

[Sh. Manvendra Singh]

I, therefore, request that revised pay scales be given to telecommunication technicians at the earliest.

[*Translation*]

**(viii) Need for banning the films depicting black-marketing, violence and rape**

SHRIMATI USHA RANI TOMAR (Ali-garh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, films are the Chief source of entertainment in the modern times. Every section of society, particularly, the poor and the youths are influenced by films. The social evils and crimes depicted in films are affecting the society and crimes are increasing.

Today, 99 percent of the films depict black-marketeering, scenes of violence and rape. The incidents shown in such films are imaginary and do not reflect the true picture of the society.

Indian history is full of social ideals but even than our film producers are depicting imaginary social evils in films as a result of which crimes are increasing in society and social degeneration has set in.

There is a close link between society and films and films affect society. Therefore, I would request the Government that the production of such films should be banned immediately and Censor Board should be directed to issue certificates to only those films which provide inspiration and education to society and particularly to the new generation.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHIELA DIKSHIT): In deference to the wishes of the Members I

propose that the discussion on Punjab may begin at 3.00 p.m. instead of 4.00 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I hope the House will agree with this suggestion.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Before we proceed with Item No. 9 I would like to bring to your notice that the Demands for Grants are being taken up in spite of the fact that the annual reports had not been given to the Members. Such items should not be included in the List of Business. About Item No. 10 in today's List of Business relating to Ministry of Home Affairs, so far we have not received the annual report. You should not accept the request of the Ministry to put it in the agenda.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We will pass this information on to the Ministry of Home Affairs. We will remind the Ministry about it.

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DEMANDS FOR GRANTS, 1988-89 —  
*Contd.*

[*English*]

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up discussion on Demands for Grants Nos. 1 to 5 relating to Ministry of Agriculture, for which 7 hours have been allotted.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demands for Grants have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Those cut motions only will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial number of cut motions moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly. In case any Member finds any

discrepancy in the list, he may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table without delay.

*Motion moved*

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amount on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column

of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 5."

*Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of the Ministry of Agriculture, submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on Account voted by the House on 18th March, 1988		Amount of Demand for Grant to be submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue	Capital	Revenue	Capital

**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE**

1.	Agriculture	67,60,00,000	1,24,00,000	337,98,00,000	6,19,00,000
2.	Other Services of Department of Cooperation	42,40,00,000	29,34,00,000	211,99,00,000	146,73,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research Education	33,53,00,000	—	167,64,00,000	—
4.	Department of Rural Development	778,13,00,000	5,00,000	1441,23,00,000	25,00,000
5.	Department of Fertilizers	898,42,00,000	70,67,00,000	2740,07,00,000	353,34,00,000

**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada):** First of all I thank you for giving me the opportunity to initiate this important discussion on the Demands relat-

ing to the Ministry of Agriculture. The importance of agriculture I need not elaborate but for the fact that it is the vital sector which provides enough food for our vast millions of

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] people and the ever growing population. It also has to supply raw materials like sugar-cane, jute, cotton, tobacco and several other commodities to the industry to run its wheels. The development of agriculture is inter-related to the eradication of poverty amongst the rural masses. It also helps in providing employment to the unemployed and under-employed in rural areas. Only very recently the State Chief Ministers and Agriculture Ministers have met in New Delhi for a mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Plan and approved a strategy to produce 175 million tonnes of foodgrains by the year 1989-90. Though we have produced a record production of 151 million tonnes of foodgrains in 1983-84, we have slipped to 130 million tonnes due to subsequent and recurring droughts for the last three years. And to achieve this target of 175 million tonnes the Government has to undertake a radical change in regard to the policies which it has been adopting till now.

Only then this target may be achieved. Though the agricultural sector is contributing more than forty per cent to the Gross National Product, this sector has not been given that much attention as it deserves. I am not saying this only for the sake of criticism. Even the Prime Minister of this country has conceded in that very meeting that the agricultural sector did not receive the attention which it deserved all these years. So, I will not elaborate this fact any further. Except in the First Five Year Plan, the agricultural sector has not been given its due share. Unfortunately, the allocations were lesser and lesser. Even now when we have set a big target before us, enough change has not taken place. That is what I want to impress upon the hon. Minister. In spite of the fact that there is an urgent need to give top priority to agriculture, what is the allocation for the agricultural sector in our present Plan? It comes only to around 5.8 per cent,

whereas during the Sixth Plan the actual expenditure was around six per cent. So, while the allocation is 5.8 per cent, ultimately what will be the expenditure? It may be still lesser. This only shows hollowness of the ruling party's commitment to the agricultural sector. It only proves that the Government is interested only in tall talk but not in concrete action. If we really want to reach at least near the target, the Government should allot more and more funds for this sector to achieve this target. To achieve this target, we must achieve more production and more per hectare yield. Unfortunately, in respect of paddy if we examine the per hectare yield it is only 1.4 tonnes, whereas our neighbour China is producing around four to five tonnes per hectare. In respect of several other crops also, the same story is there. I will not go into the details. Now the Government has taken up a special rice programme in the Eastern and the North-Eastern States. Mere programme may not achieve the desired result. Unless the farmer there is convinced that his applying fertiliser to his field will not go waste, unless he is protected from the recurrence of floods which is always a continuous threat due to Brahmaputra and other rivers in that region, unless the Government simultaneously takes necessary steps to tame Brahmaputra, this special rice programme may definitely bring some change, some improvement, but not to the extent it is expected to bring from that programme.

The percentage of irrigated area to the total cropped area, even after forty years of our independence, is only thirty per cent. This is definitely one of the reasons for the lower agricultural production. The gross area that can be irrigated is around 113 million hectares. Before our planning process started, 22.6 million hectares was having the irrigation facility. During the last forty years, we could bring another around forty-five million hectares under irrigation by the end of the Sixth Plan. Now the Seventh Plan envisages around ten million hectares. That

means, every year we have to create a potential of 2.18 million hectares. For the last two years if we see what we have achieved, what practically was created, is less than 1.8 million hectares. That means, every year there has been a shortage of four lakh hectares between the target and the actual achievement. Even after the Seventh Plan, nearly 45 per cent area will be left unirrigated. The Union Government is behaving like a Big Brother with the state. Sir, the Government is taking abnormally a long time for clearance of several projects. Because of this, precious water is flowing into the sea and it is being wasted and the farmer is not able to get water to his parched fields. Unfortunately, the Department of Forest and Environment is also taking a very very long time in clearing these projects. My submission is that the Government should make a radical change. It must simplify the procedure, it must have confidence in the State Governments also. They also have the equal responsibility to increase the forest cover. Definitely. This is not only the responsibility of the Central Government but the State Governments are also equally interested in this. So, my suggestion is that the Centre should bring forward a substantial change in the procedure and simplify the procedures and you also fix some time-limit for clearance.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to point out that the Sarkaria Commission has also given recommendations in detail and it has made a very valid suggestion in this respect. I hope the Government will agree to the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Sir, because of the wastage of water and the resultant lower agricultural production, there is strained relation between the Union and the States. Cordial atmosphere and cordial relations have to exist between the Centre and the States, under the federal set up. Unfortunately, this very very abnormal delay is causing some fissures and also straining the relations and

these lead to fissures in the nation's unity and integrity.

Sir, next to irrigation, it is the quality seeds which are very important for raising the agricultural production. The present target by the end of Seventh Five Plan is 11.74 million quintals. But the present level is only 5.5 million quintals. That means the production has to be doubled. It is very very far away. Prior to 1965, the quality of the seeds were far superior and unfortunately, subsequently, the seeds are not of that quality. It is because of the irresponsible mental attitude of either the producers or some co-operating officials of the National Seeds Corporation officials or some officials in the State Seeds Corporation or from the State seed certification agencies, resulting in the supply of the sub-standard seeds, there is a lower agricultural production and lower per acre yield.

Sir, unfortunately, the area that is required for agricultural universities to produce the foundation seeds has not increased. Usually the agricultural universities produce the foundation seeds and then the foundation seeds are supplied to the farmers for producing more and more certified seeds. Sir, while the Government is spending several crores of rupees on other items which in no way help in increasing the production, why not Government make available more lands to the agricultural universities to produce more foundation seeds so that multiplication can be done at a faster pace and more quality seeds are supplied to the farmers. On many occasions we can see only a few farmers who can grease the palms of either the State Seeds Corporation or the National Seeds Corporation and they only get the foundation seeds and they only multiply the seeds. Why not this seed production job is entrusted to a large number of progressive farmers who can be identified by the Agricultural Department or the State Seeds Agencies or some other agencies and entrust this job to several people so that this type of sub-

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]

standard seeds are not supplied to the growers.

Sir, previously, my information was that either the N.S.C. or the State Seeds Corporation used to take only five or six quintals of seeds from one acre. But nowadays the role is changed. They are collecting the entire seeds, even by sweeping in and around the thrashing places the entire seeds are collected. They are now being bagged and the same sub-standard, inferior quality seeds which are the admixture of seeds and other materials, are being supplied to the farmers. So, there should be a definite change and you must reconsider and adopt that policy which was previously practised and which was responsible for giving good seeds to the producer.

Sir, I have gone through the literature given by our hon. Minister. In that we have found the shortage of breeder seeds of oil-seeds and pulses. Sir, while the country is importing nearly Rs. 1000 crores worth of edible oils from abroad, why should there be shortage of even the breeder seeds? When there is shortage of breeder seeds, you cannot produce even foundation seeds, you cannot supply enough certified seeds to the growers, to the farmers, especially when there is shortage of edible oil. Why only 35 tonnes of sunflower seeds were imported from Russia? Why only 35 tonnes? Why not we have imported more tonnes? While the Government has been spending several crores of rupees on cultural tours abroad and when the Government has spent crores of rupees for the Prime Minister's tour to Vancouver, why not the Government think it fit to spend a few more lakhs of rupees for the import of sunflower seeds from the Soviet Russia? So, my submission is, you take it in all seriousness and provide quality seeds, enough seeds to the farmers of this country. Definitely the farmers will produce enough of either pulses or oil seeds. Next to supply of

seeds, it is the fertilizer which is more important. Unfortunately, even now the consumption of fertilizers in our country is lowest in Asia. Even our neighbour Pakistan is consuming 58 kgs of plant nutrients per hectare of arable land and even our neighbour Bangladesh is consuming 46 kgs while in our country we are consuming only 39.4 kgs. of plant nutrients. Our neighbour China is consuming 180 kgs. So, it is because of this deficiency we are not able to get higher per acre yield. The Government should make all out efforts in convincing the farmer to apply more fertilisers to his crop. In addition to chemical fertiliser, organic manures is also a 'must' to preserve the quality of land and also the quality of the top soil. Why not the Government take enough steps to propagate about the need to produce more manure through bio-gas plants connected to the latrines in the rural areas? In China they have successfully utilised the night-soil as well as garbage and all those things for the land. Here also the Government should make all out efforts to utilise that part also for the soil.

Sir, reports about fertiliser adulteration in particular regarding mixtures like super phosphate are appearing in the press. The Government should amend the Fertiliser Control Act so that deterrent punishment is given to the companies who manufacture such fertilisers as well as to the retailer who sells it knowing that it is sub-standard. After 38 years, the Government has introduced the comprehensive crop insurance scheme and unfortunately a very few days back some news has appeared in the press that the Centre is thinking of backing out of the scheme. This will be a very unfortunate step if the Government really takes back a step. After so many years of demand from the farmers this crop insurance scheme was introduced. Though it is not coming to the rescue of the farmers completely, at least it is helping to some extent the farmer who lost his crop. Though it is small, in that particular need of the hour it will be of some help. Every

year either due to drought or floods we are losing nearly Rs. 2000 crores worth of crops. This is the Government estimate and the Government is spending more on flood relief than on the flood control measures. For example, in 1987 alone in the Eastern States and the North-Eastern States due to floods nearly Rs. 557 crores worth of crops were damaged. In our Andhra Pradesh, due to Godavari floods some few hundred crores of rupees worth of paddy was lost. In these circumstances, my suggestion to the Government is, kindly don't back out from this crop insurance scheme. If there are any loopholes where there are some provisions for giving scope for misutilisation, you plug them. You take necessary precautions and bring some radical changes so that no person can misuse the provisions. If necessary, you increase the premium amount. The scheme should also cover tobacco, cotton and chillies.

