

- (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.

I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to amend the Famine Code and also to send a study team immediately to assess the damages caused by hail-storms. I also request the Government of India to direct the Government of Rajasthan to pay compensation immediately to the farmers of the State whose crops had been damaged by hail-storms and to suspend recovery of all sorts of loans either of co-operative societies and Cooperative Land Development Banks or of Commercial Banks.

[*Translation*]

(iv) **Need to start works under NREP in Bundelkhand (Madhya Pradesh) to provide jobs to people**

SHRIMATI VIDYAWATI CHATURVEDI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the crops in Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur, Panna districts of Bundelkhand Division have almost been damaged due to failure of rains. In these districts there are no other sources of irrigation also. People there live in abject poverty. There are no other means of livelihood. If relief works are not started immediately on a large scale under NREP in those areas, the poor people will become victims of unemployment and starvation.

I, therefore, urge Government that in order to start maximum relief works in those areas, they should provide more and more money to the State Government so that the people may be provided with livelihood and food.

[*English*]

(v) **Menace created by the tigers around the Sunderbans Tiger Project in West Bengal and need to take measures to save people and cattle.**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : The Sunderbans Tiger Project in West Bengal is quite a laudable venture and a great tourist attraction. But presently the rise in the tiger population in the area has posed a great threat and menace not only to the human beings but also to the cattle going astray. This area mostly lies in my constituency. Recently, there have been some fatal incidents where not only cattle grazing in the jungle but also a number of villagers have fallen victim to the ferocity of the tigers. A stage has come when the people are mortally afraid to go into the forest either to bring back forest

produce or fish from the streams flowing there or take their cattle for grazing. This has also spread some sort of terror in the minds of the village folk surrounding the forest reserve. It is high time that Government took some positive steps to resettle the villagers living on the periphery of the forest or alternatively provide some warning system and position some forest guards to protect the people living in close proximity of the forest reserve.

[*Translation*]

(vi) **Famine conditions in hill areas of Uttar Pradesh and need for relief measures.**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the hill areas of U.P., acute famine conditions have arisen. In the areas which depend on rains for agriculture, the foodgrains production is already less than the requirement but with continuous drought for two years, the situation has become grave, Rabi crop has been only 15%. The prospects of Kharif crops are almost nil. Even fodder is not available. The drinking water resources are getting dry. I, therefore, urge Government that :

1. the quantity of wheat and rice being sold per unit through fair price shops in this area should be doubled ;
2. Work-days under the NREP and RLGP should be increased to the maximum possible extent ;
3. the afforestation programme in this area should be enforced as a crash programme ;
4. these areas should be declared as famine affected areas and large scale relief works should be started here ;
5. the Central Government and the State Government should provide special grants for the supply of drinking water ; and
6. the recovery of loans from the people should be postponed.

(vii) **Need to open a Postal Division in Orissa**

SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK (Kalahandi) : *Kalahandi district in Orissa

*The Speech was originally delivered in Oriya.