is no incentive at all. We can not achieve anything by these petty incentives.

Madam, the country can not progress and there can be no development as long as scattered hamlets exists in the country. Even after hundred years basic necessities will not reach the people living in those hamlets. These hamlets should be joined and turned into small towns for the sake of development. You cannot take a helicopter to a hamlet on the hill top. One reason why America is so advanced, is that it has few villages. All the persons migrated to America in the last 200 years are well educated. So atleast an effort should be made now to reorganise the people and their villages. The Govt. should see that basic necessities like air, water, food and shelter is provided to all.

Madam, I conclude my speech thanking

you for providing me an opportunity. To make my maiden speech.

SHRI RAJ MANGAL MISHRA (Gopalganj): Madam Chairperson, I support the Demands for Grants of the department of Water Resources and the department of Agriculture. I belong to Bihar. There are three types of land in the State-fertile land, infertile land and barren land. The irrigation projects are formulated in Bihar according to this classification of land. There are lift irrigation schemes and minor irrigation schemes in South Bihar. Similar schemes are there in central Bihar also. But in North Bihar, there are major schemes. The hon. Minister might have observed that about one and a half lakh hectares of land is rendered uncultivable every year in North Bihar due to floods. The standing crops and life and property get destroyed. The Government of Bihar is not able to control it. The rivers overflow its banks causing devastating floods. At the time of drought these rivers cause soil erosion. There are a number of major rivers like Ganga, Saryu, Gandak and Kosi which flow through the State. Kosi is called the sorrow of Bihar. This river keeps changing its course every now and then thereby ruining the standing crops. Major irrigation Projects can be conceived by taming these rivers. One can speak a lot about the Kosi Project. The river, Kosi flows through the areas of Late Shri Lalit Narayan Mishra, former Minister of Railways. Bunds were constructed on this river a number of times, but each time, they gave way. About Gandak river, Dr. Rajendra Babu has written in his autobiography that it is unable fulfill the irrigation needs of our district. Huge quantity of silt and sand is deposited in the canal beds making them shallow. Such canals cannot be used for irrigation. Of course, the flood in rivers causes huge destruction.

The hon. Minister belongs to South Bihar and he himself has experience of all these things. I had asked a question about it and I was told in reply that Gandak Canal Project would be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. So we have to wait for implementation of the Eighth Five Year Plan. Even though

[Sh Rajmangal Mishra]

canals were constructed but our fields were destroyed. We could not make much progress in the field of irrigation. I do not agree with the view that no progress has been made during 40 years of independence, progress has certainly been made but it has not been made to the desired extent. We are farmers and today the farmers are in such a condition that they cannot irrigate their lands. Their standing crops are destroyed by rain waters. The water logging is a serious problem in our region. The fertile fields remain water-logged for the whole of the year. When we asked about it and Chief Engineer replied that you should grow those crops which consume more water. Our land is very fertile and we raise crops like wheat, rice and sugarcane on it. They advise us to grow *singhara* in water-logged fields. Our land is very fertile, why should we grow *singhara* when there is no market for it. If suitable steps are taken to remove water logging, provide proper irrigation facilities and control floods in North Bihar, we will be able to provide food to the entire country. But nobody is bothered about that. As it is Bihar is a poor state. Over and above that Government is least concerned with its development.

Agriculture mainly depends on water. Water is life. But in Bihar the river water has become so polluted that even the water of Ganga is not fit for consumption. Earlier, water of Ganga did not stink, but now it stinks and has become polluted. Sewage waters of Varanasi, Patna and Kanpur are being drained out into Ganga thereby making its water undrinkable. Ganga Action Plan is being launched and work to purify Ganga water is also in progress. But it is not satisfactory. If the Government pays proper attention to agriculture, a lot of progress can be made in agriculture. As a member of the Janata Dal, I would like to point out that it has been spelt in the manifesto of the Janata Dal that loans of farmers will be waived. The manifesto also promises minimum wages. I have no objection if the minimum wages are fixed at Rs 36/- or Rs 40/- but we have to

see the quantum of work also. For example, when a particular land holding produces 2 mounds of paddy and the farmer is required to give 3 Maundy of paddy to the labourer from his stocks, how can he make progress. Hence, before fixing the wages of the labourers, it has to be seen as to what will be the contribution of the labourer in agriculture in ploughing of the land and in harvesting etc. On the one hand, we say that we are not giving proper treatment to farmers.

