

region of Bihar, I urge upon the Central Government to allocate sufficient funds and ensure the implementation of the project without further loss of time.

[Translation]

(vi) Need to consider the problems of refugees settled in Mahapur region of Betul district, M.P. in 1964

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chapra) : Sir, refugees from foreign countries settled in about 30 villages in the Mahapur region of Betul district in Madhya Pradesh, in 1964 are still living as refugees. They have no right to raise their voice. When no heed was paid to their problems they resorted to fast unto death. On 14-3-88 four persons, on 15-3-88 two persons and on 16-3-88 one person resorted to it. Nobody resorts to fast unto death as a matter of pleasure. But the irony was that even after resorting to it, their demands were not considered and they were put behind the bars. I therefore, urge the Government to order an enquiry into the matter and look into the demands of the displaced persons settled in these villages so that the truth is revealed. The Central Government bears all the expenses pertaining to their living and other requirements. It is, therefore, the duty of the Central Government to see whether the funds are being utilised for these displaced persons and whether they are getting proper facilities.

It is the State Government's duty to ensure that the money is spent on these displaced persons.

(vii) Need to start all the four units of the Tanda Thermal Power Project

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 440 MW capacity Tanda Thermal power Project has been under construction since long in my Parliamentary constituency falling in the Faizabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The original cost of this project was Rs. 159 crores and its first units was scheduled to be commissioned in 1982. Though, by now, Rs. 300 crores have already been spent on this project yet the first unit has not so

far been commissioned. Due to this, while on the one hand more Government money is being spent, on the other hand, the State is facing serious power shortage due to delay in power generation. I, therefore, request the Government to start all the four units of Tanda Thermal Power Project early. Besides, the unemployed members of those families whose land was acquired for this project have not been employed in the project despite directions from Government. This has spread discontent among the farmers. It is, therefore, very necessary to accord priority to local unemployed people and members of affected families while making recruitment for this project.

[English]

(viii) Steps needed for the development of Kakinada Port into a Major Port

SHRI GOPAL KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada) : Kakinada Port on the East Coast is a natural port with a 'Sand Spit' covering a length of nearly 20 kms. causing Trancenil conditions in the Kakinada bay in an area of nearly 60 sq. km. At present nearly 1½ million tonnes of exports and imports are being handled there like a medium port with minor port facilities. The cost of Sand Spit with 20 kms. growth of Sand bar, if formed as a breakwater, will cost nearly Rs. 500 crores. If the natural conditions of the port are utilised just by spending Rs. 100 crores, the port can be made into one of the major ports with deep water coming at least in 20 sq. kms. area. Such an economical proposition of making the Kakinada port into major port may be given priority in the interest of natural development alongwith original development both commercially and strategically.

12.30 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS 1988-89 --
Contd.

[English]

(i) Ministry of Agriculture-Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up further discussion and voting on

the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Agriculture. Now, the Minister will reply.

SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI (Sikkim) : I had given my name yesterday.

DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That was over, I cannot open the debate now...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My ruling is final.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : You should use your discretion... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not question my ruling.

I cannot allow.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE: (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : You give me in writing and I will reply to it. What else can I do ?

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : She can be given three minutes only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The hon. Member should give in writing whatever she wishes to say and I will give her a detailed reply.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : My protest must go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You know that we have been discussing this for the last three days.

(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : A woman member wanted to speak for three minutes, but she was not allowed.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is no question of male or female member here. All are equal. It was made clear yesterday. So, I cannot allow.

SHRI C. SAMBU (Bapatla) : I walk out.

12.37 hrs.

Shri C. Sambu then left the House

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all I express my gratitude to all those hon. Members who extended very thoughtful and valuable views on the subject in the House. The hon. Members have placed very excellent suggestions in accordance with the dignity of this House.

You know that our country is an agricultural country and, therefore, eighty per cent of its population lives in villages. Agriculture is the mainstay of our economy. In fact our economy is Agro-based. I want to tell you that the foundation of Modern India was laid by Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. He had pledged that unless the country becomes self reliant in the matter of foodgrains, the country's honour, prestige and dignity cannot increase. That is why Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had greatly emphasized on Agriculture while building the Modern India. You may be aware that a number of big dams were constructed in the country like the Bhakra Dam. Similarly, big powerhouses, fertiliser factories, tractor-factories were set up and a number of universities were opened in the country to provide facilities to the farmers. Provision has been made to provide sufficient water, quality seeds, and fertilisers to the farmers besides giving them remunerative price for their produce. Not only this, banks were nationalised to provide farmers the facility of loans on easy instalments and on low rate of interest. That is why

today, India has become self-reliant in the matter of foodgrains. We produce foodgrains not only for ourselves today but we have become capable enough to export foodgrains to other countries also. A country which begs for foodgrains has to bow down to the country which gives foodgrains. You may be aware that during the freedom struggle the brave leaders of our country preferred death to bowing their heads. But these leaders were forced to beg for foodgrains from other country after Independence. But the situation today is not the same.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you know that agriculture is the back-bone of our country's economy. 80 per cent of our population is engaged in Agriculture. Besides, Agriculture and Rural Development are closely inter related. Agriculture is also important because it provides raw-material for the industries and many products for export. At present our population is about 78 crores and it is continuously increasing. It is expected to a thousand million by the end of this century. On the other hand, the per capita availability of cultivated land is decreasing continuously. In 1950 it was 0.33 hectare which declined to 0.20 hectare in 1980. It is expected to further fall to 0.15 hectare by the year 2000. You may be aware that approximately 15 per cent population of the world lives in India while our country has only 2.5 per cent agricultural land of the world. Out of this most of the land is either affected by flood or brought or is barren. Therefore, it is very necessary that the available resources should be properly used to increase the production and also to raise the living standard of people in rural areas.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, although the Central Government is fully conscious of its responsibilities but I would like to clarify one thing that agriculture is a State subject. Even then we have made some provisions in the Concurrent list on priority basis in this regard. The Central Government provides assistance to the State Government for Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you know that when our country got freedom, our rural economy was set by poverty, unemployment, exploitation and debts. Before Independence the country was stricken by severe famines which resulted in the death of lakhs of people due to starvation. History bears testimony to the famines of 1835, 1860, 1866 and later years when lakhs of people died of starvation. But today the circumstances are quite different.

After Independence Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, the maker of Modern India laid down the foundation of country's planned development in the field of Agriculture, irrigation, power generation, scientific research, land reforms loans and marketing through foresight and long term planning. Projects like the Bhakra Nangal, development of net work of Agricultural Research Institutions and universities, Zamindari abolition and community development were the pillars of this policy. Panditji used to say that everything except agriculture could wait.

