

increase of population, it is estimated that the demand for foodgrains may increase to 240 million tonnes by the turn of the century. But due to large scale erosion and conversion of agricultural lands into uncultivable lands, due to saline inundations, which are increasing year by year, the agricultural produces are bound to be reduced. To protect such destruction of agricultural lands and to bring more and more areas under cultivation, the following measures should be taken up in right earnest:—

- (a) A well thought plan of the specialists in the subjects, is to be deployed for checking further erosion and to reduce salinity from the lands.
- (b) A central tubewell Corporation may be constituted which may set up chains of Tube-wells, to exploit underground water.
- (c) Easy and timely availability of inputs like improved and high yielding seeds, fertilizers, pesticides etc. through cooperatives, which should be located within a radius of 2 km.
- (d) Remunerative prices, should be ensured for the farm produce.
- (e) Government should provide chains of small warehouses through co-operatives so that the farmers may store their products on a very nominal charge to get off-season high prices.
- (f) Institutional credit facilities for farmers need to be liberalised and the rate of interest should not exceed more than 5% and the penal as well as compound interest should not be charged on defaulters and their lands should in no case be auctioned.
- (g) Easy availability of loans for purchase of agricultural imple-

ments need to be ensured and that too, not more than 5 KM from their native places.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) **Need to allow export of garlic and issue licences for manufacture of garlic powder or capsules to ensure remunerative price to the farmers of Chittorgarh**

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards an important problem faced by the farmers of Chittorgarh. Garlic and onion are two important ingredients of the Indian recipes. The farmers who produced garlic by taking loans have been put to great loss as its prices have crashed in the market and it is being sold at throw away prices as its export has been stopped. Once the farmers got very good prices of garlic and onion and they made much profit. Taking incentive from this, they grew garlic by taking loans on a large scale in preference to other crops. In my constituency Chittorgarh, almost all big and small farmers have stored garlic in the hope that its price will go up. But it is most regrettable that the farmers purchased garlic seeds at the rate of Rs. 40 per kilogram, but today garlic is being sold even below Rs. 2 per kg. As a result of it, the farmers are being put to great loss. I demand from the hon. Minister of Commerce that the Central Government should allow the export of garlic, so that foreign exchange could be earned and the farmers can get the financial benefits.

Licences should be issued for manufacturing garlic powder and garlic capsules. They should be given subsidy liberally so that the farmers can get the utmost benefit of this Indian produce.

- (vii) **Need to set up an oil refinery in Damoh District (Madhya Pradesh)**

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bundelkhand area, particularly Damoh and Panna districts, where about 45 per cent population consists

[Sh. Dal Chander jain]  
of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is a very backward in Madhya Pradesh. There is neither any source of irrigation nor any big industry in this area. It is proposed to set up five oil refineries in the country. One of them should be set up in Damoh district of our Bundelkhand area, so that this area could be developed and the Scheduled Castes and Tribes get employment. All the basic requirements for the setting up of an oil refinery are available in the Damoh district. We hope that special attention will be paid to it and a decision will be taken as early as possible.

**(viii) Need to implement early the agreement arrived at with the association of Junior Engineers of C.P.W.D.**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the long drawn strike of Junior Engineers of C.P.W.D. was withdrawn after an agreement was signed between the association of Junior Engineers and the Ministry. According to the agreement it was agreed that the Ministry is required to refer the matter in respect of giving the pay-scale of Rs. 1640-2900 to Junior Engineers to the Group of Ministers, with its own recommendations. The question of payment of salary during the period of strike is to be considered sympathetically and all the criminal cases against Junior Engineers are to be withdrawn and they were not to be harassed.

But now instead of taking steps for the fulfilment of the agreements, the office bearers of the Association of Junior Engineers are being victimised and harassed.

So the Central Government should arrange for the early implementation of the agreement and the victimisation and harassment of the office bearers should be stopped forthwith.

**(ix) Need to take necessary measures for rehabilitation of the people affected by floods and earthquake in North Bihar**

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Ros-

era): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to terrible flood and earthquake in Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Sitamarhi, Monghur and Gopalganj districts of North Bihar, normal life was paralysed. The standing crops worth Rs. 16 crores have been destroyed due to floods. Large areas of these districts have been submerged under flood waters. About 80 lakh people of the state have been affected. 4 thousand houses have collapsed due to floods and another 25 thousand due to earthquake. The earthquake left 200 people dead and 2500 injured. All major rivers of north Bihar, namely Kosi, Kamla, Balan, Bagmati, Gandak, Kereh are flowing above the danger mark. People are terrified due to breaches in the embankments of rivers at various places. Water is flowing on a number of highways and transportation has come to a standstill at many places. Rail services between Purnea and Banmankhi have been cancelled. The worst affected areas due to floods are Rosera, sub-division and Darbhanga, Kureshwarsthan block, Ghanshyampur, Birul Scindia, Hasanpur, Rasda, Vibhutipur, Warisnagar and Baheri have also been hit severely. Consequently 90 percent standing crops have been submerged under water. Thus, both natural calamities flood and earthquake have played havoc and created tragic conditions in Bihar. Therefore, I urge the Government to kindly arrange relief and rehabilitation on war footing for the people affected by earthquake and flood.

[English]

**(x) Need for early clearance to the Bakreswar Thermal Power Project in West Bengal**

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, for the industrial recovery of the State of West Bengal, assured supply of power is crucial. To gear up the employment potentiality in the State, it is necessary that the Bakreswar Thermal Power Project should be cleared without any further delay. Its immediate clearance will not only create employment scope in the State of West Bengal but it will benefit the common working people of the entire Eastern Region.