

denuded forests, famished people and cattle and long queues in front of dried up taps is a very common spectacle in this region.

The normal rainfall in this area ranges between 550 to 650 millimetres but this region never received the normal rainfall for the past seven or eight years and the average rainfall during these years has been only between 300mm and 400mm. As a result of this scanty rainfall, no tanks received any supply. All the irrigation wells got dried up. Problems for drinking water became acute. Fodder for cattle became non-existent. Farmers and labour were thrown out of work. The villages now wear a dilapidated and deserted appearance with the farmers looking at the sky on askance for a few rain drops.

It is requested that the Central Government may take special care, allot special funds and take immediate steps to help these people.

- (vii) Need to provide parcel van facilities at Gudur Railway station in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh for transporting lemons to places like Delhi and Calcutta

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Gudur town is situated at the starting point of South Central Railway in Andhra Pradesh. The surrounding villages are full of citrous orchards. The lemons of the best quality are being produced in this area and are being exported regularly to far off places like Delhi and Calcutta. Nearly two thousand bags of lemons are being exported to these cities on an average every day.

But the storage facilities for this perishable agricultural commodity are almost nil. Hence, the producers are compelled to send their commodities by lorries in order to avoid loss. As such, the agriculturists have to spend heavy amount on transporting the commodity.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister for Railways to provide at least one parcel van in every train for the above mentioned destinations from Gudur in Nellore district so as to save the farmers.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 for the development of Adivasi area in Maharashtra

SHRI S.S. BHOYE (Malegaon) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 44 tehsils in Maharashtra have Adivasi population. The area inhabited by Adivasis is hilly and forest area. Majority of the inhabitants of these areas are Adivasis.

The Central as well as the State Government have sanctioned several schemes, namely, minor irrigation tanks, percolation tanks, construction of roads and supply of electricity to facilitate economic development of these areas and have also announced special schemes for this purpose. Necessary funds have also been made available.

But in spite of the fact that the Government is making efforts for the development of Adivasis living in these hilly and forest areas and funds amounting to crores of rupees have also been made available, they are unable to do anything due to the enforcement of 'Forest Conservation Act, 1980.' Even the construction work on percolation tanks, minor irrigation tanks cannot be started. Before this Act was enforced, the Government of Maharashtra had started afore-mentioned schemes on which funds worth crores of rupees were spent. But the Schemes were held up due to the enforcement of this Act. As of now, even new projects cannot be taken up.

As a result of this, the developmental works, such as percolation tanks, minor irrigation tanks, construction of roads and electrification, etc. which are helpful in the development of Adivasi areas have been held up. Consequently, their development has been blocked.

Therefore, I would request the Government to make necessary amendment in the Act and to find a way out for the development of Adivasis because they have remained neglected for centuries.