This policy was further promoted by our leader Shrimati Indira Gandhi the builder of modern India Indiraji used to call agriculture as the "basic Mantra". Mr. Speaker, Sir, even today we remember the day when she took a pledge while the country was facing the greatest famine. She had said that if we want to get self-respect we have to be self reliant in the matter of foodgrains. As a result of her firm determination we have reached such a position today and despite our increasing population we can say with pride that India is not only self reliant in the matter of foodgrains but also capable of helping other countries in case of need.

Today when we are facing many challenges including the wrath of natural calamities, our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has given a new strength, priority and new direction to that policy.

All of you may be aware that the rate of agriculture development between 1900 and 1950 was only 0.3 per cent. After Independence it was approximately 2.65

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

per cent. The rate of development rose sharply to 3.5 per cent after 1977.

At the time of Independence about 5 crore tonnes of foodgrains was produced in the country whereas today 15 crore tonnes of foodgrains are produced. The per hectare yield was 553 kgs. as against per 1175 kgs. today. Wheat production was approximately 60 lakhs tonnes whereas now the production is about 4.5 crore tonnes i.e. seven times more.

At that time, per capita availability of wheat was 65.7 grammes per day, as against 147.1 grammes today. Rice production was about 2 crore tonnes whereas it is about 6 crore tonnes today i.e. three times. At that time, the per capita availability of rice was 158.9 grammes per day while it is 218.9 grammes at present.

Sugarcane production was about 5.5 crore tonnes, whereas today its production is about 18 crore tonnes i.e. about three times. Then, cotton production was about 30 lakh bales whereas its production now is more than 80 lakh bales. Jute and Mesta production was about 31 lakh bales at that time whereas today its production is about 85 lakh bales.

80 lakh tonnes of pulses were produced in the country at that time whereas now its production is about 1.25 crore tonnes. Production of oilseeds was about 50 lakh tonnes at that time whereas now its production is about 1.25 crore tonnes. 15 lakh tonnes of potatoes were produced as against 1.27 crore tonnes today. The per hectare yield of potatoes was 6.6 tonnes at that time, as against more than 15 tonnes now.

Milk production was about 1.75 crore tonnes in 1951 which is more than 4 crore tonnes now. Similarly, 180 crore eggs were produced in the country in 1950-51 whereas the production has reached 1450 crores today i.e. about 8 times more.

At that time, gross cropped area in

the country was 13 crore hectares whereas now it is about 17.5 crore hectares. The gross irrigated area was about 2.25 crore hectares in the country, whereas now it is about 5.5 crore hectares. This increase in irrigated area has become possible mainly because of the construction of canals and tubewells. Total power generated in the country at the time of Independence was 65.7 million units whereas the production has risen to 1876 million units now.

Only 3.9 per cent of the total power generated was consumed by agriculture during 1950 whereas it has gone up to 20.2 per cent in 1984-85. From 1950 to 1985 gross power consumption has increased by 27 times whereas power consumption in agriculture has increased by 128 times.

In spite of increasing power consumption of agriculture and increase in the cost of power generation and distribution, electricity charges for agriculture have not been increased. Average electricity charges for agriculture during 1975 ranged between 20 and 30 paise per unit which was reduced to 20 paise per unit during 1986-87 i.e. 2 per cent reduction. On the other hand the cost of producing electricity had gone up from 22 paise per unit to 69.45 per unit during this period i.e. it increased by 216 per cent.

Annual production capacity of Nitrogen fertiliser was only 17,000 tonnes during 1950-51 in the country which has now increased to 70 lakh tonnes. At that time the production of Nitrogen fertiliser was only 10,000 tonnes which has now increased to about 55 lakh tonnes.

The total consumption of fertilisers in the country at that time was about 66,000 tonnes, which has now risen to about 90 lakh tonnes—i.e. it has increased by 136 times.

There were only 8000 tractors in the country at the time of Independence whereas today their number is more than 5 lakhs.

There was no agriculture university in

the country those days whereas today there are 26 agriculture universities.

There was no Krishi Vigyan Kendra in the country then, whereas today there are 89 such kendras.

Consequently, so far as foodgrain production is concerned, India's position in the world is next to China in rice production and fourth in wheat after Russia, China and America. It stands first in the production of Bajara and pulses, and second in Jawar after America. Similarly, so far as groundnut and sugarcane is concerned, it stands second after China and Brazil respectively. In vegetables, India is next to China, and in fruits it is next to Brazil. It stands fourth in cotton production after Russia, America and China and sixth in egg production after Russia, China, America, Japan and France. We have full confidence that India will be at the top of the world agriculture map, with the help of hard toil of farmers and earnest research of scientists.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you may be aware that although irrigated land has increased by about two and a half times but still 70 per cent of our land is under dry farming. You will agree with me that during the last two decades agriculture has become strong enough to face drought and flood. Most parts of the country were hit by the worst drought of this century last year. It is not an exaggeration but figures pertaining to rainfall are proof of it. Comparison between the figures of rainfall during last year and those in 1987 makes clear the severity of drought in 1987. There are 35 meteorological sub-division in the country. In 21 divisions out of these, rain was below normal during 1987. The data of previous years shows that rainfall recorded in these sub-divisions was below normal on many occasions. In 1986 14 sub-divisions, 12 in 1982, 16 in 1979, 17 in 1974, 20 in 1972 and 19 in 1965, recorded below normal rainfall. Similar conclusions can be drawn by other statistics also. Credit goes to our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for having faced this challenge very firmly. I feel a great sense

of pride in saying that not a single death occurred due to starvation in the whole country during this unprecedented calamity. In spite of this great calamity, the shortfall in foodgrain production will not be more than 7 to 10 per cent, and we hope that in actual the shortfall will be even less. Today, our agriculture is strong enough to withstand any calamity. According to the instructions of the Hon. Prime Minister, we have ensured that a central team should visit the affected State within seven days of receipt of memorandum from the State Governments and Central assistance should be declared within thirty days of the submission of the report of the Central team. Rs. 1442.28 crores were given for drought relief during 1987-88, whereas it was Rs. 17.43 crores, in 1984-85, Rs. 467.81 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 609.34 crores in 1986-87. Besides, some special steps have also been taken in connection with drought relief this year. Rs. 8 crores for fodder. Rs. 118 crores to complete those irrigation schemes which were nearing completion; Rs. 26 crores for drinking water and Re. 1 crore for growing vegetables were granted during this year. Besides, under the leadership of our Prime Minister, the Cabinet sub-committee on drought maintains a strict watch on the situation. I feel happy that with the united efforts of the Central Government and the State Governments we have been able to withstand the situation.

Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, our Government is giving the greatest importance and preference to agriculture and rural development. According to direction of the Hon. Prime Minister, the country has been divided into 15 agro climatic zones. These have been further divided into 127 sub-zones depending on local climatic conditions. Our agriculture schemes, research work and policies are being formulated keeping in view the local needs and the work done in these 15 agro-climatic zones. I. C. A. R. and agriculture universities are assisting in the background and providing new technology. The Hon. Prime Minister has also directed that planning should be done at district level and Government is taking expeditious steps in this

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

regard. This would enable agriculture planning to attain a new scientific basis. Agriculture received a severe jolt due to successive droughts during last three year, particularly last year's drought which was the worst. Keeping this in view, the Prime Minister decided during the mid-term review of the Seventh Five Year Plan, that special programmes to increase the agriculture production should be launched. Consequently, 169 districts were identified in 14 selected States where steps were taken to increase the production of five main crops viz rice, wheat, maize, arhar, and gram. Under this programme 6 lakh new wells and tubewells will be sunk for small and marginal farmers. A subsidy of Rs. 88.92 crores will be given on this account. In addition, 10 lakh new wells will be sunk free of cost for scheduled caste, scheduled tribe and people living below poverty line under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. schemes. I will mention about it later. Further, the consumption of fertilizer will be increased to 20 kgs. per hectare and special stress will be given on the production and use of improved seeds. Use of insecticides and weedicides will be increased. Greater facilities of loan will be made available to agriculture and proper arrangements will be made for marketing the produce. According to the scheme 16.6 crore tonnes of foodgrains will be produced during 1988-89 and the target of 17.5 crore tonnes of foodgrains will be achieved by 1989-90 at all cost. All possible steps have been taken to make this scheme successful and the Government is committed to it. Last month on the 18th of March, the hon. Prime Minister himself called a meeting of the Chief Ministers of these 14 States. Subsequently an official level meeting was also held. I am going to have separate meetings with the Chief Ministers of these 14 States on the 18th and 19th of April. The hon. Ministers of Planning, Irrigation and Power will also participate in it. I will appeal to all the State Governments to get united and fulfil this national resolution. This year's Budget epitomizes the thrust given to the agriculture and rural development. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for 40 per cent increase in the

allocation of agriculture and irrigation; for lowering the price of urea by seven and half per cent; for lowering the rate of interest on loans; for arranging Rs. 3000 crores as bank loans; for reducing the excise duty on pesticides and thereby making import easier. Keeping in view the problems relating to overdues in cooperative loans, announcement has been made to set up National Agricultural Credit Relief Fund. We hope that as a result of all these steps, the agriculture will get a new direction. At present, the farmers have to go to different agencies to get fertilizer, pesticides and loans etc. Therefore, we want to evolve such a system so that they get single window service facility and do not have to run here and there. Some experiments have been done in this regard, but they had some faults. There is no politics in this, but we want to really help the farmers and provide them facilities so that they have less troubles and will be able to pay more attention to the agriculture. We will try to start some pilot projects immediately in this regard so that according to local conditions, some facilities can be developed. Our farmers have to immediately bring and sell their produce in the market after harvest. We are also thinking to develop such a system by which the farmers will be able to take loans from the financial institution in lieu of their harvest which they will store in their houses. These financial institutions will lock the godowns and in exchange will provide a percentage of the price of produce as loans. Consequently, the farmer will be able to sell his produce at a remunerative price in the market later and thereby withstand fluctuations of the market. We will try to start some pilot project immediately in this regard.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH (Kalserganj) : Will this scheme be different from the old warehousing scheme ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL ; Yes. At present the farmers have to keep their produce in the warehouses and get advance in exchange. As against this, a middleman buys foodgrains from the market and gets 80 per cent loan from the bank against that stock. Similarly we want that the farmer should also get 80 per cent loan

against his produce which he may retain in his house. On an experimental basis, first we will try it in one district from each State and then, will try to regularise this system in the whole country.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Kindly select two districts from those States which produce maximum foodgrains.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We will discuss the details later. The farmer often complain that they are forced to sell their produce cheap and it is the brokers who benefit from the hike in prices later. We will try to help the farmers by eliminating the brokers.

SHRI D. P. YADAVA (Monghyr) : Hon Minister, Sir rate create a big problem.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We will try to find some solution to this problem also. There are pesticides for it and many farmers are using them.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat) : Foodgrains are produced in every State so this system should be regularised in every State.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It is true that foodgrains are produced in every State but 14 States contribute 90 per cent of the total production. Punjab occupies the first place and it produces maximum foodgrains. Uttar Pradesh and Haryana are at a second and third place respectively. Although Haryana is the second biggest contributor to the Central pool but so far as production is concerned, Uttar Pradesh occupies second place. Though Bihar lags far behind in this matters but even then we will regularise this system in Bihar. There are no two opinions that Punjab occupies the first place.

The main aim behind the Government's policy to fix prices of the agricultural product is to enable the producers to get remunerative price for their produce so that they are encouraged to invest and

produce more besides protecting the interests of consumers. Recently, the Government has strengthened the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices. The Commission not only makes a comprehensive over-view of the entire structure of agriculture but also takes into account the changes in terms of trade. While estimating the cost of agricultural produce all expenditure including reasonable amount of profit is kept in view so that the farmer gets remunerative price.

SHRI RANA VIR SINGH (Kaiserganj) : You will perhaps agree that there should be more representatives of the farmers in the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I am coming to that. I will reply to the points raised by many hon. Members later. Not only you, but some other members have also demanded that there should be more representatives of farmers in the Commission. Therefore, our Hon. Prime Minister has decided that 3 out of 5 members in this commission should be farmers. Two farmers are already there. One is the Chairman and the other is a member. They are genuine farmers and we are going to include the third farmer also.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : You have been telling this for the last two years. When are you going to implement this ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We have already appointed two farmers to the Commission and we are going to include the third one also. Earlier it was done on temporary basis, but now it is different.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : Can you tell us the names of the farmers representatives ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : One is the Chairman, Shri Jahl who was the vice-Chancellor of Punjab Agriculture University and another Member is a farmer from Hyderabad.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Will a representative from each of the 16 zones be appointed to this Commission.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I will come to that point later. I am not used to reading prepared text in the House, but as I have to give some figures, it becomes necessary to read it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : Who is the second farmer ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The second farmer is from Hyderabad. We have to appoint yet another farmer.

If you see the data of last few years you will find that in 1975-76, the procurement price of common variety of paddy was Rs. 74 per quintal whereas it has increased to Rs. 150 per quintal in 1987-88. Similarly, the procurement price of wheat, which was Rs. 105 per quintal in 1975-76, increased to Rs. 173 per quintal in 1987-88. The support price of gram, which was Rs. 90 per quintal in 1975-76 rose to Rs. 290 per quintal in 1987-88. The support price of sugarcane, which was Rs. 8.50 per quintal in 1975-76, shot up to Rs. 19 per quintal this year. (F-414/F-717) variety of cotton rose from Rs. 210 to Rs. 440. Jute, has reached to Rs. 240 from Rs. 135; groundnut, has been raised to Rs. 390 per quintal from Rs. 140 per quintal, sunflower oil is also at Rs. 390 from Rs. 150 and the support price of mustard oil has been increased from Rs. 225 to Rs. 430. Similar increase has also taken place in other crops. We should bear in mind that the support price is announced to ensure that prices do not fall below a particular level. But if the market price remains above this, the farmers are free to sell their products in the market. Besides, NAFED and other cooperative societies try to stabilize market prices by purchasing agricultural products and the loss incurred by these societies as a result thereof is borne by the Government.

