

[Shri Zainul Basher]

the difficulties being faced by the people belonging to this category, the Central Freedom Fighters Samman Pension Rules should be so amended as to make these people eligible for pension on the basis of the certificates of their having formed these organisations only.

[15.38 hrs]

[English]

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *In the Chair*]

(ii) Need to Provide Central Assistance to drought-affected farmers of Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts of Orissa

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore): Sir, very serious situation is arising in the nine C.D. Blocks comprising 5 Assembly Constituencies of Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts in the State of Orissa, due to unprecedented draught condition. The only kharif crop grown in these areas is paddy. In the absence of rains till the middle of August, 1985 the paddy plants in the fields are almost dried up even though the plants could be grown by the farmers in more than four lakh hectares of paddy fields, comprising in these nine blocks, and this has disappointed millions of farmers who are mainly from small and marginal categories. There is no flow irrigation in these Blocks. Only very few Lift Irrigation points exist in some places and even those who are not operating as these poor, ill-fated farmers have no means to deposit the water tax in advance executing agreements with the Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation Ltd as per the existing procedure. Besides, drinking water scarcity in these areas which are mostly situated in saline belts is posing a great difficulty. What to speak of human beings even the cattle are not getting water to drink as almost all ponds, tanks, water channels and rivulets in these areas have mostly dried up due to very scanty rainfall till today. Even if there are adequate rains within a day or two, it will not serve any purpose, as the time for agricultural operation and transplantations of paddy crops is almost over. None of the farmers of these areas have insured their crops

due to various factors like ignorance, poverty and lack of initiative by the authorities resulting in the farmers sustaining very heavy losses.

In such chaotic and very pitiable situation prevailing in these areas, I would request the Agriculture Ministry to come to the rescue of these millions of poor farmers to provide them all sorts of help, subsidies and grants to grow other crops in their lands and to compensate them for the losses they have sustained due to such draught, as the State Government alone is not capable to compensate the losses, due to constraint of resources.

(iii) Steps needed for completing the proposed bye-pass for the National Highway in Quilon Town in Kerala during Seventh Plan

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR (Quilon): Sir, the action to construct a bye-pass for the N.H. in Quilon Town in Kerala was initiated as early as in 1959. After considering four different alignments, the present alignment was finally approved by the Government of India in May, 1978.

The bye pass is to start from KM 488/972 of the National Highway at Kavarad near Sakthi Kalayara in the north and terminate at KM 502/804 near Thattamala at the south end. The entire land through which the bye-pass is aligned, except the portions where it crosses the backwater, is owned by private parties. Hence, land acquisition is a major hurdle in the construction of the bye-pass. The approximate cost of land acquisition as per present land value will be Rs. 350 lakhs and the cost of works will be approximately another Rs. 350 lakhs. Thus the total project estimate will be approximately Rs. 700 lakhs. Estimate for land acquisition has already been submitted to the Government of India, and the same is pending sanction with the Ministry of Shipping and Transport. As the extent of land to be acquired is spread out over 13 and odd kms., the time required for acquiring the same will be considerable. Hence, if the sanction for the land acquisition estimate is accorded early, acquisition can be started and proceeded accord-