

[Shri Mool Chand Daga]

But its work has not started yet. Efficiency and promptness in the administration are simply a slogan. So I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Implementation to this important subject.

[English]

(viii) Need to instruct the United Bank of India to liberalise its policy in respect of tea financing.

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : Sir, due to sudden squeeze by the United Bank of India for Tea Financing for the Season 1986 the fund position of a large number of tea gardens in Upper Assam, Cachar, Dooars, Terai and Darjeeling is reported to have been adversely affected and as a consequence of which the workers of some of the tea gardens especially in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri Districts are not getting their wages, salaries and ration for weeks together. The vital cultivation works of tea plantation have badly suffered and the supply of essential inputs have also been stopped. This situation has caused alarm among the tea garden workers, employers and others concerned. According to the changes made in the norms for advancing loan, the United Bank of India has stipulated 25% margin money investment by tea gardens seeking loan as against 15% fixed by other banks and refusing to accept the evaluation of tea stocks made by registered and recognised brokers. The Bank has even refused to allow the gardens of Darjeeling to draw funds for the implementation of long term developmental schemes sanctioned by the Government of India for revamping the sick tea gardens stalling all development works.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government to ask the Bank concerned to liberalise its policy and ensure flow of fund for the smooth running of tea gardens.

I also urge upon the Government to make a statement in the House in this regard.

16.00 hrs.

(ix) Need for remedial measures in order to meet the severe drought situation in Gujarat.

SHRI AHMED M. PATEL (Broach) : A grave situation has arisen in Gujarat due to drought conditions in a number of districts, especially Saurashtra and North Gujarat. It has affected almost half the population of the State. Rivers and tanks have dried up. Big storage tanks, dams and reservoirs are fast running out of water. The uncertainty of rains makes matters worse. The farmers in villages are worst affected. There is no crop and fodder. Cattle are facing extinction. There is fear of large scale migration.

The State Government are doing their best for the supply of water and fodder. They are mobilising tanks and transport vehicles. They have requested the Railway Ministry to run special tanker trains. They have approached the Central Government for maximum financial aid and supply of fodder, etc.

I urge the Government to immediately consider the following requirements which would go a long way in easing the drought situation :

1. Railway Ministry make available as many tankers as possible to supply water to drought affected areas as was done in the case of Madras in the recent past.
2. Tankers from the Defence disposal quota be provided to facilitate distribution of water.
3. Enough number of rigs be supplied to tap underground water.
4. Huge stocks of category food which are rotting with the Food Corporation of India be made available to the State Government at concessional rates to meet the scarcity of fodder.
5. A team of scientists be deputed to look into the problems and suggest remedial measures.