To give more support to the farmers, Crop Insurance Scheme has been started on the instructions of our Hon. Prime

Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Lakhs of farmers in the country are being benefited under this scheme which is being implemented at a big cost. We want to make this scheme better by rectifying the faults and plugging the loopholes in it. This scheme has been misused in many States and areas and the Government will take necessary steps in this regard. Some days ago, it was reported in a section of press that the Government is going to discontinue this scheme and it was mentioned by some hon. Members also. I want to assure the House that the Government is not discontinuing the scheme and instead is considering the ways to make this scheme more effective.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : It has been discontinued by the Rajasthan Government.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : In this regard, I would like to submit that this Crop Insurance Scheme was started 3 years ago. At that time, many States like Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan etc. did not accept it. I was then the Chief Minister of Haryana and I did not accept it because district was considered to be an unit. That means when the crop of 80 per cent villages of a district would be destroyed, then only compensation would be paid. That is why I did not accept it. I have noted in the file that instead of a district, a village should be considered as an unit. Now a block has been considered as unit. In one block, there 80 to 100 villages. This scheme is still under our consideration. Our Hon. Prime Minister has set up a committee comprising a group of Ministers, three or four of whom are seasoned Ministers, to find ways to implement this scheme. In my opinion, *Patwar* circle should be considered as an unit.

You are aware that revenue records are maintained in the *Patwar* circle. Each *Patwar* consists of two to three small villages. We are considering an arrangement under which compensation may be given to 2-3 villages, in case their crop is damaged. Besides, there are various other shortcomings in it. Only those farmers are covered under this scheme who take

loans, and the rest who do not take any loans are left aside. We want that all the farmers should be covered under this scheme. Premium would be charged from them so that every farmer who suffers loss may get full compensation. We will soon take a decision on this.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : You will take action only when the recently formed Committee gives its report. But the question is why does the Government not allow Crop Insurance Scheme, to continue in those States where it had been implemented for one year but was later discontinued or withdrawn ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I want to submit that we will soon take a decision on it.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : You should enact such a law which would make it obligatory to all the State Governments to enforce this scheme.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Now all the State Governments will accept it. Earlier, certain States had refused to accept it because a district was considered as a unit and the States had suggested that the village should be made a unit. Therefore, now we are going to make the *Patwar* circle as a unit, so you need not worry. We are soon going to take a decision on it.

Remarkable work has been done in the field of milk production, which has been appreciated all over the world. A programme, 'Operation Flood' was launched in 1970, under which integrated facilities of milk production, collection and marketing etc. were made available in the field of dairy co-operative. Now-a-days the third phase of this scheme, Operation Flood III is under way, which will be complete in 1994. The total expenditure on this scheme is Rs. 915 crores, out of which Rs. 486 crores will be provided by the World Bank as assistance. Apart from this, an agreement with E.E.C. has been recently signed which would provide an aid of Rs. 220 crores.

Remarkable development has taken

place in the field animal husbandry in our country. The main aim of the animal husbandry programme is to increase the production of milk, eggs, wool etc. The production of milk has increased by two-and-a-half times, of eggs by 100 times and that of wool by one and a half times in the post independence years. Besides, different programmes are functioning successfully for the improvement of crops and for preventing animal diseases etc. Embryo transfer technology too has been examined successfully in the country. The establishment of a technology mission in the field of animal husbandry is under consideration.

Special achievements have been made in the field of fisheries. The production of fish at the time of independence was almost negligible. At present it has increased to more than 28 lakh tonnes, which includes more than 10 lakh tonnes of inland water fish and more than 18 lakh tonnes of sea fish. 200 F.F.D.A. are working in the country. The Government is undertaking different schemes for the welfare and economic development of 71 lakh fishermen. At present the export of fish and fish products is worth more than Rs. 450 crores in our country. It would not be in exaggeration to say that after Green Revolution and White Revolution we are now moving towards 'Blue Revolution.'

The Government has started various schemes for the eradication of poverty, like I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P., D.D.P. and D.P.A.P. etc. It has always been the endeavour of the Government to ensure that these programmes are implemented at an accelerated pace. I am happy to say that we had made a provision of Rs. 2995 crores for the N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. under the Seventh Five Year Plan but Rs. 3578 crores which is nearly 120 per cent of the total Plan provision have already been spent in the first three years. Similarly, Rs. 1259.43 crores have been allocated for these two schemes for the year 1988-89. Thus the total expenditure on these schemes in the first four years comes to Rs. 4837.29 crores, which is 162 per cent of the total provision in this regard during the Seventh Five-Year Plan.

[Shri Bhajan Lal]

While presenting the Budget of 1988-89 the Hon. Minister of Finance announced a scheme of sinking 10 lakhs wells for the welfare of marginal farmers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, who are below poverty line. These wells will be dug free of cost. The Department of Rural Development has fixed Statewise targets in agreement with the States. An amount of Rs. 500 crores too has been sanctioned for the scheme during the year 1988-89. I request the State Governments to accelerate the scheme so that the aim of upliftment of the poor and increase in agriculture production may be achieved. We would also try to help the farmers in installing necessary equipment on these wells for irrigation.

Regarding these wells I would also like to add that we will reconsider this programme of sinking 10 lakh wells. We want to instal a complete tubewell set for the farmer so that he may get the full benefit. This is under active consideration.

SHRI D.P. YADAVA : Funds should not be granted for old wells.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : That is what I mean to say. There is no point in merely sinking the wells and giving them to the farmers, unless we provide them equipment to draw out water from them.

AN HON. MEMBER : The dug-wells often fail.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We will make provis on for that also, and in case they fail, the Government will provide them more.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : The contractors will pocket whole amount, but water will not be available.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We will try our level best to make use of the available water. Besides I forget to say one thing which I would like to mention now.

During the Seventh Five Year Plan

the target was to create 246 crore mandays of employment. Thus, during the Plan approximately 50 crore mandays were to be created every year. In fact, 70 crore mandays were created in 1986-87. We have not yet received the statics for the year 1987-88 from the States, but we hope that the same number of mandays will be available even this year.

