

[Shri M.R. Saikia]

Large public sector enterprises like Oil India, ONGC, Fertilizer Corporation, Coal India and major tea gardens earning valuable foreign exchange for the country are situated in upper Assam areas only in between Guwahati and Dibrugarh which is still served by metre gauge link of Indian Railways and that too having only single line track.

The public sector units are facing immense problem in transportation of their finished products and raw materials, heavy machinery and equipments from ports and other major cities of India to their plants and *vice versa*.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to provide funds for extension of broad-gauge line from Guwahati to Tinsukia/Dibrugarh which is the nodal point of the entire North-Eastern Region for development of this region.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to formulate schemes to provide drinking water to Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, etc. from Indira Gandhi Canal

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I want to present a matter of public importance before the House. The problem of drinking water is still there in most of the villages of desert districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Churu of Rajasthan. The Schemes were formulated to supply drinking water to villages by means of tube-wells but those tube-wells are also becoming dry due to the scarcity of water.

The drinking water has not yet been supplied to many villages and several hamlets, which have been declared villages, in the above mentioned districts.

The water in most of the villages of these districts is saline. There are such villages where either there is no water at all or the supply is very less. In some of the villages the tube-wells have also not been successful.

The permanent solution for the problem

of drinking water of these districts is the Indira Gandhi Canal. The State Government have formulated some schemes to supply drinking water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to some villages and the city of Jaisalmer. But these are not adequate. Therefore, it is necessary for the State Government to formulate a scheme for supply of drinking water to all the villages of these districts and important cities like Barmer, Pokaran, Shergarh, Bulotra, Siwana and the headquarters of Tehsil and Panchayat Committees.

An amount of Rs. 2 thousand crore is required to solve the said problem and the Government of Rajasthan is unable to arrange such a big amount.

Therefore, the Government of Rajasthan should prepare a scheme to supply drinking water from the Indira Gandhi Canal to the desert villages and cities of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Bikaner and Churu and for the implementation of this Scheme the Central Government should make a provision of 1500 crore rupees in the coming Seventh and Eighth Year Plans and the Rajasthan Government should mobilise 500 crore rupees for this purpose.

- (viii) Need for providing improved quality of cattle feed to U.P., Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to your notice under Rule 377 that the cattle wealth is in abundance in the Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Chhota Nagpur in Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal and in the plateaus of Madhya Pradesh. In spite of having hundreds of cows and goats, some tribals or farmers get very less quantity of milk. The height of the cows of these regions is less and give as much milk as goats give. The milk giving capacity of the cattle of these regions is less than 15 per cent in comparison to that of cattle of other regions of India. Every body knows about the importance of milk in our public and social life. There is no scarcity of cattle feed in forests and good quality fodder can be developed extensively with the help of the Government. The breed of these short statured cows, buffaloes and goats can be improved but, unfortunately,

the Government have not taken any step to promote the cattle wealth of these areas. In order to promote the notional productivity it is necessary that a programme must be made for improving the breed of the cattle of these areas and for arranging good quality fodder. This will ensure economic development of the people living in those plateaus and their children would become healthy citizens of India. Only then the schemes like "Operation Flood" and integrated rural development will be successful. I, therefore, demand that proper arrangements be made for supply of cattle feed.

12.40 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS,
1988-89—Contd.

[English]

Ministry of Agriculture—Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House shall now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Shri Jujhar Singh to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture is the most important subject of India. This time, the Government of India have paid a special attention to this subject. More provision has been made in the Budget also. Though, the amount granted to this Ministry is Rs. 86 crore less than that provided in the previous year but it has been increased indirectly for dryland farming, etc. This is a welcome step and through you, I want to thank the Ministry of Agriculture for this.

At the outset, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture towards the fact that in villages now the educated people in the field of agriculture have also begun paying their attention towards agriculture. The people have now started

paying their attention towards the development and the scientific inventions made in the field of agriculture. Once there was a time, when the farmer used to undertake farming in the traditional manner but now new methods have been discovered which the farmers want to adopt and are ready to accept the new inventions made in this field. This is a great achievement and I feel that the newly developed varieties have found favour in different parts of India. I would like to say that 20 or 30 years ago, the farming used to be undertaken in a traditional manner in my home state, Rajasthan. But a great change have come now and we have started growing new crops. By growing different crops the economic position of the farmers have improved and this is very good. I would like to urge upon the Government to make proper use of their enthusiasm by involving them completely in the whole process.

The other thing which I am to submit is that the people, including the farmers, have begun to realise that the disparity between the cities and villages has increased. However, the urban people think that the farmer have become prosperous and their income has increased. This is true but the farmers are not getting the same amenities and facilities as are available to the people of towns and cities. The urban people have not yet been able to understand the rural people. In this context, I want to draw the attention of the House towards my question which I had put before the Consultative Committee on Agriculture two years ago. A survey of Bombay Chambers of Commerce has been got conducted in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra through the Tata Consultative Service. The report of the survey was presented to the Members of Parliament and the Department of Agriculture of the Government of India. The survey team like many urban people were of the view that farmers have become prosperous and their investment is not productive. Having these views in their minds, they went to the villages and submitted a very important report which is now before the Government of India. In the Consultative Committee I asked the hon. Member and the Secretary whether a report containing practical suggestions had been received. I was extremely pained to hear that from the