

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.

Under the circumstances, I would request the Government of India to take urgent steps immediately to order a moratorium on repayment of all loans taken by the pepper cultivators with relaxation of interest and also abolishing the export duty of Rs. 3 per kilogram imposed recently by the Union Government. If the above two steps are not taken, our pepper production will be adversely affected which will lead to further erosion of foreign exchange.

[*Translation*]

(xiii) Need to extend crop insurance scheme to fruits and vegetables

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ten scheme proposed to be introduced by Government for crop insurance is welcome, but fruits and vegetables have not been included therein although these are perishable commodities and are most affected by the vagaries of weather. The farmers who produce these commodities are also poor. Therefore, fruits and vegetables should also be covered by the crop insurance scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : You miss the train when you all late, but here I have accommodated you.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : So kind of you.

(xiv) Need to make drastic changes in the management of Keshorath Patan Sugar Mill in Bundi district of Rajasthan

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Speaker, sir, I want to draw the attention of Government to the gross mismanagement in the Keshorath Patan Sugar Mills of the cooperative sector located in district Bundi of Rajasthan. The aforesaid mill was previously in the cooperative sector, but was taken over by Government in the wake of many disputes and persistent losses. But ever since the mill has been taken over by Government, the mismanagement has increased all the more. It is increasing losses every year. Non-payment of dues in time to the cane-growers coupled with lack of incentives on sugarcane production are some of the reasons which have given rise to widespread public resentment.

I draw the attention of the hon. Food Minister to it and urge Government to make

drastic changes in the Management of the mill so as to run it efficiently.

(xv) Need to start work immediately on Lalitpur-Banda Railway line

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, sir, the Bundelkhand area of Madhya Pradesh does not have any railway facility. No industry can be set up there in the absence of a railway line. This area is deoat infested and a lot of poverty and unemployment is there. Although khajuraho is a world famous tourist centre, yet it has not been connected by rail. A railway line from Lalitpur to Banda via Tikamgarh Khajuraho has been proposed and its has also been completed. The propose of about 100 to 125 kilometre lengt brost the trade and industry in this area. The availability of means of transport will also help in the liquidation of deoats. At the same time, the people will have the facility of transporting through the railways take wood, minerals and other goods worth crores of rupees which are at present transported by trucks. It will prove the way for the development of this backward area. Therefore, the Railway Minister is requested to see that the work on the Lalitpur-Banda railway line is taken up early.

[*English*]

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : Regarding thrusting of national TV programmes on the State of Tamil Nadu, I have already given a notice... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : You have assured me Sir that it would be taken under Rule 377.

MR. SPEAKER : You can read it now if you have got it with you.

SHRI KOLANDAIVELU : I have already given notice... (*Interruptions*)