

(xxi) Need to write off the loans of the farmers

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda : Sir, it is well known that Indian farmers most of the time remain under debt. Our farmers carry agriculture under many adverse natural conditions like drought, floods, pests. To add to his misery, he cannot fix the price of his produce has been taken away from the farmer as the agricultural price commission fixes support prices for the agricultural produce keeping in view the interests of the consumer.

The Government does not hesitate to write off loans of industrialists on the ground that the labour will be thrown out of the employment if the loan is not written off. But the agricultural sector is not viewed likewise. Had the farmer been allowed to fix the price of his produce as per his cost of production and margin of profits he would not have been put in such a situation. The traditional agricultural families are reluctant to continue agriculture any more. The farmers are day by day being disinterested in agriculture and are leaving the profession. If this trend is not arrested the future will not be so bright.

The farmers incur the debt because they do not get back proper return even after investing the borrowed money on agriculture. This most unequal, unfavourable economic race in which the farmer is forced to participate,

In order to see that the nation survives, it is the bounded duty of the Government to write off the loans of farmers, given by the commercial banks, Government and the private sector.

[Translation]

(xxii) Need to revamp Sindri Fertiliser Plant

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the foundation of Sindri Fertiliser Plant in Bihar was laid by the first Prime Minister of the country, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru in 1952 with the aim of providing employment to 15,000 workers besides solving the

fertiliser problem. However, fertiliser plant is not functioning according to the installed capacity and many of its units are lying closed. As a result, the number of workers has plummeted to 4,000 and the production level of fertilisers has also come down. In the coming months, fertiliser plant will become sick if obsolete and old machines are not replaced.

Therefore, I would like to request the Central Government to give practical shape to the following suggestions so as to revive the fertiliser plant :—

First, old machines of Sindri Fertiliser Plant should be replaced and closed units revived with a view to increasing the production capacity so as to provide employment to the unemployed.

Secondly, the Central Government should take over the maintenance of the road between fertiliser plant and Dhanbad to facilitate smooth transportation.

13.23 hrs.

BHARAT PETROLEUM CORPORATION LIMITED (DETERMINATION OF CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES) BILL—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We will now take up the next item, that is, further Consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Brahm Dutt on the 12th May, 1988, namely :—

“That the Bill to empower the Central Government to determine the conditions of service of the officers and employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Chintamani Jena to continue his speech.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to continue giving my views.