

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 PATTHAIK (Kalahandi) : * Kalahandi district in Orissa

*The Speech was originally delivered in Oriya.