

12.48 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to bring mango-belt in Malihabad and Hasanganj regions of Lucknow and Unnao districts under Crop Insurance Scheme.

SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD (Mohanlalgaon): Mr. Speaker Sir, hailstorm has hit the mango crop five times in Malihabad (Lucknow district) and Hasanganj (Unnao district) which form part of my Lok Sabha Constituency. The hailstorm has completely destroyed the mango crop in the mango-belt in the region.

12.49 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

On 25th April around 3.00 p.m. a massive hailstorm hit the area during which hailstones weighing upto a kilogram destroyed the mango crop completely. Many farmers committed suicide and some unconscious in shock. The hailstorm affected 300 villages. Mango growers suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 10 crores. The State Government has been informed of the loss of mango crop. The only way to solve the problem of those farmers is to bring the mango-belt in Malihabad and Hasanganj regions of Lucknow and Unnao districts under Crop Insurance Scheme. From October next, arrangements should be made for the supply of free pesticides for spraying on the mango crop. The Government should also give orders to conduct an immediate survey in order to assess the crop damage.

- (ii) Need to provide financial and other assistance to the Government of Rajasthan to cope with severe drought conditions.

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for the last 4 years, Rajasthan has been reeling under drought. The Hon'able Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi toured Rajasthan and announced an increase in the amount of assistance sanctioned for drought relief. The scarcity

of water being felt by the 4 crore population spread over an area of 3.5 lakh Kilometres in Rajasthan can be met only if the Central Government treats it as a national problem. Otherwise, Rajasthan would become another Ethiopia. If excess flood waters from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, is diverted to Rajasthan, the State can produce a substantial quantity of foodgrains for contribution to the Central Pool.

Apart from irrigation, drinking water has also become a problem. But sources of water within the earth's crust have not been tapped. The 'High-Pressure Rig' imported from the U.S.S.R. should be sent to Rajasthan immediately. It is not one village but all which are suffering from scarcity of drinking water. So the definition of the problem village should be changed. Never has scarcity of water in Chittorgarh district of South Rajasthan been so acute as it is today. The people have to crave for even a single drop of water. Land should be drilled and deep wells, tube-wells and hand-pumps should be installed immediately. Otherwise both human beings and cattle will perish.

A long-term policy should be formulated in the Eighth Five-Year Plan to tackle famine and check further desertification of Rajasthan. The whole country is responsible for the security of Rajasthan because it is a border State. It has always been a sentinel of the great culture of India. Therefore, I strongly urge that :

- (1) Central assistance be increased.
- (2) Excess flood-waters from the neighbouring States of Punjab and Uttar Pradesh be diverted to Rajasthan.
- (3) Underground sources of drinking-water be tapped immediately.

[English]

- (iii) Increasing crimes on Indo-Bangladesh border in West Dinajpur district

DR. GOLAM YAZDANI (Raiganj): Cattle lifting, dacoity, smuggling and all sorts of anti-social activities go on along