

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, yes.

MR. SPEAKER : The leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : What about the absent-mindedness of the Ministers ?

MR. SPEAKER : Also granted !

12.15 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* CENTRAL ISSUE
AND OPEN MARKET SALES
PRICES OF WHEAT FOR
PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
SYSTEM AND OTHER
SCHEMES

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM) : Sir, as the House is aware, the support price of wheat to be paid to the farmer in the coming rabi season was raised by the Government from Rs. 166 to Rs. 173 per quintal. This increase, which higher than that of the last three years, was widely welcomed.

The Central Government also fixes the price of wheat issued from the Central Pool to the State Governments for distribution under the public distribution system and other related schemes. Consequent upon the Government's decision to increase the support price of wheat by Rs. 7.00 per quintal, the Government have decided to refix the Central issue prices of wheat to absorb the increase in the support price and some related costs and to contain the food subsidy.

The revised Central issue prices of wheat will be as follows :

- (i) For the public distribution system, it will be Rs. 204 per quintal

instead of the existing Rs. 195 per quintal; and

- (ii) For the ITDP areas and tribal majority States, it will be Rs. 139 per quintal against the existing Rs. 130 per quintal and the consumer price will be Rs. 164 per quintal instead of Rs. 155 per quintal.

The price of wheat for open market sales will be Rs. 240 per quintal.

All these prices will be effective from 25th March, 1988.

12.17 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

- (i) Demand for Special Grants to the State of Goa

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Sir, Goa has recently attained Statehood. It is now the endeavour of the State Government to see that Goa has a strong and viable economy. However, new-born States have their own Problems, and it has been the practice of the Central Government to aid and assist such States. This was done in the case of north-eastern States and it is still being done by including these States under special category.

People of Goa demanded Statehood in order to get the real power of governance. As a Union Territory, the entire responsibility of financing the Budget proposals rested with the Central Government. This position should not be entirely changed upon Goa's attainment of Statehood.

Therefore, Goa should be included in the list of special category State and special grants should be allotted to the State to help it to have self-sufficient economy.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (ii) Demand for setting up Training Centres for Handloom Weavers in Gorakhpur and Varanasi

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY (Gorakhpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I want to raise this

matter in the House under rule 377 with your permission that in our country handloom industry is centuries old and weavers of this country had attracted the world towards their handicrafts to such an extent that foreign traders used to vie with one another to carry muslin of Bengal of Union India to their countries. But every effort was made to destroy this art during foreign rule and consequently this industry could not be developed. The weavers employed in this industry could not affect change in their production with the times and as a result thereof weavers had to face poverty and hunger. The weavers could not derive full benefits of various step taken to encourage this industry in free India owing to lack of adequate resources. Whatever benefit of the present textile policy could reach the weavers has also not reached them owing to its faulty implementation. Besides, cost of cotton and cotton yarn has increased considerably owing to drought for the past several years and in the absence of timely training, sale of traditional items, at reasonable rates has also become difficult. Due to this, lakhs of looms are lying idle and crores of weavers have become jobless.

Therefore, I demand from the Central Government that in order to develop the new technology in respect of handloom industry training centres should be established in Gorakhpur, Varanasi and other areas of Uttar Pradesh where there are handlooms large scale. Arrangements should be made purchase cotton yarn and for its storage so that the same could be made available to the weavers at cheap rates. Besides, this yarn production mills, plant for processing, printing and washing of handloom products should be installed at Gorakhpur and also in other regions of Uttar Pradesh. Necessary directions should be issued for popularising handloom products in foreign countries and for maximum use of the same by Government Undertakings.

(iii) Demand for More Sugar Mills in Moradabad, U.P.

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ (Moradabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter Under Rule 377.

Sugarcane is produced in different parts of the country. Uttar Pradesh has been a pioneering State in the matter of sugarcane

production. Uttar Pradesh produces more sugarcane as compared to other states. The number of sugar mills is less keeping in view the production of sugarcane. The Western Uttar Pradesh is the largest sugarcane producing region of Uttar Pradesh but the number of sugar mills in Western Uttar Pradesh is far less than the requirement. My own constituency, Moradabad, which falls under Western Uttar Pradesh, produces huge quantity of sugarcane. The number of sugar mills is negligible keeping in view the production of sugarcane in Moradabad. Due to this the farmers do not get even the fixed support price of sugarcane.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Government that keeping in view the production of sugarcane in huge quantity in Moradabad, two-three sugar mills may please be set up there, so that the farmers may get atleast the fixed support price of sugarcane.

(iv) Demand for opening Navodaya Vidyalaya in Kanpur-Dehat

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

The Central Government has implemented the new education policy to deal with the problem of unemployment effectively and to make the education, employment oriented. The Government has taken an important decision under this new education policy to open an ideal school in every district of the country which is called Navodaya Vidyalaya. The purpose of opening of these Navodaya Vidyalaya is to provide facilities for all round development of intelligent children belonging to poor and middle class families. The Government has opened a Navodaya Vidyalaya in the Kanpur Metropolitan under this scheme. Some years ago Kanpur has been bifurcated into two districts and out of them the Kanpur-Dehat district is still very much backward and has not got adequate facilities of schools for the education of children. Besides primary education, the condition of high and higher secondary education is also very pitiable and there is only one college in such a big district like Kanpur-Dehat and proper arrangements for all facilities and teaching all subjects in that college do not exist.

