

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala) for the year 1983-84.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rubber Board, Kottayam (Kerala) for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) and (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 746/85].

12.08 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*Translation*]

- (i) **Famine conditions in Maharashtra and need to take relief measures for farmers.**

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): There has been famine in Maharashtra continuously for the last four years with the result that the farmers there have been facing starvation. Not only are they not being provided assistance by the Government, they are also being forced to repay their loans. The amount of the loans along with interest thereon has increased fourfold. Money is being collected from them in the name of Survey Tax, E.G.S. Tax, Irrigation Tax etc.

The condition of the farmers has become so miserable that they are not in a position to buy seeds even. I, therefore, request the Government to direct the Maharashtra Government to postpone immediately all recoveries. The Central Government should make available seeds and fertilisers to the farmers for sowing purposes and the loans of the banks and other financial institutes in their names should either be written off or at least the entire amount of interest should be waived and recovery of the loans stopped forthwith. At the same time reconstruction of small ponds should also be started promptly under the Employment Guarantee Programme.

- (ii) **Need to establish industries in Khagaria (Bihar) for its development**

DR. C.S. VERMA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Khagaria is an underdeveloped district of Bihar. There is total lack of industries there. Irrigation facilities are also not adequate. The raw material available in that area too has not been exploited fully and industries based on those materials are also not being set up there. One of the reasons for the backwardness of Khagaria is that the Master Plan has not been enforced there. I, therefore, appeal to the Government that the Master Plan should be enforced there and industries should be set up for its development. The Central Government can develop the area by bringing Khagaria Parliamentary Constituency under its Plan. Otherwise this area will remain underdeveloped.

[*English*]

- (iii) **Need to direct the Government of Rajasthan to help farmers whose crops were damaged by hailstorms**

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) : There have been widespread hail storms in the State of Rajasthan in the last week of March and the first week of April, 1985. Hail storms had caused hundred per cent to 75 per cent damage to the crops of farmers of districts of Alwar, Bhartpur, Sikar, Jhunjhunu and some other districts also. Farmers invested huge money in purchase of hybrid seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and diesel oil for their agricultural operations. Farmers whose irrigation wells are electrified have to pay the electricity charges now. Farmers who had taken on loan, diesel-engine pump-sets, or electric motors from the Land Development Banks or other Commercial Banks have to pay instalments of loan. Village Co-operative Societies' dues are also to be paid by them in the instant month or next month.

But total devastation of crops by hailstorms has rendered the farmers penniless.

Provisions of existing famine Code not provide for financial assistance or compensation for damages unless the damages to crops had exceeded more than fifty per cent of the total area of crops sown in a particular Revenue Village. There is no provision in the Famine Code to compensate a farmer on the basis of damages to his crops grown over individual holdings.