Upto now, the defined area is a block or a Panchayat Samiti or Taluk. A revenue village should be treated as defined area. Otherwise the farmers are not going to be helped really. Only when a few villages are affected in a particular block or taluk, then the farmer is not going to get any relief or compensation. Therefore, a revenue village should be treated as defined area.

The abnormal delay in paying compensation is worrying the farmers. Nearly for more than a year, the farmers in West Godavari district could not get compensation. Similarly, farmers in East Godavari and some farmers in Krishna district, whose lands were submerged and whose crops were damaged due to floods to Budameru river also did not receive compensation. So, the Government should speed up the process and pay compensation as early as possible.

Apart from the other inputs, it is the Extension which is very very important. The

Government has appointed a National Commission on Agriculture and it has recommended that every district should have one Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) by the year 1985. It also suggested that every district should have 3 KVKs by the year 2,000 A.D. Till now in the whole of the country, we have only 89 KVKs. During the 7th Plan, not a single KVK is started. Let me the Minister say, how many have been started. My suggestion to the Government is, kindly see and take all the steps so that one KVK is started in each district of the country. Then only, the research that has been conducted in the laboratories, in the universities will reach the farmers and that will help a lot in increasing agricultural production and adopting the improved cultivation practices. While 64% of the population is illiterate and 45% of the population is below the poverty line and still lakhs of villages are to be connected by all weather road, the present level of extension is not at all adequate. I also suggest to the Government to take necessary steps to start farmers' advisory service units of the agricultural universities like those in Haryana under the Haryana Agricultural University or in Punjab under the Punjab Agricultural University where continuous training to this extension staff is taking place and also a good number of farmers are also being trained there. This gives inter-action between the farmers and the research people of the universities so that this very very valuable information is passed on to the farmers.

Kindly allot more time in Doordarshan also. Many a time we find some disco dances and several other items which do not deserve even 5 minutes' time. Why do you not allot more time for agriculture and agriculture extension on Doordarshan? It is a very very powerful media. Today even in a remote village, there is a TV set and with that TV set, some hundreds of farmers will get that information which otherwise is not possible. Your training and visit system is more

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] on paper rather than in practice. They are not really knowing the problem from the farmers and communicating it to the research people and knowing the solution from that place and again passing on it to the farmers. This is only on paper. This is not being done in many places, to my knowledge. You may correct me, if I am wrong. My only submission is this passing of information through TV and other leaflets with coloured photographs are provided would be more useful and required because even an illiterate farmer can easily identify from colour photograph, what is that very pest which has attacked his crop. He himself can identify and come to an idea and then adopt, what is the prescribed procedure. What is the pesticide that is to be applied? For that, the Government should spend more and more funds.

More funds should be allocated under the Operational Research Project Programmes and lab to land programmes and also I suggest to the Government kindly to sanction proposal from our AP Agricultural University to start a research programme to evolve heliothis resistant varieties of cotton and also produce natural predators to control white fly. It is already under your examination. Kindly sanction that.

The Minimum Support prices must be remunerative. Unfortunately, though CACP says that "we are computing all perfectly and we are taking all aspects into consideration" but unfortunately many hon. Members do feel and we feel that it is not quite correct. Many a time the computation, for reasons best known to them, is not realistic. The remunerative price is not being fixed. Though it did not have much impact on either wheat or paddy but it had a definite bearing on pulses and edible oils. In 1960s we were importing extra long staple cotton and long staple cotton from abroad and because incentive prices were offered to the farmers in those days, the farmers have taken it in a big

way and today we are in a very strong position to export our long staple cotton and extra long staple cotton to foreign countries. Similarly, if you can give incentive price to oilseeds and pulses, do you think that the farmers of this country are not able to produce enough oilseeds? Definitely they will produce. You kindly give only incentive price. Definitely it will work magically in increasing production.

When BICP is fixing prices to the industrial goods, it is not worried about the consumers. Only in respect of CACP, under the pretext that the consumer interests are to be protected, the CACP is not fixing the proper remunerative prices to the farmers. My submission to the Government is, even after 40 years, why should the farmers who produce chillies and turmeric be left to the exploitation of the traders? Kindly bring this turmeric and chillies also under the purview of CACP and please see that remunerative prices are fixed to these crops also.

The Tobacco Board is there and to some extent it is protecting the interests of the Virginia tobacco growers. But what is the fate of the bidi tobacco growers? What is the fate of the Natu tobacco growers? The traders are exploiting them. Kindly see that remunerative prices are fixed to these items and that they are brought either under Tobacco Board or some other Board to take care of the interests of those farmers. Because of this erroneous policy, the per capita availability of pulses has gone down.

While in 1956 we had 70 grammes per day, now it has come down to 40 grammes per day.

While we are producing only 529 KG per hectare, in China they are producing 1,321 KG per hectare, that is more than nearly double.

More area has to be brought under

pulses and similarly oilseeds also definitely will make rapid progress. Though our technology mission is doing something in this respect, it alone will not help in bringing more production of oilseeds and pulses only if the Government gives incentive price to these deficit items, definitely we can make up.

Credit is another important item. The Indian farmer is exploited from money lenders, from very olden days. The bank nationalisation as well as certain policy changes the Government has brought in. The farmer's position is little safe. But I shall say even now the farmer's credit requirements are not fully met by the institutions. While our target is Rs. 4,275 crores to be given through cooperative sector, the achievement is only Rs. 3,700 crores. In this country, the medium and large industries people were getting Rs. 16000 crores in 1985 as credit and by 1987 it has increased to Rs. 22,000 crores. That means, there is a 45 per cent increase. But, in respect of crores and crores of farmers throughout the country who are in the agricultural sector, it has increased from Rs. 7660 crores to Rs. 10588 crores only. So, only 19 per cent increase is there. This is not even half of the amount given to industrialists. That means, the Government is interested to give huge amount to those few thousands of industrialists and big business people. Whereas, it is not so considerate and kind enough to give necessary loans to the farmers of this country. That clearly shows where the interest of this Government lies. Whom does this Government represent? Whose interest this Government will serve rather than the farmers of this country?

Sir, you are quite aware that the top 20 companies in our country have increased their assets more than double the amount in a matter of three years. I would like to point out one thing here. Our hon. Agriculture Minister was also the Chief Minister of Haryana which is also a prosperous State. I would like to ask a question. Has a farmer owning

three acres of land been able to purchase one acre of land more in three years? I would like to ask this question. Let a survey be conducted. Therefore, this is the state of the farmers in this country. So, my submission is this. Apart from the credit that is given by the Banks, many a time, that loan is not sufficient. So, the farmer is taking some loans pledging his gold. He is pledging his wife's gold ornaments and taking loan. If the farmer takes this loan near the harvesting time, the Bank people say: "No, this is not for agricultural purposes." Sir, you know that during the harvest time, sometimes it may so happen that the price of the crop is not quite encouraging. So, the farmer may not be willing to part with his crop because he expects that at a later stage he can get better price. Sometimes, he also happens to take some hand-loans for agricultural operations. He takes some additional loans. The Banks are charging higher interest and they are also charging compound interest. I would like to point out that this is not a fair thing. I would request the Government to kindly rethink about the credit policy and kindly charge only simple interest atleast for a period of three months on these gold loans and after that the Government may charge higher interest. My submission is that the farmers' credit requirement is not fully met and that is why the farmers are taking such loans. The loan should be charged with simple interest.

Sir, I am very thankful to the hon. Minister and I am very happy to see that the Government has appointed a Committee with some representatives of some banks to go into the problems of the cotton growers in Prakasam and Guntur Districts. I am very happy about it. I will not repeat what I have told already during the Calling Attention. My only submission is that the Government must kindly treat this as a special case. We are not asking the Government to extend the writing-off of loans to all the other people. We are not asking like that. But this is only a special case because of the successive

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] droughts and white-flies, menace and because of the three successive cyclones. A situation has been created for the farmers wherein they have lost their repaying capacity. Therefore, kindly write off the loan. You have told on that day that it was not in the interest of the farmers. You may be having the experience of Haryana in your mind. Let that not come in the way of the cotton-growers of Guntur and Prakasam Districts of Andhra Pradesh. At least please write off the interest part, though not the principle. If you do not write-off the principle, you may write off the interest part and reschedule the outstanding principle amount for some time.

Sir, the Reserve Bank of India has given some guidelines and they will apply only to small and marginal farmers. They will not apply to the other farmers... (*Interruptions*) What is the fate of the farmers after the Land Ceiling Act. What about the other farmers? They are also middle-class farmers. Therefore, they have lost their capacity. In fact, the debt burden is more on them. May I request the Government to write-off the interest portion on them also?

Then adulteration of pesticides is causing terrible loss to the farmers. The farmers are cheated and robbed. The present provision in the Insecticides Act is not sufficient. I will quote only one instance. In Andhra Pradesh in the year 1986-87, 6800 samples were examined and 253 samples were found to be defective and substandard. 91 persons were prosecuted who manufactured the pesticides and out of them only 16 people were fined to the extent of Rs. 200 to Rs. 600/-. This only shows how our present provisions are inadequate. Those people are going scot-free. Again, they are doing a lot of mischief. My submission to the Government is to kindly issue a control order under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act which can be tried by a District Collector, the stocks of such a nature can be confiscated

and the defaulter must be tried and fined immediately. Unless that type of deterrent punishment is there, these fellows who are adulterating the pesticides, cheating the farmers and causing losses worth hundreds of crores of rupees to the farmers, they cannot be stopped from doing their mischief. The manufacturer who manufactures these insecticides and pesticides as well as the retailer who sells them, both should be taken to task. But the present criminal provisions are not adequate. At least two years rigorous imprisonment should be there. Then only these fellows will not dare to adulterate pesticides.

Sir, Animal Husbandry is also a very important item. Nearly 1/5 of the gross agricultural production comes from Animal Husbandry side. Still there is a lot of scope to improvement especially in Assam and other areas where the animals are very very small in number. I don't think the milk production is substantial. There is vast scope for improvement. The Government should take all necessary steps to supply the cross-breeds, the exotic cross-breed cows and other animals to Assam and other North-Eastern States to increase their milk production. Even now, the per capita milk production is very very low, when compared with several other countries. More funds should be allocated to dairying, poultry, fisheries which give self-employment to lakhs of people in the rural areas. Though the National Dairy Development Board Act, 1987 was passed, I do not know why the milk products' order is not being brought before this Parliament. Consistent efforts from the NDDB is taking place for the promulgation of this order. But who is behind that? We do not know. It has not been brought before this House yet. Similarly, in our State of Andhra Pradesh which is having thousands of miles of coastal areas, there is vast potential for inland brackish water prawn culture. Though our Government wanted to export marine products worth Rs. 700 crores, it could export only to the tune of

Rs. 460 crores. Still there is a lot of scope. So, my submission to the Government is to look into this matter. We are very happy and we are thankful that the Government is setting up a seed supply farm near Vizag. on a very big scale. I would request you to kindly take necessary steps to start on a lesser scale such farms throughout the coastal area so that it could supply prawn to prawn culture ponds, in the Krishna, West Godavari, East-Godavari and Nellore Districts.

