

[Sh. K.P. Singh Deo]

The need of the hour, apart from immediate short-term measures is to take up permanent preventive measures to combat drought, flood and cyclone. This can be made possible by commissioning massive programmes, on a war footing within a stipulated time frame and programme with adequate financial support from the Central Government for improving the ecological, environmental health of the State and augmenting assured irrigational potentials of the State with immediate effect.

This will result in not only providing gainful employment to poor people, rural labour but would also husband the vast unutilised water resources for productive purposes, create permanent assets and be an insurance against drought and flood.

(viii) Need to stop import of launches and to purchase them from Indian manufacturers

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBBC) is making efforts for the import of ten launchers from Singapore at a cost of Rupees Five or Six Crores for anti-smuggling operations. M/s Alcock Ashdown, Bhavanagar in the State of Gujarat, a company owned by Government of India, has manufactured in the last one year about ten Launchers of the same type and delivered to the CBBC. These launchers have been in use for quite sometime and their performance has been evaluated by a Committee.

In the year 1974 Government has imported twenty speed boats at a cost of ten or twelve crores of rupees out of which only six or seven alone are in working condition and the rest are not repairable for want of spare parts and the company from which these were imported has gone into liquidation.

Such a thing should not be repeated.

Efforts should be continued to build up indigenous capacity to construct boats and thereby save valuable foreign exchange. Hence it is desirable to stop import of the Boats from other countries and purchase them from Indian manufacturers only.

[*Translation*]

(ix) Need to fix the purchase price of opium keeping in view the prevalent price in the open market and to announce the same immediately

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Opium cultivation is done in Mandsaur-Javara region of Madhya Pradesh and it is a traditional crop. The Government has admitted time and again that the cost of its cultivation has been increased. The prices of opium have not been raised in proportion to the cost of production. It is necessary that the new price of opium be fixed keeping in view of the prevalent price in the open market in the interest of the farmers. The price policy being followed for the last several years may please be done away with. Under the present price policy called the "slab system" farmers producing more opium get less price and smuggling is encouraged. This negative policy should be radically changed. Besides this, the Government should announce the licencing and price policy for the year 1987-88 in September 1987 itself so that the farmers can make preparation for its cultivation. It is almost certain that due to failure of monsoon this year, the opium cultivators will be adversely affected. The Government should also assure that due to failure of monsoon the licences of opium producing farmers will not be cancelled in 1987-88 and all those farmers will be issued licences in 1988-89 who produced 32 kilograms of opium per hectare on an average and sup-