In the matter of fixed deposits, Bihar tops the list in the country. But in the matter of development, it is lagging behind the rest of the States. As per rule, development in agriculture should have been according to the quantum of fixed deposits. But nobody says anything about it.

Madam Chairman, as much as 40% of the total requirement of sugar in the whole country was being met from Bihar. But what is the present position of sugar production in Bihar? Now, Bihar is lagging behind in the matter of sugarcane production. What are the reasons for this? You will be astonished to know that the Government took over 14 sugar mills in Bihar and arrears to the tune of Rs 20 crores payable to farmers are standing against the Government. The farmers are making repeated appeals for that but to no avail. When the farmers approach the managers with applications in their hands for payment so that they could meet the marriage expenses of their daughters, the managers say that there is no money. In this connection, representation has been made to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the hon. Prime Minister to ensure payment of farmers' money. Can not the Government extend even this much help to the farmers. Arrears of payment and the produce of farmers are lying with the Government, but it is not making the payment. Now, there are 14 mills under the Corporation, but the quantum of production is far less. What are the reasons for this? The reason is that the farmers do not get their own money. New sugar mills have been set up in Uttar Pradesh, but no new sugar mill can be set up in Bihar. About 40 lakh quintals of sugarcane is being pro-

duced in a single district, West Champaran in Bihar. The sugarcane produced in this district goes to Uttar Pradesh, but the Government is silent over it. I would like to appeal that new sugar mills be set up in Bihar so that sugarcane produced in Bihar is not transported to Uttar Pradesh and the sugar is produced in the State itself. Whom should I tell my grievances?

I would like to submit that so far none of the promises made by the Party at the time of elections for the welfare of farmers have been fulfilled in Bihar. The National Front Party had promised that farmers' loan upto Rs. 10,000 will be waived, but now its and but are being added. What are the reasons for that? Madam, the main thing is that the farmers are being charged interest on their loans much higher than the rate of interest that prevailed during the Mughal regime. They are being charged compound rate of interest. After every quarter, the amount of interest forms a part of the capital and interest goes on multiplying like this. According to Money Lending Act, the total amount repayable should not become double of the original loan amount. But in the case of loans taken in Bihar 4 to 8 times of the original amount is being recovered. I fail to understand as to why the rate of interest is even higher than the rate that prevailed during the Mughal regime. This practice has totally been prohibited through the private money lending Bill. We are not in favour of this practice. As such, the banks should be suitably instructed to refrain from this practice.

Madam, when the farmers approach the banks for loans, the officials demand their percentage. They categorically say that no loan can be paid if they are not given percentage. The farmers are made to wait for even five long days. Even then, they are not being paid the loan amount whatever might be their requirement, say purchasing pumpsets, tractor or seeds etc. There is a company called the BISCAMAN 2 in Bihar. When the farmers purchase fertilisers from U.P., they get lot of concession. But they have to pay much higher price if they purchase it from Bihar. The hon. Minister is