Sir, the schemes like NREP, IRDP and RLEGP are there and we are happy to say that they must continue. Through these programmes, permanent rural assets are being created in the villages which have been neglected since these 40 years. School buildings or community buildings or rural roads are being constructed under these programmes. They should be streamlined. Even now, 3.5 lakh villages are yet to be connected with all-weather roads. Our target year is 1990. As per our target, villages which are having more than 1000 population are to be connected and the villages which are having less than 1000 population are remaining unattended to. They are not connected. My submission is to provide these facilities to the people. The Government should not test the patience of the people. While you are providing all these amenities to the people who are living in the cities, why cannot you provide all-weather roads to the villages in the rural areas?...  
(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

Sir, after so many years, women in the rural areas are experiencing a lot of difficulties to attend the call of nature in the morning. Why did you leave them? After a long time, Rural Latrines Scheme is taken up. You must provide more funds for that. You must also coordinate with the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources so that these latrines also produce bio-gas for the

consumption of villagers and that organic manure can be used in the fields. This should be coordinated. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH  
(Chapra): I beg to move:

"That the demand under the agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[ Need to provide adequate loans to farmers to increase their production.]  
(14)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to bring parity in the prices of agricultural produce and industrial products. ] (15)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. `100."

[Need to give more powers to Panchayats to make the system more meaningful. ] (16)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to supply good quality seeds to farmers.] (17)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Non distribution of surplus land among the landless.] (18)

"That the demand under the had Department of Rural development be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need for exemption of non profitable land from rent. ] (19)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA  
RAO: I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to bring cotton, tobacco, chillies under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme.] (20)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix minimum support prices for turmeric and chilly crops.] (21)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure on the part of extension machinery in carrying the agricultural research programme to the remote villages.] (22)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Failure to attain the per hectare yield of paddy and wheat equal to that of our neighbour countries like China.] (23)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduce by Rs.100."

[Failure to maintain the *per capita* availability of pulses at the level of 1970.] (24)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Failure to maximise production of oilseeds to avoid the import of edible oils.] (25)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to check the marketing of adulterated manures, pesticides and insecticides.] (26)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to prevent marketing of substandard seeds resulting lower production.] (27)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to fix remunerative prices for sugarcane and cotton.] (28)

"That the demand under the head Agriculture be reduced by Rs.100."

[Need to fix incentive prices for oilseeds to encourage the farmers to take up oilseeds production in big way to avoid imports.] (29)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agriculture Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Need to establish one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in each district in the country.] (30)

"That the demand under the head Department of Agriculture Research and Education be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to take adequate steps to inform the farmers about the results of soil testing on all sides in each village.] (31)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs.100."

[Failure to prevent the marketing of adulterated fertilizers causing immense loss to the farmers.] (32)

"That the demand under the head Department of Fertilizers be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Failure to take steps to prevent adulteration in manures.] (33)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands presented by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Sir, agriculture is not only the mainstay of our country but also the chief occupation of our countrymen. Our late Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had said that real wealth for India is foodgrains and not gold and silver. The more we produce the better it is as it will enable us to provide sufficient foodgrains for the entire country. Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had raised the slogan "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi has also formulated several schemes under the 20 Point Programme, for the development of agriculture. Today, as a result of the successful policies of the Government, we are self-sufficient in the matter of foodgrains. In view of the natural calamities and the damage done to crops several protective schemes have been formulated under the stewardship of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi so that the farmers are provided every kind of protection and our foodgrain production also increases day-by-day.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the land of Bihar is very fertile but due to natural calamities crops in thousands of acres of land has been destroyed. There are a number of projects in the area like the Kamalabalan dam, the Kosi, the Gandak and the Baghmatti projects. They control floods and provide irrigation facilities to the farmers. Rs. 2,00 crores have been spent on these projects since Independence. Rs. 70 crores were spent as the Western Kosi Canal scheme initially, and subsequently more funds were

sanctioned but it is a matter of regret that due to red-tapism flood control and irrigation have received a set back. No scheme has been successful due to bureaucratic approach. Consequently, floods have been coming and they will continue to play havoc in future also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, unprecedented floods used to hit the area before the various flood control schemes were undertaken. But it is unfortunate that even after these schemes have been undertaken the fury of floods has increased. The farmers are suffering heavy losses due to these floods. The hon. Minister of State for Agriculture is aware of the 1987 floods. Consequently, crops in thousands of acres of land has been destroyed in Bihar and thousands of people have been rendered homeless. There are many areas which are inundated even today and water has not been drained out so far. There is so much of water logging in Kusesar Sthal that it looks more or less like a big lake covering an area of 4 to 5 kms. There is no outlet for the water to be drained out. I would request that Kamalabalan embankment which is upto Agarghat at present should be extended upto Kusila via Phuhia and it should meet the Ganga eventually. Thus, extending it by 14 to 15 kms. many districts will be protected and thousands of acres of land will be saved. Another demand of the farmers is that if floods are controlled there will be no need for lift irrigation and other schemes for providing irrigation facilities. Nature is so bountiful that it provides hundred times more water than the actual requirement of the area but it is a matter of regret that we are not able to make fruitful use of the available water. It just passes through our doorsteps. The area which is flood hit today is drought stricken a month later. We have not been able to control it so far and consequently, the farmers are facing enormous hardships on that account. I want to urge the hon. Minister of Agriculture to complete the 4 to 5 schemes

[Sh. Ram Bhagat Paswan]  
which are under way to control floods and provide irrigation facilities .

A number of dams have breached. Government should either get them repaired or as the farmers demand, they should be demolished. At some places, the dams are incomplete at other places, they have not been properly constructed as a result of which they get breached during floods and thousands of people and animals are washed away. The work is still incomplete at many places. Earlier, when floods used to come, the area would remain inundated only for 3 days and thereafter water would recede. However, as the dams are indiscreetly constructed by the engineers so they get breached every year and crores of rupees are spent on them. As a result of this, the schemes do not progress and the farmers are not benefited. Crops covering thousands of acres of land are destroyed and therefore such schemes should not be formulated. Rather remedial steps of permanent nature should be undertaken.

One of the features of Northern Bihar is that rivers can be found at every two miles in very district but they go dry after some time. These rivers should be made deeper. If the water from the overflowing major rivers during the floods is made to flow into these rivers and into the canals, which may be constructed for it the farmers will have adequate supply of water throughout the year and the state will neither have to depend on boring wells nor on artificial irrigation facilities. Therefore, I want to urge upon the Government to complete all the ongoing projects so that it becomes possible to protect these areas from the fury of natural calamities.

The distribution of land in Bihar is unequal. Land ceiling laws have not been successfully implemented there so far. Today, people own land-holdings between 100 to 1800 acres but these are registered

under fake names in order to escape the land ceiling laws. This must be looked into .

The land distributed to the landless in Bihar has become a source of trouble for them because they have been dragged into litigation on this account. The land distributed to them is barren and unfertile and when the lessee makes it fertile by his sheer hard work, he is dispossessed of his land by the landlord. He is thus penalised and thrown in the jail. A large number of such cases are pending in the various courts. The poor landless are never able to win the cases and their lease deeds are rejected. Who all are sitting in the High Courts? It is the big landlords who hold positions there. All the land ceiling cases which have come up in the courts, have been decided in favour of the landlords and never in favour of the landless. There should be some laws which should ensure that the poor landless who get the possession of land from the Government should not be dragged into litigation. Why are the poor harassed? The Government should either withdraw the land ceiling law or ensure protection to the poor people. The Police also harasses them and section 144 is imposed. Recently, I spoke to a Police Officer at a meeting on the 20 Point Programme and he said that section 144 has to be clamped otherwise there will be disturbance. Even the person who has the document to prove that he is the owner of the house in which he is staying, is not spared. Section 144 is imposed not only on the mischief-makers but also on the owner of the house. Therefore, I want to emphasise that discretion should be used. The police officers these days do not use their discretion. Government has distributed land among the landless and therefore, some law should be formulated in order to safeguard their interests and ensure that they are in possession of their land in every way. This land should not be disposed off at any cost. Land Ceiling Act should be properly implemented. One big lacunae so far as ownership right is

concerned is that those who are completely ignorant about the methods of cultivation, own thousands of acres whereas those who are actual tillers, are landless. If land is given to the tillers, it will help in enhancing production besides the poor will own a piece of land for cultivation.

Further, I want to add that the farmers do not get loans from banks in time. The Bihar Government has decided that the farmers whose lands have been ravaged by floods would be given seeds, and fertilisers at subsidised rates. But these have not been made available to them in time. Where they have got it, the seeds are of a substandard quality. I mean to say that the farmers have suffered huge losses and many of them have complained to us that they have not received financial assistance and subsidies in time. I want to urge upon the Government to ensure whether full assistance has been given to the farmers and if not they should be provided full financial assistance.

Now I want to submit a few points about crop insurance. Not many farmers have benefited from this scheme. The formula of compensation is somewhat irrational. The compensation in case of a district or a block which is flooded, is calculated on the extent of damage in the adjoining district which is also affected by floods. Therefore, in this connection, I would like to submit that a ceiling should be fixed.

Today, tractors have become very expensive. They have become more expensive than cars. The marginal and small farmers are not in a position to buy them. You do not provide them loans in time to buy the tractors. I, therefore, request you to provide them loans in time and write off the interest on those loan. It will help the farmers to produce more.

Similarly, you provide them loans to buy cattle but most of these cattle perish as they

succumb to infections. Thus, the farmers suffer heavy losses. The farmers should be helped in such critical times and their loans should be written off.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to add a few more things besides all these things. The land in Bihar, is good for sugarcane cultivation. The Government should pay attention towards the exploitation of the farmers by the Sugar Mill owners of Bihar. In this connection, I would like to say that the farmers will be benefited to a great extent if more Sugar Mills are set up in North Bihar. It will enable them to get remunerative price for their produce and will provide them the means of employment.

The Government should also pay attention towards the big capitalists of the country like Birla, Tata and Dalmia who are exploiting the poor. The poor farmers are not able to recover their money from the Sugar Mills.

With these words I conclude my speech and thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Sir, I thank you for having given me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. Before I start, I would like to congratulate our hon. Prime Minister and also the Finance Minister for having given so many incentives, facilities and concessions like low rate of interest for the farmers of this country.

Before I started speaking, I thought my friend Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao would at least appreciate whatever we have done all these days. I have been hearing him patiently but he did not have the courtesy to say that this Government during this year's budget has given so many facilities for the farmers. To my surprise, he said that we are only talking and we are not doing anything.

[Shrimati Basavarajeswari]

We are talking all these days. Whatever we have done, you did not say. Without doing anything, can you expect that our country should become surplus in food production? In spite of these three years' drought, are we not supplying the food to the remotest corners through the public distribution system? You did not say anything about that.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker was ringing the bell repeatedly. Since I did not have the time, I left these items to be touched by my sister.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Are there any instances where persons have died of starvation? Are we now getting foodgrains from America and other places? Are we borrowing foodgrains? On the other hand, we have so much surplus of food stocks. We are giving to so many countries wherever food is needed. Our late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had given millions of tonnes of wheat to the needy persons. So, I thought that, to that extent, one word from you would have been more useful on today's occasion.

The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is responsible for the formulation and implementation of national policies and programmes aimed at achieving rapid agricultural growth through optimum utilisation of the country's land, water, soil, animal husbandry, dairy, fisheries, etc. With timely supply of inputs like seeds, fertilisers, pesticides, finances and water, we will be able to increase the resources of this country.

I have gone through the performance report. I am very much satisfied with all the various schemes. The Department of Agriculture has undertaken to see that optimum production is achieved. Our Prime Minister himself took the initiative for constituting a committee. He has called all the concerned Ministers of the various States, the Central

Ministers and also the Finance Minister to see that next year, a target of 170 million tonnes is reached. The Department of Agriculture is gearing up to see that they are going to reach the maximum production by *kharif* season.

