

farming technology, specially when we are losing agricultural land every year for our developmental projects and by constructing dwelling houses etc. According to Indian Agriculture Research Institute, some oil bearing crops can be raised from these non-irrigated lands. As opined by IARI. at least two crops in a year can be raised in areas, where farming suffers not only due to lack of irrigation facilities but also due to paucity of power supply, needed to energise pumping sets. In such cases, these areas can be turned into gold mines to yield cash crops like mustard raising incomes of rural masses.

The study conducted by the ICAR shows that in semi-arid areas, the per capita food production has been sinking steeply over the past decade. In such circumstances they evolved a new approach to land and water management to boost yields of the five staple crops of the country's semi-arid regions like Sorghum, Millet, chick pea, Pigeon pea and Groundnut by which it will generate extra income of Rs. 5,000/- per acre.

This technique involves a mix of furrowed and un-furrowed patches in fields, which decreases erosion and allows rainy seasons, run off to be collected in storage tanks for use in dry seasons. The experts of the ICAR are in the view that as these five crops are largely grown for food rather than for cash, the authorities have never paid due attention to it. The poor farmers who grow these crops cannot afford the cost of fertilisers or irrigation, which their wealthier counterparts use. They are compelled to depend on un-reliable rains through which, only one crop can be raised instead of three crops.

In such a situation, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to look to this very genuine problem personally and this new technique may be applied in dry land farming on a large scale with time bound programme, which can treble the production.

[*Translation*]

(ii) **Demand for survey of waterlogged areas and measures to save crops from destruction in these areas**

SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL (Phulpur):  
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw attention of the Central Government to a very important issue under Rule 377. The natural calamities like heavy rains, hailstorm and drought affect crores of farmers every year, on which the Government have to spend billions of rupees. Besides, lakhs of acres of land and crops thereon is being affected at present, due to seepage in canals. The Sharada Sahayak Canal which is the largest canal in Uttar Pradesh has been causing extensive damage. Although the crops are destroyed due to the seepage of canals, yet the Government realises the irrigation charges from the farmers when actually they should be paid compensation for it. Lakhs of acres of land have been rendered unfit for cultivation due to waterlogging. I think it is the duty of the Government to pay compensation to those farmers whose crops have been destroyed or who are unable to cultivate their lands due to waterlogging. My constituency Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh) is also facing the same calamity. Here, there is a network of Sharada Sahayak Canal tributaries but in absence of drainage system, the farmers are in great distress. During the rainy season, there is so much waterlogging due to seepage in canals and rain water that the farmers face near starvation.

I would suggest that the Government should order an immediate survey and make arrangements for the drainage of water from waterlogged areas so that the farmers are able to cultivate their land to eke out their livelihood and contribute to the increase in foodgrains production which would be beneficial for the country.

[*English*]

(iii) **Demand for execution of work on Sakri-Hasanpur railway line.**

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) :  
Samastipur, which belongs to Mithila region of North Bihar is the divisional headquarter

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

of North Eastern Railway. Unfortunately, it is being neglected by the Union Transport Ministry. In 1977, it was bifurcated into two and a new Sonepur Division was carved out of it. It is really surprising that broad gauge trains which either stop at Samastipur Station or pass through it, are controlled by Sonepur Division. Formerly three trains used to run between Samastipur and Howrah and one from Samastipur to Delhi. All of them have been discontinued. Besides, Assam Mail which used to pass through Samastipur has also been discontinued.

A railway workshop was established at Samastipur in 1981 where more than three thousand workers were working. But gradually most of the machines were shifted to Gorakhpur. Now, even for minor repairs, engines, wagons and coaches are sent to Gorakhpur from Samastipur. This has resulted in the heavy reduction of labour force. The problem of unemployment is already acute in Mithila region. This has further accentuated it.

The developmental work under Samastipur Railway Division has also been grossly neglected. It is understood that the Union Transport Ministry is considering a proposal to lay broad gauge line parallel to metre gauge. I earnestly request the Union Transport Minister to get this project implemented expeditiously so that people in Mithila region feel relieved.

At the same time, I would request the Hon'ble Transport Minister to get the work of Sakri-Hasanpur line executed for which survey has been completed and land acquired by the Government. This project also belongs to Samastipur Railway Division.

- (iv) Demand for additional financial assistance of Rs. 13.56 crores to Madhya Pradesh Government for water supply schemes in problem villages and towns of the State.

**KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI (Raigarh) :**  
In the last three decades efforts are being made to provide drinking water to every village in the States of Madhya Pradesh.

In spite of all these efforts, whenever there has been failure of rainfall, drinking water problem has been acute in many parts of Madhya Pradesh. Even in normal year in summer months drinking water problem becomes very acute in the State. Latest survey shows that about 8000 villages and 130 towns excluding 13000 problem villages where works being undertaken under the normal plan are experiencing acute water shortage. To meet the situation it is necessary to dig tube wells in 5000 villages. In the remaining 2086 villages efforts should be made to deepen the wells and where it is not possible water be transported by tankers and bullock carts. In some cities like Sagar and Ujjain water supply situation continues to be critical.

To meet the expenses for implementing water supply scheme, the Government of Madhya Pradesh had made demand for Rs. 18.28 crores from the Central Government. As against this an assistance of Rs. 486 crores has been made available in 1984-85 and 1985-86 financial year. This assistance is meagre compared to the requirement of the State to implement various water supply schemes to meet the situation. Therefore, additional Central assistance of Rs. 13.56 crores is absolutely essential.

In the circumstances stated above, I urge upon the Government of India to sanction additional funds to implement water supply schemes in the problem villages and towns.

- (v) Demand for erecting a monument in memory of the late Sibte Hasan

**SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Sibte Hasan was an eminent scholar writer, critic and thinker of the sub-continent. As an Urdu writer known for his progressive and creative works, he is rated among the literary giants like Faiz Ahmed Faiz and Sajjad Zahir etc. who have brought luster to literature by their progressive thought and creative writings and are known throughout the world.

He had also taken part in the freedom struggle through his pen and a collection of his poems named '*Azadi-Ki-Nazmain*' (Poems of Freedom Struggle) was banned and the