sitting here. He is aware of the BISCAMAN. But today, this company supplies very costly fertilisers to farmers. The farmers pay a number of taxes viz. road tax, bullock cart tax, education tax and house tax etc. and other people make merriment at their cost. What is the plight of the farmers today. Please have a look at the appearance of the farmers. The person who has no clothes in his body, who possesses only on tottered cloth, who is barefooted, who puts on dirty clothes and who is poor, is a farmer. Today, this is the identity of a farmer. Today, the situation is that the working class toils and the white collared people enjoy. That is why I want that the hon. Minister should pay attention to it and expedite the clearance of all the pending projects in Bihar and have them executed early so that Bihar which remained in the lead always in all agitations does not lag behind. In all the agitations, whether it was the freedom struggle or the movement launched by Jai Prakash Narayan, Bihar was always in the lead. It should not happen that Bihar is constrained to take the leadership of one more such agitation. With these words, Madam Chairman, I would like to thank you for providing me time to speak.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): Madam Chairman, will conclude within a short time. First of all I am grateful to you for providing me time to speak on Demands for Grants in respect of this Ministry. We should pay immediate attention to the plight of the farmers in our country. The farmers constitute 80 per cent of the total population of the country. Some how or the other farmers in our country are dependent on agriculture. Either they cultivate the land themselves or work as agriculture labourers. These agriculture labourers are being exploited by the landlords. Till date, they could not be granted ownership of the land. As it is, this Government talks a lot about the farmers and gives assurances that it will waive farmers' loans upto Rs. 10,000 in each case. First of all we have to see as to who are those people who really received loans of Rs. 10,000 and whether they really live below the poverty line. Is it so that we are going to waive loans



[Sh. K.D. Sultanpuri]

in respect of those people who live above the poverty line? First of all, the Government will have to identify as to how many people live below the poverty line and of them how many are Harijans, Adivasis and how many are backward. What is the income of the people whose loans are going to be waived? It has also to be ensured that the annual income of none of the above categories of people exceed Rs. 7,000 p.a. because it has been accepted that people whose annual income is below Rs. 7,000 live below the poverty line. I find that the decision taken by the Government to waive loans upto Rs. 10,000 is benefiting big landlords only and no one living below the poverty line will be benefited by this decision and get some relief out of it. If we look at the manifesto of the Janata Dal, we will come to know that they had given an assurance at the time of elections that they will waive the loans of small farmers. But in practice, it appears that the Government is not bothered about these poor people as they had promised. It is unfortunate. Had the Government made a provision of Rs. 1000 crore in the Budget for purchase of land construction of houses, promotion of agriculture for the agriculture labourers, I would have appreciated that this Government had taken a right step for the welfare and the upliftment of the poor people. Just now one of the members from Bihar was saying that this Government had just not bothered to solve problems of the people. I fully agree with him that the Government is very careless. The present Government do not know about agriculture. Today, the situation is such that the big landlords and the capitalists have a lot of Benami land. They have land in the name of their pet dogs and cats even. I would like to say.....(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Madam Chairman, just now, an hon. Member has stated that loans up to Rs. 10,000 given to big landlords are also being written off. I would like to point out that his information is not correct. Loans up to Rs. 10000 given to small farmers, labourers and petty businessmen only come under the

scheme of loan waiver announced by the Government.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: It seems that my colleague did not appreciate my point. I am trying to impress upon the point that big Zamindars are also taking benefit of this waiver of loan scheme of the Government. Small farmers, big farmers and agricultural labourers are all engaged in agriculture work. Under this loan waiver scheme, the Government did not pay attention towards small farmers and agricultural labourers. Only big farmers have taken benefits of this scheme for which they are not entitled to. Thus, the Government is trying to undo the green revolution. It would have been better if the Government have said it clearly that loan up to Rs. 10,000 of small farmers, agricultural labourers and Harijan and Adivasis alone will be written off. I could have understood the usefulness of this scheme, if this provision has been made only for the poor and the farm labourers who are forced to do begar in the fields of big zamindars. No such provision has been made by the Government for these people. I come from Himachal Pradesh and so are some other members who also come from hilly areas. The main problem in the Hilly areas is this that proper irrigation facilities are not available for agriculture. Unless proper irrigation facilities are made available in the Hilly areas, cultivation work will not be undertaken properly in these areas. Therefore, I would like to suggest that proper irrigation facilities should be provided in the Hilly areas.