I have read in the report that the Agriculture Department is going to start a national seed testing laboratory during the Seventh Five Five Year Plan and they are going to train about 300 trainees annually in different disciplines of seed technology.

I would like to inform this House that there is a very big farm at Sindhnur in Raichur district. It is known as Central Farm. It consists of more than 10,000 acres of land. The water is made available from the Tungabhadra river for 10 to 11 months. Long back, it was one of the model farms. Today, it looks to me like a desert. It is not being used. Most of the infrastructure like building, water and machinery is available in plenty. The soil is the most fertile land which the farmers have. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to make use of that farmer and see what best you can locate in that area. I think, it would be a good venture if you can bring one or two schemes in that area so that we can make use of the fertile land which is going to have a desert look after some time. There may be some encroachments also in the future unless we take immediate steps.

Much has been said about the adulteration of seeds and fertilizers. We have been reading articles after articles as to how the seeds are being adulterated at various levels and we are doubtful that the seeds supplied by the NSC or supplied by the big multinationals are good or not. We do not know but when the germination takes place, the farmer has to collapse because there is no other alternative for him. He has to collapse or suicide. What is that we can do? We cannot do anything. So, this is one point

for which you should give a lot of importance. Last time, we took the sunflower seed. In so many areas, there was no germination at all. Even after showing the result which was very very poor, we speak of Russian seeds. Somebody asked why don't you import some more seeds? What is your response about your American seed performance? Have you seen that? I have gone to the farms but the yields which we have got is not so much encouraging. So, those seeds which have come here have been supplied properly or some adulteration has taken place at the highest place, we do not know. We were under the impression that these Russian seeds will give very good results but you leave alone farmers field. I have gone to the State farms. We came to know that the results were not encouraging. That has to be looked into before we go for further import of such seeds. Why has the sunflower seed failed? Still the farmers have not been able to get the reason as to why the crop failed. I come from an area where the Thungabhadra water is flowing, both in Raichur and Bellary. This is a good potential area and the farmers have taken a challenge to prove the oilseed crop because the prices were very much remunerative in the beginning. But what happened in the kharif season? I think 99 per cent of the crop has failed. My own example is for 40 acres, I got only one bag of sunflower seeds. I do not know the reason. I came across a scientist from abroad. He said that they have experimented the crop and they have completely failed and he asked me as to why we are experimenting on this. I have been told that it is a very risky crop. Till now, nobody knows what is wrong with the crop. It may be due to soil conditions, may be due to seeds, may be due to watering or environment like moisture or something like that. But the entire crop has failed and the farmers have been put into a lot of inconvenience and they could not repay the bank loans. Such was the position of the sunflower seeds.

Regarding adulteration of pesticides, I request the hon. Minister to look into it once again because we are paying very high rates for pesticides. Regarding the long staple and extra long staple cotton which he was mentioning, I think we have to invest five to six thousand rupees sometimes eight thousand rupees per acre thinking that we will get very very good results. We look after our crop like our own children. We don't even look after our children like that. From morning till evening we will be supervising that crop, whatever may be the investment, we will try to invest on that crop. But what happened to the farmers in Godavari district? They committed suicide themselves because having invested so much, they could not get the results because of the whitefly. Till now nobody has told us as to what was the reason. How to control the whitefly? Are we to give up cotton crop completely and see that all the textile mills are closed? What happened to the medium staple cotton? How are we importing that medium staple cotton? The seeds are deteriorating. We have been trying for ten years. Nothing has come out of this. Every time we lose the crop and on the other hand, we are importing medium staple cotton from abroad.

Therefore, we should immediately find out other alternatives to grow cotton in the dry area, the medium staple, the long staple and the extra long staple cotton, and also see how the disease of white fly can be controlled. When we are spending crores of rupees on so many luxuries, is it not our responsibility to pay proper attention to these things? Is it not necessary that even if we have to spend something, we should try to protect the crop? The farmers were growing a lot of foodgrains, but you did not pay proper attention to them. We are now short of them. Now, each department will pay a lot of attention. We have to do that, otherwise we have to import. We should be ashamed

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of importing these things having so much potential in our country. I do not think our farmers are lagging behind in any respect. When the call was given, they did respond to the call. It is high time that these things should be looked into. We should pay immediate and proper attention whenever there are diseases like uzi fly for mulberry crop, white fly for cotton and red rust for paddy crops. When these pests attack, it is a total devastation of the crop and we do not get even one per cent of the crop.

I come from an area where the seed production is being done on a very large scale. We are growing seed for sarghum, bajra, sunflower and cotton. We, however, do not have a seed processing unit. I request that we should be given proper seed processing units at Raichur and Bellary districts.

Then, Karnataka has a lot of potential. there is a coastal line where we grow a lot of plantation crops, there are a lot of cashew crops; we have a very fertile land and the black cotton soil in the northern part is meant for growing cotton only. All types of crops are being grown in Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka had sent a proposal for growing cashew crop with the assistance of World Bank. It was considered and the cashew crop plantation was very much encouraged in the South Karnataka. After five years, it is going to be completed. There is much more potential area in the Karnataka States like Kolar Bidar, Shimoga etc. Where we grow cashew crop. It gives a very good foreign exchange and it is very much used in other countries also. We should try to encourage this crop and grow it, wherever we can. Therefore, I request that this scheme may be extended for another five years.

Then, about pulses and oilseeds. We are importing oilseeds and pulses and the prices are very high. The Karnataka Government has been requesting every now and

then and they have said that they can grow this as much as we want. Their soil is most suitable for oilseeds and pulses. They have mentioned about one or two projects. They have said that they are not in a position to take up those irrigation projects, unless the Central Government comes forward and gives some amount for the completion of the on-going projects like Mallaprabha, Gotaprabha, and Otihole. The cost is only Rs.200 crores. They can grow oilseeds. At present, groundnut is encouraged in that area. If you encourage such projects and ask them specifically to grow oilseeds, they will do it. You can tell them if they are prepared to grow so much quantity, the proposals can be considered. There is nothing wrong in that. The land is most suitable for this purpose. the farmers are prepared to grow, water is available, they are only lagging in financial assistance for which the Karnataka Government has been continuously making requests. The Government of India has been saying every time that it is not possible for them, they have to find their own resources. Whatever is possible for the oilseed development, you must make use of that and take up this project. As a special case, you can consider such things.

Nowadays what we see is that the children are not going to the farms. Even the farmer would like to have a white-collar job. This attitude must be totally changed. We must see that our children go to the rural areas, to the farms and do their job properly. To inculcate such culture, we must encourage school children from the beginning to take up some kind of agro-based work. Here, I would like to suggest one scheme. It is called School Nursery Project. This is assisted by the DANIDA. Therein, we can select some schools in the rural areas in the most interior part, give them some land and ask them to grow some nursery. These nurseries we can have in the interiors where our farmers live. By doing this we can encourage the children to grow trees and the

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affection for trees and agriculture will be developed in them. Not only that, the dignity of labour will be encouraged in them. The schools which are growing these nurseries will be commercially benefited and at the same time we can encourage the children to take up agriculture. Such projects have been worked out and they have been forwarded by the Karnataka Government to the Government of India for sanction. They have worked out a scheme wherein they have asked some few lakhs of rupees and the state Government is also prepared to give some assistance.

Regarding the Insurance Scheme, I would like to say that it is not very effective. So many farmers are complaining against it because some premium was deducted at the time of sanctioning of loans which till now they have not received. Even our Prime Minister at Hyderabad had categorically said that some thought has to be given to the Insurance Scheme. Some say that the unit should be considered and while others say that even at the block level the crop varies from one field to other. In this way it is very difficult to implement this scheme.

Recently we met some Fiji delegation. Regarding the sugarcane they said that they are using the crop 5 to 6 times whereas we are using it only 1 or 2 times. In this way we are losing the fertile content of the sugarcane, where the sugar is much more. You please have a thorough study on this and see as to why we are not using the same cane 5 or 6 times. You please see if there is any change in the variety. You must look into it.

Lastly I would like to say about the farmers problems. The farmers are asking for the remunerative prices. it is very difficult to give them the remunerative prices unless we increase the prices but then the consumers will be affected. Thus it has dual effect.

Therefore, I would like to say that the cost of production should be reduced as far as possible so that the consumers are not affected. As far as possible the production cost should be reduced and for that our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister have given so many facilities. The thing to be seen is that how best we can use these facilities and reduce the cost of production.

Regarding the irrigation problem, I would like to say that the number of farmers have to wait for the energy. They borrow money from the bank, pay interest on it, spend money to buy the pumpset but where is the power. There is a shed out, nearly 8 hours shed out is there. You have fixed the target of 170 million, but can you achieve this target? Farmer is not getting the power. Water is there but he cannot use the water because the power is not there. He is asked to use the water in the night. Is it possible to use the water in the night? Is it not a waste of the energy? How can we save the energy, if we behave like this.

Last but not the least, The Karnataka Government has very rightly said that whatever loans the farmers have borrowed from the Cooperative institutions all the loan interest will be written off provided the farmer return their principal amount by the 31st March.

What our farmers are saying-small and big farmers is that they have borrowed a lot of money from the scheduled banks and they are not in a position to repay the loans. Hence deadline should be fixed and the principal amount should be recovered and the interest and the penal interest should be waived.

Lastly, customs duty on Tractors, Tyres and other implements should be removed.

With these few words, I thank you and support the Demands for Agriculture.

[Translation]

\*SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN (Jangipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the demands for grants pertaining to the Ministry of Agriculture. I oppose the demands because the agricultural policy and the strategies of agricultural production followed by our Government right from the time of our independence have spelt ruin the millions upon millions of our small and marginal farmers, bargadars and agricultural labourers. This agricultural policy has been followed only to protect the interests of the big jotedars and zamindars. As a result of this policy land is getting concentrated more and more in a few hands. Not land alone, other rural wealth is also getting concentrated in a few hands. This has been admitted even in the mid-term appraisal of the 7th five year plan. At present only 28.8% of the total land of our country is in the hands of small and marginal farmers. On the other hand, 71.2% of the land is in the hands of rich farmers, jotedars and big zamindars. This means that three fourth of the total land is owned by only one-fourth of the people. In the mid-term appraisal of the 7th plan it has also been admitted that the average size of the land holdings per rural family has gone down from 1.53 hectares to 1.28 hectares. Not only that, the average size of operational holdings, per family of actual tillers, has also gone down from 2.28 hectares to 1.84 hectares. More significant thing is, that the number of families of marginal farm owners is much more than the number of families of marginal farmers who actually till the land. This again means that a section of the owners of marginal holdings do not till the land themselves, but are handing them over to others for cultivation and are themselves working as full time paid labour. Due to this, the number of self employed people in the rural areas is going down and the number of

casual labour is going up. This proves that the owners of marginal holdings today are in such a tight situation where they find it more profitable to work as paid labourers than to cultivate their own land. Now, the marginal farmers generally do not gain repossession of their land once they hand it over to others for tilling. Thus, after losing ownership of their land they are turned into landless labourers for ever. In this way the number of landless labourers is increasing constantly. In 1971 9.6% of the rural labour force was landless. In 1982 the number of the landless became 11.3% of the rural labour force. At present this number has surely gone up further. The process of uneven distribution of other rural wealth is also going on unabated. Only 4% of our rural wealth is in the hands of 30% of the poorest rural folk. On the other hand 30% of the richest rural families own 78% of the rural wealth. Many things have been said over the last 3 1/2 decades about distribution of surplus land among the landless through the implementation of the Land Ceiling Act. But actually not much has been done in this respect. In the 6th five year plan document it was stated that the work of distribution of all surplus land will be completed by 1982-83. But from the pace at which this work is progressing, I wonder whether this will be completed even by 2082. So far only 77.76 lakh acres have been declared as surplus. Out of that 58.36 lakh acres have come under the control of the State Govts. and 45.38 lakh acres have actually been distributed so far. I am sure the hon. Minister will say that it is the responsibility of the State Govts. and that they have been given strict directions in this respect. Let us assume that the non-Congress State Govts are lacking in sincerity in implementing these guidelines or directions of the Central Govt. and that is why the work is not progressing apace. But what about the Congress ruled States? Do they also lack

