

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]
Northern region but Punjab is specially affected.

The Government has estimated the loss of Rs. 400 crores but in reality, it is far above this estimate. The representatives of Punjab Government possessing limited resources have decided to assist the farmers, but this assistance is very limited. Today the Government agencies responsible for the purchase of farmers' commodities are not purchasing them at the declared rates though the Government has directed the agencies to do so. In Punjab, the procurement agencies and private traders are purchasing the damaged wheat at the rate of Rs. 80 to Rs. 90 per quintal.

The farmers' position is deteriorating day by day. I request the Union Government to intervene and take steps so that the farmers get the support price for the produce.

(x) Need to release funds for Vidya Sagar University Midnapore for opening more departments

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Vidyasagar University in Midnapur, West Bengal was established for relieving Calcutta University from being over-burdened with huge number of students, as well as giving students post-graduate training with agricultural and rural bias. It will have a large number of students passing B.A. and B.Sc. Part II examination next year. But due to paucity of funds, it has been able to open only six post-graduate courses with altogether 250 seats up till now. They are yet to open at least six more departments to accommodate even a reasonable percentage of intending students. With the present six, it cannot accommodate even one per cent of the intending students.

Vidyasagar University has not received any grant from the UGC since it was started in 1983. UGC, it is reported, is insisting on amending the University Act for having a say

in the election of Vice-Chancellor, who is now elected according to the Act by the Court of the University. This election is perfectly within the democratic norms.

I earnestly request the Minister of Human Resource Development to take it up with the University Grants Commission so that funds are released for Vidyasagar University named after one of the best sons of India with a laudable purpose so that it can open adequate number of departments to accommodate at least a reasonable percentage of incoming students.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item No. 10—Further discussion on the drought situation in the country.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): Mr. Deputy-Speaker...*(Interruptions.)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister wants to say something. Let him say.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I will mention about one fact.

Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia has made a statement that I have nothing to do with the discussion on the drought. Can I say a few words to him? Will you allow me to make a clarification?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is 377. Not necessary.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I wanted to make it clear to him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not necessary.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I would not have reacted to it but you come from the same State as I do. when there was a damage to the crops, our representative went there and found four districts, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, part of Jullundur and Hoshiarpur were affected. They showed two samples of it and

found that they were completely damaged and they wanted compensation. Next week, I went to Chandigarh with the Governor and we met the officials. I asked them a specific question, from the Financial Commissioner and others. Well, it is not completely damaged. Part of it we can buy for cattle-feed, for poultry and we can pay the difference. So, compensation was given to them. After getting the compensation, they went into an agitation. "Look here, Sir, they do not buy our wheat." Double advantage cannot be had at one and the same time.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): I am on a point of order.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: In spite of that, we allowed the dealers to buy wheat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is nothing wrong to the Minister's saying. He has the right to say, if he wants. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot compel the Minister. If he volunteers, I cannot stop him. I cannot ask the Minister to reply everything. But if he feels that at this time some clarification should be given, I cannot stop him.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: For you also the same thing. It is up to the Minister. I cannot compel him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): The chair can be selective and the Government can be selective to answer 377 which they like and not allow other Members.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Government is not selective. This is an issue which has created lot of misunderstanding. Therefore, some clarification is needed. The Minister is present.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Listen to me. We are not selective. We left it to the States to compensate them, not ourselves. I am giving factual position to him because he happened to say it. This is not selective. Every State wants to be compensated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is talking about 377.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Government cannot respond without your permission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If the Minister wants, I cannot stop him.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Then you should allow responding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If he wants permission, I cannot say no.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Sir, you are the supreme...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no hard and fast rule like that to tell the Minister: 'I cannot allow you'. There is no such rule. If you cite any rule, I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Every precedent of the House is the rule itself. It is there...

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Why are you not listening to me?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Every precedent in the House is the rule itself. It has assumed a shape of rule; it has assumed the form of rule. Therefore, we have to abide by the rule.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have assured the hon. Members that we don't reply now. When the Minister is present, when he is pressed, he has to give clarification...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There was also a precedent. I think, sometime back, during one of the 377s, the Minister replied.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I wanted to clarify that there seems to be some confusion. I thought it should be done. Sir, I have no objection. I fully accept the demand by the members that if they want to have more discussion on the drought situation, I welcome it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: We don't ask any demand. During 377, how can he reply?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sometimes, it happens...

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Now, Sir, I have no objection. I thought that my name was included in the agenda for reply today. I will continue it tomorrow. But there are some particular facts which I thought I should mention in my reply because it is coming tomorrow, which is much more urgent con-

cerning this debate. It should be mentioned just now but not just as a little part of the reply which I will make tomorrow. That was about the *ad hoc* grant mentioned to some worst drought-hit areas, mentioned yesterday by some of the members. So, I thought that instead of getting into the procedural matters of sending the relief team, then after members sending the other teams....

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): What about Orissa? It has not been mentioned by the hon. Minister. I am not against the other States. But among the Eastern States, Orissa is the hard-hit. No drop of grant has been given to Orissa. Let the Minister say as to what happened to Orissa. We want a categorical reply. We don't find a single pie of relief mentioned by the hon. Minister so far, as far as Orissa is concerned. So, I would like to know as to what specific answer has the hon. Minister has to give.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, for the last three years, all the 13 districts of Orissa State have been affected by drought, floods and other things....

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I will make it tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him reply tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to inform the House that the Minister wants to give some information before his reply. If you are interested, he is ready to give the information.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is going

to give his final reply.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I want a specific reply, as far as Orissa is concerned.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will answer every Member's point. He is not going to leave it.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: We wanted a sum of Rs 60 crores as *ad hoc* grant. Orissa's name has not been mentioned here. It is very peculiar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is going to reply every Member's point. He is not going to leave it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is that now he wants to pass on some information. If you want, he will give.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't know why there is so much agitation and commotion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Why Orissa has not been included? Please tell the House.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Sir, I beg the House to listen to the Minister and not to interrupt him. We are going to continue the debate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendra-

garh): Sir, on a point of order. When discussion on a particular subject has gone on and the hon. Minister has yet to reply, this has never happened before in the House that points raised during the course of the discussion by various Members are selected in bits and pieces and information is given by the Minister before he rises to give his main reply to the debate. This will set a very bad precedent and, therefore, I will beg of you, Sir, to control the situation and request the hon. Minister to keep all this information to be given during the course of his reply. Otherwise, every Member will now stand up and he has a right to do it and ask for information in respect of every point raised by every Member who has participated in the debate. Members who want to speak should first be given time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister will give his reply to the debate tomorrow after the discussion is over. But if he wants to give any information to the House now, he may.....

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I fail to understand the objection....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He is not giving his reply now.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He can give this information also at the time of his reply to the debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: May I request the hon. Members to resume their seats? We are going to resume the debate on drought. If all of you keep on talking at the same time, you will be wasting your time. I know, you are all exercised about it. You may speak one by one. Each one of you will have the opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: /Shri Dharam