Madam, although our scientists have done an excellent job and contributed very much to increase food production in our country with their research. Green Revolution has also ushered in our country due to their efforts, yet the Hilly areas where there is vast potentiality of planting fruit bearing trees, could not reap benefit. A vast tract of Government land is lying vacant in the forests near the villages. If this land is used for planting fruit bearing trees by allotting it to the farmers on lease for plantation of trees, it will not only help in checking soil erosion but fruit bearing trees can be planted on this

land and the economic condition of the farmers can also be improved. The Government should pay attention towards this thing.

Madam, Chairman, the small farmers should be given some subsidy for purchasing tractors for agriculture purposes so that they can get benefit. Tractors are very expensive these days. Due to rise in prices of diesel, small farmers are not able to purchase tractors. So far as purchasing it with Bank loan is concerned, banks have been rendered ineffective after this Government came into being. You go to Haryana you will find that the functioning of the Banks has come to stand still completely. The Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal is not present in the House. I am also one of the members of a Committee chaired by him. I know that farmers are not being benefited at all. I would also like to submit that if the Government is really interested in upliftment of farmers the costs of tractors and the price of diesel should be reduced otherwise all those measures will be on paper only.

Madam Chairman the big land owners cultivate their land with the help of farm labourers but they do not allow them to be registered as share croppers. As a result thereof the farm labourers do not get title of the land which they cultivate for which they are otherwise entitled to under the law. They are not recognized as share croppers, they are deprived of the ownership right of that land. In such circumstances, the farm labourers though, contribute a lot in growing crops but they remain landless.

Madam Chairman, I would also like to make yet one more point. In this country, there are persons who enjoy all kind of facilities and power. There are some families whose one member becomes an IAS officer and also owns land and the other member becomes a Member of Parliament and for that matter whole family live in luxury and comfort but on the other there are people who are poor, and landless labourers, they do not enjoy any right. Why it is so? The reason behind this is that the Government did not strengthen the economic condition of

the poor people. The Government gave them right to franchise but did nothing to provide them right to work and to improve their economic condition. Therefore, I would like to make a request to the Members of all the parties that all of us should cooperate to solve this problem. The members of the Congress (I) and the Communist Party are doing some work for these people but other parties are not doing anything for them. Therefore, I would like to say to the people not to fall into the trap of big capitalists and business men. In Azadpur market in Delhi, the people from our Hilly areas bring their apples. But they do not get reasonable prices and these people are being exploited by the middlemen. Their product is purchased by the middlemen on cheaper rates and they are exploiting these people.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Kindly excuse me, Shri Sultanpuri At 3 O' Clock, the Minister has to make a statement. So, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI K D SULTANPURI Madam, Chairman, I am going to conclude. I would like to submit that a market committee should be set up to oversee middlemen who are exploiting the apple growers. The apples brought to the market by the apple growers should be auctioned by the Government so that farmers can get reasonable rates of their produce. Delhi is the biggest market, particularly of fruits, of North India. Fruits from various parts are brought to Delhi. In order to ensure remunerative prices for the farmers, special arrangements are required to be made in Delhi.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to submit one more point that there are number of military cantonment in my State. Civilian population are also there in those cantonments. In Nahan, Shimla, Solan, Sapatu cantonments in my State, land is cultivated neither by the mili-

[Sh K D Sultanpuri]

tary men nor by anybody else, ownership right of that land should be transferred to the persons who are in possession of such land, so that they can cultivate that land. There is a colony of Ex-servicemen in Nahan cantonment whose area is being extended. The Government of India have offered alternative land to the State Government in place of land to be taken for that purpose. I would like to request that the civil population should not be disturbed and they should be allowed to remain there I would like to say that the civilians living in the cantonment areas should not be harassed They should be allowed to reap full benefits of crops raised by them on the land in that areas They should be made owner of that land Lift drinking water supply scheme and lift Irrigation schemes should be formulated to exploit water of the rivers flowing through the hilly areas so that water could be made available throughout the year for plantation in the hilly areas Survey should be undertaken and the State Government should be asked to submit schemes to the Centre for providing finance for the same, so that Green Revolution may be ushered in hilly areas also Satluj river flows through our Hilly areas In fact, Satluj is a river of Himachal Pradesh Bhakra Dam constructed on this very river The foundation of this Dam was laid by Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru Due to construction of this Dam production of foodgrains increased in Punjab The people of Hilly areas sacrificed their lives but they did not get due share in it. Himachal Pradesh should get 7.19 per cent royalty of electricity but we are getting 2.19 per cent royalty only on electricity When the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana were formed, it was agreed at that time that the Government would give royalty on electricity at the rate of 7.19 per cent but it has so far not been implemented.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Ask them as to under whose regime, this injustice was done? It is the Government which was in power perpetrated this injustice