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\* The speech was originally delivered in Bangali.

sincerity? Does this mean that the Centre and the Congress Govts in the various States do not follow the same policy, the same ideology, the same outlook and the same programmes? The basic thing is the lack of political will of the Govt. in this respect and their unwillingness to ensure the participation of the masses. If there is political will and the participation of the people is ensured, then success can be achieved in spite of tremendous obstacles and opposition. This has been proved in West Bengal. Out of the total land that has been distributed in the entire country, 20% has been distributed in West Bengal alone. Though the availability of land there is only 4% of the total land in the country. This success has been achieved there only by ensuring the participation of the masses through the 'Panchayats'. By this 17.27 lakh poor people have been benefited. 56.8% of them belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Whereas in the whole country only 29% of the land is in the hands of the small and marginal farmers, in West Bengal 60% of the land is owned by the small and marginal farmers. However the failure of the Govt in other areas of land reforms is also monumental. In my many States there are no legal provisions to bestow ownership of land on the share-croppers or to register their names as 'bar-gadars'. Though radical land reforms, structural changes has to be effected in land holdings. the actual tillers have to be given the ownership of land. Unless this is done, the programmes and schemes for increasing production can never be successful. Even if the production increases marginally, the distress of the farmers won't be removed, and it would not be possible for them to come out of the web of debt around them. Sir, Last year agricultural production particularly foodgrains production greatly suffered due to countrywide severe drought and devastating floods. But the moot question is, why millions of our farmers have to depend upon the vagaries of nature even after 40 years of independence? Even today 70% of

the total arable land is dependent on rain. Only 30% of the land is irrigated, and 18% of that land has got irrigation through the efforts of the farmers themselves. The Govt. has provided irrigation to only 12% of the cultivated land. Starting from the first five year plan and upto the 6th Plan a total of 246 major irrigation projects were taken in hand. Out of them only 65 projects have been completed till this day. Why the remaining 181 projects have not been completed in a period of 30/35 years. Agriculture is the key to Indian economy. Hence agriculture demands the top most priority. Is this the sample of giving priority to agriculture? Even year there are devastating floods in some parts of the country or other. This results in loss of life of thousands of persons, lakhs of heads of cattle perish, lakhs of houses collapse and crops worth crores and crores of rupees are destroyed. The total allocation made for flood control in all the 7 five year plans taken together, is less than the loss and damages caused by floods in one single year. The amount allocated in various five year plans for flood control is between 0.5% and 1.08% only of the total allocation of the plans. In the 7th plan only 0.5% of the total plan outlay has been allocated for flood control. In the 6th plan 4 million hectares were targeted for providing protection against floods. Actual flood protection has been provided to 2 million hectares. But Sir, in the 7th plan the target itself has been kept at 1 million hectares. This shown that the importance of flood protection and control is diminishing.

Sir, the increase in production of agricultural commodities cannot be the only yardstick of measuring the success of our agricultural policy. In 1965 the production of food grains was 72.35 million tonnes. That year the per capital availability of foodgrains per day was 480 grams. In 1983-84 there was the highest production of foodgrains which was to the tune of 152.37 million tonnes. That means the production was

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more than double of that in 1965. But that year the daily per capita availability was on the average 477.9 grams. That means with the increase in production the hunger also increased. Crores and crores of farmer who produce the foodgrains, are not able to get enough for their needs. What good it is to them in such increased production? In the question of development of agriculture, regional imbalances have been very acute. In the period following the so called green revolution it was soon that 50% of the increased production have come from only 15% area. 80% of the foodgrains produced by the Govt comes from Punjab, Haryana and western U.P. This uneven development and imbalance of agricultural development is indicating a danger signal before the whole country. This year's budget is being projected as pro-farmer and as protecting the interests of the farmers. The hon. Finance Minister in his budget speech announced institutional credit to the farmers at low rate of interest and a reduction in the price of fertilizers to the tune of 7.5%. But will this announcement of the Finance Minister help and benefit the small farmers, the marginal farmers and the share croppers? From the credit survey of the Reserve Bank of India published in 1981, it is seen that 60% of the rural credit is institutional credit. Hence apparently it seems that as a result of reduction in interest rate all the farmers will be equally benefitted. But if we go deep into it, it will be seen that apart from a few exceptions the institutional credit does not reach the small farmers. The village money lenders mainly provide finance to the poor farmers. Therefore, if you really wish to help the poor farmer, you will have to see how this institutional credit at a low rate of interest can reach the small farmers. You will have to ensure it. Otherwise only the big farmers and jotedars will take advantage of this reduced rate of interest on loans. What is the percentage of the farmers who are enjoying the benefits of the subsidy given on fertilizers

and other agricultural inputs? 70% of our cultivated land is dependent on rains. All the farmers who cultivate these rain-fed lands, how much benefit are they deriving from this subsidy. They have no irrigation facilities on their land and they don't use fertilizers also. Therefore, they are deprived of these subsidies. All the benefits of Govt. assistance and subsidies are chiefly enjoyed by the farmers of agriculturally advanced and rich areas and particularly by capitalists zamindars. In this way a great disparity is developing between one State and another, between one area and another and between one farmer and another. Unless prompt and effective steps are taken to remove these disparities, then the whole country will have to pay its price.

If the country is affected by flood or drought, the chief victim is the small farmer and the marginal farmer. The biggest question that he faces is, how will he manage his household and feed his family throughout the year and how will he finance his cultivation in the next season. His small piece of land does not produce enough foodgrains to meet his needs for the whole year. If there is flood or drought, he has to buy his food from the market through out the year. At such times, he needs Govt. assistance and cooperation. We are surprised to see that the Govt is helping them by raising the administered prices of items of daily necessity. Prices today have reached such a stage that it has gone beyond the purchasing capacity of most of the rural people. In this background we will have to consider the question of remunerative prices for agricultural produce. The price of whatever the farmer goes to buy is sky high. But whatever the farmer sells, its price far from being remunerative does not even meet his production cost. Whatever price the Govt fixes for various items of agricultural produce is claimed to be remunerative by them. The calculation of remunerative price by distinguished persons sitting in air conditioned rooms and the

bitter experience of the hard working farmer working in the burning fields from dawn to dusk, never agree. They have no meeting point. This results in dissatisfaction and grievances of farmers. This finds expression through various recent farmers agitations. It is, thus necessary to seriously consider the question of remunerative price for agricultural produce. This should be considered more seriously. Whenever there is a marginal increase in support price side by side there is an increase in the issue price also. The farmer is seller on one hand and a consumer at the same time. As a consumer he has to pay much more than what he receives as seller. That is why the jute producer sugarcane producer and the cotton producer today are gasping for breath. The farmer does not get even that much price for jute which is fixed by the Govt. Firstly, the JCI does not enter the market at the right time. As a result of that the small farmers are compelled to sell their jute to the middle men at a low price. Apart from that the JCI purchases only a small portion of the total jute crop. As a result, the farmer has to sell his remaining crop at a lower price. Therefore, if we want to save the jute growers then the JCI will have to start purchases at the proper time and they shall have to purchase the entire jute crop. At a time when the price of every item of daily necessity is rising by leaps and bounds, the agricultural labourers are made to survive on a nominal wage.

The minimum wages fixed in various States under the Minimum Wages Act is not at all adequate and in keeping with the present rise in prices. Since the agricultural labourers are unorganised and have no bargaining power, they don't get even the minimum wages fixed under the law, howsoever inadequate they may be. Therefore, in the interest of life and livelihood of the agricultural labourers, there should be a Central Minimum Wages Act and the Central Govt should also monitor and ensure that this law

is properly implemented in all the States.

About poverty eradication programmes, in the Central budget allocation has increased. But the rate of price rise is much more than that. So, in fact, the real allocation for these projects have gone down. Hence it is necessary to increase the allocations in the poverty eradication programme.

Due to all these factors the agricultural production this year is lagging far behind the target. Not only that there is no possibility of achieving the target of 175 million tonnes of foodgrains and 16 million tonnes of oil seeds at the end of the 7th five year plan. Unless we can combat this gloomy situation effectively and halt the process of slide back, we will again turn into importers of foodgrains from the position of exporters of foodgrains. This warning should be heeded. With that Sir, I conclude my speech.

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir Mahatma Gandhi wanted that the villages should become self-reliant and they should progress because India could progress only when its villages progressed. That is why Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru allocated funds for the development of villages in the First Plan but these went on decreasing year after year. Works were completed on priority basis to build the infrastructure in villages. Much progress was made in the field of Irrigation and Agriculture. But by and by the country realised the need for industrialisation and therefore the percentage of expenditure was reduced on rural and agricultural areas. The percentage of indirect taxes that was a burden on the villages went on increasing. 14.8 per cent of the Plan allocation was spent on rural areas in the First Plan and it came down to 10.9 per cent in the Seventh Plan. We are very glad that the allocation on agriculture has increased in last year's Budget and special attention is being paid towards the rural development programmes. In 1950-51 43.3

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per cent of the plan allocation was spent on agriculture whereas the indirect tax yielded 56.7 per cent revenue. Similarly, in 1985-86 19.1 per cent was spent on agriculture and indirect tax yielded 80.9 percent revenue. In this way the people of the rural areas were burdened with tax whereas the percentage of expenditure spent on them declined. During the Second plan the pace of Rural programmes slackened and this caused us concern. We whole heartedly welcome the increased allocation to Agriculture in this Budget. We congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Minister of Agriculture for paying special attention to the rural areas and to the field of Agriculture. The production of foodgrains has increased in the country despite low allocation and other heavy odds. This was because of the policies that Shrimati Indira Gandhi followed after 1967 so that we had not to beg the world for foodgrains. The foodgrain production increased only due to those policies. The credit for development of agriculture goes to the scientists, the agricultural labourers and specially to the farmers of our country. She made the country self-reliant in this field. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. The basic infrastructure will have to be created for the development of farmers and their villages. Irrigation should be given top priority in this regard. Only 30% of the total cultivable land in the country is irrigated. That means 70 per cent of the land is still unirrigated. Special attention should be paid to the development of sources of Irrigation and creating infrastructure particularly of water, through construction of large dams, small dams, tubewells, left canals and installing pumping sets on a large scale because in future the situation regarding foodgrains can be more serious. So I request you to speedily develop the sources of irrigation. Electricity should be supplied to the people of rural areas because it is very essential for irrigation and development. The farmers should be provided facilities in

time for agriculture and proper arrangements should be made to provide education to their children.

14.00 hrs.

Arrangements should be made to take produce of rural areas to markets and for that every village will have to be linked with roads. The creation of basic infrastructure for the development of rural areas lies in establishing a dispensary in every village, in making drinking water and other facilities available to the people of every village. I request you to reform the present education system for developing the rural areas and agriculture. Although many schools have been opened in villages but due to faulty education system the children of farmers are still unemployed even though they are educated. Therefore, education system in villages should be formulated in such a manner so that these children could be either engaged in agro-industries or in any other occupation which is rural-oriented Education in agriculture should be imparted to the children of farmers. This would not only improve the economic condition of small farmers but also make them prosperous gradually.

Natural calamities also create difficulties for the farmers. There was drought during the last *kharif* season. Although the *Rabi* crop was good in our area but it was affected by hailstorm. A number of villages were badly affected by hailstorm and the farmers suffered heavy losses. Natural calamities like flood, drought and hailstorm giving despair and dejection to farmers. They think that farming is no more a fruitful occupation for them. I request you to boost the morale of the farmers during natural calamities. It is very necessary to provide them assistance during such a critical period.

