

[Sh. Haradhan Roy]

the workmen at the same rate and terms as stipulated in the BPE's office memo dated 8th September 1987 within three months from the date of the said order. The workmen of the Refractory and Ceramic units have not received any wage rise/revision since 1979.

I, therefore, request the Minister of Industry to take immediate steps to bring the erring management to the book and direct them to make the payment of the interim relief with retrospective effect in terms of the said order of the hon. Calcutta High Court

(iii) **Need for checking the flow of effluent into the river Ib from orient Paper Mills, Braja Rajnagar (Orissa)**

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Orient Paper Mill, Brajarajnagar is situated on the bank of river Ib in Sambalpur district of Orissa. The said paper mill is releasing its untreated slurry, sludge and effluent etc., into Ib river, which is a tributary of Mahanadi. Hirakud dam is constructed on river Mahanadi. The chemicals released by orient paper mill endangers the life of Hirakud dam. The Dam has developed many cracks. In addition to this, the effluents have polluted the water and marine life of the river. The mercury content of water has already reached a dangerous limit. The water of Mahanadi and fish have become unfit for human consumption. This matter has been raised in different fora but it has proved fruitless so far. Therefore, I urge the Government to take effective steps in this regard.

(iv) **Need for taking over the Shalimar Tar Products (1935) Ltd., Lodna (Bihar)**

SHRI A.K. Roy (Dhanbad): The oldest Premier Coal Tar By Products Unit STD Ltd., better known as Shalimar Tar Production (1935) Ltd. situated at Lodna, in the heart of Jharia Coal Belt district Dhanbad, Bihar was a part and parcel of Lodna Colliery Co.

(1920) Ltd., of the same managing agency of Turner and Morison Co. Ltd. But it is strange that when Lodna Colliery and its coke oven plant was nationalised in 1972, this tar plant connected in series with them, joined with them through pipe line an interlinked with the provision of mutual transfer of manpower, materials, product, etc., was left out to the mercy of the ex-owners though in the other case even the Cinema Hall of the ex-owners at Jharia was taken over and made a part of Bharat Coaking Coal Ltd. The ex-owner of the Colliery and still the owner of Shalimar Tar Products had no intention of running the Tar Plant.

I request the Government to take over the factory at the earliest.

14.15 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1990-91

**Ministry of Water Resources —
and
Ministry of Agriculture—Contd.**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN. We now proceed with further discussion and voting on the Demand for Grant No. 78 under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources and simultaneously with further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants No. 165 under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture, moved on the 7th May, 1990.

Now, Shri Kalyan Singh Kalvi.

[Translation]

SHRI KALYAN SINGH KALVI (Barmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today the entire country is passing through a phase of contradictions. If we talk to a farmer, he says that now farming is no more a profitable profession. If we sit amongst the consumers using farm prod-

ucts, they say that prices of all commodities have gone so high that the consumer is being exploited. He too is in distress these days. The greatest challenge posed before the nation is that in the prevailing atmosphere of paradoxes, the interest of farmers has to be protected so that farming does not become a losing proposition and on the other hand the consumer has also to be protected so that he is not exploited and made to bear extra burden on his purse. When we talk of rural development, we find that most of the people living in villages depend on farming for livelihood. The development of our villages is possible only when the farmers get proper return for their produce and their profession remains profitable. Their earnings from agriculture should be sufficient enough to make them prosperous so that they could arrange comforts of life for their families. The need of the hour is to increase per unit production level in farming. National production will increase, only when per unit production in agriculture increases. This in turn will result in increase in the national income also. As such, we should pay our foremost attention to do something to increase the income of each individual. The regime that was in power sometime back or in other words during the Congress regime the mental state of the people was moulded in such a fashion that every citizen in the country was worried about increasing his purchasing power. He was not interested in increasing his purchasing power by increasing his production, but he tried to do so by adopting corrupt practices. It is the result of those policies that corruption is rampant everywhere in public life. The corruption has percolated down to the common man. If we wish to bring all round development in the country, the dire need is to increase the productivity of every individual. Increase in production will increase his income and thereby his purchasing power will also increase. This is the theory of economics. The mentality of the country shall have to be moulded on this line and then only all round development for this country shall be possible. Today change at the grass root level is required to be brought in every field. Our agricultural department depends mainly on

extension programmes. Each and every farmer of this country has attained so much adaptability that the extension programmes are not that much required. We need to pay more attention towards research. It is a matter of regret that in our country we did not pay the required attention towards research. The frame-work of each department has expanded to such an extent that there is no utility of the employees of various departments posted at the village level. Still these personnel continue to be stationed in the villages and the burden of their salaries has to be borne by the entire nation. We shall have to bring radical change in our set up and bring about reforms. Every department will have to seriously ponder over its utility and it is only then that we shall succeed to bring reform in the true sense.

Today, it is the field of agriculture where the need for research is felt most. If I say that we have tried badly in the field of research or there has been negligible research, it will not be an exaggeration. You can see for yourself as to how much research has been undertaken in the field of agriculture for increasing production in the country. The work relating to research at the local level which was entrusted to Panchyats has been lying. The farms allotted to Panchayat samities have lost their utility and all of them have turned into barren lands.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the question of seed multiplication is concerned, no specific seed multiplication research work is in progress whereas the need of the hour is to carry out research in this important area and it is very essential that the knowledge of the outcome of that research should reach every farmer. Another field which requires attention is the development of new technology in this regard, so that agriculture production could be increased and the farmer could be given better price for his produce. What is urgently needed today is how to make farming a profitable profession so as to bring prosperity among the farmers. It is a challenge before the scientists working in this field as to how to cope up with these requirements of the farmers. The Government and

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the Agriculture department should also take it as a challenge, then only it will result in real benefits in future. Today many schemes are being formulated for the development of the villages, increasing agricultural production and development of farmers and I would like to say that for all these programmes there should not be different windows. Those who are doing farming on integrated development basis, especially in the villages should be given the facility of single window system so that ticklish complications do not crop up in their way. This is the biggest requirement of these programmes and I demand that the Government should pay attention in this regard.

Mr Chairman Sir the main task of Agricultural Prices Commission is to provide remunerative prices to the farmers on the basis of uniform price pattern so as to benefit them. It is a matter of pleasure that this time the A.P.C. have benefited the farmers by increasing support price and this move is being welcomed everywhere. But the Government has to be extra cautious about the fluctuations in production levels vis a vis prices. In the developed countries, not more than ten per cent variation in prices takes place but the kind of structure that was framed in the country during the Congress rule and the distortions that have crept in it is not reasonable to expect the variation in the price of agricultural produce to remain around ten per cent. But we certainly expect from this department that the price fluctuation would not go beyond 20 per cent. In case prices soar beyond 20 per cent sufficient foodgrains should be released in the market so as to bring down the prices. In case of fall in prices below 20 per cent, Government should open shops and procurement centres in the market to purchase foodgrains so that the prices could stabilise at a reasonable level. If it is done the farmer will not be cheated while selling his produce. We shall have to be very watchful in this regard. In respect of support price I want to make a submission that crops like rice, gram, wheat, mustard, seed, cotton etc. have been taken

into account but the coarse grains like bajra, moth, Jawar and maize etc. which are grown in various parts of the country should also be included and their support prices fixed so that the farmers could get relief through this system. Today the basic need of the country is that the requirements which directly relates to the farmers and villages should be fulfilled first of all. Water has to be provided to them, on priority basis, be it drinking water or water for irrigation purposes. Similarly, priority to supply of electricity to the villages will have to be given so that drinking water as well as water for irrigation may be made available. The people living in the villages will have to be provided with work and then only we can bring prosperity. If we assume that merely by giving jobs we can eradicate unemployment and bring about prosperity it will only be a distant dream not even remotely connected with reality. The fate of the country can be transformed only if we succeed in providing work to each individual living in this country. Government is committed to making such arrangements and it will take adequate steps in this direction. With regard to Rajasthan I would like to say that there is a need to formulate National Water Policy and it should be implemented strictly. The Inter-State water disputes should be sorted out at the earliest by setting up high level committees, may be at the level of the Prime Minister, because the sooner these disputes are settled the better it would be. Whenever there are floods in Ganga and Yamuna the flood waters bring devastation to many areas. The people in my constituency are longing for drinking water, the fields are thirsty for thousands of years and even monsoon is not able to quench their thirst. I only want to say that excess water of the rivers Ganga and Yamuna during the floods should be diverted to Rann of Kutch through a canal and released into river Luni. The area would benefit a lot from the water of the Canal and it would be a boon for our area. There is a dispute over Narmada water in which Rajasthan also has a share. It is said that the funds have not been provided to Rajasthan. The Congress Government had assured in the Legislative Assembly also that the Government had sanctioned the

funds for Narmada water. My point is that the water of Narmada should be given to that area which is adjacent to the river so that concrete steps can be taken for prevention of desert and it can be converted into green fertile land. The flood in river Ghaghar brings devastation to some areas of Haryana besides some areas of Rajasthan. If this water can be diverted to the desert area of Nagaur and Bikaner through a canal it can become a fertile area and water will be available for drinking and irrigation also. A few days ago the hon. Member, Shri Kirpal Singh from Punjab was expressing his concern about the problems of seepage and water logging in the farms which results in salinity and alkaline in the soil. Arrangements should be made to drain out that water in order to prevent all these things. The Government of Punjab had made arrangements to redirect the water into the river so that it could flow into the sea after passing through Pakistan. If that rivulet is diverted to Western deserts through a canal and it is made to flow into Leek river of Jaisalmer, the district of Barmer where desert is advancing and the entire country is concerned about it—can be converted into a fertile area. The Government should take some policy decisions in this regard. Today we have a new scheme of social forestry. I feel sorry to say that while a slogan for prevention of deserts was given during the Congress regime they were also primarily responsible for creating deserts. The scheme of plantation of trees was not implemented due to corruption and this also led to felling of trees at a rapid pace. The previous Government is responsible for converting Aravali into a desert. In deserts we do not have trees, we have shrubs. The people sold even those shrubs as fire wood for earning their bread and the Government was not able to prevent it. The Government should provide other alternatives for fuel. The Government should make alternate arrangements for fuel in my constituency so that desert does not advance further. The arrangements for fuel can be done in three ways. Gas has been found in Jaisalmer. If gas is supplied for fuel then people will not use wood as fuel. Besides, cow dung is in plenty in our region. If arrangements are

made for setting up Gobar gas plants on large scale, people will not cut the trees. Unless its substitute is not provided people will not stop cutting trees. Some arrangements should be made for it. If the Government thinks that development can be done in desert by spreading seeds or distributing plants then it is wrong. It is only a platonic dream and the Government can not be successful. There is no guarantee of availability of water. Sometimes there is not a single drop of rain for seven to eight years.

Now, I would like to say a few words about cooperatives. When cooperatives were introduced in the country it was assumed that it would completely change the situation in the country. The cooperatives have played a vital role in bringing about prosperity and betterment in some States. But in some States cooperatives means corruption and the latter is synonymous to cooperatives. The state of cooperatives in Rajasthan is worst. It is impossible to change the lot of poor people through cooperatives in Rajasthan. The Government should make improvements in it so that maximum people can be benefited. The corruption in cooperatives is because of policies of the previous Government. More investment should be made in this field through Rural Banks and Commercial Banks.

The main problem is that the farmers face many hardships in getting and repaying loans. They are exploited by the Panchayat Committee and other loan giving agencies. They are also exploited at the time of repayment of loans. I want that the Government should fix the credit limit on the basis of the land they possess and pass books should also be issued so that they can get loan from any bank. They should have the right to get loans. If the Government will not make these arrangements the farmers will be exploited by the money lenders.

The question regarding the marketing of agricultural products has also been raised several times. The Government had made arrangements for development of markets for agricultural products and set up market-

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ing boards. The Government will have to ensure that the farmers are not exploited through these agricultural markets and middlemen.

The Government had made arrangements for storage so that the farmers could sell their produce when they could get remunerative prices. It is very distressing to note that we have storing capacity of 7 lakh tonnes, out of which the share of the farmers is only 1 per cent. The figures available with me show that only 7.5 per cent of the space is available for farmers produce and the rest is for other purposes. This has to be thought over seriously. We had taken up the matter with the hon Minister of Agriculture and requested him that the farmers should be provided maximum facilities of storage.

Many hon. Members have expressed their views about crop insurance. I will not take more time. I would like to say that the Government should remain alert about the import and export of agricultural products. It should also lay down the policy of import and export so that there is balance of demand and supply. The growers do not get remunerative price and consumers also suffer. I would like to give an example in this regard. We import pulses only because we have become self-reliant in respect of other grains. The credit goes to the Department and the farmers. We will become self-reliant in this field of oil in near future. I will come to it later. The production of pulses has been almost same for the past many years. The Government should make more efforts to increase the production of pulses and monitor its import. Only one family has monopoly on the import of pulses. 70 to 80 per cent of the pulses are being imported through him. The agencies are in the name of each member of the family be it, wife, son, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law and wife of brother-in-law. He stores 70 per cent of the pulses. While he is required to clear up the stocks within 90 days he gives Sundays excuses that he got the delivery late or products have been sold to other godowns and tries to take more time.