SHRI K.D SULTANPURI: We will be

grateful to the present Government if they do justice to us and rectify the mistakes.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI: Recently, there was a hailstorms in Himachal Pradesh. Teams have been sent by the Government in all the places where there has been any kind of natural calamity but no team has so far been sent to Himachal Pradesh. Crops have been destroyed in Himachal Pradesh. There has been heavy loss of life and properties in Sirmaur, Hamirpur, Kangra, Bilaspur areas in Shimla and on the upper hilly areas. Funds should be provided to start relief work. Prime Minister should also visit these areas and if he is not in a position to go there he should send one of his Ministers there to assess the damage with the help of State Government. I think that funds should be provided to the State Government at the earliest so that farmers of those areas may get benefit.

I am very grateful to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I call upon Mr. Upendra Nath Verma to make a statement.

15.04 hrs.

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

**Grant of financial assistance to the families of those who dies due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA): Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a

statement regarding grant of financial assistance to the families of those who died due to the recent cyclone in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. Honourable Members may recall that I had made a statement in the House yesterday regarding some deaths as a result of this calamity. According to the latest figures available with us 72 persons died in Andhra Pradesh 7 persons in Tamil Nadu and 2 in Pondicherry. While expressing his deep sympathies and heart-felt condolences to the bereaved families the Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister has decided to grant Rs 25 000/ in each case of death from the Indian People's Natural Calamities Trust.

I would like once again to assure the House that the Government of India is keeping close watch on the situation and will render all possible assistance as and when required by the affected State Governments.

15.06 hrs

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)  
1990-91

Ministry of Water Resources  
and  
Ministry of Agriculture-*CONTD*

[*Translation*]

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Surya Narayan Yadav please make your submission in five minutes

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa) Madam Chairman you have given me five minutes time to speak but I hope that you will increase it at your own because I hail from Bihar where flood causes havoc every year and also causes heavy loss to the farmers

Just now an hon Member Shri Raj Mangal Mishra was saying that any bare footed and scanty clothed person was bound

to be either a farmer or a labourer. In my view not even a single useful scheme has been formulated till now for the farmers in this country. If the farmers are being neglected anywhere in the world it is in India and India alone. Till now consolidation of land was not completed. Nor could categorisation of land was done anywhere in the country. This indicates how much importance the Congress Government had given to the farmers. The Congress Party has ruled the country for about 45 years and by giving slogans of socialism they have cheated labourers and farmers. Now the Janata Dal has promised in its election manifesto that loans of the farmers upto Rs 10,000 would be waived. But they have added ifs and buts to this pledge. I would like to say it emphatically that if Janata Dal announces to waive loans they should remove ifs and buts from it and waive the loans of the farmers upto Rs 10,000 without laying any condition.

So far as the question of irrigation is concerned I would like to tell about the data furnished by the officials. Our Project officials fill up the data about the agriculture production while sitting in block offices and according to that data Government have to make arrangement in the respective areas. In our country physical counting of live stock is not done and only estimated figures are furnished to the Government. Similarly information about agriculture is also furnished while sitting at home and on the basis of information so collected dates are prepared by the State Governments and Central Government and same is laid on the Table of the House. That would not help farmers in any way in their upliftment. So long as the farmers, who consist of 80 per cent of our population are not economically sound, you cannot make the country strong.