This Integrated Rural Development Programme has been functioning since the past seven years and its progress is worth appreciation. 2.6 crore families have been benefited by this programme so far. Our of these, approximately 1.10 crore families have been benefited in the first three years of the Seventh Five Year Plan. The beneficiaries include 40 per cent Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. A provision of Rs. 1187 00 crores has been made for this programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan. On adding the amount allocated for the year 1988-89, the approximate expenditure of the first four years comes to nearly Rs. 1175 crores. Even since this programme has been launched assets worth Rs. 9239 crores have been provided to the beneficiaries. Out of this Rs. 5880 crores have been provided as bank loans and the rest Rs. 3359 crore as grants. It is not an easy task to give such a huge amount as loans. Along with this, huge amount of subsidy has also been given to the poor.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Regarding subsidy we feel that it should be stopped because it spreads corruption. I would like that you should rather make the loans interest free.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I shall come to that latter. The Government has started a massive programme for the supply of water in the rural areas. The technology mission in this regard has accelerated its progress. There is a provision of Rs. 1275.50 crores for this programme in the Seventh Five Year Plan. If the allocation for 1988-89 is also included the estimated expenditure during the first four years comes to Rs. 1357.98 crores which is more than the total provision for it in the whole plan. At the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, nearly 1.62 lakhs villages

were problem ridden. The problems of nearly one lakh villages have been fully resolved in the first three years of the Plan. Efforts are being made to solve the problems of the rest of the 62, thousand villages too in the next two years. The Government of India is sure that leaving aside 3000 to 4000 villages situated in inaccessible area it will be able to solve the problem of supply of water in the rest of the village by the end of this Plan. Barring these villages, no other village will have the problem of drinking water.

It has also been decided to monitor the Rural Development programmes effectively in order to accelerate them. At the end of 1987-88, the Central Government introduced computerization in the country. This scheme has progressed a great deal now and within the next 2-3 months all the districts in the country will have computers.

I would like to submit a few points about Agriculture Research and education. As I have already clarified earlier, keeping in view the limited resources and increasing population, we have to formulate our policy in such a manner that the forthcoming production moves vertically, that is, upwards because the land is limited. In other words, we have to increase the production and for this research is quite important. I would like to congratulate our talented scientists because the credit of green revolution and of strengthening the agricultural situation goes to them. They have another challenge before them today.

We also have to bear in mind that we should make use of the new technology in such a manner so that the natural resources and environment are not destroyed. We have to discover such a technique for the farmer which may decrease the cost and increase the production. Along with this, we should also consider as to how make this technique reach the farmer easily. We also have to improve other means of increasing a farmer's income, like-dairy, poultry, fisheries etc. In all, we have to develop an integrated approach to improve the economic condition of the farmers. Besides, new seeds and varieties have to be

developed through research which may not be susceptible to climatic changes and diseases for raising the agricultural production in the shortest time.

Keeping these things in view a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.V.K. Rao some time back to review the working of I.C.A.R. and give recommendations to the Government in order to make it more effective. This Committee has recently submitted its report to the Government and my Ministry is making a detailed study of it now-a-days. The effort of the Government is to review the whole system and streamline it.

Some hon. Members have mentioned about Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Indian Council of Agricultural Research has set up 89 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (K.V.K.) and 9 Teacher's a Training Centre (I.T.C.) in the Country. Government desires to set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country but due to resource constraint it is not possible at present to do so. As soon as additional resources become available the Government will ponder over the issue sympathetically.

I do not want to repeat the achievements made by the Department of Agricultural Research and Education because they are given in the Department's Annual Report. Especially the Department has developed better varieties of seeds of Paddy, Wheat, Pulses, Coarse Grains, Maize and *Jawar* Barley, Fodder etc. and has also recommended their release in the market. The production of breeder seeds is also satisfactory. Research work on a number of subjects like developing insecticides and weedicide for crop protection; identifying areas to produce disease resistant seeds; checking the menace of rats and identifying the disease before it spreads is in progress.

Commendable success has been achieved in the production of oil seeds under the "Technology Mission" launched by the Hon. Prime Minister. Despite severe drought conditions last year, the production of oil-seeds is encouraging. Lot of work has been done in the fields of

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horticulture, soil testing, animal husbandry and fisheries.

This year my Ministry especially wants to work on "Dry Land Farming" and promote it, so as to improve production through efficient use of Science and Technology in drought affected areas. The Government also desires to make full use of advanced technology to tap every drop of water. Similarly, the Government is desirous of making efficient use of fertilisers in conformity with the needs of the soil.

In the last few years and especially after independence remarkable progress has been made in the production of fertilisers in the country. The production capacity of nitrogen fertiliser has risen from 17,000 tonnes in 1950-51 to 74.80 lakh tonnes as on 31 March, 1988. The production of nitrogen has gone up from 10,000 tonnes in the year 1950-51 to 54.7 lakh tonnes in 1987-88.

The production capacity of phosphatic fertiliser shot up from 20 thousand tonnes in 1950-51 to 26 lakh tonnes in 1987-88 and output during the period increased from 8,000 tonnes to 16.65 lakh tonnes.

Since the first year of First Five Year Plan i.e. 1951-52 to 1987-88 the consumption of fertiliser increased by 137 times in the country.

Greater self-sufficiency has been achieved in the production of fertilisers in the country since independence. In the first two Five Year Plans 50 per cent of the fertiliser requirement was met by imports. The dependence on imports declined to 25 to 30 per cent in the Sixth Five Year Plan. As against this in 1986-87 and 1987-88, 95 per cent of the demand for nitrogenous fertiliser area was met indigenously.

The Government is also conscious of its responsibility to make maximum utilisation of the production capacity installed in fertiliser plants and to improve the production process. It achieved

remarkable success in this regard in the year 1987-88.

The hon. Members may be aware that the "Administered Price" policy is in vogue in the fertiliser industry. Though the production cost of urea in the country is Rs. 3241 per tonne but the farmers gets it for Rs. 2350 per tonne. Rest of the burden of the production cost is being borne by the Government. The hon. Members may be aware that in the Budget the price of urea has been reduced by 7.5 per cent, as a result of which the price of a urea bag has declined by Rs. 8.80 p. The production cost of D.A.P. fertiliser in the country is Rs. 4166 per tonnes, but it is sold to the farmers at the rate of Rs. 3000 per tonne. As a result of these concessions the Government every year pays subsidy to the tune of Rs. 3000 crore.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh): I want a clarification. Is this discount of 7.5 per cent in the price of fertiliser for the coming Kharif and Rabi sowings only or is it for all times to come?

Secondly, the hon. Minister of Finance it had stated that industry is going to bear this burden, but now the industry is demanding reimbursement from the Government. So who is going to bear the burden, the Government or the industry?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: Rao Sahib. The farmers will get fertilisers at the reduced price.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is all right.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: You wanted to know whether this would remain in force only for Kharif and Rabi sowing or for all times to come. We will try to make it a regular feature. It is a different matter if in future price fluctuates.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This was in the Budget speech. I only wanted a clarification.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The Budget Speech has mentioned that it would be in force for the coming season..... (Interruptions) However the Government will try to make it a regular feature.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : I want one clarification from you. Is this 7.5 per cent only a bonus? The old price is still printed on bags of urea, though manufacturers have been asked to sell it at a reduced price. So has the Government issued orders for 7.5 per cent permanent reduction?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It is not the question of bonus. We will sell urea at a reduced price. The price of each bag will be reduced by Rs. 8.80. The bag selling at Rs. 115 will be sold at reduced price i.e. Rs. 8.80 less. Farmers will get the fertiliser at reduced price, whosoever bears the burden, whether it is the Government or the industry. A meeting on the issue with the Finance Minister is in progress.