He exploits consumers. We have to be alert in this regard. The Department will have to closely monitor all such persons who appear to be exploiting the people by monopolising the market.

Now, I want to tell you something about my area. My area is a desert area and people generally believe that sand storms and dust storms must be a regular feature there. I would like to tell them that my area is not like that. It is culturally very rich and not so economically backward also. People will have to change their views about it. But here I would certainly say, that there is lack of basic facilities in my area because of the dual policy of the Government. The Government of Rajasthan has not provided proper means and infrastructure for its development and they suffer from deprivation. I want to tell the hon. Members that we have exported embroidered articles on wool of goat, sheep and camel worth Rs. 30 crores. When we quote these figures people do not believe that we are so prosperous.

Sixty per cent of total production of cumin seed is being produced in Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jalore and Sanchor. But unfortunately facility of marketing of cumin seed is not available in our area. The farmers have to go to Gujarat and Una to sell their products. They have to face many problems for it like obtaining certificate, licence and permit. Sometimes they are not able to sell their entire products and sometimes they do not get full value of their produce.

75 per cent of total production of Isabgol is also produced in our area. It is called 'Ghora Jeera' in colloquial language. But it is very unfortunate that the farmers, who have done hard work for 5 months, do not get the benefit of fixed prices of export and the middlemen get the entire benefit. We have to think over this seriously. The Government will have to change the norms of priorities. Now, the benefits are being provided on the cost ratio. For example, we will get electricity from the central Grid on the basis of our last year's consumption.

Unfortunately, our area is a backward area and therefore, we might have consumed less electricity last year. If the Government applies cost of ratio in our area it would not be proper. Therefore, the Government will have to see it from human point of view and also keeping in view the backwardness of the area and the Government will also have to work for this. In this regard, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Railways that our State, Rajasthan has progressed a lot because of Rajasthan Canal, Indira Canal and the Ganga Canal, and the agricultural production has increased manifold there. But even then there is no broad-gauge line in our area to sell our produce in other States. We are not able to lift our crops from the fields during the heavy rainfall in the month of July. So we will be benefitted if a broad gauge line is laid there and therefore, I would like to thank the hon. Minister in anticipation. All the means of transportation would have to be provided by the Government. Besides, the production will be increased with the water made available from the Canals. All other arrangements will have to be made by the Government.

I would like to say something about the generation of electricity. The Government will have to give priority to the generation of electricity. There is lot of scope of electricity generation in our area. Today we are discussing about Hydel-electricity and Thermal electricity. Lignite is available in abundance in our area. Therefore, Power Houses should be set up in our area. Besides, an Atomic Power Station has been set up in our area. If one more unit of Atomic Power Station is set up there, it can meet the increasing demand of electricity in Rajasthan. I would like to submit that there are three more means to generate electricity. Gas has been found in abundance in our area. Electricity can be generated by this gas. Similarly, oil has been extracted in my area. This oil is of a very inferior quality and this can be used for generation of electricity in place of crude oil. Similarly, electricity can also be generated by solar energy. It can be generated in almost all the areas of Rajasthan. The cost of electricity generation by solar energy may

be a little more. The Government should bear little more expenses for the developed in the foreign countries. The Government should take steps in this regard.

It is a matter of regret that though there is a lot of water in our country yet we have not tapped our water resources properly so far. We are utilising only 7 per cent of the water available in the country. Rajasthan canal has been constructed. Seventy per cent of water of that canal should be utilised but we are utilising only 27.4 per cent. It is also a matter of concern and we will have to make improvement.

Besides, fertilisers have been distributed through cooperatives in Rajasthan, so that corruption could be stopped. Cooperative is the biggest agency. I would also like to submit one more point. There is a scheme of providing subsidy and mini-kit in Rajasthan. Basically I am not in favour of this scheme. There is no need to give either subsidy or mini-kits but we want that fertilizers and loan should be given in time. The Government should do it immediately. The Mini-kits that have been distributed are sold away in different States. The Mini-kit given in Gujarat is sold in Rajasthan. The Mini-kit given in Rajasthan is sold in Haryana and the mini-kits given in Haryana is sold in some other State. It has indeed happened. Our Government will like to check it because we know that our Government is a strong Government. The Government would have to remove the systems established at the time of Congress rule. I have submitted earlier also that there is no need to give subsidy. People should get money and they should get in time. The subsidy given by the Government does not reach the people for whom it is meant. I would not like to take much of your time and would like to say a few words about the implements. They are distributed by the Agra Industry Corporation. These implements have proved to be a failure. These should not be imposed on the people. I would like to tell you that the implements made by the Agro Industrial Corporation in Bihar could not be sold and these implements were then sold forcibly to the Panchayat Samities and Zila

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Parishads. I would like to submit that iron worth crores of Rupees is lying waste. The Department has neither any knowledge about the iron that has been lost, nor has it made any efforts to find out the loss. The Department could have done it.

As regards the seeds, the Government will have to set up an efficient Agency so that the farmers could get good quality seeds. The Department of Agriculture deserves to be congratulated for developing good quality seed of wheat. But the Department has not succeeded in developing other kinds of seeds. As regards the seed mustard, only 35 to 37 per cent oil is extracted from it in our country but in other foreign countries 44-45 per cent oil is extracted from it. Mustard seed has been improved to such an extent that in foreign countries there is no more acid content in the oil. The oil seed production in foreign countries has increased manifold. The production in foreign countries is 17 per cent more than our country and in the case of oil, the production is 6-7 per cent more in comparison to our country. Therefore, we should bring these seeds and develop them in our country.

Besides, I would like to add that the country cannot achieve much successfully on the basis of foreign policy. The Government will have to consider three things. Unless there is co-ordination between the experience of farmers, technical know-how and the geographical and economic conditions, benefit will not reach the people for whom it is meant.

About natural calamities, I would like to say that our country has to face all types of natural calamities such as drought, flood and hailstorm. Here I would like to point out that the Government does not consider about these natural calamities from human point of view. There is more of politics in it. Drought relief work or flood relief work is launched to win votes. Relief operations start in the district at the time of by-election. Relief opera-

tions has become an agency to get votes. People became idle due to these relief operations. We will have to think seriously in this direction. If the money spent on drought relief in Rajasthan would have been spent on digging tubewells in desert areas, making proper arrangements to supply canals water and check corruption in the construction of canals there would have been sea change and the entire area would have made progress. But all these things could not be done. I would like to request that there is a need to find out a firm solution to the problem of natural calamities.

The Government has to develop the non-traditional sources so that forest are not destroyed. Then only the forests could be preserved. Besides, the people who live in the forests, are to be provided other sources of livelihood. Forests should not be a source of livelihood for contractors and others. The Government will have to consider this matter seriously.

Of course, we have had one Green Revolution in our country, but only a section of the farmers was benefited by it. The need of the hour is to bring about another Green Revolution. There is a need to bring about White Revolution in the country. People should get adequate milk to drink and also nutritive diet. Similarly, Green Revolution would help in making the country prosperous and increasing the production of foodgrain. Therefore, it is necessary that farmers should get adequate supply of electricity, good quality seeds and corruption in this regard should be removed. Attention should be given towards research. The farmers should be told about the results of the new research at the earliest. The farmer wants to know about all these things. The Department should be ready to give them information about all this. The Department should accept it as a challenge and the responsibility is of our Scientists and technicians. If our Department is able to give them all this information then definitely there will be a sea change in the country's fortunes.

I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar): Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to support the demands for Grants with respect to the Ministry of Water Resources. At the same time, I wish to point out some discrepancies and distortions which need to be rectified very urgently.

The subject concerns at least 80 per cent of our population and the economic prosperity of our country is based on the development of our water resources.

In all these forty-two years we have heard the Congress bleating on and on about the various good things it has done for the farmer—it has done previous little—the total irrigated area has increased over the years by a mere 2.4 per cent which is pretty shameful. At the end of 1987 the total irrigated area was only 30.7 per cent while 69.3 per cent of arable land still lies thirsty and poorly cropped.

My distinguished colleague Shri Dharam Pal Singh Gupta mentioned in his budget speech of 26.3.1990 while quoting the Economic Survey, he said:

"In 1965, the per capita availability of total foodgrains was 480.1 grams per day, out of which 61.6 grams were accounted for pulses, and 418.5 grams were accounted for by other cereals. That figure, in 1989 i.e. after 25 years, has gone down—i.e. the pulses consumption has gone down to 40.4 grams, and the other cereals to 456 grams, thereby increasing the per capita availability only by 1.5 tolas. If you take into account the wastages of the prosperous class and the affluent class, probably that also has not been offered to them."

It can be argued that the population has increased and because of that there is certain pressure. That too, but to a large extent this is a direct result of our poor irrigation policy. Looking at this very grim picture one

expected this "rural oriented" government to make some marked policy improvements. I am disappointed to see that only Rs. 223 crores have been earmarked under the the head of irrigation and flood control in the 1990-91 Plan budget which is only a mere 30 crore improvement over the last Congress-I budget. It forms only 0.567 per cent of the total Plan outlay which stands at Rs. 39,329 crores.

Investment and technical clearance for medium and large scale projects are given by the Government of India, but except in some cases most funding devolves on the State Governments. This, I feel, is not entirely fair. Most of the rivers are inter-State and the development of the total river basins which is, surface flow and ground water, should be done on the basis of some master plan which should be the responsibility of the Central Government and which should also be done through some river basin authorities which have been proposed in the national water policy that was announced in 1987.

During the monsoon season there is a tremendous flow in most river basins and that water should be trapped and diverted to areas deficient in water. Central initiative in this is also imperative.

In the Central Assistance to the States weightage should be given to irrigation and power projects as in the Gadgil formula of 1968-70. This seems not to have found mention in the new formula and should be included Ten per cent of the total central assistance given to the State Governments should be for irrigation and power projects and should be provided through some mechanism such as the Power Finance Corporation—perhaps an Irrigation Finance Corporation so that some projects of huge dimension get assistance and come to early fruition.

14.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Look at the tremendous cost escala-

[Shrimati Vasundhara Raje]

tions which are putting most of these projects beyond our reach and making us feel as though we are chasing a dream

Let us take Rajasthan for example. For the Indra Gandhi Canal Phase I and II the initial estimated cost was 66.46 crores. Today the Indra Gandhi Canal Phase I is costing Rs. 66.46 crores, Phase II Rs. 89.12 crores and both of these are updated to Rs. 258 crores and Rs. 1,430 crores. The Jakham project which was Rs. 2.33 crores is now Rs. 71.27 crores. The Mahi Bajaj Sagar project which was Rs. 31.66 crores is today now 217.68 crores. Can we afford these cost overruns? If this attitude continues, will we ever be able to buy a State like Rajasthan on its feet?

There are several inter-state river matters pending with the Government of India—with huge irrigation potential of which at least three or four pertain to Rajasthan. Let me briefly go into those

First is the Yamuna Water dispute. It has been pending since 1974. This project involves U.P., Haryana, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The Cauvery water dispute which has been taken up in this House many times and which involves the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry, has been pending since 1958. The Telugu Ganga Project water dispute which involves the States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Karnataka has been pending since 1983. The Ravi Beas which includes the Nohar and Sidmukh projects and which involves the States of Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir and Delhi has also been pending for a long period. The Mahi Bajaj Water dispute which involves the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan has also been pending since 1980. Rajasthan is demanding something like 12 TAF of the surplus flood water of Ganga. And this dispute has also been pending for a very long period.

With administrative costs a project

costs escalating agricultural produce suffers and there is an increase of imports. No developing economy can sustain or afford this.

Let us look at some of the Government figures for Rajasthan regarding the creation of irrigation potential.

The irrigation potential created in the Pre-plan period was 0.32 m. ha. In the Plan period 1951-85 it was 1.39 m. ha. In the Seventh Plan 1985-90 the target was 0.39 m. ha. and the likely target to be achieved was 0.21 m. ha. At the end of the Seventh Plan, the likely potential to be created was 1.92 m. ha.

This works out to less than 0.05 m. ha. per year and less than 0.25 m. ha. per five years. If one was to delete the pre-plan potential of 0.32 m. ha. then it works out to approximately 0.04 m. ha. per year (1951-90) which is 0.20 m. ha. per five years.

The proposal in the Eighth Plan is to bring about 0.68 m. ha. under irrigation which is more than three times that of the last forty years. It looks a little difficult, in fact not little but very difficult to me. And if this is the case with Rajasthan, I hate to look at the overall picture.

For Rajasthan's arid and desert stretches irrigated agriculture is the need of the hour. Major and medium projects are necessary to recharge ground water which is being extracted in great amounts and which has very little chance of replenishment. The State has only 1 per cent of the country's water resources as against 11 per cent of the cultivable land and 72 per cent of the population is engaged in agriculture. We have been reeling under a severe recurring famine which has created havoc with the life of the people, most of who are living below the poverty line. We are talking about irrigation here. People do not have even the drinking water.

Without a planned and realistic water policy we, in Rajasthan, are dead.

I stand here to plead for an early solution to these long pending matters and for greater central assistance for irrigation projects particularly in Rajasthan.