I have been allotted five minutes time so now I would like to come to Water Resources. Water resources is a subject about which I have heard that where water resources are available in abundance, agriculture crops are planned there accordingly. We have also heard that it is India alone which experiences both food as well as

[Sh Surya Narayan Yadav]

drought and every year they destroy farmer's crops

There is nothing worse situation than this in this country I would like to suggest that more funds should be allocated in the plan head of the water resources because it appears the present Government have allocate funds to Water Resources Department taking into considerations the earlier allocations made during last 3-4 years It appears that the present Government has also adopted the policy of neglecting the farmers like previous Government Therefore, the hon Minister should place for more funds for farmers and water resources and I assure that the Members will not propose any cut on demands made by him As the Hon Prime Minister has made special provision for the Defence Ministry in the Budget, similar arrangement for farmers and water resorces should also be made in the Budget and such demands will definitely be voted by the House because this money belongs to the villages and should be spent on villages and not on the cities as the Government is going to do

Secondly you can see the irony of North Bihar that every year the Central Government and the State Government spend Rs 100 crores on relief measures and on repairs of roads etc If the Indian Government talks to the Government of Nepal and channelise the water by constructing dam and utilise that water for irrigation and power generation North Bihar will be able to provide electricity to the entire country and a vast area of North Bihar and Uttar Pradesh can be provided with irrigation facility But it cannot be done because no previous Government have done it in last 48 years The present Government have informed us that it is agree to talk to the Government of Nepal In this regard I have written 2-3 letters to the Government I welcome the hon Minister and hope that he will talk and enter into agreement with Nepalese Government Whatever condition they may put regarding irrigation or electricity that should be accepted You should work for the progress of the entire

Bihar. Secondly, if we exploit the rich resources of fish available in North Bihar, because of its demand all over the world, we would greatly help the agriculture sector, resources as well as means are available there but till now they have not been exploited

I do not remember the year but once a talk was held between Indian Government and Nepalese Government and Nepal was agreeable to generate power and supply to India on payment I would like that even on this condition if Nepalese Government agrees to the construction of dam Kosi river at Saharasa, our Government should readily accept it If a dam is constructed there, irrigation facility can be provided to the farmers and the expenditure to be incurred on the payment for electricity to the Nepalese Government can be recouped with the revenue to be earned from fish trade likely to be flourished after construction of dams We have been spending Rs 100 crores on providing relief to the people annually for last 45 years, so we are going to save that amount every year too Therefore, Madam, I would like to say that you are in the char and can also suggest and direct the Government to do it

Madam, Chairman, I would like to say about IRDP Under this programme the poor people living below poverty line have to be uplifted Under the programme some goats were bought but they all died even before reaching at the district level Not even a single goat could survive Not to say of their upliftment of the poor, they had to face tough time to save these goats Cattle in India live in a natural climate We are not so advance to keep them in air conditioned shelters. The Government purchase Canadian goats and pigs and give them for the upliftment of the poor You should promptly make improvement in such schemes If you also prepare plans similar to that of the Congress Government, the people of this country will not hesitate in rejecting you also This change is the result of a starvation and sufferings of the people Therefore, I would demand that suggestions of all the hon. Members should

be obtained through Advisory Committee for formulating schemes, be it for Water Resource Department, Agriculture or any other department and more and more villages should be developed including these suggestions in the schemes and take prompt action for their implementation.

Due to the shortage of time, I conclude my speech and express my gratitude for giving me time to speak.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA** (Jhabua): Madam, Chairman, Irrigation and Agriculture are two important departments in our country. After independence, we have made a planned development and our country has become self-reliant in matter of foodgrains. We had constructed big dams for irrigation, set up fertilizer plants and provided electricity to the farmers. I am happy that new Government have come to power and it has promised in its election manifesto that farmer's loans would be written off. For this purpose the Government have provided Rs. 1000 crores in the Budget and it is said that farmers loans up to Rs. 10,000 would be written off. I would like to say that for winning votes and influencing voters we can say anything. But if we have to make development in the country or take the country ahead or if we want to become self reliant, we have to formulate some other schemes.

