

[*Translation*]

- (ii) Need to direct sugar mills to purchase the entire sugarcane available in the country

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India towards sugarcane growers in the country. Sir, today the owners of sugar mills both in private and public sectors are bent upon suspending purchase of sugarcane and closing their mills because sugar production is less in summer season as compared to the winter season. Under such circumstances, if sugar mills stop purchasing sugarcane, the farmers will be ruined. Therefore, we ask the Central Government to direct the concerned sugar mills not to stop purchasing sugarcane till the entire quantity of sugarcane, which is required to be crushed during this current crushing season, is not purchased from the farmers. If the mill owners do not do so, their licences should be cancelled and stern action should be taken against the managements of the public sector also.

[*English*]

- (iv) Need to revise the present method of calculating the loss for assessing the payment under crop insurance scheme

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore) : The Government of India had sometime back introduced a crop insurance scheme for the benefit of the poor and marginal farmers in the country. But, unfortunately, Rs. 30/- per acre is being deducted towards the premium by the Nationalised Banks at the time of advancing the loans. Our farmers are too poor to pay that much of premium.

For payment of insurance amount, the damage, if caused at Taluk or Mandal level, is being taken into account at present. Whenever there is any breach in the bund of a tank due to floods or any damage is caused due to various crop diseases like brown happer etc., the loss of the crop is confined to only a limited area. Hence to take into account Mandal or Taluk as a unit while assessing damage for payment of crop insurance is gross injustice.

Hence I earnestly appeal to the government to revise the present method of calculating the loss at Taluk and Mandal levels and to assess individual loss only for payment to crop insurance.

[*Translation*]

- (v) Demand for conducting research on adverse effects of eucalyptus trees on human beings and fertility of soil

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter under Rule 377 :

The work of plantation of trees is going on in full swing in various parts of the country and it is a matter of happiness that the Government is also fully helping in this work. There has been a sort of competition to plant more and more eucalyptus trees for the last four or five years. This tree was unknown in some areas but now plenty of these trees are found in those areas. The people are definitely earning profit on these trees and that is why they are planting more and more eucalyptus trees. But as per the research conducted by the University of Agriculture and Technology in Pant Nagar, the eucalyptus trees destroy the fertility of soil and the land becomes barren and there is a strong possibility of asthma disease being spread by these trees among the human beings.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to make a proper enquiry about the research conducted by the University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar and if these eucalyptus trees are really injurious to the health of human beings and the fertility of the soil, effective measures should immediately be taken to stop its plantation so that its possible adverse effect on land and human beings is checked in time.

- (vi) Demand for not shifting the T.V. Centre from Purnea to some other place in Bihar

SHRIMATI MADHUREE SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the following matter with your permission under Rule 377 :