I request that instead of banking on tribunals and courts which allow disputes to drag on *ad infinitum, ad nauseum*, an emergency plan to be tackled by the Prime Minister himself be drawn up. I hope the hon. Minister will carry my plea to the Prime Minister with the urgency it deserves so that the matter is taken up on a war footing and time bound to a maximum period of six months. It must be on the Prime Minister's priority list. It is time that we realised that irrigation and water resources are the nation's life blood and it is time that we realised and gave it the importance that it deserves.

I thank you very much for giving me the time to put forward my views. I would be grateful if some attention is paid on some of these points and try, for Rajasthan and for India as a whole, to bring out some changes in the policies this year.

[Translation]

DR. DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER (Nasik): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to put forward my views before the House on the issue of Agriculture and Water Resources. 70 per cent of the country's population lives in villages and their main vocation is agriculture. The father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi had said that this country cannot develop without rural development. But this rural development remains to be achieved as yet due to the wrong policies of the Government for the last 40 years. An imbalance was created by allocating 30 per cent. Budget provisions for this 70 per cent rural population and 70 per cent of Budget was allocated and utilised for the 30 per cent urban population. This led to further deterioration and villages deserted and there was mushroom growth of slums in the cities.

The present Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Devi Lal, had raised the slogan of providing water to every field and work to every hand

during elections. The rural masses particularly, the farmers gave their support to Janata Dal on the account. He had also declared to write off loans upto Rs. 10,000. Seven months have passed since then and the formula for waiving loans upto Rs. 10,000 has not been implemented in the real sense. Peasants are agitated and the opposition wants to take advantage of the situation. It is for this reason that the Chief Minister and the Minister for Co-operatives of Maharashtra have threatened to go on a fast unto death. Seven months have elapsed and therefore, the Janata Dal Government should come up with a concrete formula for writing off loans upto Rs. 10,000 within next two months, that is, after being in office for nine months.

I would urge the Government to keep the prices of the quality seeds and the fertilizers in check. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the sugarcane producers of Maharashtra are confronted with a grave problem. India produces 80 to 90 lakh tonnes of sugar every year. Of this, the contribution of Maharashtra is 30 lakh tonnes, that is, thirty per cent of the total production. But due lack of proper planning in respect of the sugarcane crushing by the Government, the crop of sugarcane is still standing in the fields this year. The crop is rotting in the sun. Whether the crop would be harvested remains uncertain. The farming labour for harvesting the crop return to their villages after 15th May. Under these circumstances, it is essential to provide special benefits to the farmers, India cannot produce adequate quantity of sugar for domestic consumption. It requires 201.5 lakh tonnes of sugar to meet its requirement. 13 to 15 lakh tonnes of sugar have to be imported. According to the current market rates, Rs. 90 crores have to be paid in foreign exchange for importing one lakh tonne of sugar. On the other hand, we get only Rs. 60 crores if we export one lakh tonnes of sugar. Keeping this in view, it the Central and the Maharashtra Governments have to give some relief to the sugarcane producers, then there is need to formulate a scheme for that. The Government of Maharashtra has proposed to the Central Government to announce free sale of the 100 per cent sugar

[Dr Daulatrao Sonuji Aher]

produced from the crop harvested after 1st April so that the consequent enhancement in the selling price thereof may benefit the growers. The Central Government gets Rs four and a half crore as excise duty on every one lakh tonne of sugar produced. I would like to urge upon the Central Government, to give subsidy to these farmers if it wants to benefit them. This would evoke a positive response from the farmers. I also demand to extend the duration of Sampat Commission because it is very beneficial for the industries of Maharashtra. The Central Government should bear the expenditure of Rs 150 per tonne for transporting sugarcane from areas lying out of the jurisdiction of the sugar mills. Only then these mills would run smoothly. The Central Government has issued the letter of intent to 24 new industries in Maharashtra in order to increase the production of sugar. But the National Cooperative Development Corporation tries to create hurdles. The Board intends first to reimburse the money given to State Administration but this is going to obstruct the economic planning of the State administration. But if the National Cooperative Development Corporation makes an equitable distribution of the amount to the state administration the problem can be solved. The Corporation has arranged Rs two crore only for State administration in a year. I demand that it should arrange Rs 125 crores in the Eighth Plan so that 24 industries which have been issued letter of intent could operate. There is large scale production of onion in my constituency. Eight to 10 lakh tonnes of onion out of a total production of 30 lakh tonnes in the country are produced in District Nasik and sent to every nook and corner of the country. But due to the wrong policies of the Government with regard to the distribution of onion the farmers do not get the reasonable price for their crop between December and May and they are, as such, compelled to launch agitation for this. There is need for formulating a genuine policy for export. The attitude of 'Nafed' that is the channelising agency is akin to that of Bofors. Nafed is doing nothing for the farmers but at the time of exporting

onion, this channelising agency gets revived so that it can avail of its approximately five per cent commission. This institution earns a profit of Rs 5 crores despite doing nothing. I demand that the Government should open the avenues of export for everybody. It is not true that Nafed earns a commission of 5% on onion alone. If this commission is reduced by a mere one per cent, the farmer would be able to earn Rs 15 per quintal more. Secondly, the direct repercussions of the Motor Vehicles Act enforced by the Central Government last year can be seen in the escalation of transport charges affecting the farmer. Under the Act a truck can carry not more than nine and a half tonnes of load instead of 13 to 15 tonnes. The truck that charged Rs 4500 per 13-15 tonnes earlier, charges five to six thousand for just nine and a half tonnes of onion from Nasik to Delhi. Therefore, it is necessary to revise this Act, because this has laid an additional burden of Rs 95 per quintal on the farmers. This Act should, therefore, be amended or this will turn to be another Bofors scandal. The farmers can be given of Rs 30 per quintal for growing more onion. This will prevent them from launching agitations.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, besides, additional wagons should be provided by the Railway for transportation of the produce when there is an additional demand. The production of cow-milk in Maharashtra is 35 per cent. The dairy farming in Maharashtra is run both by the Government Sector and the Co-operative Sector. 25 thousand employees are working in the Government Milk Scheme. Due to the wrong policies of the National Dairy Development Board adequate loans are not given to the Milk Society of Maharashtra—the Government Milk Scheme. Butter and Milk-powder are prepared under this Scheme. This is why

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER You should talk in the context of the country

DR DAULATRAO SONUJI AHER This is related to Maharashtra. The farmer is in

great distress there due to this system. Maharashtra produces 12 thousand metric tonnes of Milk-powder and four thousand metric tonnes of butter which the Government of Maharashtra has...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This issue is discussed in the Assembly as well.

DR. DAULATRAO SONUJIAHER: This is Governmentisation and it needs to be checked. In Maharashtra, the irrigated area is just 12 per cent and all the projects of irrigation have a capacity of irrigating only 32% of the total area. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to give a consideration to the Lift and Deep Irrigation Schemes that will help in increasing the irrigated areas two to three folds. I am hopeful that the Government would ponder over it and make efforts so that there are more and more irrigated areas in the country.

*SHRI BH. VIJAYKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, systematic programme for the development of irrigation facilities in the country was taken up right from the beginning of the planned programmes. This has enabled India to increase the food production from 50 million tonnes to 172 M. Tonnes. The major irrigation projects like Bhakra, Beas, Hirakud, Rama, Ganga and Nagarjunsagar were constructed over the major rivers like Ganga, Yamuna, Beas, Brahmaputra, Krishna and Godavari. As a result, we could extend irrigated Agriculture to as large area as possible. This approach has paid rich dividends as the country has become self sufficient in food-grains. But at the same time we are facing some practical problems like unequal distribution of water. We are not in a position to supply adequate water in a required proportion through our major projects to all the irrigated areas. We have failed to ensure assured water supply to all the crops in all the regions. Our experience shows that while there is misuse of excess of water in upper reaches, there is no adequate water available in the tail-end areas.

Rs. 44,000 crores were spent during VI and VII Five Year Plans to provide water to 113 M. hectares. U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka States have made much progress in carrying out studies with the help of Central Water Commission regarding availability and utilisation of water. But, Sir, we have to admit that the projects have not been completed in time and as a result the cost has gone up many folds. Even today 42 years after our independence, cities like Madras are suffering from acute water shortage. In Hyderabad also people get water once in three days. The demand for water for diverse purposes like domestic, industrial, Agricultural, hydro-power and navigation is increasing rapidly. The Central Ground Water Board has completed a survey of an area of nearly 28 lakh Kms my March 1989. The entire country would be covered by these surveys by the year 1990-91. Sir, the Annual Report indicates that 13.5 M.H. of land has been protected from floods during the Seventh Plan period with an expenditure of Rs. 2000 crores. Committees on Flood Management has been appointed to suggest ways and means to prevent floods in States like Bihar, UP, Orissa, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and Tripura. Similar Committees should be constituted in other states in the country so as to save the entire country from floods. Sir, Government should show more interest in the flood management. Flood management works carried out upto March, 1989 are:

(a) Embankments	—	15,467 Kms.
(b) Drainage Channels	—	30,199 Kms.
(c) Town protection Works	—	765 Nos.
(d) Villages raised	—	4,705 Nos.

Apart from the above works, 27 projects which include 21 new and 6 revised ones were considered for the flood control and

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Sh Bh Vijaykumar Raju]

multi-purpose utilisation during the year 1989-90. An estimated expenditure of Rs 2400 crores was accepted to create an additional irrigational potential of 10 lakhs and 50 thousand hectares. The projects have to be completed in time. Otherwise the cost escalation may cost the country very much. Sir, in the name of taking safety precautions, crores of rupees are being wasted every year.

In every flood season thousands of hectares of land is being submerged incurring heavy crop losses and wastage of hundreds of crores of rupees. To avoid continuous expenditures on floods and incurring heavy crop losses, projects should be undertaken so as to make a permanent solution to the flood problem.

Due to heavy floods in 1989 Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra states were affected very badly. The total loss in these States reported that an area of about 10 M Hectares were affected very badly. About 2000 people and 75 thousand cattles were reported to have been lost. The total value of damage as tentatively assessed by the States concerned was reported to be of the order of about Rs 2,380 crores. Andhra Pradesh was worst affected by the floods during 1977, 1983 and 1986 and 1989.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh had been receiving step-motherly treatment all these years. No development of irrigational facilities has taken place in Godavari Delta after independence.

Though a barrage was constructed at Dhavaleshwaram to store more water the irrigation system was not developed at all. The entire irrigation water distribution system has to be modernised immediately. The old sewage systems are still continuing the drainage system is not working completely. The river bunds are completely in a bad condition. The major drains are silted. The medium and minor drains are not traceable at all. Hence immediate steps should be

taken to modernise the irrigation in the entire Godavari delta area. Sir, we have to take every step towards better utilisation of water. We have many sources like major irrigation projects, minor irrigation projects, ground water and the water available through melting of snow. We have to see that every drop of water available is used and not wasted.

As I mentioned earlier we should take steps to avert floods. We are concentrating on finding out new sources of water but we have not so far diverted our attention towards better utilisation of water which is already available. The amount spent so far did not really do any good. Money has not been spent properly. I want to cite an example in this connection. During 1989 Andhra Pradesh has experienced heavy rains. Rs one crore and 20 lakhs have been given to the State for repairing the damaged drains. But only 5% of the amount was really spent and remaining 95% was misused. Enquiries conducted later proved this bitter truth. So, Sir, when only 10% of the money is really utilised in a constructive way, how can we hope that we will develop and prosper.

Sir, as the House is well aware, Andhra Pradesh reeled under an unprecedented cyclone in the year 1977. Everything was washed away by the tidal waves. Loss of life and property was quite unprecedented. Again the tidal waves are once again lashing out at our State now. Every one is aware that the State is in the grip of cyclone once again. The loss of life and property is expected to be as much as it was in 1977. My constituency is reeling under cyclone right now. I stayed back only to raise the matter in the House. Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me the opportunity to raise the issue. In the present cyclone, all the roads in the area have been washed away. The movement of trains have come to a standstill. People in the area are struggling hard to survive. Constant fear of death and loss of their property is haunting them, more than a lakh families have already been shifted to safer destinations. Sir, the experience in the past 40 years shows that the tidal waves are hitting only certain pockets in the area. It is not at all difficult to locate

the vulnerable points. Whenever tidal waves hit these areas, the Central and State Governments announce a programme to protect the area in the future. They speak of raising protection walls and taking every safety precaution. Yet, years are rolling by and nothing concrete is coming out to protect the area from the waves. Once again there is a danger of loss of life and property this year. Hence I urge upon the Govt. to take steps at least now, to protect this area from the fury of tidal waves in the future. An expert Committee should be appointed to identify the areas which are likely to be affected by tidal waves. Its recommendations should be implemented strictly. The Central Government and State Governments should not run away from their responsibilities. It is a joint responsibility. The Central Govt. has an enormous responsibility on its shoulders. It has to discharge its responsibility.

Sir, the droughts and floods are a recurring phenomena. Certain parts of the country get washed away by the floods while other parts face an acute drought. A Committee should be constituted to look into this major problem. Mere constitution of a committee will not serve the purpose. Its recommendations have to be implemented strictly and sincerely. Governments may come and Governments may go. What is important is the identification of problems and finding out solutions to them and their strict implementation. Whatever might be the cost, we should implement the recommendations of expert committee. Then only we will be in a position to get rid of the twin problems of droughts and floods.

