

385 *Salary Allow. & Pension KARTIKA 13, 1910 (SAKA)* Disc. under 193 on 386
of M.Ps (Amdt.) Bill *Demands of farmers and agr. labour*

Shri Ram Swaroop Ram - not present.
Shri Manoj Pandey - not present. Shri
Prabhu Lal Rawat - Not present.

Shri Vishnu Modi - not moving. Shri
Charanjit Singh Athwal - not present. Shri Vir
Sen - not moving.

The question is:

"That Clause 9 stand part of the
Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 9 was added to the Bill

Clause 10 (Amendment of Section 8 B)

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: There is an
amendment by Shri Vir Sen - not moving.
The question is:

"That Clause 10 stand part of the
Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 10 was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting For-
mula and the Title Stand Part of the
Bill."

The motion was adopted

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the
Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I would like to make it clear that some
part of it is to be implemented through rules.
As soon as the Bill gets through the Rajya
Sabha and gets the assent of the President,
we shall immediately call a meeting of the
concerned authorities and see to it that the

Bill is implemented.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Am I to take
that the arrears will be payable from the 1st
of April? In that case, is that liable to be
taxed?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The Bill is appli-
cable from 1st of April.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be
passed."

The motion was adopted

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at
four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Demands of Farmers and Agricultural
Labour - Contd.**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we are
taking up item No.10—further discussion on
the demands of farmers and agricultural
labour raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy on the
3rd November, 1988. Prof. Madhu Dan-
davate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Ra-
japur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to
participate in a very important debate on the
problems of the kisans as well as agricultural
labour. Sir, in the post-independence period,
we have witnessed a very significant agita-
tion by the peasants as well as the agricul-
tural labour. I am not merely referring to the
agitation of BKU but also referring to the
earlier demonstrations and agitations by the
left organisations in which agricultural labour
and landless labour had also participated.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Now these agitations have focussed certain important issues. Sir, I say that this agitation led by the BKU is very significant because for the first time in the last several years, the State endowed with all the powers could not suppress their agitation. Sir, on 31st October, a very significant day, again with all the powers at stake on one side and the harmless kisans on the other side led by BKU, the organisers of the Congress Rally were forced to go out to Red Fort. Of course, it is their choice, but that shows the organised strength of the peasants who had assembled at the Boat Club. So, the 31st October was a very significant day. The victory they gained on 31st October is also a significant day. That was the day which is the birthday of late Shri Vallabhai Patel and those who participated in the freedom struggle know that Sardar Vallabhai Patel became the 'Sardar' of India after leading the heroic battle of the kisans at Bardoli and that was the day on which the peasants won a great victory and again that was a significant day, 31st October, which was the birthday anniversary of Acharya Narendra Dev, the doyan among the socialists who led the kisan movement in the country, in the pre-independence era. On such a day, the heroic struggle was launched. The demands of the kisans were very simple. Basically, it was the assurance of remunerative prices for the farm produce and they concretised by saying that the remunerative prices after permitting 12% profit to the farmer should be in addition to the capital and the labour that was used as input. Then the second demand was that the prices should be fixed in consultation with the farmers' representatives and these two vary depending upon the general price-line of other essential commodities.

Sir, no doubt, there is Agricultural Prices and Cost Commission. But I may narrate a very interesting experience of mine. I will not refer to the exports. In one of the debates which I initiated in this House I was told that the Agricultural Prices Commission will take care of the remunerative prices for the peasants, and at that time I told Shrimati Indira Gandhi that one of the exports on agriculture whom I met, I asked

him a plain and simple question: Can you tell me the difference between rabi and kharif? He was not at all able to mention. Then I humorously said: Can you tell me at least whether these are the names of daughters or sons?. So, this is the state of affairs of the exports. So, merely leaving them is not sufficient they say (i) on the Commission there should be adequate representation to the kisans, (2) scrapping of the levy on super-quality crops (3) free movement of grain throughout the country, (4), no zonal system (5) uniform power tariff and bank loans for cooperative lands policy all over the country and (6) waiving of all the pending loans, particularly in the areas ravaged by the recent floods and release of all the kisan demonstrators.