SHRI TAPESHWAR SINGH (Bikramganj) : Mr. Minister, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister has given concession of 7.5 per cent only on urea. Will this concession be extended to all types of fertilisers?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We will act according to the instructions of the hon. Minister of Finance which he has made in the Budget Speech... (Interruptions). To promote the consumption of fertilisers in the country and to fix their prices a committee was set up by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. G.V.K. Rao. This committee concluded that besides other things dual price policy is impractical. It has also given many suggestions to the Government. The Government is giving a serious thought to the recommendations of the Committee.

The Government is also taking every possible step to make available fertilisers at low price in the remote areas and the areas where demand is low. This is the reason why the Government gives transport subsidy on fertilisers. The Government is also trying to minimise the transportation distances so as to reduce the transport subsidy to the minimum level.

While speaking on the Demands for Grants of my Ministry, many hon. Members have given very good suggestions. Before dwelling on any other issue I would like to throw some light, in one or two minutes, on the programme regarding women, youths and children. The Government is fully sized of the programmes it is running for women and youth. To augment the income of women, financial assistance is being provided to them by the Department of Rural Development under the programme named "Dwarika". In 1988-89, 7000 groups of women will be formed to give assistance to 50 thousand women. To provide amenities to women, toilets are being constructed in villages under the rural development programme. Under village water supply scheme special emphasis is being laid to ameliorate the condition of women so that they need not walk long distances to fetch water. There is also a programme to improve the lot of children. There are special arrangements for youth training and self-employment under the programme called TRYSEM. After imparting training under TRYSEM efforts are made to provide self employment to them under IRDP or other programmes... (Interruptions)

Now I would like to throw some light on the issues raised by the hon. Members. (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the first to participate in the debate was Shri V. Rao who made very useful suggestions and raised very important issues, whether it was reduction of interest on bank loans, losses due to natural calamities, hailstorm or writing off loans. Among other things he also raised the issue of delay in loans to farmers, more facilities to cotton growers and crop insurance. Beside him, other hon. Members like Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan, Shri Sode Ramaiah, Shri R.S. Mane and Shri Zainal Abedin also expressed their views. Shrimati Basavarajeswari and Shri K. Mohandas also participated in the debate. I have already replied to the issues raised by them, but I would like to elaborate on two three points here. Shri Rao said that cotton crop has been ruined in his State and some people have been committed suicide. The Hon. Prime Minister has already provided some assistance from the

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Prime Minister's Relief Fund. The hon. Members may be aware of the difficulties that the farmers have to undergo when their crops are ruined. The Government will try to cover cotton, sugarcane, wheat, gram and rice in the crop insurance scheme. Mention has also been made to cover tobacco, chilly, groundnut mustard and other crops under this scheme. The effort of the Government will be to cover as many crops as possible under the crop insurance scheme. The august house knows how much Government is worried about the welfare of the farmers. Farmers are the backbone of the nation. They have earned a good name for the country. The Government will try its best to help the farmers. So far as writing off loans is concerned we do not approve of the way it has been done in Haryana by Chaudhary Devi Lal. He has publicised all over the country that he has written off the loans. I invite you to visit Haryana—which is not far away from Delhi and ask the farmers there, whether Chaudhary Devi Lal has actually written off their loans? Even if one farmer says so, it can be declared in the House that Bhajan Lal is a liar. Not a single farmer can truthfully say that his debt has been waived. They say that they have fulfilled all their promises. Their mouths cannot be sealed but it is a fact no loan has been written off. This is the way people are being deceived. Can anyone waive a huge sum amounting to Rs. 1200 crores? If debt waiver had been so easy, would Shri Rama Rao of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Hegde of Karnataka, Shri Barnala of Punjab or the Chief Minister of West Bengal remain behind.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Actually our Government has given some relief to the farmers earlier in respect of payment of dues to the cooperative institutions. Our Government has given some concessions in the form of interest waiver earlier. This is a particular case of cotton growers which is unique only to Prakasam and Guntur districts. My submission again to you is that kindly do not treat this as a general issue. Prof. Ranga knew well this prob-

lem. You can have a discussion with him. Kindly write off at least the interest part, if not the principal. Otherwise, the cotton growers will be put in such a situation whereby they can never raise their heads again.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: I want to say something to Shri Rao. Our hon. Prime Minister made an announcement in Andhra Pradesh regarding relief to farmers in respect of payment of dues. This happened during a 'Kisan Sammelan' where I was also present. He said that the farmer could not stand the burden of paying compound interest on the amount of loan. Now they will not be charged compound interest on the amount of loan taken. In areas affected by two consecutive years of drought, loans repayable in 6 months will now be repayable within 7 years. Similarly, for loans repayable in 3 years could now be repaid in 10 years span of time. Rate of interest has been reduced from 12½% to 10%. The Government has given whatever concessions it could but efforts will be made to see if anything can be done further. But waiver of loans is just not possible. If this is put into a practice the Government will be left with no money even to pay salaries to employees. The country will become insolvent (Interruptions) Orders to this effect have been sent to all states. In Rajasthan the time-limit has been increased to 10 years.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat): There was a hail-storm in Haryana. A large number of sheep and goats have died. People have filed petitions. Farmers have been given some compensation. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: A report on the areas affected by drought or hail-storms is sent by respective State Governments to the Centre in a form of memorandum. On receiving the memorandum a Central team is sent to conduct a on-the-spot study of the situation. The Government extends whatever assistance is needed. (Interruptions) This is also

a State subject. This should be done by the State. Cases of house collapses should be reported to the Centre. All such problems have not been received in the form of a memorandum. Memorandum on drought were sent earlier. No new memorandum has been received till now.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : They are more interested in affecting defections. Why should he bother with hallstorms ? The Haryana Chief Minister is busy in making ministers (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BHAIAN LAL : Shri Shaha-buddin mentioned something about pesticides. To that I replied that the Government will ensure the timely supply of pesticides to farmers. Shri Mohandas mentioned coconut farming and Shri Rai spoke about the quality of seeds.

[*English*]

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Special steps will have to be taken to prevent the adulteration.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAIAN LAL : The Government will tackle adulteration problem on a vigorous footing and those indulging in this malpractice will be prosecuted. In this context the State of Punjab was mentioned. Much before the hon. Member brought up this matter, the Government had already arrested 14 people after conducting inquiries, registered cases against them and cancelled their licences.