Sir, once again I appeal to the Central Government to come to the rescue of our State Government in tiding over the present crisis. Help should come in time. Help will be no help if it does not come in time. At least this time, I hope the Central Government would release sufficient money to rescue to victims of the present cyclone. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shri Upendra has announced in the House this morning that the Hon. Prime Minister is going to visit the cyclone affected area tomorrow. I am grateful to the

Prime Minister for his gesture. I hope he would do justice to the cyclone affected people in my State.

Sir, I conclude my speech by thanking you for providing me this opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants related to the Ministries of Water Resources and Agriculture.

SHRI VIDYADHAR GOKHLE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express some of my personal views on water resources. A meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held. Also a number of committees had been constituted on that subject and a number of seminars have also been held but till now no clear cut national policy on water resources could be formulated, that is the factual position in this regard. While framing such a policy the interests of the entire country should be kept in mind. The entire water wealth of India belongs to all her citizens. It is only to maintain and strengthen the traditional bond which our rivers have with the nation's rich cultural heritage that the following shlokas are recited whenever the 'mangal kalash puja' is performed here in this country:—

"Gangecha yamunechaiva, Godavari
Saraswati.
Narmade Sindhu Kaveri Jalesmin
sannidhim kuru."

What I mean to say is that the scope of the policy on water resources should not be limited to States along. The late Acharya Kaka Kalelkar called the rivers as 'Lok Mata'. These rivers if properly managed can cater to the needs not only of the people living near them but also of those who live in the far flung areas.

Sir, in our country, rivers are a national resource. Inter State Water disputes arises only when this fact is not accepted by all in its entirety. A number of water disputes have arisen in our country which remain as yet unresolved and these issues require a categorical stand on the part of the Government.

[Sh Vidyadhar Gokhle]

For the last four decades, we have been witnessing the persistent incidence of natural calamity of drought and heavy rains in India. Not only that we find here that a tendency of untimely drought at the time of Kharif crop and then occurrence of heavy rains in an increase. Why does it so happen? Why is there a scarcity of water after the monsoon, despite a heavy rainfall of 12,000 mm in Cherapunjee? Why do waterfalls dry up in hilly areas? In 1977, two crore hectare of land was treated as falling in the flood prone area but now the area covered under this category is seven crore hectare. Why did such a situation arise? How is it that we have reached a stage when people say "Bharat teri Ganga Maili?" Rich people install pumping sets and tubewells to exploit maximum quantity of ground water. Isn't there a need to curb this practice? What is the reason that coastal land is having more and more element of salinity? Our national policy on water resources does not have an answer to an innumerable number of such questions. What is the basic reason behind this sad State of affairs?

The basic reason is that we have disregarded Indian traditions and conditions and blindly followed the ways of developed western nations. America has adopted a new strategy of discharging the water of one river basin into the another. Blind and unrestricted following of this method will prove to be not only costly but also a dangerous adventure in respect of our nature. This shows that the water of every river has some unique biological and chemical qualities. The water of a particular river encourages the growth of a particular type of vegetation and a particular type of living beings feed on it. So an inter-basin transfer can gradually destroy, Certain Vegetation and a particular type of organism.

The National policy on water resources should not only aim at the availability of water in abundance but also concentrate on its quality. It would be wrong to use water contaminated by insecticides and nitrates.

Modern agricultural technique involve an extensive use of chemical fertilizers. With the result that nitrates and sulphides mix up with the ground water to make it a poisonous substance. Is such a water fit for consumption? Through the generations in this country, water has been called life and not death.

Water resources are dependent on forest wealth. Dense forests in the higher reaches of mountains enable the smooth conversion of stream onto water. Dense forests ensure the conservation of rain water thus saving it from the process of evaporation. These forests have the capacity of holding upto 97% of rainwater. Instead of spending huge amounts of money on the construction of big dams, protection and conservation of forests would be a natural and cheaper way to store water.

The use of restraint is a must in respect of irrigation. The famous Soviet Scientist, Victor Kovra has said that

[English]

The trouble is the biggest where irrigation is the biggest.

[Translation]

Excess irrigation leads to salinity of soil which reduces fertility of that land. So in dry areas dry farming should be practised instead of resorting to irrigation. Percolation tanks should be set up in regions which are rocky and humid. The co-operation of farmers and voluntary organisations is very essential in the process of irrigation. Industries requiring a large quantity of water should not be set up in the areas where water is scarce. Now it is becoming clear that construction of concrete dams in tropical regions is not to give expected results. The main benefit of these dams is reaped by the industrialists and urban-dwellers in the form of cheap electricity. These dams form a chain of stagnant reservoirs in rivers. Doing this is as good as stopping the process of natural purification of rivers ultimately leading to the depletion of our water resources. Construc-

tion of large dams disturbs the ecological balance in catchment areas of rivers because of excessive deforestation before and after the construction of such dams. The stagnant reservoirs created by the dams lead to water-borne diseases. Further it causes earthquakes and what is most serious is that it displaces forest dwellers and destroys their traditional way of life.

In short, the question of national water resources is connected with the fertility of land, forest resources, pollution, quality of foodgrains and such other issues. We must not ignore this aspect and blindly follow the path of modernization without giving due weightage to all these factors.

With these words I conclude my speech.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER. You have put forward a new view point.

SHRI RAMDAS SINGH (Giridih) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture and water resources are complementary to each other. I was listening intently to the views expressed by an hon. Member on the subject of water resources. I entirely agree with it that the national policy on water resources was not framed in India itself. In 1978, we formed a team of some junior engineers and went around the Himalayan foothill region and also the hilly regions in South India. Thereafter, we drew up a plan and presented it to the Government. Unfortunately the Government expressed its inability to put the plan in action on the ground that it involved a heavy expenditure. The late Shri Kedarnath Pandey had also raised this point during his tenure but that plan could not be implemented.

Due to non-implementation of the above proposal, the country is experiencing floods, drought, power crisis and other such problems linked with water. Various situations emerging out of the above problems have been attributed to this reason only. In our Puranas and in the history of our culture, rivers have been described as mother. As my hon. friend has rightly said that there are

rivers in other parts of the world and more or less they affect human lives of their respective countries. But the rivers of India have got some peculiarities of their own. For example, Ganga is the symbol of unity. Similarly, Godavari is called the Ganga of the South. People believe that Godavari originated from Gangotri i.e. Mansarovar located at the Himalayas, flew underground and appeared on the earth in the South. I would not like to take much time of the House on this point. But I would make a strong point with regard to proper utilisation of water. I had made some suggestions in this regard. But the previous Government abandoned the proposal with the remark that it involved a huge expenditure. We had chalked out this plan. Under the plan, it was assessed that the Southern mountains and mountains falling within the Vindhya range are located at a height of 12,000 feet from the sea level. There are rivers in North India too. We feel a bit ashamed to call a river as Sindhu, otherwise Sindhu is no way less important a river than other rivers of the world. Some years ago, India was being known by this region, but it is no more a part of our territory. Of course, there are other rivers in our country and we call them national rivers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ram Dasji, please come to the point. Time is short. You are deviating from the point.

SHRI RAMDAS SINGH: I am not deviating from the point. I have seen people getting a lot of time. If you say I will sit down. The rivers passing through Punjab are located at a height of 15,000 feet from the sea level. I suggest that a channel to flow the waters of these river should be dug from Bhakra Nagal which would reach Bihar through U.P. The flood waters of Bihar should be drained out to South through this channel which would pass through the water falls of Madhya Pradesh. In this way U.P., Bihar and West Bengal could be saved from the fury of floods and an irrigation network could be pread across the country. More electricity could also be generated by setting up turbines at low costs. This will remove the shortage of electricity in the country.

[Sh. Ramdas Singh]

The electricity generated through Thermal Power Stations causes huge losses to the country. Lakhs of tonnes of coal is burnt in this process. But hydro electricity could be produced comparatively at a low cost. There are several suitable sites in Central India where hydro-electricity could be produced at a low cost. The States of Bihar, Orissa, U.P. suffered huge losses in terms of human lives, cattle heads and crops during the last 41 years. Had the water scheme been implemented at the national level, the above losses could have been avoided. You can imagine how much money the country must have spent in paying compensation and other expenses. Had the water scheme been implemented, the country would have incurred less expenses. Droughts could have been checked at lesser expenses than the money being wasted these days. There is still a need to execute the above scheme. It would not involve much expenditure. We can save the flood-hit areas at less expenses under the above scheme.

Thermal Power Stations are being set up in the country and coal in large quantities is being burnt in the Thermal Power Stations to generate electricity. If we go on burning coal in this manner, the coal reserves in the country will exhaust in 75 years. In order to save the coal reserves and generate electricity, the only option open before us is to set up a water resource grid at the national level, if the waters of rivers originating from the Himalayas could be channelised through Godavari, the Ganga of the South across the Vindhya, the cotton production in Gujarat and Maharashtra could be boosted to a great extent. Irrigation and power facilities in these States could be further augmented. In our country, there are huge resources of water. If water could be controlled through a national scheme, it could be put to best use in the country.

Since time is short, I am not going into details. I shall go into details on some later occasion. The Government should ascertain as to how much loss was caused when

waters reached from one State to the other. Had we spent just 20 per cent of the above amount and controlled water by preparing a master plan, we could have saved the country from a huge loss. As such an effective water scheme may please be prepared to utilize water to the optimum level and increase electricity generation.

I would like to thank you for providing me time to speak.

[English]

SHRIM. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Agricultural Policy of the Central Government. The Government has announced to allot half of the budget amount towards the development of agriculture and the upliftment of the rural areas. I request the Government that it should take care to see that the allotted amount reach the deserving people at the lower level. Our experience in the past is that the poverty alleviation programmes and other schemes in the Five Year Plans, benefits only twenty per cent of the beneficiaries. Major part of the funds were swallowed by the intermediaries. All the schemes of the Government should be implemented with the involvement of the people and checked by popular committees.

Even after 43 years of our Independence and seven Five-year Plans, two-thirds of the cultivable areas are depending upon monsoon and have not been provided with any assured irrigation. The peasants plough and sow the seeds and look upon the sky for rains. This is the common feature all over the country. Because of the failure of the monsoon the crops get dried and the peasants have to bear all the expenses. Especially in the non-deltaic areas, the peasants have dug wells spending their own money and without the support or aid from the State Governments.

In Tamil Nadu, the farmers like Modern Baheerathan; dug wells in the rocky soils. The wells are even hundred feet in depth. According to the official report, there are

more than 12 lakh energised pumpsets for irrigation. Nowadays, the ground water table is going down

I would like to bring to the notice of the House, that in Tamil Nadu itself the farmers' agitation started in the early 70's. The main reason for the agitation is their debt burden. The peasants could not repay the amount to the cooperative societies. But the Government and the financial institutions labelled them as wilful defaulters.

The National Front promised to waive the loans of peasants it is in the election manifesto. But I am sorry to say that the Government has retraced from its own promise. Generally, the peasant community is disappointed. The Government announced that the remission will cover only short term loans. Further it says that the wilful defaulters will be decided by the bank officers. This may lead to corruption and reduce the number of genuine beneficiaries. I request the Government to be generous enough to give at least guaranteed benefits to the peasants while waiving the loans.

The Government should consider restructuring the cooperative financing institutions. Now there is a threeter system. Because of this overhead charges and interest rate increase and all other burdens have to be shouldered by the peasantry. The interest has been raised up to 13-17 per cent. Virtually the cooperative credit societies are substituting only the moneylenders. So my request is to reconstitute them into two tier system so that the burden can be reduced.

I would like to reiterate that the Government should fix the price of paddy in parity with that of wheat. For nurturing the paddy up to the time of harvest, the peasants have to provide more wettings than that for wheat and thus have to bear extra expenses. From all aspects, the rural workers are worst affected. They have to migrate from their living places to far-off places in search of jobs in the lean seasons. The local agricultural workers should be given preference in development and relief works. Contract system

should be abolished.

The Government must fulfil the demands of the Agricultural Workers' Union by enacting a comprehensive legislation.

Lastly, I am an elected member from the Nagapattinum constituency which is in the Cauvery delta and has been worst affected during the last few years because of the Cauvery water dispute. I wholeheartedly welcome the Supreme Court's decision and request the Government to take effective steps to appoint a tribunal on a time-bound basis to resolve the long-pending dispute.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJDEV SINGH (Sangrur) Mr Deputy Speaker Sir diesel is an essential input for all types of agricultural operations. The hike in the price of diesel in the current Budget has adversely affected the farmers. The farmers will be no way benefited by the increase in support price of wheat because the price of diesel has also been increased simultaneously. There is no agricultural operation which could be undertaken without diesel. The whole House is unanimous to withdraw the hike made in diesel price. This will help us win the confidence of the farmers. This will make the farmers realise that the National Front Government is listening to their grievances and trying its best to solve their problems. The hike effected in the price of diesel is not at all justified on any ground.

Secondly, the increase announced in the support price of wheat is not adequate. The farmer cannot recover the cost of inputs he uses for producing crops. Three to four years ago the Agriculture University, Ludhiana through a survey ascertained that the cost of production of wheat comes to Rs 240 per quintal. As such the price of wheat should be fixed keeping in view the cost involved in its production. Due to further increase in the prices after the above survey, the cost of production of one quintal of wheat comes to Rs 325. The price of wheat should be fixed keeping it in view the above fact. But the support price of wheat was fixed at Rs 215.

