

Andhra Pradesh Cotton growers

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government of India to the misearable plight of lakhs of cotton growers of Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh. Farmers of these two districts have lost all their crops in the last 3 to 4 years because of white fly, boll weevil, etc. They have become so poor and bankrupt that they have started selling their women's ornaments. They are also not able to repay the loans to Cooperative societies and Scheduled banks. Their plight has caused a terrible social and moral depression in the countryside, and about 15 persons have committed suicide. Never before, the farmers have taken such drastic steps. It is the duty of the Central Government to help these farmers so that they do not take such desperate steps. I, therefore, suggest:

- (i) that all proceedings for the recovery of loans be stopped;
 - (ii) price of the cotton may be raised at least by 20 per cent;
 - (iii) interest free loans may be provided for the current crop;
 - (iv) supply of unadulterated tested seeds, fertilisers and pesticides at subsidized rates may be ensured;
 - (v) financial assistance to the families whose heads of families have committed suicide, may be provided; and
 - (vi) crop insurance may be ensured.
- (vii) Demand for setting up Industries in certain places in West**

Dinajpur district of, West Bengal which has been declared 'No Industry' district

SHRI ANAND PATHAK (Darjeeling): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, inspite of having declared Islampur, Chopra and other subdivisions of the district of West Dinajpur in West Bengal as 'no industry district', by the Government, not a single small medium or large scale industry has yet been set up in these areas, as a consequence of which these areas still remain most backward and the people inhabiting there are very poor.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to consider the demands of the people of these areas and take appropriate action.

[Translation]

(viii) Demand for remunerative price to formers for their product

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a country of villages, farmers and workers. 70 per cent of its people are dependent on agriculture but unfortunately even today the farmer is caught in a vicious circle. He feels that he has a dark future ahead. The prices of agricultural inputs like fertilisers, seeds, power, water, diesel and insecticides have registered a sharp increase. The price of an industrial good is fixed after taking into consideration its cost of production and margin of profit. Therefore, there is no question of any loss in it, whereas, in agriculture, not even the cost of production is taken into consideration. The support price is not enough even to meet the cost of labour. These are some of the reason why the plight of farmers in the country is going from bad to worse. Besides, due to imposition of taxes and other restrictions, the number of farmers in the country is fast declining and the num-

ber of labourers is increasing leading to weakening of country's economy I, therefore, demand that the prices of agricultural inputs and agricultural produce should be fixed in such a manner that the farmers are able to get remunerative price as a result thereof.

12.49 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE
PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS *Contd.*

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the Motion of Thanks on President's Address moved by Shri B.R. Bhagat on the 24th February, 1988.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): If I start now, can I continue and finish?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You speak upto 1 O'clock. You can continue afterwards.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Then there will be lunch.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You want to finish at 1.05 PM?

SHRI AMAL DATTA: I think I have about 28 minutes or so.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to speak after lunch break, you can speak after the next person.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Then I will be much late.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: After lunch break you can continue.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to the joint session of the two Houses. The Address of the President has become an annual Parliamentary ritual and has become as much stereotyped as it has become irrelevant to the life of the nation. It has become devoid of any understanding of the real political issues before the nation and has therefore, become utterly superficial! Sir, the President's speech catalogues a series of make-belief achievements and these are of no importance to the nation even if they were true. This shows unfortunately that the people who are in charge of the destiny of the nation have no real connection with the people any more. They do not know what are the issues before the nation which have to be highlighted on the annual historic occasion like this. They have no sense of priorities of the issues and problems before the nation and accordingly they have catalogued in the speech only some wishful thinking, some lofty intentions, but no achievements of any nation building activity which may have been undertaken during the last one year. In fact, the possibility is that no such activity has, in fact, been undertaken or no achievements are there for the Central Government to read out during such a speech.

There have been a lot of assertions, some of them even if bonafide, are incorrect and of no importance to the people. They have not said what is being done for those problems which concern the nation primarily today, the problem of secularism, national integration and unity, the problem of socialism and the problem of democracy.

Taking the problem of national integration and unity first, I apprehend that the people who are in charge of the nation's destiny today have no idea as to where to go and how to proceed to promote a sense of Indian consciousness. They do not ask the question to what extent we have progressed