

[English]

- (v) Need to take appropriate measures to check rising prices and to streamline the distribution system

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : In the state of Orissa the prices of essential commodities have gone very high. The price of kerosene has gone beyond the fixed price and in some rural areas the availability of kerosene has been difficult. The prices of vegetables, fish and other articles of common use have also gone up. The fixed income group is in difficulty due to rising prices. The poorer strata of society is in distressing situation. The middlemen and unscrupulous traders are taking full advantage of the situation and are instrumental for rising prices.

The Government, therefore, are urged upon to tighten up the public distribution system and taken up appropriate measures in this regard.

- (vi) Need to provide immediate relief and financial assistance to the drought affected people in Karnataka

SHRI S. M. GURADDI (Bijapur) : The entire constituency of Chika Ballapur and Bijapur are reeling under severe drought. The most affected places are entire Bijapur, Bagepally, Madhugiri, Nelamangala, Chikkaballapura, Shidlaghatta, Gowribidanur and Koratagere. The drinking water is not at all available in the above mentioned places. The girls have to walk several miles to fetch drinking water. The fodder for cattle is so scarce that the cattle are dying. The Agricultural labourers are on the streets, as they do not have any job. About 70% of the borewells have become dry. The rest of the borewells are not working properly. All the wells have dried up. Under these most trying conditions, it is imperative for the Central Government to come forward immediately with a master plan to be implemented on war footing to save the people of my constituency from extermination.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into this serious problem of drinking water and take up immediate measures to provide the same.

- (vii) Need to take steps or solve the problems of teachers at I.I.T. Kharagpur

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : A serious situation has developed at Kharagpur I.I.T. due to total stoppage of work by all the teachers of the I.I.T. in protest against the order of the Chairman of the Board of Governors terminating services of an Assistant Professor in the Department of rubber technology without assigning any reason. The induction of labour-owner relation culture of the Tatas in I.I.T. which has led to the present situation will cause immense harm to the finalisation of the process of the J.E.E. for fresh enrolment of students. I request the Government to take immediate steps to settle the matter and order cancellation of the notice of termination of services of the Assistant Professor forthwith.

- (viii) Need to take over the textile mills of Modinagar

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I would like to draw the immediate attention of the Minister of Commerce to the plight of the Textile workers of Modinagar. Three Mills 'B', 'C' and 'D' Silk remained closed for about a year and a half. Other two mills 'A' and 'D' were partially closed. Recently a sangharah samity has been formed which includes the unions and political parties. The sangharah samity has given a call for continuous strike in the partially run 'A' and 'D' mills from 13th May, 1985 with the demand for running all the Textile mills at Modinagar. There was a complete bunch in Modinagar and Ghaziabad in support of the workers' demand. The workers are restive. In the circumstances, I request the Government to intervene immediately and take over the mills in the interest of the starving workers as well as production.

- (ix) Need for the Central Government to take measures to purchase surplus paddy from peasants in Andhra Pradesh and to put moratorium on payment of debts

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House the sad plight of the kisans all over Andhra Pradesh who have produced Paddy during 1984-85 caused by the accumulation of unsold paddy due to the

reluctance of rich millers and others to purchase it even at the far-too-low so called support price indicated by the Agricultural Costs and Prices Commission. The policies and programmes regarding procurement of rice from the rice mills, regulation of the exports of rice from out of Andhra Pradesh and failure to purchase paddy from kisans at the support prices have all contributed to depress the market transactions in paddy, prevalence of too low prices and in the burdensome unsold accumulations of paddy on the hands of peasants. The travails of peasants caused by the growing demands from credit cooperatives, banks and sahu-kars for the repayment of debts, incurred by peasants to meet cultivation and family expenses can only be imagined. I, therefore, request the Union Government to take necessary measures through FCI in cooperation with the Government of Andhra Pradesh to ensure purchase from peasants their surplus paddy and to arrange for moratorium for an year on the payment of their seasonal debts.

- (x) Need to provide one T. V. set along with a satellite T. V. antenna to each Panchayat in tribal and hilly villages

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : There has been widespread demand from all sides of this august house for installation of high-powered T. V. transmitters in many parts of the country where low-powered TV transmitters are already functions. The topography of our country is such that even after installation of high-powered TV transmitters, the possibility of covering the entire country under TV network seems quite remote. I, therefore, request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to provide one TV set along with a satellite TV antenna and a small generator to each Panchayat in all the tribal and hilly villages of our country so that remote areas can be covered directly through INSAT I-B. Such a device on experimental basis is already functioning successfully in Ladakh.

[Translation]

- (xi) Need for financial assistance by Central Government to start relief work for providing drinking water in some drought affected areas of Madhya Pradesh

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the people of the entire constituency of Satna (M. P.) are suffering from acute drinking water security, so much

so that even in Satna, Mehar and other cities, which fall under Municipal Corporations and Municipal Committee, the people are not getting adequate quantity of water for drinking and other domestic use. Due to low rainfall, the crops have been destroyed in Satna, Nagaud, Mehar, Raigaun, Chitratkot, Amarpatan, Rampur, Baigna, Vijay Raghogarh and Badwara Assembly constituencies and to add to their miseries, they and even their cattle are not getting drinking water. The cattleheads are perishing unemployment is increasing and the people do not have adequate means of livelihood. The people are migrating to other places.

Government should direct the State Government of Madhya Pradesh to take up immediate relief measures on a war footing and, especially, install big boing machines in sufficient number to remove the drinking water scarcity, The centre should also provide financial assistance to the State Government to execute this work.

- (xii) Need to put a moratorium on all loans taken by pepper cultivators and to abolish export duty

[English]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Pepper accounts for more than 50 per cent of our foreign exchange earnings from spices. Over the years, it has suffered neglect and thus India lost its prominent position in the world pepper market. Our export of pepper which constituted 80 per cent of the world trade at the time of independence has declined to 20 per cent at present. In spite of this, no proper attention has been given to protect the pepper cultivation.

Further, the latest decision of the Finance Ministry to impose an export duty of Rs. 3 per kilogram on black pepper has come as a bolt from blue to the cultivators. They are not yet free from the impact of the severe drought which destroyed vast areas of pepper vines in 1983. This has brought down the production of pepper and caused great hardships to the growers. They are finding it very difficult to repay the loans they have borrowed from different Banks for pepper cultivation. In fact, they need special assistance in the form of moratorium on repayment of loans and relaxing of the interest on the loans.