[Sh. Rajdev Singh]

per quintal which is an injustice to the farmers. I would like to request the Government to announce payment of bonus to farmers. Just as bonus was announced earlier after the harvesting of paddy crop, similar payment of bonus to farmers may also please be announced by increasing the price of wheat. In this way, the Government would champion the causes of the farmers and win their confidence. It is very essential that the farmers of the country should get the remunerative price for their produce

Thirdly, I would like to point out that price of wheat was increased now whereas the farmers had already supplied large quantities of wheat to the mandis. They are being paid at the old rate. As such the Government should make necessary arrangements to see that the farmers are paid remunerative price as announced by the Government.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants

16.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when the present Government came to power, at that time the liabilities of the Government were Rs. 260,000 crores, while the interest burden amounted to Rs. 17000 crores annually. It is a heavy liability that the previous Government handed over to this Government. The present Government have declared that 49 per cent of the Budget would be allocated for the rural masses, as against 44 per cent allocated for this purpose by the previous Government in 1989-90. This is a welcome approach by the present Government.

The food production in our country has come up to the level of 170 million tonnes per year through the green revolution and that is only due to two major crops, that is wheat and rice with their production at the level of

56 per cent and all the other crops with their production of 44 per cent. The production in respect of pulses and edible oils has come down. It is unfortunate, that the previous Government did not give a proper thinking to the agricultural development.

As we know, 76 per cent of our population lives in the villages and they are mainly responsible for the production of foodgrains supplied throughout the country. But it is a pity that the rural people are not getting their proper food requirement. While in 1976, they were getting only 492 grams per head per day, it got reduced to 490 grams in 1986; that means the availability has gone down. The green revolution has benefited only those who have more land that is, the landlords, and it has not been spread all over the country. It is confined only to some pockets, specially in Punjab and Haryana. Though the green revolution was much publicised, at present, its benefits have not gone to the landless people, small and marginal farmers and the common people as a whole.

The Government should evolve a proper system for the supply of fertilizers and seeds to the farmers well in time. Though the present Government has taken some measures in this respect, but it is unfortunate that the fertilizers and the seeds did not reach to the rural people well in time. It is of utmost importance that these quality inputs should be made available to the farmers in time

We feel proud of the green revolution, blue revolution and the white revolution but it is unfortunate that the actual consumption by the common people has not come up to the desired standards. Still, the rural people are not getting their proper food.

We must pay more attention in respect of making use of the modern technology in matters of fertilizers, quality seeds etc. to obtain optimum results.

The Government have some programmes for giving guidance and education through extension services to the farmers, but that is not very effective. My personal

view is that whatever programmes the Government have in this respect are not being implemented either because of the bureaucratic attitude or because of the lack of political will I request the Government to take these things very seriously and sincerely The people, specially in the rural areas, have given their mandate to the present Government and they expect a lot from us and we should not forget their aspiration in this respect

A word about the land reforms It has not been implemented yet Without the land reforms people will not get the intended benefits

There is another very important aspect which requires attention A number of graduates in disciplines related to Agriculture Universities in the country come out every year The number of such graduates who come out of the colleges every year and 8000 agricultural graduates 1800 veterinary graduates 510 home science graduates 900 dairy science graduates etc but it is unfortunate that they are not properly utilised in their respective fields Further the fellowship that they are getting is much less and that needs to be increased on the lines of the other professional graduates like engineering graduates, medical graduates etc There should be no parity among the professional students and as I said the fellowship of the agricultural and veterinary scholars should be increased

Further these categories of professionals should be recognised as technical profession but that has not yet been agreed There is an urgent need to recognize them as technical persons These persons can be an asset in the rural development If they are afforded with opportunities and proper facilities in the rural areas they could be working more efficiently But at present they are not being properly utilised so far We are talking of nourishing and delicious foods, like eggs, meat, fish, paneer etc, but how will we get them, we do not know Government must look to this side also

Then, I want to bring some information in this House Our people are getting only 115 grams of milk, one gram of egg and four grams of meat per day per head and the Budget allocation for animal husbandry is one-tenth of the total agricultural Budget but the contribution of the animal husbandry is one third of the total GDP of the total agricultural sector

As I said Government should give more impetus to the rural development The various programmes like NREP, IRDP etc have been implemented in a casual way, they need to be strictly implemented Government must take these things very seriously

In this country the agricultural graduates are very much unemployed We have a total number of 57744 branches of the nationalised banks throughout the country and only 7356 agricultural graduates are working there It is my request that we should utilize these technical people for rural development That would help us in uplifting our rural masses

Lastly, I would request that the curriculum of the agricultural universities must include the land reform the social system, the caste system, socio-economic culture and what is communalism, that is, they should know the social structure of the country That would give them an idea of the true existing conditions so that they keep that in mind while they come out and serve the people in the respective fields

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me time to speak India has, primarily, been an agricultural country from time immemorial All hon Members sitting here have been elected by the farmers and thus they represent them Our hon Minister of Agriculture is also a farmer and he feels proud to call himself a farmer It is indeed a great thing We find that even after 42 years

[Sh. Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh]

of independence, there has not been as much increase in the agriculture growth rate as it was supposed to be. Other countries like China, Taiwan, Israel and South Korea are much advanced in this field as compared to our country. The growth rate is 5 to 10 per cent in those countries. Though Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are prone to natural calamities, yet they are ahead of us in the field of agriculture. Why did it happen? It is a very deplorable situation. I would like to make a few suggestions with regard to our National Agricultural Policy. These suggestions should be taken into account while implementing the Eighth Five Year Plan. Some of the main points I would like to make include water management, development of horticulture, agricultural forest, agro processing and farming system.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, water is the prime necessity for agriculture. But the water management programmes are not being implemented properly. Today, there are a number of schemes with the Government viz. E.C.G., R.L.E.G.P., D.P.A.P. and N.R.E.P. But these schemes are not being implemented properly. These schemes could run well if the farmers are given proper co-operation. Development of horticulture should be done along with agriculture. This will ensure economic development of the villages. For this purpose, incentives should be given to grow fruit bearing trees in the Hills, Plains and the areas having abundant water according to the climatic conditions of the region. In the areas having more water trees of Mausambi, banana, pears etc. may be planted on a large scale and in the areas having less water, trees of plum, mangoes shall have to be planted.

The farmers will have to set up the processing units based on new techniques which will create not only employment opportunities for them but they will also get reasonable prices for their produce. It will make the farmers prosperous. I would also like to make a suggestion that cold storages should be set up on a larger scale so that the

farmers can get the maximum benefits of their agricultural products. Besides, the Government can get the farmers, the benefits of export of various kinds of fruit juice, such as mango juice etc. to the foreign countries. For this purpose, a large number of mango trees will have to be planted.

Now-a-days, what is all the more necessary is to bring larger areas under the cover of forest. Several programmes have been undertaken for this purpose. Though, crores of trees have been planted but these are not maintained properly. I would like to suggest that the Intensive Forest Development Programme should now extend to the roadsides and the bank of rivers and fallow land. The Government should ensure that the trees so planted are always maintained. Today, these large scale felling of trees is having its adverse effect on our environment, and directly affecting our agricultural crops also.

Now, I come to the Farm System, whether it is Poultry System, or the Dairy Farming. Today, it is necessary to adopt a Farm System in India. This system is based on the principle of mutual dependence. The farmers can not prosper if they are solely dependent on their agricultural farms. However, he may reap greater benefits if he adds to his work of agricultural farming, activities of Milch Cattle Farming, Poultry Farming, Fishery, Dairy, Sericulture etc. It will also herald to the farmers the days of his all round development. I would like the Government to make the necessary arrangement in this regard. An advantage of this farming system, will be that.

[English]

By product of one unit can be utilised for another unit.

[Translation]

That can be done only under this System. I want to draw the attention of the Government to these four or five points.

I would like to make a request to the

Minister of Agriculture through you that the prices of fertilizers and insecticides, should be reduced in the country Besides, at present, the amount of loan being disbursed to the farmers by the banks is generally given to them in the month of July or August I would like to submit that in case that amount of loan is given to them in the first week of May, it will protect them against raising loans from the traders and enable them to sow the seed in the fields at the proper time, along with the successful accomplishment of other inter cultural operations and timely spray of insecticides and pesticides on the crops and timely close of fertilizer for the standing crops in their fields Therefore I would like to make a request to the Hon ble Minister of Agriculture through you to make such arrangements and issue directions that every farmer is given the amount of loan from the banks in the first week of May instead of July/August It will protect the farmer from the vicious circle of traders who give loan on a higher rate of interest and charge one and a half for the double amount of the loan advanced by them Even otherwise he has to repay the loans he has already taken from the Government and that worsens his financial condition Therefore, I would like to make a request to the Government to get the loan sanctioned to all the farmers during the first week of May That is all what I would like to suggest to the Hon ble Minister through you

In the state of Maharashtra, there is a major project called Jaikwari Project But 45 per cent of its water goes waste and we are able to utilise only 25 per cent of it I would like the Government pay attention to the utilisation of water To this date, the farmers are allowed to take water only from major canal However, I would like to urge upon the Government that in the interest of the farmers, they should be allowed to take water even from the minor canals in which sufficient water is available On cooperative basis, provided the farmers come forward to get united for this purpose The farmers should also be allowed to go in for lift irrigation

I feel that as regards the schemes of the I C A R , there is a lot of repetition from one

University to the other Due to a lot of processing activities while on the one hand, the Government have to spend more money, on the other, it is of no use I would like to submit to the Government to make such arrangements that the research work in respect of a thing produced in a particular area, is undertaken in that very area For example, sugarcane is produced on a large scale in the Western Maharashtra, so it may be processed in that region itself Millet is grown in a larger area in Parbhani district, its processing may be undertaken in Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth Production of wheat is higher in North India so it may be processed in Ludhiana It will also reduce the expenses of the Government on the head and also unnecessary experimentation will not be done The provision of Rs 7 000 crore for agriculture, made by the National Front Government is a right step I also consider that policy of the present Government in regard to agriculture is justifiable The Government has also done a good work by waiving the loans of the farmers The Government can go ahead to waive more amount of loan in future

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

[English]

SHRI P C THOMAS (Muvattupuzha)

The new Government is going to bring out a new agriculture policy I think the Government would have considered over it carefully because we had an old policy for a long time I think many new aspects will be included in that The main aspect is the modernisation of agriculture and that should be included in that In fact, we must have better techniques and better skills to be utilised in agriculture It is also necessary to give incentives to the agriculturists The most apt incentive will no doubt be to assure them remunerative prices for their agricultural produces. Of course, many of my friends have spoken on that We must have some kind of an index to get remunerative prices not only for foodgrains but also for other agricultural produces like coconut, spices, etc

[Sh. P.C. Thomas]

We must have some kind of an index just as we have a price index, on the basis of the cost of living, just like that we must have a permanent needle or permanent measure to represent the remunerative prices in respect of each commodity. I would suggest that such kind of an index should be there in the field of agriculture for the prices of agricultural produce. This should be thought of, it has to be discussed and has to be included in the new Policy I would suggest that it is necessary to make agriculture more employment oriented. And, for that I would think that the youth of India have to be more involved in the field of agriculture, especially—I am not very sure about the other States—in Kerala, I know personally that many youngsters who are educated are reluctant to go to the agricultural field and take up the field which their ancestors were, in fact, taking up for a long time. For that special incentives will have to be given and they have to be attracted towards it.

Now, with regard to the policy of the Government about agricultural debt, I share the view of many friends that the policy is good. But in implementation as we have seen it is not very promising. Especially—I am referring again to Kerala because Kerala and Karnataka and some of the States have already stated that they are not going to share the cost, the Centre should think about it. In Kerala the cooperative societies and the financial institutions have given loans of a very great quantum and many agriculturists have taken loans from the cooperative societies. And this is not included in the Centre's plan now. Of course, it is for the States now to think of formulating policies for this. But the Kerala Government has very clearly stated that it is unable to bear any share and therefore the Centre should bear the whole cost. I think that the original promise also was that the whole amount of agricultural debt as far as the poor people are concerned will be written off and I would think that the Government should re-think on the policy which the Government has adopted in this respect.

Then, another point which I would like to bring to the notice of the House as well as the Ministry is about the natural calamities which are taking place very often and in huge quantum in States like Kerala and other places where rubber plants and other plantations are there very extensively. I would think that when a wind comes or a calamity occurs the loss which the planter or the agriculturist suffers is very very huge. As far as their crop is concerned, it may be compensated in terms of money as is done normally by the Central Government. But as far as the persons who are engaged in agriculture like plantations of rubber or pepper are concerned, the whole thing is damaged and the loss has to be suffered by them. All the efforts of the farmers are ruined. So, we have to think of better facilities and better methods of compensating the agricultural who suffer losses of this nature.

The Kerala Government had a revolving fund for this but now I think they do not have it and the present Central Government has already assured them that there will be a fund and that fund would be earmarked for such type of disasters; disasters not only of crop but also for the improvement of plantations like rubber and such other agricultural produces.

