

- (v) **Demand for financial and other assistance to Uttar Pradesh Government to meet drought situation in certain parts of the State**

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur): Sir, there is drought situation in eastern part of Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand districts because of no rains since two and a half months. The kharif crop there has been totally destroyed and there is no possibility left for the sowing of the Rabi crop due to the lack of moisture in the soil. There are no sources of irrigation in Mirzapur and Varanasi districts. Many agriculture labourers and farmers in the development blocks of Mirzapur district, who have been affected by drought, are running from pillar to post in search of jobs. The problem of drinking water scarcity is already there in many villages of these blocks. The farmers, are very much worried as there are no chances of the sowing of Rabi crop. Therefore, my submission is that in order to face the immediate drought situation in those areas, the recovery of all state taxes should be postponed and the small landless farmers should be given financial assistance. Under the N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. drought relief programmes, construction of ponds, wells, dams, canals and roads etc. should be started in drought-struck areas covering each village so that people may get employment and foodgrains. Arrangements for the sowing of the Rabi crop should also be made by providing help for the pumping sets etc. wherever water is not available. At least 2-3 fair price shops for foodgrains should be opened in the rural areas. Order should be given to install handpumps at important points in the villages facing acute problem of the scarcity of drinking water. The pipeline schemes should also be started for making the drinking water available. Construction of wells should also be undertaken.

My submission to the Government is that the Uttar Pradesh Government should be given financial assistance in this regard.

- (vi) **Demand for clearance to scheme submitted by D.R.D.A. for construction of cemented drains in Gang Nahar and Bhakhra Nahar areas of Ganganagar district in Rajasthan**

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, irrigation facilities in Ganganagar district are available through Gang Nahar, Bhakhra Canal and Indira Nahar Project. In Gang Nahar and Bhakhra Canal project area most of the water drains are *kachcha* and as such water does not reach upto the last part of the field and most of the water goes waste. The approval for the construction of cemented drains is granted under R.L.E.G.P. and N.R.E.G.P. programmes. In the year, 1987-88, cemented drains were sanctioned for 97 places in district Ganganagar, most of which have already been completed. If this year also a separate project is approved under R.L.E.G.P. and cemented drains are constructed in 100 villages at a cost of Rs. 8 crores, 20 thousand acres of additional land could be provided with irrigational facilities and approximately 13 lakhs of man days could be created as also 14 thousand poor families could be provided employment. A project note has been submitted by D.R.D.A. in this regard.

My submission, therefore, is that the Central Government should take necessary action in the matter.

[English]

- (vii) **Demand for further research on the use of Ramie, a staple fibre, and its popularisation in the country.**

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta): Ramie is an age-old stapled fibre grown in South-East Asia including China and Assam. The fibre of this plant is mentioned in the old classics and recent history. It grows naturally in all the States of North-East India. It is a crop like jute which does not have a

long gestation period unlike tea, coffee and rubber and has the additional advantage of two to three crops a year in the rainfed area. Long Ramie fibres are very strong and at the same time the product has the fineness of silk and firmness of plastic fibres through it is a vegetable fibre. It has lustre and tensibility and can take brilliant dyes without the risk of fading in strong sunlight.

Uses of Ramie fibre are manifold — from fine clothes and strong threads for fishing nets to parachute cords to belts, hose-pipes, cigarette paper and even paper for currency notes.

Unfortunately, such a potential national wealth has neither been appreciated nor taken care of by the Central and the State Governments. There is an experimental Research Station at Sorbhog in my constituency under the Jute Agricultural Research Institute, Barrackpore, West Bengal, for which adequate funds for real research and expansion are not being provided.

A special committee of experts should immediately go into the question of popularising this remunerative crop from which Governments can earn as well.

[Translation]

**(viii) Demand for a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Bhargain town in Etah district of Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, district Etah in Uttar Pradesh is one of the backward districts and one of the reason for its backwardness is the absence of good educational institutions in the district. Unemployment has been on a rise there, consequently, the youths are getting inclined to crimes and incidents of dacoity murder etc. are very frequent there. There are no industries there where the youths may get some job.

In my Parliamentary Constituency, there is a town Bhargain, situated in *tehsil*

Patiyali, having a population of 25 thousand. It is a town area and the largest number of the people belonging to minority communities in the districts live here. There is a railway line and railway station at a distance of about one kilometer from this town. There is also a hospital, overhead water tank and electric supply in the town. This town is also connected with District Headquarters through road. But it is a regretting that there is only one school which provides education up to 8th class. There is no school for higher study even at a distance of 5 kms from this town.

The Government is opening Navodaya Vidhyalayas in every district. 30 acres of land which is required for opening such a school has been reserved by the town area near the town and until the school building is complete, the children can study in the existing building. My submission to the Central Government and especially to the Minister of Education is that Navodaya Vidyalayas should be opened in this town keeping the 15 point programme and the number of the people of minority communities here in view. I hope that the Government will consider this matter.

[English]

**(ix) Demand for classifying Ramanathapuram town in Tamil Nadu as 'C' class city.**

SHRI P.KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palayam): In Ramanathapuram the Department of Post, the Department of Telecom, the Department of Customs and Central Excise, the Department of Railways, the Department of Field Publicity are located. At present, Ramanathapuram is an unclassified city for the purpose of grant of HRA/CCA. Ramanathapuram District was formed on 15.3.1985 with Ramanathapuram as headquarters. With the formation of district, all State Government district offices as well as private enterprises have shifted from Madurai to Ramanathapuram resulting in increased cost of living and scarcity of accommodation. The population in 1986 was