

[English]

- (iii) Need to adopt protective measures to safeguard the interests of farm workers in incapacitated in thresher accidents

SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL (Phulbani) : Sir, every year more than 300 farm workers are incapacitated during the wheat harvesting season in Punjab. A majority of these accidents occur while working on what threshers. Last year alone nearly 1000 farm workers in Punjab, Haryana and western UP lost their limbs in thresher accidents. Most of the victims were migratory workers to the wheat belt. It has been estimated that upto now more than 10000 farm workers from Bihar, UP and Orissa have been maimed while working on wheat threshers. But the farm workers falling victims are not getting adequate help, compensation and rehabilitation facilities despite the existence of many Acts in those States. Unless some suitable measures to protect their interests are taken, the migrant workers will continue to suffer. Therefore, it is necessary to adopt some protective measures by the Central Government to safeguard the interest of these farm workers. The Government of India should direct the concerned State Governments to insure the entire migratory labour force working in these States. Suitable compensation should be paid to the victims of threshers accidents. The selling of sub-standard threshers should be totally prohibited. At the same time, I request the Central Government to devise methods to prevent the farmers from using threshers in an unsafe mode. Since this issue concerns the question of life and death of several thousand workers engaged in the farms in the country, I demand immediate action by the Government of India to protect these workers.

[Translation]

- (iv) Need to develop piparhawa village as a tourist centre

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : The place 'Lumbini' in Nepal bordering India has been regarded till now the birth place of Lord Buddha, apostle of peace and humanity in the whole world.

In the excavation operations carried out in recent years by the Archaeological Survey of India, some remains of palace have been found in Piparhawa village insida the Indian territory which confirms the fact that the capital Kapilvastu of king Shudhodhan, the father of Lord Buddha was situated in Piparhawa itself. In view of the importance of that place, discussions on the blueprint to develop that area have been held from time to time with the Government, but the Government have not taken any step to implement the scheme to develop this area of internationad importance.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Tourism that tourist bungalows and an airport should be constructed there to develop the area of historical importance as a tourist centre. Immediate steps should also be taken to construct a museum for preserving rare and authentic objects found in the excavations.

- (v) Need to give early clearance to the proposal for the setting up of a Cement plant at Jeypur in Orissa

*SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur) : The Orissa Industrial Development Corporation has a proposal to set up a cement plant at Jeypur in the State of Orissa. All the infrastructural facilities to establish a cement plant are available at the proposed site. A railway siding is there near the proposed location. But it is regrettable that the Railway authorities have not yet given clearance to set up the cement plant at that place. It is unfortunate that the proposal is still pending with the railway authorities.

The proposed cement plant is going to be set up in a backward district, Koraput in Orissa. It is mostly inhabited by tribals. Therefore, it will go a long way in providing employment to the local educated youths if the cement plant is established at that place. But the cement plant cannot be established at that place without the clearance of the Ministry of Railways as the proposed site is located near the railway station.

As such, I request the hon. Minister of Railways to minutely review the proposal

and give early clearance to set up a cement plant at the proposed site at Jeypur in Orissa.

[English]

- (vi) Need to treat revenue village as 'defined area' instead of Taluk/Block for crop insurance and to include cotton, tobacco, sugarcane and chillies also in the crop insurance scheme

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : The comprehensive crop insurance scheme introduced from Kharif 1985 in several States could not really come to the rescue of the farmers who lost their crops. The scheme envisages "Define Area" in each State in which the scheme operates. District, Taluk/Tehsil, Block or other small contiguous areas will be indicated by the Union Ministry of Agriculture in consultation with the State Government concerned. This "Defined Area" is responsible for the farmers not getting insurance. When the damage is confined to some lands in a village or entire lands in a village when the average yield in the Defined Area is not affected much, the affected farmers in the affected village cannot get the insurance. So if the intention of the Government is really to help the affected farmers, it should treat revenue village as Defined Area instead of Taluk/Block. Present scheme covers rice, wheat, millet crops, oilseeds, and pulse crops only. The scheme should cover cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, chillies, etc., crops also.

- (vii) Need to supply Alcohol (Rectified Spirit) to West Bengal for manufacture of Homoeopathic medicines

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Manufacture of Homoeopathic medicine in West Bengal is facing serious crisis due to irregular as well as non-supply of alcohol (Rectified spirit) for the last few years. Manufacture of Homoeopathic medicine is solely dependent on availability of Alcohol. West Bengal is a pioneer in the field of Homoeopathic treatment and industry and employs a large number of workers and employees in the different undertakings and establishments. More than one lakh people are directly and indirectly engaged in

the industry, including doctors, employees, workers and suppliers. It is essential that the Government of India should assure regular and adequate supply of alcohol for the Homoeopathic industry. Otherwise, a large number of establishments will be forced to close down rendering jobless not only a large number of workers, employees, doctors, etc. but would also seriously hamper treatment by Homoeopathic Doctors. Hahnemann Laboratory Employees' and Workers' Union and Economic Homoeo Pharmacy Employees' Union have already sent telegrams to the Minister for Petroleum and I request the Hon. Minister to take immediate action for supply of alcohol vitally necessary for preparation of Homoeopathic medicines.

[Translation]

- (viii) Need to issue a commemorative stamp in memory of Shri Ram Prasad Bismil

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Prasad Bismil, who was a freedom fighter, belonged to Morena district. His father was in the Police Service at Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Shri Ram Prasad Bismil fought bravely against the British rule. He was arrested in the Kakori case and, thereafter, he was hanged. The Government of India have not so far honoured such a great freedom fighter. The Government should issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of this great freedom fighter.

12.25 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1986-87—Contd.

- (i) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we shall take up item number 15—further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Hon. Minister, you can start now.