Then one more point about water resources. I am not going into the details. As stated by many of the friends here, scarcity of water is one of the problems which we are facing now. And I only refer to one aspect relating to my constituency in Kerala. We have a huge project there in the offing. In fact, the scheme was submitted to the Central Government; that is about the Meenachil River Valley Project. That scheme was submitted before the Central Government. It was approved and sent back to the State. The State had worked out the scheme. But somehow now, due to some political reason, the State Government is not taking any interest in that, and therefore, the State Government is not taking up the matter. The plight of the agriculturists there is to lose a very handful of benefits which they are going to get. I humbly request the Ministry to look into

this and see if something could be done to help the farmers

I would only add that this Ministry also may be pleased to see the plight of the agriculturists in the field of coconut, rubber, pineapple, spices, etc. Whenever we speak of agriculture, we normally speak of only grains. Of course, grains is a very important aspect. But this is also an important aspect. Coconut has to be declared as an oilseed for the farmers to get the remunerative prices. As far as pineapple is concerned, it is one of the major produce in my constituency. The difficulty that is being faced by the agriculturists there is that the pineapple which may have the price of four rupees per kilogram during the normal times comes down to fifty paise per kilogram in the season time. That is because they do not have the storing facilities. And there is no industry to use this. Therefore, I humbly request the Agriculture Ministry to look into this matter and in collaboration with the Commerce Ministry as well as the Food Processing Ministry, should think of starting an industry in Kerala in Ernakulam and in Muvattupuzha.

SHRI PRABHATISINH CHAUHAN (KAIRA) Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources.

In the forty-two years of democratic ruling, where have we landed? It is to be looked into. The gap between the haves and the have-nots has widened. There are very few people who have plenty to enjoy. They have plenty to spend and plenty to use for their own luxury. Whereas there are plenty of people who do not even find sufficient to fill their belly. This is the situation in which we have landed ourselves over the years. Now the present Government is very serious about it. It has taken many steps towards easing out the problem that we are all facing. For instance, it has taken steps to write off the farmers debt upto Rs 10000/- to provide remunerative price for their products, to provide fifty per cent of the available money and to spend towards agriculture and allied

activities. About the Narmada Project, our Government has made a very categorical statement that it will try to complete the project within the stipulated period.

These are the measures which the present Government has taken. I do not think that these are sufficient to benefit our farmers and to grow our agricultural economy merely by taking these steps. These steps may not eradicate poverty. These will not bridge the gap between the urban and the rural disparity. I think, much has still to be done in this regard.

So far as irrigation is concerned, under the present irrigation system seventy million ha of land is under irrigation. Our capacity, if we grow to the fullest, can rise upto 100 million ha and our total land under cultivation is 210 million ha. Even after having done all these, there will be forty-five per cent of land which may not be under irrigation. So, the Government has to think in terms of what is to be done about the land which is left unirrigated. We should have to make better use of the water which is available for irrigation. Our situation is that whereas we hold 16 per cent of the world population, we are having 3 per cent of the quantity of surface world water availability. Under the situation, we have to take it very seriously and we have to work out the projects so fast and seriously that we can come out of the situation as early as possible.

Whenever any project is sent to the Central Water Commission for approval, it takes at least 14 months to approve it. Such a long time should not be taken by the Commission. I want to know from the hon Minister whether this cannot be expedited.

There are schemes like micro, small, medium and big irrigation schemes. There are very many schemes which are half way. So a new thinking should be developed that any project which is taken on hand, should be completed first so that the fruits of that particular project can be harvested by the farmers in that particular area. What happens today is that a lot of money is spent but

[Sh Prabhatisinh Chauhan]

no results are achieved because of the non-completion of the projects. So something very seriously should be thought about it. And the schemes should be completed without any delay.

Now the farmers also would like to have electricity in full requirements because if they do not get sufficient electricity at the time of their need, what happens is that there is water in the tubewell but they cannot get it because of non-availability of electricity and because of that that area cannot be put under irrigation. At times at the sowing season they get enough electricity and when the crop is near harvesting there is no electricity and that is how the crop gets destroyed. And farmers are adversely affected. Government has to think very seriously about such a situation. They have to plan for supply of electricity as per requirements.

Even the chemical manure is not available in sufficient quantity at the time of need. At the same time, the prices of manure in different States are different. The crop when it goes to the market, more or less fetches the same price all over the country whereas the prices of inputs vary from State to State. So something should be done about it.

In Gujarat in Kaira District National Dairy Development Board has put up a project to the Central Government to generate electricity through gas based turbines and distribute it through cooperative method. But it has not been sanctioned so far. I do not know why the Government is not sanctioning this project immediately and why it is being delayed.

Only certified seeds should be supplied to the farmers. At present there are uncertified seeds available in the market. Any type of seeds can be marketed and sold to the ignorant and poor farmers.

The farmers go in for such seeds because they are cheap. But ultimately what happens? The nation suffers and in case of

production the farmers also suffer. So only certified seeds should be allowed to be marketed.

Good roads should be provided to the farmers so that they can take their produce to the cities and they can get the inputs in time for agricultural operations.

Now, the agricultural produce markets do not work in the interest of the farmers.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Let us please understand that agriculture and irrigation are in Concurrent List. There is the responsibility of the State Governments also to provide these things. Let us discuss those things which really have to be dealt with by the Central Government, otherwise, those matters which can be raised in the Assemblies, need not be raised here.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI (Siwan) But, Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I have to say is that the funds have been provided by the Central Government to the State Governments but that money has been missed by the states. Therefore, it is necessary to say that Central Government should look into this aspect of misuse of funds by the states.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER You should ask your colleagues to speak on this issue in the state Assembly because here you have got very limited time. Therefore, it would be more appropriate to discuss those issues in this House, which are related to the entire country. Otherwise, what for the Assemblies are there in the States?

[English]

SHRI PRABHATSINH CHAUHAN Sir, about the milk, we have got sufficient milk in the country. We have rather glut of milk. We have sometimes holidays in collecting the milk. The milk cooperatives have worked well to our satisfaction. But, now, some sort of project should be evolved and some sort of project should be established in advance.

so that the milk producers do not suffer.

Our land is keeping on fragmenting and it is becoming smaller and smaller unit whereby it becomes more uneconomic. Something should be done to see that the consolidation of land is preserved whereby it becomes an economically viable unit. Otherwise, the poor people are becoming poorer day by day because they do not have economic holdings of land on which they can earn their livelihood.

Sir, Agro-based industries should be established in the villages. Moreover, the export of flowers and vegetables should also be explored. We have got natural green-house in our country. We are having all types of climates in our country, whereas in Western Countries like Holland etc., they build green-houses, they produce flowers and vegetables under the green-house, under the controlled climate, yet they capture the world market. So, when we have been bestowed with nature natural green-house, we should also think of growing large quantities of flowers and vegetables which can be exported and we can earn foreign exchange.

Lastly, there is a great disparity between rural and urban living. We should consider this problem very seriously and expansion of rural economy should be worked out very seriously so that the farming can become an attractive proposition and farmers living in the villages can also have all the amenities that is enjoyed by the urban people. They can provide good education to their children and they can look after their families well. With these words, Sir, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please keep all that in your mind that has been discussed here in the House.

SHRI JANARDAN TIWARI (Siwan): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is an agricultural country. 75 per cent of the people living in this country are farmers and hitherto they have remained very much neglected. The

new Government has given an assurance and our Party has also made a demand to that effect that 60 per cent of our national income should be spent on farmers and the development of villages. Our villages, where these farmers live are without roads, schools and various other basic amenities. That is why we have demanded that 60 per cent of the national income should be spent on the farmers and agriculture should be given the status of industry. As regards the field of Poultry Farming, Cattle Farming, the centres of milk production and Poultry Farming can work together by supplementing each other and it could fetch a substantial income to the farmers. The Government, particularly, the Central Government should provide funds for this purpose so that farmers can work according to their own requirements.

So far the question of storage of agricultural products is concerned, particularly, the storage of surplus production of onion in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, lakhs of quintals of onion was destroyed because there was no arrangement of godowns for its storage. However, arrangements should be made to go in for the export of surplus onion to foreign countries. Last year, there was a lot of bungling in the export of onions to foreign countries. If we resort to the optimum export of onion, it will fetch more money and the farmer will also be benefited thereby. I would like to say that there should be a uniform price of sugarcane in the state i.e. Rs. 60 per quintal. Though the farmers work very hard in his fields but they do not get the due return. On the other hand, the sugar is produced in the factory and you may see to it that the prices of sugar is soaring high. Sugar is in great demand in and outside the country and so it should be exported to foreign countries.

I would like to give a suggestion to the Central Government that the Government should think seriously on this matter. The agricultural labourers should be given at least the minimum wages as has been fixed by the Central Government, it is a genuine demand of these people. The farmers are also not getting electricity for irrigation purposes. You

[Sh. Janardan Tiwari]

will see that in our state of Bihar, the supply position of electricity is very bad. The Government may advance the argument that it is a state subject-but I would like to tell you that the Central Government had taken a decision ten years back to set up a Hydel Power Project at Kuwelkora for Ranchi, but this Project has not been completed so far. For that purpose, crores of rupees have been given by the Government and this scheme aims at creating the generation capacity of one thousand megawatt. But the State Government as well as the Central Government is not taking any action in this matter. With the completion of this major power Project, the factories can be started in the area and the work of irrigation can also be done. It may also cater to the power requirements of Chhota Nagpur. Chemical fertilizer should be made available to the farmers at the subsidised price i.e. 50 per cent of the actual price. However, at the subsidised rates, the farmers can buy the maximum quantity of their requirement of chemical fertilizer. The Central Government should give subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent in it.

One more point I would like to make is about protection of cow progeny. Many hon. Members may think that I am talking of Communalism but that is not my intention. I am saying it because it relates to agriculture and it has economic base. You know that cost of bullocks has gone up all over the country. Small and marginal farmers are unable to purchase them. I come from rural areas where people are facing lot of difficulties. The cost of tractor has also gone up. Farmers use bullocks for ploughing fields, sowing seeds and for many other purposes but they do not have processing power. The cost of an ordinary bullock is Rs. 5000 whereas the bullock of good breed is being sold at Rs. 20,000. It is all because of diminution of cow progeny. Cows are butchered in slaughter houses. I have mentioned it because our society has a very high regard for cow and even our forefathers treated it as 'Gomata'. It is very useful from economic point of view also.

The World Bank has given crores of rupees to the government for constructing markets all over the country. The Krishi markets constructed in Bihar have not been built at proper places. This relates to the Central Government. Engineers construct such markets at the outskirts of the villages and huge sums of money are pocketed by them as a result of which no proper utilization can be made thereof. Generally, they are used to keep animals there. Since these markets are constructed 4 or 10 km. away from the village and remain unutilised, decoits plan dacoities in them. So many such incidents have occurred in Bihar. Therefore, Krishi-markets should be adjacent to the local market. If it is constructed far away from the market, how the business men will go there. Therefore, I would request the Government that Krishi-markets should be constructed in city areas. I would further suggest that the Central government should set up Seedling Centres in every State similar to that of seedling centre at Pantnagar where improved qualities of seeds of maize, wheat and sugarcane are developed. Several such farms have been made in blocks covering an area of 20-25 acres. Such farms have also been made in Bihar but they are of no use. No seeds of improved varieties are developed there. Whatever grants given by the Central Government to such farms are misused. What I want to say is that any grant given by the Centre to the State Government should be strictly monitored to ensure whether the grant is being utilised properly or not. The State Government misuse the grant and spend it under other heads.

There is plain land in the northern part of Bihar. There are three projects namely-Gandak, Kosi and Sone in that area. A lot of irrigation is done through these projects. But the water of these projects cannot be utilised by Darbhanga district because the area remains flooded by the water of Kosi projects. Gandak project is more beneficial. Our neighbouring State Uttar Pradesh has good and cemented canals whereas there is no provision of cemented canal in our State. There must be proper drainage system in the absence of which lakhs of acres of land

becomes useless because of waterlogging. Therefore, I would like to suggest that the Central Government should evolve some machinery to ensure that whatever grants are given by the Centre are utilised for the purpose for which the same was granted.

In Bihar, Chota Nagpur Division is a hilly area where Adivasi people still eat Bakhua because there is no source of agriculture available in that area though we can have good crop from that land. The funds given by the Central Government to the State Government of providing lift irrigation system in that area, are misused by the State Government. I would like to suggest that the said hilly area can be brought under lift irrigation scheme. Some work on lift irrigation system has been done but it is incomplete. Many lift irrigation schemes are pending on which crores of rupees of the Government have already been invested. We can grow crops there with the help of small lift irrigation scheme but there is no one to take care of these schemes. Therefore, I would once again like to say that whatever grants are given by the Central Government should be monitored strictly. It is a very useful scheme but lying incomplete and not being implemented.