Special funds should be created to

provide relief to the areas affected by flood, drought or hailstorm so that the farmers does not have to shift from agriculture to any other occupation. Such a provision is very essential.

Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan has raised many relevant points on land reforms just now. The issue of land reform in every country is very intricate. The work of land reforms started in our country after independence. Zamindari abolition, land ceiling and other similar steps fall under land reforms. Thereafter a programme of distributing surplus land and village community land to the landless people was undertaken. Later in 1974-75 the then Prime Minister late Shrimati Indira Gandhi took commendable steps keeping in view the condition of landless people in the rural areas. The percentage of landless people in rural areas which was 16.9 in 1961 rose to 32% in 1981. There is a possibility that it will rise up to 40% by 1988. It implies that out of 100 people living in villages, 40 are landless labourers. That is why resentment is brewing in them. I submit that schemes for landless people in this country should be implemented expeditiously. Under land reform schemes many landless people were given land during 1974-74 but only a few of them could get possession. I would like to suggest that in rural areas, people who have usurped agricultural land or forcibly occupied village community land on a large scale should be driven away from such land and this land should be distributed among landless people fairly and they should be given actual possession of this land. Majority of the Adivasis and Harijans in our area live in forests. More and more tribal villages are being declared as reserved forests. this is causing great difficulty for them as forest is the only source of their livelihood. The problem now facing them is what they should do. I want that the surplus land, village community land and forests land should be distributed among Adivasies and landless

poor people with the stipulation that half the land will be covered with trees and the remaining half will be brought under cultivation. Though many programmes of poverty eradication are being implemented in the rural areas by the Government but they are not adequate, the number of landless people living below the poverty line being very large. If they are given an option either to accept Rs. 10,000 or two bighas of land, they will prefer two bighas of land, instead of Rs.10,000 as loan. The distribution of land should be added to the list of things provided to rural landless and the poor under I.R.D.P. schemes so that their poverty can be eradicated. If they want they should also be given a loan of Rs. 8000 to 10,000, but you must provide them an opportunity to purchase land and they will be very glad if they are also provided infrastructure for agriculture. If two bighas of land is provided to landless people of rural areas, their economic condition will improve tremendously. They will feel satisfied, they will be free from the burden of debt and they will not take to agitation, which at present they are doing.

Therefore, I submit that programmes of land reform should be accelerated in rural areas and additional land should be provided to farmers.

Programmes like National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme and other schemes for drought-affected areas are very useful. Besides providing employment these schemes are helpful in the construction of hospitals in the rural areas. But sometimes this money is misused. Not sometimes but very often. I had submitted earlier also that though the State Governments implement these schemes but the Central Government should create some machinery to supervise the work going on in these schemes and monitor their progress in order to ensure their proper implementation. If the funds are being misused, steps should

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be taken to check it.

Sir, lastly I want to say that tremendous development has taken place in agriculture and rural areas too. In areas like Western Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Punjab, a lot of progress has been achieved in agriculture and rural areas whereas there are still some areas in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bundelkhand where agricultural development has been for name sake only. While addressing a mammoth rally in Lucknow recently our Prime Minister said that we would now pay attention to farmers of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and those areas of our country which have been neglected. We would enable them to make progress. Eastern Uttar Pradesh is an area which is densely populated, whereas land is scarcely available. People are migrating to Bombay and poverty and unemployment are on the increase. Therefore, special programme should be formulated for development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh and special scheme should be initiated to provide avenues of employment to the farmers and landless people to improve their economic condition so that people of Eastern Uttar Pradesh may also progress.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my last submission is that some agro-industries should be set up in the rural areas. Agro-industries and cottage industries should be the responsibility of Rural Development Department and the Agriculture ministry. A network of these industries should be created in the rural areas. I am not able to give the specific names of these industries as I am running short of time. This should be done so that the small and medium farmers, who do not have adequate means of livelihood are able to supplement their income by engaging themselves in these industries. Therefore, I submit that this department should take over agro-industries rural industries and cottage industries, and create a network in the rural

areas to bring about prosperity there.

With these words, I whole heartedly support the Demands for Grants.

14.08 hrs

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI *in the chair*]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra): Hon. Madam Chairman, due to drought this year, there is a possibility of 10 per cent shortfall in foodgrain production in our country. Not that natural calamities befall India alone, it is true of every other country in the World which is engaged in agriculture and is stricken by such calamities. For example in 1983, there was 37.47 per cent shortfall in foodgrain production in America, 16.3 per cent in Canada, 17.4 per cent in Russia and 43.7 per cent in Australia. But so far as shortfall in foodgrains is concerned the difference between our country and other countries of the world is that though it is a temporary feature in other countries, it has become a regular feature here. From 1951 till today except during 1983-84, the production has never reached so high as to meet the entire requirement of every individual in the country for the whole year. According to the experts, at least 180 kgs. of foodgrains are required by an individual in a year to keep his body and soul together, but till today, our production of foodgrains has not reached this point. As compared to 1964-65, foodgrains production decreased by 19.1 percent in 1965-66. Similarly, foodgrain production declined by 16.8 per cent in 1979-80 as compared to 1978-79. During Sixth Five Year Plan, Per capita availability of foodgrain has been 167.4 Kgs i.e. 7 per cent less than the actual requirement. Now the question is why is it so? Is the land of our country less fertile? Is the per capita land less in our country? I am of the view that neither land of our country is less fertile nor the per capita agricultural land

is less in our country as compared to other countries of the world.

According to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research the maximum per hectare yield in our country can be 11.3 tonnes whereas the minimum will be 8 tonnes. Even if we say that the per hectare yield is half it would come to 5.5 tonnes. Even if we engage half the resources on agriculture including irrigation we would be able to produce twice the amount of foodgrains that are being produced today i.e. about 28 or 29 crores tonnes. So far as the question of per capita land is concerned, per capita agricultural land in other countries of the world is 0.144 hectare, Whereas in our country it is 0.134 hectare. There is not much difference. But the foodgrains production in our country is less by two-third than of the production of other countries of the world. The per capita agricultural land is 37 per cent more in our country than in the Asian Continent but so far as production is concerned, in spite of huge efforts, our production is just little more than double. Neither the per capita agricultural land is less as compared to other countries of the world nor our land is less fertile than what are the reasons for low production? The reason is that agriculture has been neglected right from the beginning.

In the First Five Year Plan, 37 per cent of total plan outlay was spent on agriculture, rural development and irrigation, but by the Seventh Five Year Plan, it came down to 20.3 per cent. Neglect of agriculture is the main cause of low foodgrain production in our country.

It is reported that there will be shortfall of 10 per cent in the production of foodgrains. I have already stated that shortfall in foodgrains production has been upto 19 per cent during last few years yet the controversy has not been set at rest. This implies that either this is not the worst drought of the century or if it is so the shortfall in foodgrain

production can be more than 20 percent. Either of these two things can be true. There is neither scarcity of land nor the land is less fertile than what is the reason for the shortfall in foodgrains? The reason is that Government has been neglecting agriculture.

The target of our foodgrain production is based on our minimum requirements. On the basis of our experience during the past few years we should fix our targets while keeping into consideration the shortfall due to natural calamities. But the targets are not fixed like that. Targets are fixed keeping in view our requirement for survival. Sir, the money invested in agriculture in our country is very less as compared to that invested in other countries of the world, so much so that the investment is even less than that of China. If we compare the investment made in industry and in agriculture we will find that the difference is too much. This is utter neglect of agriculture. As long as this attitude continues, the fate of agriculture and the agriculturists is not going to change in this country and the people will continue to die of starvation. Madam, farmers are not getting remunerative price, though it has been repeatedly discussed inside and outside the House. Prices of many commodities have not been fixed so far in this country. Even after 40 years of freedom neither the prices of agricultural goods nor of industrial goods have been fixed. No one has been paid attention to strike a balance between the two. That is the reason why the farmer has to buy agricultural resources and essential commodities at a high price. It is unfortunate that the farmers have to sell their agricultural produce at a cheap price. They are compelled to do so because they have no other alternative to fulfil their needs other than agriculture. So far as the farmers continue to sell their produce at cheap price and buy essential commodities for survival at comparatively higher price the fate of this country, agriculture and the farmer will not change.

[Sh Ram Bahadur Singh]

Besides, there is no appropriate irrigation system the country and therefore, it is not possible to irrigate each and every field. Just now, an hon. Member said that after 40 years of freedom, only 30 per cent land is being irrigated whereas the rest or 70 per cent land depends on monsoons. When the crop is good during a particular year because of good rainfall the credit goes to the schemes but when the monsoon fails, you blame the nature. Even after 40 years of Independence the farmer who is the backbone of our economy has to depend on monsoons. So if you want the country and the agriculture to progress you have to give remunerative prices to the farmers and make appropriate arrangements for irrigation.

But it is ironical that whatever irrigation system in there, it is not being used properly. Irrigation capacity of 52 lakh hectares of land is being wasted. In 1970-71, one acres of land was being irrigated at an expenditure of Rs.2700 to 2800, which has now increased upto Rs. 8000-9000. this means that the cost of irrigating 52 lakh hectares of land will come to Rs.14000 crores if we calculate on the basis of the prices prevailing at that time. this Rs. 14000 crores are lying waste now and no one is getting any benefit from it. Therefore, I would like that whatever irrigation facilities are available at present they should be used properly so that the farmers are benefited. Madam, there has been a long standing demand to exempt the uneconomic land holdings from land revenue. There was a person in this country who fought for it throughout his life and gave a slogan "*Bina Munafa kheti Bari, us par na Lage Malgusari*". (The uneconomic land holdings should be exempted from land revenue). It has not been implemented so far. Whenever, this matter was raised, it was said that it is the concern of State Governments. It is true, but the State Governments are not outside the country. The country

comprises State and the people who live there. If anything happens in one part of the country, the whole country is affected by it. There is a similarity between a country and a human body. If a thorn is pricked in any part of the body the entire body suffers the agony of pain. Similarly, if discontent spreads among the farmers in any part of the country, the entire country will suffer. I want that something should be done in this regard. The uneconomic land holdings should be exempted from land revenue and the Centre should compensate the loss to State Government on this account. By merely, curtailing wasteful expenditure, on one item this loss can be compensated.

Finally, I want to submit about the land reforms. The problem regarding land reforms has not yet been solved. Madam, in this country many a battle have been fought for the sake of wealth, land and woman. These are the reasons behind the rise of naxalism today, in our country which is being discussed every day. The sole aim of the Naxalites is that every citizen of this country should lead a respectful life and earn an honest living. I appreciate this feeling. Madam, overwhelmed by this feeling, they took to naxalism. Though I oppose the means they adopt but I appreciate the ends. If the Government wants to curb the growth naxalism, then the process of land reforms should be implemented more rapidly, otherwise neither the Government nor I can stop naxalism.

I would like to submit some points about this year's Budget. Today there is lot of talk everywhere that this year's Budget is a farmers Budget and they will be benefited to a great extent....(*Interruptions*).....I will conclude in two rminutes.....(*Interruptions*) I am concluding.

I agree that this year's allocation to the Department of agriculture has been in-

creased as compared to last year Rs. 469.50 crores was spent last year whereas this year Rs. 670 crores has been allocated. The funds on agricultural schemes are not only spent by the Ministry of Agriculture but by other Ministries also for example, the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Environment also spend some amount...*(Interruptions)* I am concluding. The sum amount spent by the Ministries of Finance, Commerce and Environment is represented in the Budget and if we exclude that amount then this year's allocation is Rs. 80 crores less than the last year. The allocation for crop protection has been raised. It means that raising the expenditure on small items and curtailing on bigger items. The allocation made for financial institutions have been cut and funds on crop protection have been raised but not to the desired extent.

