

In view of these unhealthy developments, I would request the Minister of Forests and Environment to take precaution to protect the Chambal Valley reservoirs from sedimentation in future and stop the illegal operations of all sorts in the Chambal catchment area.

(vi) Need to fix the support price of groundnut at Rupees Six Hundred and fifty per quintal

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Agricultural Prices Commission is not able to take a realistic view in fixing the prices for agricultural commodities. Because of the lack of rural background, the Members of this Commission are not in a position to understand the travails and tribulations of the cultivators. It is highly necessary that somebody with rural background should be associated with the working of this Commission so as to fix remunerative prices for agricultural products. This year the Government had increased the price for sugar cane from Rs. 170 to Rs. 180 per tonne. The unrealistic attitude of the Agricultural Prices Commission is reflected in the fixation of prices of sugar cane and groundnut. Last year itself, the Government of Andhra Pradesh paid Rs. 65 more i. e. Rs. 235/- per tonne for sugar cane and even that was supposed to be unremunerative. So, increase in the price from Rs. 170 to Rs. 180 will not give any solace to the agriculturists. If the price of sugar per kg is increased by 50 NP, the agriculturists can be given Rs. 50 per tonne more. Moreover, with regard to the groundnut prices, the Centre has increased the price from Rs. 350/- to Rs. 370/- per quintal. Last year, the market price was Rs. 500/- per quintal and this year it is more than Rs. 550/- per quintal. So, the price of Rs. 370/- per quintal will not act as an incentive for the agriculturists to grow more groundnut. So, I request the Central Government to fix up the support price of groundnut at Rs. 650/- per quintal so that it may act as an incentive for cultivators to grow more groundnut in the country.

[Translation]

(vii) Need to install effluent treatment plants throughout the country particularly at Ranipet in Tamil Nadu to check pollution in the country

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakkonam) : It has been mentioned in the Consultative Committee held very recently under the auspices of the Ministry of Industry that in the industrial complex in Baroda, the Gujarat State Government in cooperation with the Indian Petro-Chemicals Ltd. and the industrial units of the area, has successfully made arrangements for treating the effluents of various chemical and other industrial units there. It has also been informed that in Bombay also similar successful arrangement has been made in cooperation with the Indian Organic Chemicals Ltd.

Sir, in Tamil Nadu, in Vaniambadi, Ambur and in Ranipet, there are a large number of tanneries and other chemical units working both under the Government and the private sector, the effluences of which have been a great health hazard to thousands of people living there. The surface water, subsoil water, vegetation and paddy fields covering vast square miles are already greatly affected and becoming useless.

I would, therefore, request the Government to make similar arrangements for installation of effluents treatment plants in other parts of the country, particularly in my constituency, that is, Ranipet, so that fast pollution of land, water and the air is arrested and the people and the people and the vegetation in those areas are saved.

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11.20 hrs.

SUSPENSION OF PROVISO TO RULE 66

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(S. BUTA SINGH) : Sir, I beg to move :

*The Speech was originally delivered in Tamil.