Many speeches have been made here. Someone claims to be a farmer's leader and some one call himself a farmer. I do not want to go into it. I myself is a farmer. So far as the question of waiving of loan is concerned, I think every farmer has his own self respect. Madam Chairman, you also know this thing that a farmer never begs before anyone.

In the course of these 42 years of Independence, the Indian farmer had freed himself from the clutches of the exploiters. Today he is befouling himself under the delusion and waiting for the day when his loan will be waived off and a certificate to this effect issued to him. This is why not a single nationalised bank or a co-operative bank or any other financial agency for that matter is

ready to extend loans to him. You have been voted to power and you have formed the National Front Government but the poor farmer is in no way going to be benefited by this. If Government has the will it should first of all waive of the loans and issue a certificate to the farmer to this effect. It may, postpone the developmental projects. But unfortunately only announcements are being made discussions are being held and legislations are being passed in the Parliament. Nothing worthwhile is being done.

Here, I would like to make one thing clear that we, who hail from rural tribal areas, are aware of the fact that if you succeed in tangling the farmer in the loan waiver whirlpool, it will turn out to be an unending vicious circle. Today, the farmers are demanding loans to be waived off. Tomorrow the housing agencies and subsequently the industrialists will ask for it and a day will come when we will be looking for the recovery of loans in vain. To my mind, we do not seem to be keen to safeguard our national interests while sitting and discussing in this highest forum of Parliament in view of all the political parties displaying the same tendency and inclination. We are, only discussing the overt and covert means that bring us to power and make us capable of influencing public opinion in our favour.

The cotton entrepreneurs extract huge sums of money in the shape of insurance amounts from big insurance companies by setting ablaze some cotton but it is the farmer alone who dedicates himself honestly and laboriously in his fields. He is not bothered whether it is a Sunday or Saturday and he is unaware of the time. It is because of him that we are producing this much and all the credit goes to him alone. The farmer will abstain from putting in labour once he gets trapped in this vicious cycle. This will ultimately lead this country of 80 crore people near starvation. I do not think that the country is going to be benefited by these enticing slogans.

This loan waiver slogan has hurt the self-respect of the farmer who was by and by drifting away from his exploiters. The Indian

[Sh. Dileep Singh Bhuria]

farmer was aware of the fact that he shall have to repay the loan taken by his father or grandfather. This consciousness contributed to his honesty and self-respect. But the loan waiver slogan has hit both honesty and self-respect. This should not have been done. I understand that the Government would fulfil its declaration once it has made it, or fulfil the other promises made in their manifesto, other than the waiving of loans upto Rs. 10,000.

So far as agricultural research is concerned, I can say that we can conduct research in the hilly regions which are in plenty in our country. Oil seeds and Soyabean can be grown on the hilly slopes of tribal areas. We should, therefore, open research centres to examine the scope of increasing agricultural production in such areas and other rocky areas. There was a proposal of opening a research centre in my constituency, Jhabua, but nothing concrete has come up till now in that area. Oil seed farming should be encouraged in such areas by opening research centres there. We are not self-sufficient in oil as yet. People have a special attachment towards the schemes and programmes launched by the previous Government, particularly, schemes of rural development giving subsidies and other benefits to the poor

These schemes cannot be successful unless we involve the common people in them. The hon. Minister is not present here but I would like to ask him how he would bring the poor people of the country and those living below the poverty line at par with the rest of the people in the society? This can be achieved only when we give them financial assistance if they need it and technical guidance whenever and wherever necessary. Morality demands it. Roads should be constructed and other developmental activities should be undertaken in the villages under these schemes if we are really interested in the upliftment of the people. A reference was made to Green Revolution but this can be achieved only when all the resources are made available to the farmers.

Madam Chairman, you can see for yourself that the dairy owners of Gujarat construct the village link roads and village schools themselves. Our colleague, Shri Kotadia also hails from Gujarat. We should endeavour, people's participation and involvement—this should not be confined to the monetary aspect alone but other resources of development as well.