In the end, I would like to submit one more point. The farmers will not be benefited much by the proposed 7.5 per cent discount on fertilizers. This has been done keeping in view the interests of the fertilizer factory owners. There were no other way to sell the tonnes of fertilizers that was lying with the factory owners. Government thought it was better to "salvage something out of a bad debt". That is, when there was going to be a hundred per cent loss to the factories, the Government came out with this scheme thereby safeguarding the interests of the factory owners. Now they have to bear only 5 per cent loss as 95 per cent of the stock will come out in the market. The provisions made in this Budget for the farmers is causing concern. This is not a farmer's Budget or a rural oriented Budget but a mere deception to them. Therefore, I oppose these Budget proposals.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol):  
Madam, I rise to support the Demands for

the Ministry of agriculture.

Since independence the farmers with their hard work, guidance and help from the Government, inventions of the research scholars and extension work of the officers, could produce foodgrains which are sufficient for our country and also we can export. Since independence, we have almost produced foodgrains three times more as compared to the figure of 1950-51 and we are planning to produce more. Of course, this requires planning and implementation of the measures that the Central Government wants to take through the State Government also. For agricultural production, we require first of all seeds, fertilizers and then irrigation, pesticides. We also require facilities for storage of the produce till it is sold in the market.

As far as land is concerned, we are not going to get any more land in future. On the contrary, the land available under irrigation is being reduced day-by-day—whether it through construction of buildings in the small cities and big cities or through industrialisation or through industrialisation or through construction of dams also. As far as construction of dams is concerned, the criterion is about 10-25 per cent of land can be utilised for storing water. That is, 25 acres of land can be utilised for storing water if 100 acres of land are to be irrigated. If we construct some more dams, then more lands will be under water and they will not be available for cultivation. So also there is the brick-kiln sector which is taking the top soil from various areas in the country and this is also responsible for the reduction in the area for cultivation. We have to intensify the measures for production of cultivable land, whatever is available with us. Sir, the Government of India is giving a lot of subsidy to fertilizer industry. It is an indirect help to the farmers and this subsidy has increased to Rs. 3000 crores this year. So also, there is the transport subsidy for the fertilizer pro-

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ducing plants. Because of the planning right from the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Smt. Indiraji and today under the leadership of Rajivji, we could increase the consumption of fertilizers from 69 lakh tonnes to 91 lakh tonnes during last year. Of course, this is not sufficient. We have to go till further and utilise more and more fertilizers to produce more and more foodgrains, pulses, oil-seeds and other agricultural products. I would like to point out here that we are giving subsidy to the fertilizer industry. We should also give subsidy to the organic manure produced by the farmers. We should encourage that and new methods of production of organic manure through cultivation of *algae*, which has been invented by the researchers of ICAR should also be encouraged by way of giving subsidy and grants.

As far as seeds are concerned, earlier the farmers used to sow their own seeds or used to get seeds from near-by areas. Now, we are supplying the hybrid seeds and improved variety of seeds throughout the country, wherever they are required. Starting from 1.8 lakh quintals in 50-51, we are supplying about 56 lakh quintals of seeds and improved seeds, hybrid seeds to the farmers. But, sometimes, we observe that bad quality seeds are sold in the market and because of that bad quality seeds, the farmers suffer crop losses. Hence, the people supplying bad quality seeds should not be allowed to go unpunished. This thing should be treated as criminal offence. Some enactments to this effect should be there at the Central level or at the State level.

There are 26 Universities in this country which are doing research in the field of agriculture. Last year, they have given about 23 varieties of improved seeds for different crops and still more is being done.

As far as irrigation is concerned, we have started from 23 million hectares in

1950-51 and now we have reached a figure of about 73 million hectares uptill last year. But the total potential of irrigation in this country is going to be only 50 per cent of the cultivable land. So, we have adopt to other methods of irrigation which can give more irrigated area with the same availability of water. And such irrigation systems are the Sprinkler Irrigation System and the Lift Irrigation System. I am glad that the Central Government through the State Government is giving a lot of subsidies and financial help to the small and marginal farmers and also to the middle farmers for adopting the lift irrigation. The subsidy amount is in thousands like Rs. 15,000, Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 8,000. But at the same time, I would like to suggest to our Hon. Minister that there should restriction on the grant of subsidy in the purchase of lift irrigation sets from the people and from the companies who have got ISI mark because such companies charge more. If the lift irrigation set is available at Rs. 10,000 in the market, these companies may charge Rs. 14,000. We have got our personal experience that the nodal type set is available in the market at Rs. 22 whereas he charged Rs. 46 per unit. This lift irrigation system is a simple device. We should not insist that there should be ISI standards for the purchase of these types and then only the grant would be made available to the farmers.

Opening the debate, my friend Mr. Rao was telling that only 6.8 per cent is being spent on agricultural sector. he has ignored or he has not mentioned that He are spending indirectly at the State level and at the Central level. I have mentioned about the subsidies on fertilizers. We should also remembers what we are doing for the farmers through the supply of electricity at cheaper rate. We are supplying the electricity at about 17 paise to 20 paise per unit in almost all the States while the production cost per unit of the electricity comes to more than 35 paise per unit. This has also encouraged subsidy, an indirect help to the farmers.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: It comes to 75 paise per unit.

SHRI VJAYN. PATIL: It is more than 60 paise or 75 paise.

Madam, we have to supply capital to the farmers for intensive and economical agriculture. And for supplying to the farmers, the Central Government is doing a lot. From Rs. 24 crores, we have come to the figure of almost Rs. 7,203 crores last year in terms of agricultural credit given to the farmers. And the encouraging thing about this is that about Rs. 4,000 crores is given through cooperative societies.

Madam, we could bring Green Revolution through hybrid seed production and because of that we could have buffer stock of 32 million tonnes and this buffer stock, we are able to store in the godowns which—because of the policy of the Central Government and also because of constructing godowns even in rural areas of the capacity of two hundred to three hundred tonnes—we could store foodgrains. I would like to suggest that we should have plans for construction of more godowns in the rural areas so that the farmers could store their produce and sell them in the market when the prices are remunerative.

For keeping the prices at economical level, the Central Government is doing procurement of foodgrains through FCI. The National Federation of State Marketing Cooperatives is also taking care of pulses and oilseeds. We are glad that you could appoint two members of the farmers community. The third member is to be appointed in the Commission of Agricultural Costs and Prices. Let us hope that they will be able to give proper guidance to the Central Government for remunerative prices to the farmers.

Our agriculture is mainly dependent on monsoon and as I have mentioned earlier,

80 per cent of agriculture—even after the full utilisation of the irrigation potential—will be dependent on monsoon.

In the 7th Plan we are laying emphasis on dryland farming also. In dryland farming mainly oil seeds and pulses are produced. I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister that for the benefit of small farmers in the lands which are not cultivable for goods crops, agro-forestry should be tried. Some grant should be given to them so that after give or six years they will be getting remunerative prices on the agro-forestry land.

In Maharashtra we have got cotton monopoly procurement programme. If we adopt this monopoly procurement of cotton all over India, I think that the cotton producers will be able to get remunerative prices and the per acre yield of cotton will also increase through proper methods.

As far as agricultural exports are concerned, about Rs. 2000 crores worth agricultural produce was exported last year as compared to Rs. 1600 crores in 1982. If we link up this agricultural produce export with other products based on agriculture, it will be about Rs. 4500 crores. This is a welcome feature. We should be able to increase the export in future so that we can earn the valuable foreign exchange which in turn will be given for import of oil seeds.

With the productive and profitable technology adopted by our Government, by our people and our research scholars through ICAR, we are hoping to produce about 225 million tonnes of foodgrains which may be required by the year 2000 AD for feeding a population of 972 million people in this country.

I am hopeful that with Ministers like Mr. Bhajan Lal who comes from the State of Haryana which is an agricultural area; Mr. Shyam Lal Yadav; Mr. Shastri who is a

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staunch supporter of farmers and whom I have seen working in farmers forum; and Mr. Prabhu who produces more fertilizers, I think we will be able to produce the targeted foodgrains—the target envisaged by our Prime Minister for the year 1989-90 with good measures.

I support these grants and hope that through these grants the farmers will get more and more credit at lesser rates and intensive agricultural methods will be adopted as a special technique for increasing the agricultural production.

[Translation]

R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam): Madam Chairman, I wish to say a few words in support of the demands for grants moved by our Hon. Minister of agriculture.

Severe drought conditions are prevailing in Tamil Nadu for the past few years. There is no water in the lakes. Particularly in my constituency in Arakkonam, big lakes like Kaveripattinam, Mamandur, Perungatur and Thenaram are dry for the past five years. At least during this year, the Minister should take some steps to desilt these lakes.

North Arcot district comes next to Thanjavur district in rice production in Tamil Nadu. Despite the severe drought conditions, our farmers toiled hard in the fields and kept up the food production. The farmers face serious hardships due to shortage of electricity. Electricity connections should be given to all pumpsets.

The farmers should be distributed high yield variety seeds free of cost. They should also be imparted agricultural education for increasing production.

When the dravidian parties were in

power in the State, they were not able to estimate correctly the extent of damage caused by drought conditions. (*Interruption*)

[English]

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Why are you interrupting him? Mr. Jeevarathinam, you continue.

DR. A.KALANIDHI: If at all the blame should come, it should come on the Central Govt. Not on the DMK regime or the AIADMK regime.

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Yes.  
[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat. Let him say whatever he wants to say. This not good. Do not interrupt him. Why are you unnecessarily interrupting him? (*Interruptions*) What do you want?

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: No. We do not want anything. We do not want any wrong fact to be stated. He is always accusing us.  
[English]

M.R CHAIRMAN: When your turn comes, you can reply to him. Not like this. You can't interrupt him in the middle. Let him say. I have not allowed you Dr. I have not allowed you. When your turn comes, you say whatever you would like to say.

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Last year Dr. MGR was the Chief Minister. When he was there, the damage due to drought must

have been estimated in precise terms. They were really not corrupt. However, they not able to estimate it last year. In this connection, I sought clarification from a particular Minister. I asked him how they accepted Rs. 35 crores given by the Central Govt. against the demand of Rs. 600 crores last year. He replied that the demand for Rs. 600 crores was made on the advice of the State Govt. officials and the demand, in turn, was scrutinised by the Central Govt. officials who thought it fit to give only Rs. 35 crores. The Central Govt. thought that the State Govt.'s demand lacked merit. This was the situation during the regime of dravidian parties. Had the situation been managed in a better way, this year we would not have faced this severe water problem.

The Palar river originates from Mysore. The Palar river is now dry. Hon. Minister may please take steps to ensure water supply in the river at least for 3 months in a year.

Experts say that the lion's share of the benefits of the Telugu Ganga Project would go to Andhra. I, therefore, request that the Andhra Govt. must be moved to complete this project out of funds from that State Govt. Incidentally, Tamil Nadu, particularly Madras City would also receive some benefits.

The Ganges and Cauveri should be linked. Our Great Poet Bharati in one of his poems suggests that we should exchange the best betel leaves grown in the Cauveri basin in Thanjavur for the wheat grown in Ganges plains. Bharati further sings that the ivory from the Chera Kingdom that is from Kerala should be offered as gifts in the return for the verses of the Marathi poets.

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Do it. Why don't you do it?

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Yes, Yes we will do it. We have not so far made any

plan for that. We will do it.

As I had already said our national poet Bharati rightly suggested in his poems that the betel leaves from Cauveri basin should be exchanged for the wheat grown in the Ganges plains. Likewise, the ivory of elephants from Kerala should be presented as gifts to the poets from Maharashtra, for singing martial hymns. In the same spirit, the Ganges and Cauveri should be linked.

A specific plan should be drawn up to improve the conditions of the agricultural labourers. Steps should also be taken to ensure adequate supply of fodder to cattle in drought affected areas.

