

MR. SPEAKER: The Government is not concerned here. It is the Election Commission. My decision is always according to the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not cast aspersions. Change the statute if you do not like it. You are the masters.

(Interruptions)

- (iii) **Demand for restoration of quota of berths from Nagpur in various trains and restoration of capacity of bogies in trains running from Delhi to South India and vice-versa**

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the drastic cut in quota of berths from Nagpur in important trains. There are three important trains from Delhi to South and vice-versa via Nagpur. The number of bogies which used to be attached to these important trains was 23 which have been reduced to 16 resulting in inconvenience to the residents of Nagpur. A.P. Express from Delhi to South via Nagpur used to have a quota of 70 2nd class sleeper berths from Nagpur. This has been reduced to 20. The commuters of Nagpur are facing hardships. Similarly it has been reduced in the case of other two important trains without any intimation or notice. The confirmed reservations have been abruptly disturbed.

I urge the Railway Ministry to restore the full capacity of bogies in the trains from Delhi to South and vice-versa for convenience of general public and orders be given to restore the quota of Nagpur Railway Station.

- (iv) **Demand for ensuring that the benefit of a lower interest rate on loans is passed on to the farmers as announced in the last Budget**

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL

(Kopargaon): In the Budget for 1988-89, Government announced reduction in interest rate on loans taken by the farmers as per norms declared in the Budget. Unfortunately, the District Central Cooperative Banks and the Village Cooperative Credit Societies are not implementing the lower interest rate. They are charging the same rate of interest from the farmers. Their fear is, as to who will bear the loss due to lower interest rate because the Village Credit Cooperative Societies are financially very weak. The District Central Cooperative Banks recover full interest from the Village Cooperative Societies in lump sum against the total loan disbursed. Similarly the State Cooperative Banks recover the interest from the District Central Cooperative Banks as per interest rate prescribed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. In reality, farmers do not get the benefit of lower interest because nobody is ready to bear the loss. So, I request Ministry of Finance that the matter may be looked into seriously without affecting the Village Cooperative Societies' economic viability and the farmers should be benefited as per the announcement in the Budget.

[Translation]

- (v) **Demand for ensuring that farmers get a minimum of Rs. 1,000 as price for a quintal of 'Narma Cotton'**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the price of 'Narma Cotton' has come down from Rs. 1000 a quintal last year to Rs. 650 to Rs. 700 a quintal now. Farmers have put hard labour and invested a pretty good amount by way of quality seeds and costly pesticides and fertilisers to produce cotton, yet they are not being provided remunerative price of their produce. In market, 'Narma Cotton' is fetching very low price. It will adversely affect the economic condition of farmers, if the Government does not pay attention to it.

I would, therefore, like to request the hon. Minister of textiles to fix the market price