

Therefore, I humbly request the Union Government and the Ministers of Agriculture and Civil Supplies to declare these districts as drought-affected districts at the earliest and provide requisite funds to the State Government for making adequate arrangement for drinking water, foodgrains and fodder so that relief operations to the affected people may be carried out on war-footing.

- (ii) **Non-availability of adequate quantities of food-stuffs in F. C. I. depots in Madhya Pradesh and need to allow the State Civil Supplies Corporation to take up distribution of food stuffs and sugar**

SHRI K. N. PRADHAN (Bhopal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise the following matter of urgent public importance.

There are 183 Issue Depots of the Food Corporation of India in Madhya Pradesh, but foodgrains and sugar are seldom available in half of these depots due to which supplies of foodgrains and sugar cannot be made in a number of districts in the State and particularly, a very small quantity of foodgrains is supplied to the issue depots in tribal belt of the State and the poor people do not get foodgrains, edible oil and kerosene at fair prices. For instance, only 150 tonnes of sugar was supplied to Sarguja district per month for months together in 1984-85 as against the quota of 750 tonnes per month.

The Food Corporation of India has not been supplying wheat in seven districts of Chhatisgarh region for the last 14 months. The wheat kept there is not fit even for consumption by animals. The people are forced to buy that wheat. Similarly, inferior quality of levy rice containing excessive quantity of husk is supplied by the Food Corporation of India. Such rice distributed to the people.

The Civil Supplies Corporation of Madhya Pradesh wants to take over the distribution of foodgrains and sugar, approval for which should be given by the Central Government. This Corporation should also be authorised to lift sugar direct from the mills and procure levy rice and should also get all assistance for the procurement of levy wheat and rice which the Food Corporation of India gets.

Government should also pay special attention towards the corruption rampant in the depots of the Food Corporation of India.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know when you will wear a smile.

MR. SPEAKER : In a short while.

- (iii) **Need to provide assistance to Himachal Pradesh for meeting situation caused by drought, fire, etc.**

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Himachal Pradesh, had to suffer enormous loss due to recent drought. Drinking water and fodder were not available for the cattle. The farmers have also got almost negligible harvest from the crops sown by them. Fruit-growing, a source of income for the farmers, has also received a severe set-back as the fruit did not grow to their full size and as a result the financial condition of the farmers has become worse.

Besides, the nurseries set up and saplings planted by the Forest Department also got damaged at several places and forest wealth has been destroyed due to fire. The State Government has suffered a heavy loss on this account.

The State Government could not make good the loss suffered due to drought with the assistance made available by the Centre. Therefore, I urge the Central Government to provide adequate assistance to Himachal Pradesh Government for making drinking water available in villages and cities and also for providing irrigation facilities.

[English]

- (iv) **Need to examine the feasibility of drilling two m-well bores in existing wells to overcome the shortage of water for irrigation in AP**

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : The districts of Anantapur and Chittoor in Andhra Pradesh are situated on a very high attitude and facilities for irrigation are very meagre as these districts are not endowed with any perennial rivers and the people in these areas depend on irrigation wells. Due to continuous droughts, the wells amounting to a lakh and fifty thousands

have gone dry. On every project, the Government is spending at the rate of Rs. 15000 per acre. As there are no perennial rivers in these districts, no irrigation projects could be constructed. Hence the need for a well project. The Government can take up drilling of two in-well bores in each and every well and this will cost the Government an amount less than ten thousand rupees per well, and in case of wells where bores yield sufficient water, the Government can collect a water tax of Rs. 50 per acre and waive this collection the bores fail.

The feasibility of this well project may be examined and it may be taken up immediately to save the people from hunger and starvation.

(v) **Need to direct Agricultural Research Wing to devise ways to save paddy crops from floods**

DR. K. G. ADIYODI (Calicut) : Recent floods in Kerala have affected almost all the farmers in general and the paddy growers in particular. Paddy cultivation is dwindling fast in Kerala due to the high cost of cultivation and low price of paddy. Difficulties of paddy growers are increased since there is no variety of paddy seeds whose seedlings can withstand floods by remaining under water for more than fifteen days. We wish the Government to direct the agricultural research wing to take up this matter seriously.

(vi) **Demand for a T. V. relay centre in Yavatmal District of Maharashtra**

SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL (Yavatmal) : There was, and it is still, a strong popular demand of the people of Yavatmal district to establish a TV Relay Centre at Yavatmal. Its headquarter Yavatmal is a district place and declared backward district having population of more than one lakh plus population of adjoining villages bordering on Yavatmal Municipal limits. As it is, TV relay from Nagpur/Amravati will not benefit Yavatmal as its distance is more than 200 and 100 kms respectively. Needless to add that the people are so impatient to have TV centre that agitation rallies have recently been organised hinting that there is no excuse at all for the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to delay granting Yavatmal TV Centre any more.

Therefore, I would now request the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to

establish/start a TV Relay-Centre at Yavatmal without logging any further time.

(vii) **Levy of consignment tax and need to bring a Bill in the current session of Parliament**

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA (Tamluk) : A legislation on consignment Tax has become necessary due to the financial constraints faced by the different State Governments.

The Constitution of India was amended through the Constitution Amendment (46th) Act, 1982 with a view to ensuring that taxes on the consignment of goods in course of inter-state trade and commerce are brought under the ambit of taxation. The Union Finance Minister convened a conference of Chief Ministers in November 1983 and again in May 1984 in order to sort out the details of the proposed legislation on consignment tax including the procedures for collection and sharing of the tax. In the two conferences unanimous recommendations were made. Though it was felt in the conferences that the legislation on consignment tax should be introduced at the earliest opportunity, nothing has been done in this respect. And as a result, the State Government are denied the benefit of additional resources.

Under these circumstances, I urge upon the Government to introduce the Bill on Consignment Tax in this Session of Parliament and pass it for mobilising more resources for the State Governments.

12.21 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (PUNJAB),
1985-86—Contd.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab for 1985-86. Shri Bhattam.

SHRI S. M. BHATTAM (Visakhapatnam) : The Accord on Punjab was more or less uniformly and universally agreed to and was hailed by all sections of the people and most of the political parties. It is hoped that we would turn the corner and open up a new chapter and the vexed problem of the Punjab is once for all solved. But, Sir, of