When the dravidian parties were in power, many agitating farmers were shot dead by the Govt. (*Interruptions*)

10 or 12 farmers were killed in police firing when the dravidian parties were in power (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

DR. A.KALANIDHI: When you raise your hand to accuse us with your pointing finger, mind that the other four fingers are pointing towards you. Don't forget that. In Punjab daily more than 10 persons are being killed. Don't forget that.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: That is terrorists problem. This is farmers problem. Farmers simply asked for water. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat Dr.

\* Translation of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

DR. A. KALANIDHI: Madam, I am not interrupting. Let him say anything. But let him not state wrong information and mislead the House. That is my humble submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can say when your turn comes. Why do you interrupt?

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Not only they had shot dead many farmers, they had imprisoned more than 1 lakh poor farmers. This had happened during the rule of dravidian parties.

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI: There is a limitation for accusation. Every time he is accusing either the DMK or the AIADMK. Let him be specific in his allegations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. I have been telling so many times not to interrupt.

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: What is wrong in it?

[English]

DR. A. KALANIDHI: He is talking in this august House. He cannot give wrong information.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot interrupt like that.

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Your poet Bharati eulogised Tamil Nadu as the land which has the best education, the land where Kamban was born and the land where the great epic 'Silapathikara' was written.

But look at the pathetic condition of the State during the dravidian parties' rule. There is no drinking water. There is no rain. The lakes are dry. We used to receive three rainfalls every year. (*Interruptions*)

\*SHRI P. SELVENDRAN: Yes, yes, you have three rainfalls during your President's rule.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Selvendran, how many times should I repeat?

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Oh! there is no drought now. You are receiving three rainfalls during your rule.

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Yes, yes, we had rains in Vellore. Our religious poet Andallamaiyar praised the land of Tamils as an ever prospering country with no evils, with plentiful of rain and endowed with all human virtues. (*Interruptions*)

But, today, Tamil Nadu is in the grip of severe drought. I request the Hon. Minister to necessary steps to alleviate the miseries caused by drought.

I request that the procurement price of sugarcane should be raised. At present high yield sugarcane saplings are distributed free of cost only to those who supply sugarcane to cooperative sugar factories. This concession should be extended to all farmers including to those who manufacture jaggery. I also request that a sugar factory may be set up in Cheyyar district. I think Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan will agree to this. Likewise, a sugarcane research Institute may be set up in Pallipattu in my constituency. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude, Mr. Jeevarathinam.

[Translation]

\*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Interest free agricultural loans amounting to Rs. 5000 should be extended to all farmers with less than 5 acres of land. Loans under IRDP should be extended also to farmers. Owing to the severity of the drought conditions, at least, if not the loans, at least the interest on agricultural loans should be completely waived.

At present, we are giving 3000 crores as subsidy on fertilizers. Hon. Minister must examine whether this subsidy percolates to the poor farmers for whom this is intended. The subsidy is cornered by distributors and other middlemen. Rs. 2000 crores is given as subsidy on food. This also does not reach the poor consumers. This should also be looked into.

Lastly, Madam, natural gas is available in Narimanam and Nallinam areas in Thanjavur district in Tamil Nadu. This should be exploited by setting up a gas based fertilizer industry in Thanjavur district.

With these words, I conclude.

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN (Chengalpattu): Madam Chairman, I am highly thankful for providing me an opportunity to participate in this discussion on the demands for grants of the Ministry of agriculture which is very vital for the development of economy.

My fundamental argument is that the agricultural production in this country is purely dependent on the vagaries of nature.

With the limited resources available to the State Govt., it would not justify to criticise the party or the Govt. in power for any fall in agricultural production.

Shri Jeevarathinam in his speech here made certain whimsical and baseless allegations that severe drought conditions prevailed in Tamil Nadu only when the dravidian parties were in power. Let me emphatically state in this august House and put the record straight that only when the national party was in power in the State that they encouraged people to eat rat meat. It was the same national party which advised people to observe fast on one day, probably Monday, every week.

[English]

DR. A.KALANIDHI: That's good, that's good.

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: It was the same national party which advised Tamil people to take wheat per meal per day. It was during the same national party's regime the number of famine deaths touched a new record. This was the condition when the national party which Shri Jeevarathinam is proud of ruled the State.

When severe drought conditions prevail in Tamil Nadu and when we make persistent demands for financial and material assistance, the Central Govt. turns a Nelson's eye to the whole problem. They first see which party is ruling the State. If any opposition party is ruling the State, they would take 6 months to send the assessment team. When we say that the State is in the grip of a severe drought and when we attract the attention of the Govt. to the plight of the poor, the response will be one of

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\*Translation of the speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan]

delaying tactics. The Govt. will send a team after 6 months or 1 year and that will worsen the situation. This smacks of the sadistic act of showing a banana to the weeping child without giving it.

Take the high sounding slogan of bringing green revolution in the country. That is still in the slogan level. The Govt. is not serious in bringing green revolution in the country. They raise this slogan for cheap electoral gains.

The Govt. is boasting of their achievements. What has it achieved in real terms? Nothing. Compare our agriculture with the agricultural development in other countries. We are far behind many countries and we are backward by 100 years. This is simply because the Govt. does not providing high yield variety of seeds to our farmers. The Govt. does not provide proper fertilizers, subsidy on fertilizers and other necessary equipments. Even the basic requirement of water is not provided.

Dr. C.N. Annadurai, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu rightly pointed out the canal irrigation system prevalent in this country leads to loss of considerable water due to evaporation. At a time when we should conserve water, he suggested that we should follow the Japanese method of sprinkler irrigation method. Indeed we should follow such water conserving method of irrigation.

Madam, when the farmers in U.P. agitate, you made some provision in the budget. You are reminded of the existence of farmers only when they agitate to press for their demands.

In Tamil Nadu, there are many handloom workers. Their main problem is that they are not getting cotton. But the Govt. instead of taking steps to increase the pro-

duction of cotton is exporting cotton. We are yet to see a funny Govt. like the present one. Thousands and thousands of handloom workers are affected by this non-availability of cotton. But the Govt. is still keep on exporting cotton to foreign countries.

On the other hand, certain big sharks in textile industry who can, with their resources buy the whole of India, are exploiting this situation by increasing the production of synthetic yarn. I charge the Govt. with actively assisting these big capitalists by conferring on them concessions for productions of synthetic yarn at the cost of poor handloom weavers in the country.

Flood and drought control has been always a problem since our independence 43 years ago. So far we have spent 20000 crores on flood and drought relief measures. The British before leaving this soil specifically solved if the Ganga and Cauveri rivers are linked. Instead of spending our energy and efforts on linking Ganga and Cauveri, we have resorted to petty schemes and plans which gave only temporary relief. We were interested in coining high sounding slogans, diverted our energy and efforts in garlanding the portraits of leaders, in delivering speeches with hackneyed phrases and at last delivered ourselves into the cruel hands of one misfortune after another. That was how 20000 crores were frittered away without any plan or perspective for the ostensible purpose of controlling floods and drought.

The Cauveri problem is still haunting Tamil Nadu. We have spoken about it in this august House thousand times. And now the members in the opposite benches accuse the role of dravidian parties. Let me very clearly state that only when the dravidian parties were in power in the State we urged the Hon. Late Prime Minister Madam Gandhi and the present Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to refer this dispute to a Tribu-

nal. What exactly happens is that the matter is simply talked out without any concrete solution. They view it as a dispute between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. They do not realise that the continuance of this dispute is causing incalculable damage to the agricultural production in Tamil Nadu. Thanjavur is called the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu. Nearly one fourth of the total rice production in the country comes from Thanjavur. But the farmers in Thanjavur are not being helped in increasing the agricultural production. They can be helped only when the river water dispute is resolved. They can be helped only when the river water dispute is resolved. This Cauveri water problem is being approached with partisan eyes. This problem is not a party matter. Had the Govt. taken this problem as a national problem by this time we would have seen a flowering garden in Thanjavur. You are attributing partisan motives to this problem. That was why successive Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu including Dr. Anna, Dr. Karunanidhi and Dr. MGR right from the beginning demanded that this dispute should be referred to a Tribunal. for referring this dispute to a Tribunal don't you have powers? Do you have to go to America or Russia? You have all the powers. But you lack the will. So many times we have demanded this. We have even agitated against the callous attitude of the Central Govt. in this matter, but without fruition.

The Governor of Tamil Nadu has recently announced elections to the Agricultural cooperative societies. Such elections should be announced by a popularly elected Govt. The Governor is a State Official and he should not have announced the elections. An official cannot effectively gauge the feelings of local people. He may not understand the local people, their sentiments and language. The Governor was an officer serving

with you here. How can he take decisions which ought to be taken by a popular Govt.? Proper storage of facilities are not available in the granaries. The facilities must be provided.

The long pending demands of the employees of the Food Corporation of India should be accepted. Their grievances should be redressed.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Only one minute.

So far we have obtained our rice quota only after agitation. Even the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi flew to Burma in the morning and returned to India in the evening. He is reported to have asked the Burmese Govt. to supply rice. We are glad. We hope that the rice quota for our State will be increased.

Next is about the prices of food and other essential commodities. In Russia, the prices of commodities in Tashkant and elsewhere in that country would be one and the same. Such an uniformity is not there in India. Govt., must, therefore, streamline the distribution system so as to bring uniformity in prices all over the country. Take for example arhar dal. It is sold at one price in Tamil Nadu and at another price in the north. You are fixing one price for paddy in the south and another price for wheat in the North. There is great difference. The Govt. is not taking the cost of production of the commodities in account while determining the procurement prices. You function in an

*Min. of Agr.*

[Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan]

haphazard manner accepting whatever the officers tender as advice without going into the merits and your only aim is to have cheap electoral gains. This Govt is not serving the poor people of this country.

Madam, in Andhra there are 9 fish farming development centres. There is not even one such centre in Tamil Nadu. But Madras has the second largest beach in the world.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. We are going to the next item. Please conclude.

[Translation]

\*DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN: Tamil Nadu has a long coastal line. A fish farming centre may be set up in Tamil Nadu so that we can earn foreign exchange.

Next is about the brackish water development programme for pisciculture and aquaculture. There was a proposal from the Central Govt. to set up a centre for aquaculture in Tamil Nadu and our late Hon. Dr. MGR allotted a site near Mahabalipuram and even allocated funds for the centre. The Central Govt. did not allocate even a single paise for that centre. Now it is reported that the site may be shifted to some other State. I strongly object to this. The aquaculture centre must be set up in Tamil Nadu only.

Madam, whatever schemes the Govt. makes, let it make for the overall welfare of the people without any partisan ends. Even if it cannot do anything to the people constructively, at least let it instil in the minds of the people a confidence that there is a Govt. which works for the welfare of the people.

With these words, I conclude.

*re: Killing of People & Attack on Para-Military Camp in Punjab*

15.03 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

**Mass Killings of Innocent People and Rocket Attack on Para-Military Camp by Terrorists In Punjab**

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will now take up the next item on the mass killings of innocent people and rocket attack on para-military camp by terrorists in Punjab. Time allotted is 3 hours. Mr. Chowdhary.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Madam Chairperson, again today, we are discussing the situation in Punjab. Everybody will agree that the situation there has aggravated very much in the recent months. And in this House today, we have to delve deeply into the various aspects of the deterioration of the situation.

Before that, I regret my inability to find words strong enough to condemn the inhuman killings of the innocent people that are continuously being committed by the terrorists. Such is the brutality and bestiality of this murder and mayhem that one may groan in pain and may also rise in revolt and think of doing anything one likes. But that will not help. In this House, we have to analyse the situation rationally, right from the beginning. We have to see when the situation started deteriorating and where it has come to now. This is very important.

Madam, things have worsened now. If we go through the records, even from the government records we find that the killings are increasing. If we take the period of President's rule, even according to the statement of Shri Chidambaram made in the House, 918 persons have been killed during