

- (v) Need to take measures to safeguard the interest of jute growers in the country, particularly in Bihar

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Special attention of the Government is drawn towards the very sad and pitiable conditions of jutegrowers, particularly in Bihar. The districts of Purnea, Katihar, Saharsa, Madhepura etc. have this as the only cash crop. The jute growers have to face serious difficulties, harassment, and exploitation.

Hence the following arrangements be immediately made in this regard :

(a) To set up a research centre in the area, preferably at Araria, to examine.

(i) if the jute seeds could be produced in the area itself ;

(ii) suitable variety as per local conditions ;

(iii) improvement in jute ratting process ;

(iv) better use of jute sticks ;

(v) village cottage industries suitable for diversification of jute fibre produce etc.

(b) Total requirement of internal consumption of jute be assessed, and announced with remunerative prices; before the next sowing season ;

(c) Forward trading in jute be banned by legislation and distress sale of jute be avoided by giving jute growers financial aid loans ;

(d) Total quantity of jute brought to JCI should be bought as per Government's assurance, and refusal on the plea of shortage of space should not be resorted to ;

(e) Each variety of jute fibre sample grown in the area should be exhibited in each centre, showing the buying price rate against each ;

(f) Jute growers should be encouraged to form jute cooperative societies, by giving monetary aid and export licence.

(g) Jute Development Board be made more effective, to tackle these problems by including representatives of jute growers from different States.

- (vi) Need to establish textile mills complex in Assam.

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Bongaigaon Refinery and Petro-Chemicals Ltd. will produce 30,000 M.T. of polyester fibre. The entire quantity should be processed into yarn within the State, in the 25 spinning mills with 25,000 spindles each, or in larger spinning mills with more spindles. As much of the yarn produced, either in the pure form, or blended as yarn possible should be processed within the State, into fabrics. It would, therefore, be necessary to establish a textile mills complex in the State within the shortest possible time. These spinning and textile mills will be able to generate jobs for about 2,00,000 people.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to reduce the prices of agricultural implements and ensure reasonable prices of agricultural produce to ameliorate the lot of farmers.

SHRI NIRMAL KHATTRI (Faizabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the occupation of a major part of our population is agriculture and its problems are becoming acute day by day. Our farmers are beset with the problems of increasing families, fragmented land holding, increasing prices of inputs used in agriculture, costly agricultural implements and the hike in the prices of other consumer articles and on top of it, there is not much hike in the prices of agricultural produce which has put the farmers in difficulty.

Today, the politics of pressure by the organised groups to force the Government to accept their demands is in practice. Keeping this fact in mind, the farmers are thinking that as they are not organised, the Government does not pay any attention towards their problems.

Therefore, it is necessary that the prices of fertilizers and agricultural implements should be reduced and the programme of reclamation of waste land should be accelerated. In order to bring more area under