[*English*]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why don't you bring it under the Essential Commodities Act ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHAIAN LAL : An Act already exists for this propose. There is provision for imprisonment ranging from 2 years to 7 years for those who adulterate fertilisers. Shri Raju spoke about bettering the conditions of cattle. Similarly, Shri Surendra

Pal Singh spoke of reducing the number of cattle in order to reduce burden on land. It is not proper to reduce the number of cattle because milk production has to be increased. For the last 3-4 years Rajasthan and Gujarat have been affected by drought. As it is, plenty of cattle have perished. Therefore, the Government will concentrate more on saving the crops likely to be damaged by the cattle.

Shri Rao said that the scheme of setting up agricultural Research Centres should be expanded so that people living in distant places can be better informed. Through a meeting of universities it has been decided to take the benefits of these Centres to the common man which would ultimately increase agricultural yield.

Besides other things, Shri Abbasi spoke of establishment of customduty centres for fish at the block level. Shri Mane and Sri Rameshwar Neckhra spoke, among other things, about use of machines for harvesting crops and relaxation of customs duty on farm implements. These points have been taken care of in the Budget.

Shri Uttam Rathod spoke on crop insurance schemes to which I have replied in detail. Shri Somnath Rath also spoke on these same issues. Similarly, Shri Nityananda Misra spoke on Land reforms. Regarding this I want to say that land reforms have been undertaken on an elaborate scale. But there are some States where work remains to be done at desired level. As you know, at many places where land is rendered surplus, people move the courts and obtain a stay-order. This delays the work. The State Governments have been directed to engage Government lawyers for the speedy disposal of these cases so that this land can be distributed among the poor and landless.

Shri Jujhar Singh also spoke on land reforms. Shri Vijayaraghavan spoke of giving direction and providing employment to the Scheduled Castes.

The Government will seriously look into the matters relating to crop insurance schemes, increasing agricultural produc-

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tion and providing employment opportunities.

Shri Virldhi Chander Jain raised some points relating to drought relief in Rajasthan. The position is that Central assistance amounting to Rs. 1512 crores and 95 lakhs has been sanctioned as a whole for the country for the period between July 1987 and 30 June, 1988. This does not include flood relief. 35% of this sum, which comes to Rs. 507 crores and 17 lakhs, has been given to Rajasthan alone. The hon. Member said that 67 districts are affected by drought. Out of these the 11 districts are partially affected and situation in 73 blocks is critical. Out of this, 6 districts and 37 blocks of Rajasthan have been identified as areas reeling under severe drought and there relief is being provided at large scale. The Government is giving financial assistance for provision of cattle fodder at the rate of Rs. 4/- per cattle. Another point he raised pertains to the quality of foodgrain consumed by people there. He has alleged that the people have contracted 'night-blindness' due to lack of protein in the foodgrains and many people have even gone blind. It is well-known that the Government has opened 'Fair-Price Shops' everywhere and all facilities are available through them. When the hon. Member raised this question in the House earlier the State Government was contacted, they were directed to supply milk, butter and pulses to people as a precautionary measure against blindness. Let me tell the hon. Member that I am also related to Rajasthan. The hon. Member also said that a sum of Rs. 58 crores remains to be paid. Under directions from the hon. Prime Minister a Central team will visit Rajasthan and Gujarat in 2-4 days. All efforts will be made to extend help as quickly as possible. Efforts will be made to take decision within a month.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : This is the first team's report. Rs. 137 crores have been received out of Rs. 195 crores and Rs. 58 crores is yet to be paid.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The hon.

member knows that Governmental decisions are not based on the team's report alone. A highlevel committee has been set up to take a second look at the situation. The opinion of this committee is considered before taking a final decision. The hon. Member need not worry. The Government is alive to the gravity of the situation in Rajasthan and Gujarat. Even after this, if no assistance is given the hon. Member is welcome to voice his opinion.

SHRI VIRLDHI CHANDER JAIN : The Study Committee had recommended Rs. 195 crores but only Rs. 137 crores were sanctioned. The balance of Rs. 58 crores must be sanctioned without further delay. The hon. Minister himself made an announcement to this effect.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : No such announcement was made by me. I agree with the hon. Member when he says that only Rs. 137 crores have been given. With regard to remaining amount of Rs. 58 crores, my sympathy goes to you and the Prime Minister has himself said.
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : No payment has been made to labourers for the past one month. What about that ?

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Two meetings on drought situation were held under the hon. Prime Minister's chairmanship. The responsibility has now been handed over to secretaries. Shri Shastri and Shri Pande are incharge of this work. This is not the right time for me to make any announcements. If I make an announcement rightnow, there will not be any need to send a committee. While eating mangoes, why should one concern oneself with counting the number of trees which produced those mangoes ? The hon. member should trust the Government. Points have also been raised by Shri Kamla Prasad, Shri Ram Prakash, Shri L. P. Singh Deo, Shri Bharat Singh, Shri Pandey and Shri Kabuli. (Interruptions)

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : A big state like Jammu and Kashmir does

not have a fertilizer plant till now. The fertilizers as well as fruit industry in the State is in the peril. The Government seems oblivious to this long standing demand of the State.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Fertilizer consumption in Jammu and Kashmir is 30,000 tonnes only whereas a factory produces a minimum of 3-4 lakh tonnes per annum.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : A separate scheme will have to be made for that area. Being a hilly area it includes Himachal and Western Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : If the consumption in the State is 30,000 tonnes, what is one to do with the remaining 2 lakh and 70,000 tonnes ? It cannot be sent to Punjab or Haryana as these States have their own factories. Perhaps the only alternative is to cart the entire load down to Kanyakumari.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : The Centre overlooks the fact that so much of land is lying waste in Jammu and Kashmir. This clearly shows the Government's inability to use land to its optimum capacity.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It is not like that fertilizer is costlier in Jammu and Kashmir and cheaper in Kandi. The Government is supplying fertilizer throughout India at the same rate by giving subsidy on it. The Government gives a subsidy of Rs. 400 crore annually for meeting the cartage charges also. So question of injustice doesn't arise. About water and fertilizer.....

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : I said that there is climatic area and the hilly area. Our area is.....

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : The climatic conditions are there in all states. Some of the States might have been cut into two parts i. e., the plain area and the hilly area. There are some hilly areas in Haryana also which adjoin with Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, and

the plain areas such as Moreni and Kuchhmaidani adjoin Punjab. The Government will reconsider about such areas. If there is any problem with any particular state, We will try to solve that problem.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : The Government have no criteria for identifying the real marginal farmers. The big farmers claim themselves to be as marginal farmers.....