I would like to make a point or two with regard to irrigation as well. There is much talk about Narmada Project now-a-days and everybody puts forth his opinion about it. I would like to point out here that the Government of Madhya Pradesh is in a dilemma in this regard. At times they say that the height of the dam should be reduced and a technical committee should be constituted to examine it and sometimes they say that a status quo should be maintained. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to depute his technical personnel there so as to confirm what the Government of Madhya Pradesh really wants? You should make it clear to them that the people at large are going to be benefited by the construction of this dam. Fertile lands and houses should be allotted elsewhere to those whose immovable property has submerged under the dam water and schools should be constructed in order to impart education to their children. All these facilities should be made available to them so that they can lead a comfortable life. There is an acute shortage of drinking water in most of our States—be it Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan or Gujarat. There is need to construct multipurpose dams today that can supplement water both for irrigation as well as for drinking purposes. Such type of schemes and projects need to be formulated in our country today and this can be achieved if we make arrangements for storing and conserving water in deserts and hilly areas. We are distressed at the heavy casualty in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu that was hit by a cyclonic storm. At places, people pine for days together for a sip of water. How can we develop our hilly regions and jungles under these circumstances? How can farming be done in the absence of adequate water? Small dams can be constructed to facilitate

farming Similarly, small projects where water could be stored and then distributed through canals to fields should be constructed (*Interruptions*)

I was saying that lot of progress has been made in the field of horticulture in small countries like Australia, Bangkok and Thailand etc and all the species of fruits are being grown there We should, therefore, develop our horticulture also besides modernising the Indian farming so that the economic condition of the farmers gets better Much progress can be made if we pay attention towards this aspect owing to our favourable geo-climatic conditions and hilly regions For this purpose adequate marketing arrangements should be made, remunerative prices should be given to the farmers and they should be freed from the clutches of the middlemen

The only thing that the new M Ps harp on today is that the previous Government has achieved nothing But I can say that they can evaluate the developmental activities of the previous Government only after the expiry of the 5 year term when they can compare the achievements Then and only then will they come to know that governance is like a bottomless ocean and there is no way out of it once somebody ventures into it Hence, leaving these trifling issues aside we have to see what the Government wants to do for the farmers Tall claims are being made about irrigation and agriculture Hon Deputy Prime Minister is taking keen interest in these things but the farmer has not been benefited in any way still now Issues like the policy formulation for the progress and development of the farmer the Government's agricultural and irrigation policies etc should be categorically stated In Japan the support prices for the crops is declared in advance but in our country it is declared later so there is some scope for improvement in this respect The other day the support prices were announced and an increase of Rs 12-13 was made The price of oil is around Rs 30-32 The farmer is not going to be benefited even if the price rises to Rs 50 Likewise the farmer would not be benefited even

if the support price of wheat is increased by Rs 15 In fact, justice cannot be meted to him unless the farmer is paid the real value of the input of labour made by his wife, children and himself

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak

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[*English*]

MR CHAIRMAN Before we take up Private Members' Business, I now call upon the Minister for Labour and Welfare Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to make a *suo motu* statement on the incident at Sato Dharampur village of Fatehpur District of Uttar Pradesh

15.33 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

#### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

##### **Incident at Sato Dharampur Village of Fatehpur District of Uttar Pradesh**

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) In deep anguish I wish to inform the House of the unfortunate incident of crime against a Scheduled Caste in Sato Dharampur village of Fatehpur District, which has attracted considerable public attention

According to the report of the District Magistrate, Fatehpur, one Shri Dhanraj, aged 23 years, son of Sh Saukhi, Scheduled Caste, resident of Sato Dharampur, PS Asothar was beaten and set on fire by sprinkling kerosene oil over him by two brothers S/Shri Raju and Gulab Singh of the same village on 5th April, 1990 Shri Dhanraj was admitted to a private nursing home, as the Government doctors were on strike at that time He succumbed to his injuries on 6th