[Shri Jagdish Awasthi]

I, therefore, request the Government that as a first step towards progress of education, a Navodaya Vidyalaya may be opened in Kanpur-Dehat district before the ensuing academic session so that adequate arrangements may be made for the education of those talented children who belong to the poor and middle class families of that area to enable them to contribute their mights progress and development of the country in future.

[English]

(V) Demand for Continuing the Crop Insurance Scheme

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vjiayawada) : Millions of farmers in the country are very much perturbed at the reported news "Centre backing out of Plan" which appeared in Indian Express dated March 17, 1988. Contrary to the advice of Mahatma Gandhi, Farmers' interests were not adequately taken care of by the successive Governments. So the economic condition of the Kisans has not improved to the extent that it should have been when compared to other segments in the society. After 38 years of independence, Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced to cover rice, wheat, millets, pulses and oil seeds. This Insurance Scheme though not to the full extent, at least partly comes to the rescue of the farmer when his insured crop is lost due to seasonal conditions or floods, or pests etc. If the Government abandon the Crop Insurance Scheme it will be a clear anti-peasant measure. So I suggest to the Union Government not to give up the Crop Insurance Scheme but make it more effective by bringing tobacco, cotton, chillis etc. also under its coverage and treat a revenue village as defined area instead of taluk/block/Mandal to protect the genuine interests of the farmers in distress. To make the scheme viable and more meaningful, the premium may be enhanced slightly. Scope for misutilisation be removed to make the Scheme pucca and effective.

[Translation]

(vi) Demand for bridges between Pahleja Ghat and Deegha and a Rail Bridge at Chhitoni Ghat

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,

Bihar is the largest minerals producing and the second highest populated State of India. But it is backward in the field rail traffic also as in other fields. Whenever, the request is made to remove this backwardness or any project is prepared, the same is rejected on the plea of non-availability of funds or being not viable. I have requested several times giving facts in detail in this august House to construct a railway bridge over Ganga between Pahaliya Ghat and Deegha pending since long and also constitute a Railway Zone in Bihar. But the Ministry of Railways has not taken any concrete step in this respect.

It is nothing but irony of fate that the headquarters of 9 out of 39 districts have been deprived of rail facilities upto now. Several schemes relating to New Railway line, double line, conversion of gauge and construction of bridges have not been approved so far.

It is also noteworthy that several years before foundation stone of some of these schemes had been laid and construction work had also been started on them.

It was expected that funds would be made available in Rail Budget of this year for new projects of Bihar but it is distressing that not even a single penny has been allocated in respect of Bihar for this purpose.

Therefore, Government is requested to arrange to get a railway bridge between Pahleja Ghat and Deegha, a railway bridge on Chhitoni, a new railway line, double line constructed and work on conversion of gauge may be undertaken and also constitute a Railway Zone in Bihar.

(vi) Demand for financial assistance to Bihar Government for providing drinking water in Purnea District

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people of my constituency, Purnea have to face lot of difficulties in getting drinking water whereas our Hon. Prime Minister is anxious to help in every possible manner for making the drinking water available. One can realise actual difficulties in getting drinking water particularly to Harjais if one goes to the rural areas. I would like to request the Government to consult Bihar Government and grant financial assistance

for installation of hand pumps and digging wells for all those areas where the drinking water is not easily available.

The Bihar Government is not able to solve the problem of drinking water because of paucity of funds. The Central Government, should give financial assistance to the Bihar Government, so that resentment among the people is not increased.

[English]

(viii) Demand for Setting up Cashew Development Board

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Next to coconut and rubber, cashew cultivation is the largest in Kerala. In 1955-56, the total area of cashew cultivation was 37,460 hectares; now nearly one and a half lakh hectares is under cashew cultivation. In 1981 Kerala took up the multi-store cashew project with the help of the World Bank and increased the area of cultivation by about 10,000 hectares. After the land reforms in Kerala, the cashew cultivation has been taken up by the small farmers. Thus cashew crop has become a poor man's crop. The large scale cashew cultivation in Kerala is taken up only by the Government Plantation Corporation. The sad story of the cultivators is that in spite of all the development measures, the production has started decreasing. Even though research is being done to increase the production and quality of cashew nuts, it has not reached the ordinary farmers. In addition to these difficulties, the Government of Kerala has introduced the system of monopoly procurement for a price which is not at all remunerative to the farmers. Large scale smuggling of cashew nut to the neighbouring States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu where the price is comparatively higher, is practised in

the border areas of Kerala. This uncrupulous trade practice should be discouraged by fixing the support price. Price should be fixed after taking into consideration the cost of production and the price in foreign markets. The immediate formation of the Cashew Development Board will solve some of the problems and help the farmers to get a more reasonable price for the cashew nut produced in Kerala.

12.30 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1987-88

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next Item. Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88.

Motion moved :

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1988 in respect of the following demands entered second column thereof :

Demands Nos : 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 15A, 17, 18, 21, 22, 24, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 37, 39, 41, 44, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 53, 54, 56, 57, 58, 60, 62, 65, 66, 67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 88, 89, 90, 91 and 92."

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88 Submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabh

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
	1. Agriculture	32,41,00,000	—

Ministry of Agriculture