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : We have received such complaints from Rajasthan also.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : The Farm Training Centres opened in districts have totally failed to bring desired result. It should be made obligatory on the part of the Research Centre so opened to provide training also to the marginal farmers if they so desire. What happens today is that the big farmers take maximum benefits of these facilities by sending their own men working as tillers and labourers on their farm, the marginal farmers do not find themselves in this position.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : You have rightly said that it should be made obligatory on the part of Research Centres. The Government would try to do this. We want to run such centres all over the country.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : There is yet another programme, Oil Seed Development. This should also be run on the same pattern.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not a place for dialogue. You cannot go on raising everything. You started with clarifications...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Shri K. P. Singh Deo has also said that more incentive should be given to the backward areas and Agriculture Research Centres should be opened. The Government

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would consider the matter and would try to open at least one Agriculture Research Centre in each district so that the farmers can get some knowledge of agriculture science. As far as your definition of marginal and small farmers is concerned, it may be correct at some places but it may not be at other places e.g. in Rajasthan, generally every farmer have 5-10 hectares of land, but the farmers do not get full benefit of the land due to shortage of water. There the only source of irrigation is rain. We have called a meeting for this and have asked the Department to re-examine it.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : But I am from Madhya Pradesh and not from Kashmir.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : I know you very well. We will devise ways and means as to how we can supply water to the uneven land because there is shortage of water.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : I have mentioned about the fruit industry.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : An hon. Member has said that the schemes meant for small farmers is not satisfactory and the rate of interest is very high. The Government will consider it and do whatever it can. Shri K. J. Abbasi has also drawn the attention of the Government that timely assistance is not provided to farmers and his area suffered a heavy loss due to floods etc. He has also demanded that for the development of agriculture, more and more Agro-Centres should be opened and tractors should be made available to farmers on rent and the Government should establish tractor centres for this purpose. Due to hailstorm, crops of farmers have destroyed, therefore, the rate of interest of the loans given to them should be lowered. As I have already stated that the Government have already lowered the rate of interest and in addition to it, we will help the farmers, whatever we can do for them we will certainly do. An hon. Member has said that per hectare production in India is less as compared to other countries of the world, I agree with him. This is because of application of

fertilizer in very little quantity in our country. The consumption of fertilizer in foreign countries is 350 to 400 kilograms per hectare, whereas it is only 51 kilograms per hectare in our country. You can very well imagine the situation from this difference. This situation can very well be compared with a person addicted to opium. With the passage of time the quantum of dose of the opium increases to meet his requirement. So, is the case with our fields also. We have to go on increasing the requirements of fertilizers with the passage of time if we want to increase our production because our land has turned into a fertilizer addict. The way we affected reduction in prices of fertilizer by giving subsidy on it we expect that farmers will increase production by using more fertilizers. The very purpose of giving this subsidy is to enable the farmers to increase their production and get more benefit out of this.

Many hon. Members have also made mention of the coconut crop and fishery in this House. As I have already stated, we have prepared many schemes in this regard and the production will increase with the implementation of these schemes. The demand for early fixing of the prices of cotton and making payment of arrears of sugarcane to farmers was also raised in this House. The Government will not only try to make early payment of arrears to farmers but it will also ensure that adequate and timely supply of electricity may be made to the farmers. A mention was also made about the Agro-Processing Agency. We would try our best to give to farmers every possible facility in this field also. The mention was made about the horticulture also. In this connection I am to state that the Government have been giving subsidy to increase the consumption of fertilizers. The House is aware that a subsidy of 3 thousand crore rupees is given every year by the Government. Nevertheless, the Government have appointed a Committee which will devise ways and means as to how farmers can be directly benefited from it. Only then, our farmers would be able to know how much grant is being given to them by Government in the form of subsidy. Otherwise, the farmers think that the prices of fertilizer are low and Government is

doing nothing for them. In this way, no credit is given to the Government for the subsidy of 3 thousand crore rupees.

The hon. Member, Shri Basavraj has said that agriculture loan should be given to farmers and Shri Krishan Rao has also raised some points that irrigation facilities and seed and fertilizers should be made available to farmers in time. Choudhri Birender Singh had particularly mentioned about the subsidy and suggested that its benefits should directly go into the hands of farmers. He has also made mention of two fertilizers factories. I will get all these things checked and if any officer is found guilty, stern action will be taken against him. An hon. Member has suggested that instead of depending upon export, we should increase our own production. I want to tell him that we have made every possible effort to increase our production and as a result of which, we have been able to make export of some items. Shri Tapeswar Singh has mentioned about cooperatives and losses suffered by farmers due to hailstorms. Shri Tripathi has demanded that more mini kits should be made available to farmers. In addition to these suggestions, Shri Yadav and Shri Ramoowalia have also given very valuable suggestions. A suggestion to celebrate this year as "Kisan Year" and to give more facilities to farmers in this year was also made. The Government would seriously consider about the suggestions made by these hon. Members.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Please make a declaration about the 'Kisan Year'.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : It is not proper to make any announcement about 'Kisan Year' in the House. But what can be done in this regard will be informed to you in this very House, Shri Ayyub Khan, while making mention of drought in Rajasthan, has drawn the attention of the Government towards the protection of live stocks, depleting water level of wells and non-availability of electricity in Rajasthan and suggested that the whole expenditure incurred on digging wells should be borne by the Government. We will give a serious thought to the suggestion put forward by the hon. Member. In this connection,

I am to assure the House that Government will leave no stone unturned & try its best to give maximum benefits to farmers. At last, I would like to submit that all the demands for grants presented in the House are very reasonable and these will be helpful for increasing the production of foodgrains. Shri Rana Sahab has also given very valuable suggestions and the Government will consider these suggestions seriously. The suggestions made by hon. Members are very valuable and the Government will give a serious thought to these suggestions and make every possible effort to fulfil them so that the hon. Members may not have any chance to make complaints during the discussion on demands for grants of this Ministry next year.

With these words, I request the august House to approve the demands for grant unanimously.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now I shall put all the cut motions to Demands Nos. 1 to 5 to vote unless any hon. Member specifically says that his cut motions may be put separately.

All the cut motions were put and negatived

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the consolidated Fund of India to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1989, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands Nos. 1 to 5 relating to the Ministry of Agriculture."

The motion was adopted.

Demands for Grants for 1988-89 in respect of Ministry of Agriculture voted by the Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grant on account voted by the House on 18th March 1988	Amount of Demand for Grant voted by the House
1	2	3	4
		Revenue Rs.	Revenue Rs.
		Capital Rs.	Capital Rs.
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1.	Agriculture	67,60,00,000	337,98,00,000
		1,24,00,000	6,19,00,000
2.	Other Services of Department of Agriculture and Cooperation	42,40,00,000	211,99,00,000
		29,34,00,000	148,73,00,000
3.	Department of Agricultural Research and Education	33,53,00,000	167,64,00,000
	
4.	Department of Rural Development	778,13,00,000	1441,23,00,000
		5,00,000	25,00,000
5.	Department of Fertilizers	898,42,00,000	2740,07,00,000
		70,67,00,000	353,34,00,000