A large population of Bihar depends on agriculture. Balia district of Uttar Pradesh is situated on one side of the river and Siwan and Arra districts of Bihar are on the other side of the river. Due to soil erosion, a big area of these two district of Bihar has gone to the other side of the river on which the farmers of Uttar Pradesh do not allow our farmers to cultivate. That land has now become disputed and for the last 10-12 years and bounders of farmers have lost their lives in this dispute. The land of Uttar Pradesh came to our side has been duly surveyed but our land, measuring about 50,000 acres which has gone to other side has not been surveyed. In this regard Uttar Pradesh Government is not implementing the recommendation contained in the report submitted by Trivedi Commission. Survey of land in Balia district is still going on. In this 50,000 acres of land, some land belongs to

Siwan district and some belongs to Arra district. In this regard action should be taken according to the award given by the Trivedi Commission. I would like to suggest to the Central Government to call the concerned authorities of both the States and settle the dispute. Survey work is still going on there and if it goes on like this, ultimately this dispute will be taken to the High Court or the Supreme Court. The delay caused by the court in such matters will not be a happy situation for the people. Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should immediately make some arrangement to find a solution to this problem.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support both the Demands for Grants and would like to say that ours is an agriculture oriented country and 70 per cent of our population depends on agriculture. It is not an imaginary figure but has been clearly mentioned in all the concerned documents containing analysis of the people's occupations and professions. In spite of this fact, adequate irrigation facilities could not be provided to farmers all over the country even after 42 years of independence. Had adequate irrigation facilities been made available, the condition of our country would have been entirely different. After 42 years of independence, there are only two States—Punjab and Haryana where adequate irrigation facilities have been provided. I think, the number of unemployed people is less and agriculture production is also maximum in those States. Not only this, 5-6 lakh people of Bihar come to these States for work at the time of harvesting. Had the irrigation facilities been provided in Bihar or in other States, they would have not come to Punjab and Haryana for working in harvesting operations. Therefore, first of all the Government have to see that all the big rivers are tamed and irrigation facilities are provided to the farmers. If all the rivers are tamed there would hardly be any area where irrigation facility would not be available. In Punjab all the five rivers have been tamed and that is why Punjab claims that it can alone provide wheat to the entire country. Similarly in Bihar, if the Ganga, the Saryu,

[Sh. Tejnarayan Singh]

the Yamuna and the Godavari are tamed, I hope that irrigation facilities would be available to the entire Bihar. Mere taming the rivers would not suffice but in order to lift the water we need electricity and diesel pump also and Government should make arrangement to provide all these things. But what I find is that the electricity is not available to meet the requirement of farmers as a result of which thousand of tubewells are lying unutilised. Besides diesel is also not available and even if it is available, the rates are so high that farmers cannot purchase it. If the Government pay attention towards it and provide adequate electricity, all the tubewells hitherto lying out of order will start functioning and by this irrigation facility will be made available in entire Bihar. As far as I know there are 485 Government borings in Bhojpur district of Bihar out of which only 76 borings are in working condition. In spite of the fact that there is neither any nullah nor any other hurdles, these borings are lying unutilised. If all the borings in Bhojpur district are made functional, the people of this district will have no need to go out of the district for their livelihood. The unemployment problem which has become a serious problem all over the country can also be solved if adequate irrigation arrangement is made in the country. If it is not done, mere giving unemployment allowance will not serve any purpose. During British regime, Sone Canal was constructed there taking into consideration the poor condition of five districts including Bhojpur and Rohtas districts. As per the document maintained by the then British Government, the life-span of this canal was estimated to be one hundred years. The construction of this canal was started in 1864 and it was commissioned in 1974. Thus, it has already completed its hundred years in 1974, even then no attention has so far been paid for the modernisation of this canal. Neither the Bihar Government nor the Central Government is paying attention to it. The farmers of the five districts are facing ruination and as many as 22 lakh acres of cultivated land is likely to be rendered desert due to delay in modernisation of canal. It is very

necessary to make the canal pucca so that farmers in the five districts could be saved from ruination. Modernisation is bound to lead prosperity in the farmers in the areas as also it will provide irrigation cover to as many as 28 lakh acres of land. An amount of Rs. 15 crores will be spent on its modernisation and it is very necessary for the prosperity of those farmers. If the Government does not heed to it, the farmers will take resort to agitation. They will fight for it. I, therefore, would like to request the Government of India to make provision for it in the Eighth Five Year Plan. If this is not done, the farmers will fight for their right. The farmers there will not sit quietly.

Besides this, I would like to submit that despite the good arrangements that have been made for agriculture in some of the districts in Uttar Pradesh, a lot of land is still lying uncultivated because of lack of irrigation facility in some areas. But it is a fact that a lot of agricultural development has ushered in Uttar Pradesh during recent past as compared to earlier time. I would like to urge upon the Government of India not to neglect Bihar. Despite having all the resources, the condition of Bihar is the worse. I would like to submit that more attention should be paid to improve the condition of the farmers in Bihar.

As regards providing loans to the farmers, I would like to submit that the farmers have to face a lot of difficulties in getting them. If they are sanctioned a loan of Rs. 10,000, they have to part with an amount of Rs. 1,000 as bribe to be given to the sanctioning authority. It was stated by the former Prime Minister that 85 per cent of the total allocation is pocketed by the middlemen and only 15 per cent reaches the people. Even today, there is no change in the situation. Today, also, only 15 per cent of the total allocation reaches the farmers and labourers and the rest 85 per cent is pocketed by the middlemen. I would like to submit to the Government of India that a system should be evolved in which corruption in providing loans to farmers is eliminated. Only then the condition of farmer can be improved.

I would like to submit yet another point Compensation should be provided to the farmers for natural calamities like hailstorm, excessive rains or drought. In Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other states, the crops of farmers get destroyed due to natural calamities, but the officials say that there is no such mention in the Relief Code to provide compensation to the farmers on such grounds. I would like to request the Government of India that such provision should be made by amending the Relief Code that adequate compensation is paid to the farmers in the event of natural calamities. At times, the crops are destroyed in fire. Compensation should also be paid for this by suitably amending the Relief Code. The condition of farmers will go from bad to worse, if attention is not paid to them.

In the end, I would like to reiterate that the Sone canal should be modernised. Loans should be provided to the farmers on soft rates. Besides, a system should be evolved in which they are not forced to bribe the official to get loans as also adequate compensation should be paid to the farmers, whose crops are destroyed due to national calamities. With these words, I thank you for giving me time to express my views.

SHRI JORAWAR RAM (Palamau) Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is close co-relation between irrigation and agriculture. In India, land is scarce as compared to its population. In the countries like U.S.S.R. and U.S.A., the condition is contrary to ours. Population pressure on land has been increasing in our country. In view of this, water should be utilised in the most judicious manner for agriculture purposes, unfortunately, during the last 42 years, this could not be done.

During a discussion on irrigation in the Lok Sabha, it was stated that lift irrigation system could be introduced in the hilly areas in India as was introduced in countries like Israel, etc. In 1977 when the Janata Party came to power in many states, the State Governments had initiated steps to intro-

duce lift irrigation system in hilly areas. Thousands of lift irrigation schemes were introduced. I was also a Member of the Council of Ministers headed by late Shri Karpooi Thakur in Bihar. Water was provided to the fields within 6 months. Shri Karpooi Thakur had assured the people to provide water to each and every field within 2 to 3 years time. Water could not be provided to the field in the plateau area of Chhota Nagpur. The Lift Irrigation Schemes introduced earlier, are now not working due to neglect and poor maintenance. I would like to demand from the Government that the schemes which are not functioning should be restarted. Improvement should be brought in all the schemes in the entire country.

A dam was proposed to be constructed on the River Koel in my constituency. But it was opposed by all the people representatives whether they belonged to the ruling party or the opposition in the district. That dam was not at all beneficial to the district. In view of opposition to that dam, the Government decided to start work on the rivers Auranga, Amanat and Kanhar in the district. In 1977, when the Janata Party came to power, an amount of Rs. 150 crore was allocated to Palamau district to start work on all the said four rivers. After the exit of the Janata Party, Government in the state, the then Chief Minister, Shri Jagannath Mishra diverted the allocated amount to north Bihar and it was spent there. I would request the Government to pay attention towards generation of hydro-electricity on river Kanhar which flows at very high altitude from the sea level. I think, it is the only river in India which flows at so high altitude. 400 megawatt of electricity can be generated through it, if the project is carried on. Though an amount of Rs. 450 crore was allocated for it, the work was not started on it. An amount of Rs. 12 crores has already been spent on river Auranga. This project has not been included in the 8th Five Year Plan. I would request the Government to start work on the rivers Auranga, Amanat and Kanhar immediately. It will provide some benefit to the poor living in the plateau of Chhota Nagpur.

[Sh. Jorawar Ram]

17.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some 400 to 500 farmers in Palamau are living in a miserable condition. Most of them are scarcely clothed. Some landowners have 10 to 25 thousand acres of land, but they do not till their land themselves. Land should be given to the tillers. It will help in increasing crop production. Shri Bindeshwari Dubey was the Chief Minister when Shri Ashok Kumar Singh was the D.C. of Gaya district. he distributed 25 thousand acres of land to the fictitious persons. In Palamau, there are farmers who own 25 thousand acres of land. Our Minister of State for Rural Development, Shri Vermaji raised voice against this fictitious distribution of land and launched agitation in Gaya district. He suffered the blows of lathis and went to jail also. The land distributed by Shri Ashok Kumar Singh, D.C. was declared null and void. such officials and Ministers, who indulge in fictitious distribution of land, should be punished severly. After revocation of the decision of distribution of the said land, Shri Bindeshwari Dubey again distributed the land among the farmers already owning 3 to 4 acres of land. This caused resentment and bickring among the people leading to quarell and filing of criminal cases in the courts. In court litigation as much as Rs. 5 crore were wasted. Harmonious relations among the people were also disturbed.

[Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee *in the Chair*]

17.02 hrs.

There is 31,36,000 acres of agricultural land in our Palamau but water for irrigation is available only for 67,000 acres of land. I would like to suggest that North Koel where according to plans, electricity is to be produced, its water cannot be available to Palamau, therefore, water of the canal which may emerge from this Koel river, should be supplied to Palamau area by lifting it. Today, the people of Palamau are the worst affected in Bihar. They are called nexalites. In reality, they are suppressed people who are unem-

ployed and are evicted from their lands and money-lenders acquire their lands in villages. These people cannot go to courts and in this manner, they are deprived of their land. In villages, rich people like money-lenders kill them in fake clashes. Therefore, the legislation dealing with the transfer of land of the rich people to the poor should be included in the ninth schedule to safeguard interests of the poor so that problem of nexalites may be solved for ever. Now-a-days, they have to work on daily wages of Rs. 5-6 in Palamau district. You can imagine that how some one can make his both ends meet with such a meagre amount. That is why they go in search of employment to Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Bombay. Therefore, I would suggest that whether it is the problem of water or electricity, it should be solved at the earliest and provide employment to the people of Palamau there only. The diesel pumps and electric pumps were provided in my district but electricity has not been supplied to them for the last four years. But even them tax has been imposed on them and electricity bills are also being charged from them. The farmers are facing great hardships. At present, 320 M.W. electricity is being produced in Bihar and it reaches certain areas of Bihar but other areas are deprived of it. Actually there is need of 500 M.W. electricity in Bihar. In view of this, I would suggest that all the Hydro Electric projects in India whether financed by Japan or America should be completed at the earliest because Hydro Electric projects are economical and are very useful. Therefore, you should urge your officials to go through such schemes and complete them at the earliest. In this way, we will be able to provide electricity to one and all because neither agriculture nor industry can do without electricity.

Sugarcane is produced in abundance in my area. But there is no sugar mill. In Patan area, where the sugarcane is produced in abundant quantity, there is great shortage of sugar. Therefore, a sugar-mill should be set up in Patan area so that farmers of that area may be benefited. A sugar mill must be set up either by Government itself or by the Co-

operatives. There is a Chattarpur block where I used to go 10 years before and I always found that money-lenders and feudalists acquire the lands of the poor people. There is a man named Lachmaniya Bhuien who had his own land but a former union Minister grabbed his land forcibly in connivance with some feudalists and is not prepared to vacate his possession. There are many cases where the land of the poor people has been grabbed by the feudalists in Palamau, Chotta Nagpur and in other many districts. Even now these people are in possession of land of the poor people

Therefore, I would like to tell the Government that if they would not allocate the land properly, the faith of the people, poor and farmers reposed in them would be shaken. Therefore it is essential that the excess lands of the big farmers or zamindars should be distributed among the landless farmers who really plough the fields so that they may cultivate the land and produce crops and earn their livelihood

With these words, I conclude

[English]

SHRI A. ASOKARAJ (Perambalur) Mr. Chairman, Sir, on behalf of AIADMK, I want to say a few words

Sir, it is a matter of great regret that this Government which promised the electorate to waive agricultural loans up to Rs. 10,000 has not fulfilled its commitment. There is gross dissatisfaction among the poor farmers and they are openly regretting their decision of having elected a Government which has held out false promises. This has also resulted in sapping of their morale in farming operations leading to fall in production. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to immediately implement their promises. An announcement in this regard must be made when the Finance Bill comes up for discussion next week.

I also wish to draw the attention of the Government to the glut in cotton in the mar-

ket leading to steep fall in prices of cotton and thus earning huge losses to the producers. The Government must financially support the producers so that the production of cotton in the next season is not adversely affected as it happened in the case of sugarcane production during the Janata period. Sir, in Perambalur, cotton is produced in plenty. The people in my constituency are poor and hail from the oppressed strata of the society. If a cotton spinning mill is set up in Perambalur, it would definitely help the industrialisation of the area. The proposed spinning mill may be set up anywhere in Perambalur especially at Walikandapuram or Nerkunam.

