

- (iii) Need to allow farmers to thresh their paddy and demand for opening purchase centres to purchase their paddy at a reasonable price

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, due to contribution of the farmers and the agro-scientists, the nation has become self dependent in the field of food grains and as a result of that today we are in a position to export wheat and rice to other countries. Even then, restrictions have been imposed on the movement of food grains within the country. This is encouraging corruption and creating a sense of resentment among the people.

In most parts of the country the harvesting of paddy has started. The farmer can produce paddy, but he cannot pound it. The Uttar Pradesh Government in particular has put a ban on the milling of paddy, as a result of which the farmers can mill their paddy after bribing the corrupt employees of the Food Department and the police. I, therefore, request the Government of India that it should ask the State Governments to remove such restrictions to protect the interests of the farmers so that the farmers may mill the paddy if they so desire and thus sell the rice at a remunerative price.

I hope that the Government of India would give a serious thought to this matter and allow the farmers in the country to mill their paddy and also make arrangements for opening of purchase centres so that the farmers may sell their paddy at a remunerative price.

- (iv) Need to set up small scale industries in Balia and Azamgarh districts of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Eastern Uttar Pradesh lacks heavy industries and in future also there are bleak chances due to lack of facilities of transport and telecommunication services. Considering the geographical situation and availability of labour in the area, small scale industries can be set up

there. The Central Government and the State Government of Uttar Pradesh had approved a programme for starting small scale industries under the Khadi Gramodyog Commission at Ratanpura in Balia district and at Dobrighat, Jeanpur Latghat and Kopaganj of Azamgarh district. Some work was initiated in this direction, but it was stopped after sometime. There was also a scheme to provide incentive to weavers for producing cheap Janata saree at Mau in Azamgarh, but no proper action was taken in this regard. The Government of India should take immediate action in this regard.

- (v) Demand for a Navodaya School in Palghat district of Kerala

***SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN, (Palghat) :** Sir, the Central Government has taken a decision to open Navodaya Schools in different States. The decision to start 4 such schools in Kerala is welcome.

However, most of these schools are going to be set up in educationally advanced districts. In fact, the Navodaya Schools should be set up mostly in educationally backward districts. Palghat district of Kerala is an educationally backward district. Since it was a part of the erstwhile Madras State, Palghat did not get sufficient opportunities for development like other districts in Kerala. Palghat has a very large Adivasi population. There was a strong demand for a Navodaya school in this district. But the Government has not accepted it.

Therefore, I request that keeping in view the backwardness of Palghat district, a Navodaya School may be started here during the academic year itself.

- (vi) Demand for conversion of Shahganj-Azamgarh-Mau-Balia metre gauge line into broad gauge line

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SINGH (Azamgarh) : The survey regarding conversion of Shahganj Azamgarh-Mau-Balia metre gauge line into broad gauge line was completed long back and it has been pending with the Planning Commission for quite a long time. There is no broad gauge

*The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.