

[*English*]

- (xv) **Need to write off Agriculture Tax as well as the loan instalments of IRDP from the farmers of South Arcot District in Tamil Nadu in view of the drought in that district**

DR. P. VALLAL PERUMAN (Chidambaram): In view of the aggravating drought situation faced by the small agriculturists, Landless Labour and other weaker sections of society in the South Arcot district in Tamil Nadu, I would request the Central Government to issue orders immediately to write off Agriculture Tax as also Loan instalments to be repaid by these people taken by them against IRDP. Necessary urgent steps should be taken to provide drought relief measures to these affected people before the whole district is gripped with famine, starvation and other calamities.

[*Translation*]

- (xvi) **Need for construction of Bilaspur-Mungeli-Mandla-Jabalpur Railway Line to connect Raipur**

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, relief work is being undertaken on a large scale by the Government in present drought situation. While giving priority to the problem of drinking water, the relief works should be carried on in such a way that they should have far-reaching effects and stand in good stead in future also.

In this connection I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards District Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh and request that the construction of the Bilaspur-Mungeli-Mandla-Jabalpur Railway line may be undertaken on priority basis for which the

Government has since accorded permission to conduct necessary survey.

Similarly, Raipur may be linked with railway line by connecting C.C.I., Raymond, Modi Cement Factories from Akaltara Champa. This will help in connecting all the cement factories in Bilaspur and Raipur districts with direct rail line because they fall in the same belt and with this, track for other passenger trains will be available without any hindrance and help traffic movement and transportation of goods. Since Bilaspur division provides 1/9th of total revenue of Railways to the country, the above railway lines will help development of the entire district and provide employment to the people. It will be a national achievement and help transporting coal, steel and aluminium.

[*English*]

- (xvii) **Need to bring legislation to levy tax on consignment of goods taking place in the course of Inter-state Trade and Commerce**

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani): In 1979, Haryana Government promulgated the Haryana Taxation (on certain goods carried by roads), Ordinance, 1979 which enabled them to levy tax on transfer of goods from Haryana. It was done as many industrialists having factories in Faridabad, Bahadurgarh and other towns of Haryana kept their head offices at Delhi and showed the goods produced in their factories as transferred to Delhi, to their head office. The sales of these goods were thereafter shown from Delhi, with the result that the State Government neither got sales tax, nor share of their Income Tax, as income tax was levied by offices functioning in Delhi. This resulted in huge losses of tax to Haryana. The ordinance was to remedy this situation. The ordinance was allowed to lapse as transfer of goods was not covered by defini-

[Sh. Ram Narain Singh]

tion of 'sale' and 'purchase', and unless the Constitution was amended, such transfer of goods could not be taxed.

As the same problem was faced by other States, the Central Government was approached for amending the Constitution, which was done by the 46th Amendment in February 1983. The power of levying tax on such transfers was given to Union Government. Thus, tax on consignment goods could be levied only by Central Government: either by amending the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956 or by passing another law. In the first four years, the necessity for levying the tax on inter-State consignment arose in view of the large scale evasion of tax taking place in the garb of branch transfer/consignment sales.

The Conference of Chief Ministers held in May, 1984 also approved the levy of tax on the consignment of goods taking place in the course of inter-State trade and commerce.

The joint meeting of the four Regional Councils for Sales Tax and State Excise Duties held on 30.9.1985 and 1.10.1985 also discussed this. This representatives of almost all the States, as also the Planning Commission and NDC requested Central Government to expedite the legislation on this account.

It is requested that the legislation be brought immediately.

(xviii) Need to settle the demands of University and College Teachers

PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The continued strike of college

and university teachers has created a very difficult situation, paralysing the entire academic activity in the university and colleges all over the country. While the teachers are demanding the end to multiplicity of grades as per Government's decision on Mehrotra Committee report and 100% Central assistance to the States for improving the salaries of the teachers, the Central Government is still not entering into negotiations. This rigidity on both sides should be eased out, through negotiations.

The Government should take the initiative and start a dialogue with the teachers, and the teachers should also respond and end the stalemate.

(xix) Need to finalise the report of Journalists Wage Board at an early date

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, The Journalists' Wage Board was appointed on 17th July 1985 in response to the long-standing demand of the journalist community of the country. The term of the Board was one year. But it failed to submit its report in time, and its term was extended for another six months i.e. upto 31st August 1987. The extended term is to expire within a few days. But it is a matter of great concern that the Committee has not yet completed its hearing, thereby causing great apprehension in the minds of the Journalists.

I urge upon the Government to realize the resentment of the journalists about this delay by the Wage Board, and see to it that the Wage Board finalizes its report without any delay.