Sir, there is a sugar factory namely the Jawaharlal Nehru Sugar Factor at Prayur near Perambalur. Sugarcane to the factory is transported from the radius of 50 kilometres afar. At Sendurai and around, sugarcane is produced in plenty and if the Government sets up a sugar factory in Sendurai itself, that would greatly reduce the cost of production of sugar. Not only this, that would provide employment to thousands of poor farmers and downtrodden people. It will also provide infrastructure facilities of roads etc.

I take this opportunity to urge upon the Government to bring forward a legislation for ensuring minimum agricultural wages for farm workers. That should be done in the current session itself. I welcome the Government's move to include certain land reform laws in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. Unless a constitutional guarantee is given to the farm workers about the wages that are to be paid to them, exploitation of this kind would continue. A comprehensive crop insurance scheme must also be worked out and placed before the House. It is reported in the newspapers that a National Agricultural Policy is sought to be framed. Such a policy should definitely include the vital aspect of giving teeth to the land ceiling laws that are continued to be violated with impunity by land barons, under benami names. I deplore the Government's inordinate delay in evolving a viable national water policy. The talk of linking Cauvery with Ganga is going on from

[Sh. A. Asokaraj]

time immemorial. Either you link it or give up this slogan as mere nonsense. You cannot continue to fool people for ages. The Telugu-Ganga project which was inaugurated by late lamented Prime Minister Madam Gandhi after the agreement between Puratchi Thalaivar Dr. MGR and NTR the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Andhra respectively is now in cold storage. Some environmental clearance is said to be pending with the Union Government. I would like the Minister to apprise the hon. House of the present state of the project. This project must be implemented in right earnest to quench the thirst of the residents of Madras City and as well irrigate large areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

The Supreme Court very recently gave a judgement and direction to the Union Government to adjudicate the Cauvery river water dispute by appointing a Tribunal. This dispute has been hanging fire for long. Around 25 years have passed without any settlement. What is notable is the highest court of the land has passed serious strictures against the DMK Government which withdrew a petition on the subject matter in 1974. This is a very serious indictment on the DMK Government which is ruling the State now. They have continuously duped the people of Tamil Nadu. They have duped the people by the ill-famous Veeranam project. Now the Court has disclosed that the DMK Government's withdrawal of the petition was not in the interest of the Tamil Nadu people. If the DMK Government has any sense of public duty to the people, it should resign on moral grounds and seek fresh mandate from the people as it should know that the same Veeranam Project weighed with the people to reject it outrightly several times before.

It is a shame on our part for not providing drinking water to all villages including the colonies of SC and ST people. There is *serious drinking water shortage in Perambalur*. A master-plan has to be chalked out for bringing water from Cauvery or from Kollidam to the villages of Perambalur Con-

stituency so that the taluks of Thuraiyur, Perambalur and Ariyalur could be benefited.

In Uppilapuram Assembly constituency which falls in my Perambalur Parliamentary Constituency there is a water fall called Puliancholai fall. Water is being wasted in the fall. The Central Government must provide necessary assistance to the State Government for construction of a dam over the fall so that the waters from the fall could be harnessed for irrigation and drinking purposes. I have felt it again and again. Even during 1977-79 when I was here as a Member of Parliament, I had spoken about this Puliancholai fall; but I do not know whether the Government is taking it seriously or not.

Six decades ago, a bridge was built over river Vellar at Thozhudur. On both sides of the bridge, canals were built. The right side canal brings water to Ogalur tank which is in my own native village in Perambalur Taluk Trichy District and the left side canal brings water to Wellington reservoir in South Arcot District. Both the canals need extensive repair and fresh lining works. The Ogalur tank and the Wellington reservoir also require repair and desilting. Special central assistance must be provided by the Central Government for this purpose. If need be, World Bank assistance for this purpose may be sought, so that the water problem can be eradicated in both the districts.

What I request from the Central Government is that small ponds should be made available so that villages can get not only water for drinking purpose, but also for irrigation purpose. This should be thought over in a wider perspective. I request the Government not to tell that these are all the State subjects or something else, because we witness almost in each and every village that there is shortfall of drinking water. What I feel is that if we do not arrange for water then we cannot go to the people in future. The Government should understand this problem and do whatever is possible.

I hope the hon. Minister would kindly consider my demands before he beseeches

this House to vote for his Ministry's demands.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL (Jamnagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on the subject of agriculture takes place so often in this House but I would like to point out that Saurashtra is drought prone area in Gujarat which causes many problems particularly that of drinking water as well as cultivation problem. Trees are destroyed and areas adjacent to sea-shores become salty. The people start migrating to the cities from villages. With the decrease in agricultural activities, business and industries are also affected. Drinking water has to be brought from distant places in tankers. Therefore, it costs too much. Even then water is quite essential for survival but even half of the requirement is not available. There is large scale corruption in the transit. Out of 684 villages in Jamnagar, water could be supplied to 500 villages only through tankers in 1987-88. I mean to say that this system cannot work for all times to come. There is a need to formulate a permanent scheme. During the tenure of the Prime Ministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, no efforts were made to arrange drinking water for Saurashtra. Even after change in the Government, no efforts have been made in this direction. At present, water is being supplied through tankers. Therefore, I urge the Government to make permanent arrangements for supply of drinking water for the Saurashtra region.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of drought, plight of even big farmers of even big farmers of Saurashtra also who have more than 100 bighas of land became miserable. They start work on Government projects and do hard work from morning till evening, on daily wages of Rs. 5 only because they do not have any other means of income. The farmers are called sons of the soil in this agriculture oriented country but their condition becomes very critical when they have to face drought in Saurashtra. The cattle are left to the mercy of God in Saurashtra at the time of drought. Out of a total of 9 lakh cattle, 4 lakh cattle

have to be taken to other areas. They do not get fodder and drinking water. A time came when prices of the vegetables had gone very high but mutton was available at Rs. 1 per kg. because cattle were butchered. A dead cattle could be found in every house. But no arrangements were made to provide drinking and irrigation water in Saurashtra. I demand that the water of holi Narmada, which instils life in Gujarat, should be supplied to Saurashtra region. Many things are said about agriculture and farmers but nothing is done in practical.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of providing higher prices to the farmers for their produce is discussed so often here. Vegetables and spices are also included in the farmer's production. Garlic is produced in abundance in Saurashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. It was the experience of one year that a farmer got Rs. 1700 for one bag of garlic, and now the situation is that he is getting Rs. 170 only for one bag of garlic. How far it is justified especially when we talk of providing remunerative prices to the farmers. State Governments talk about bringing the farmers on the path of progress. There is no commodity in the world for which in one year you got Rs. 1700 and in the next year, you got only Rs. 170. Therefore, I suggest that Central Government should think over it and should purchase garlic, and should explore the possibilities of exporting it. If these steps are taken, the production will increase and our Government can also earn foreign exchange upto Rs. 200-300 crore by exporting it and farmers will also get great relief from the problems being faced by them at present.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during election campaign, Janata Dal, B.J.P. and other parties promised so many things that loans of the farmers upto Rs. 10,000 would be waived. Now our Government is in power and when we go to our constituency, people ask us that we promised but nothing has been done till today. Moreover, it has created further problems for the farmers because they are unable to get new loans from the banks because old loans still stand in

[Sh. Chandresh Patel]

their names. Central Government should take some steps to solve this problem. Subsidy is very commendable step. We have been repeatedly leaving that the Government proposes to invest 50% of its resources in the rural areas, so as to provide incentives to the farmers, but whenever subsidies are given, it has been observed that bags containing two or five kilograms of fertilizers are provided to the farmers, and this form of giving subsidies breeds corruption. I urge the Government to give direct subsidy on fertilizers. This would not only bring down the price of fertilizers and increase the sales of fertilizer units, but also the increased use of fertilizers would increase the foodgrain production too. Water has become saline in the Saurashtra sea coast extending from Okhla to Morvi as a result of which trees and forests have been destroyed and consequently the sea waters are damaging the agricultural land and in the process rendering the land unfit for cultivation. Provisions should be made for making water available for the purposes of drinking and irrigation by constructing dams on the source itself, that is, on the Narmada and other rivers. With these words, I request the Government to consider it as a serious matter and take appropriate steps.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad). At the outset, I would like to say a few things related to the Ministry of Water Resources. I would like to submit through you to the hon. Minister to pay more attention in this regard. Not even 20 per cent of the total potential of water of the country is being harnessed. Had we harnessed it properly, it would have yielded seven benefits. First, floods could be checked, 2. erosion could be stopped, 3. drought could be averted, 4. more irrigation facilities could be provided and foodgrain production increased, 5. If the rivers are desilted, it would facilitate navigation, water transport would be preferred to road transport as its cost is just one-tenth of the road transport and you could check price rise to some extent. 6. There will

be more power generation, which in turn will facilitate setting up of more industries, both small and big. If these six things are achieved, the seventh, that of employment generation, would automatically follow. On the one hand, Eastern U. P., North Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa are inundated by flood waters whereas on the other, places like Sikar, from where the hon. Agriculture Minister has been elected, face scarcity of water. The water tank outside the Sikar station carries a maxim "Limited water, Limited family". How unfortunate and shameful it is: This is the position in Rajasthan.

Now I would like to say a few words about floods and would place the figures indicating the loss suffered due to floods during 1983-1989. During this period, the total flood affected area was 904.23 lakh hectares; damage of houses-1 crore 30 lakh and 75 thousand, cattle loss-6 lakh 30 thousand, damage of public utility worth about Rs. 9 crores and crop damage was worth Rs. 20 thousand crores. The country has suffered huge losses on this account during these seven years.

Besides, 12,378 persons lost their lives in floods during these years. The value of each human life should be equal in a democracy. But we see a strange phenomenon in our country so far as payment of compensation is concerned. If a person is killed in a plane accident, his family gets Rs. 5 lakhs as compensation, if a person is killed in a train accident, the next of kin gets Rs. 2 lakhs, if a person falls to the bullets of terrorists, his family gets Rs. 1 lakh, if a person is killed in the riots in Bhagalpur, the family gets Rs. 1 lakh, whereas if a person is killed in the riots in Bhagalpur, the family gets Rs. 1 lakh if a person is killed in riots in Bhagalpur, the family gets Rs. 1 lakh whereas if a person is killed in riots elsewhere, the next of kin gets Rs. 20,000. If a Harijan is killed the compensation is Rs. 10,000 and if a person is killed in a road accident, the family gets Rs. 5,000 as compensation. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, Shri Kotadia, as to what is the limit for ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of those who die in floods?

About 8 thousand hectares of land is being washed away due to soil erosion every year and about 60 thousand tonnes of top soil is being destroyed. Consequently, the foodgrain production is falling at a rate of 36 tonnes every year.

Now I would like to make a submission about my district. Farakka barrage is causing havoc there. Due to wrong planning there is heavy soil erosion in Padma, Ganga, Bhagirathi, Bhairah and Jalangi rivers. About 30 lakh hectares of land has disappeared there. Last year, 6 villages of Bhagwangola block-II were washed away. As a result, the river which was flowing at the Indo-Bangladesh border has changed its course and entered the Indian side. This has caused some dispute between the two countries because a part of Indian land has gone over to Bangladesh. We give land to farmers but at the time of harvest, the people from Bangladesh take away the entire crop. It led to international border dispute. If I ask something in this regard, Shri Kotadia will say that it is a state subject. I would submit that it is not a state subject. It has now become an international border dispute. That is why it is no longer a state subject. Therefore, efforts should be made in this direction. Strange are the ways of the Central Government. When there is soil erosion, the Centre says, it is a state subject but when coal, gold or diamond mine is found in the same area, the Centre jump in immediately to grab it saying that it is under the Central Government. Please do something in this matter. I will not ask for money. I would appeal on behalf of my district to at least pay a visit there. I will be there and my colleague Zainal Abedin and comrade Nani Bhattacharya, former State irrigation Minister and now an M.P. will also accompany. You can see for yourself how even at Faizilpur, near Lalgola, where the distance between Padma and Bhagirathi rivers is just one kilometer, there is heavy soil erosion. 27 lakh cusecs of water flow in river Padma and the carrying capacity of river Bhagirathi is 40 thousand cusecs. If soil erosion continues and both the rivers become one, the cumulative flow of 27.40 lakh cusecs of water will wash away Murshi-

dabad district as well as upto Kalyani of Nadia district.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister has to go to Rajya Sabha so you may continue your speech after the makes his Statement.

17.36 hrs.

[Translation]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of the Cyclonic

Storm in the Bay of Bengal Affecting Coastal Areas of Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

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 on the current situation arising out of the severe cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the steps taken by the Government for rendering relief to the affected population. I am deeply conscious that the Honourable Members are quite concerned about the hardship caused by the cyclonic storm and its after effects mainly in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and to some extent in some parts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry.

2. India Meteorological Department (IMD) reported about the depression formed in the south-west Bay of Bengal by the midnight of Friday-Saturday (4-5 May, 1990) which was lying centered at 600 kms. south-west of Madras at 0830 IST of Saturday, the 5 May, 1990. The movement of cyclonic storm was in the direction of north-west initially and it was expected to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and cross the coast in between Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu and Nel-