Sir, I have not the least doubt that irrespective of the political affiliations, the Members of this House who represent particularly the rural constituencies will have no hesitation in broadly supporting these demands. There might be differences on the modus operandi. There might be differences in the mode of struggle but as far as the broad demands of the kisans are concerned, I don't think there is any difference and linked up with that I stand not only for the interest of the kisans and peasants but I am also actually interested in the just and fair wage to the agricultural labour that is working on the lands of the kisans. And remember, Sir, when we had led a big march of the kisans and landless labour in Maharashtra some years back, at that time the landless labour and the agricultural labour also participated in the demands and demonstrations of the kisans with the perspective that if the peasant gets a better remunerative price, in that case the agricultural labour also can demand for a just and a fair wage and therefore, the agricultural labour as well as the peasants participated in the agitation that had taken place some time back in Maharashtra. So, these are the problems.

Sir, when such an agitation was launched, those who came to the Boat Club might be rustic kisans, they might not be in tune with the urban civilization and urban

culture, but basically they are the sons and daughters of the soil and they represented an ethos and therefore, a more sympathetic attitude was required. I am very sorry to state, and I go on the basis of the proceedings of the Supreme Court that when they launched this dharna and when they demonstrated the big strength of their people coming from different parts, I they had to lodge a complaint with the Supreme Court that their water supply should not be disconnected, the food packets available to them should not be taken away, this must be assured. After all, the leader of the kisans is fighting for the simple demands of the kisans. When I see this, I am reminded of what happened after the Chinese Revolution. Mao Tse-Tung was asked a simple question: 'What have you given to the people after this Revolution?' And very modestly that great revolutionist said, 'I have been able to offer a morsel of food to every Chinese in the country.' That is what he said. He did not say 'I am able to give them air-conditioning', he did not say 'I am able to give them palatial buildings', but his modest and ideal reply was: 'I have been able to give a morsel of rice to every Chinese', That is what Mao Tse-Tung told a journalist who asked him: 'What have you given after the Chinese Revolution?' I think those who are leading this agitation are not demanding palatial mansions for the kisans and the landless labour, they are not demanding huge lands for the landless labour where in an unscrupulous manner the ceiling laws can be violated. They are simply making certain demands which are extremely simple. And in spite of that, they were subjected to hardships.

Sir, here the *Times of India*, (Delhi), of 31 st October 1988 gives a brief report about the Supreme Court notice to Government on water to farmers. It says:

"The Supreme Court today directed the Union Government and Delhi Administration to consider expeditiously the representation made by the Bharatiya Kisan Union for supply of water and other essential amenities. A

Special Division Bench comprising Mr. Justice Sbyasachi Mukherjee and Mr. Justice S. Ranganathan issued the notice returnable on November 1 on a petition made by a farmer leader."

Fortunately, with some assurance on 31st the dharna was terminated with an assurance of a further agitation. But all said and done, the leaders of the demonstration had to go to the Supreme Court not to demand remunerative prices, not to demand better seeds, not to demand for parity between the agricultural and industrial prices, not to demand for the waiving of the loans, they had to go to the Supreme Court to demand the basic amenities of life saying 'Give us water and give us food packets.' That is all they had to demand. So, they came to demand for justice for the kisans and they had to go to the highest judiciary in the country to demand water which is the basic amenity that should be available in a free and democratic country to any citizen who lives and who is willing to die in this land. But that is the tragedy.

With this background I would like to take up the general problems that have been raised by all those who have been agitating for the demands of the kisans and also of the landless labour. For any agricultural produce to quantify a remunerative price we need a proper exercise. We are always asked by the Minister: 'Tell us what according to you is the ideal remunerative price.'" Those of us who are coming from the movements should not fall into this trap and try to quantify the remunerative price for the very simple reason that remunerative price is not absolute, it depends upon the cost of production, it depends on the availability of various inputs, it depends upon price level at which all the inputs are available to the kisans and therefore, even the remunerative prices for the kisans are a direct function or a variable function of the cost of production in terms of the inputs that have to be provided. Therefore, that problem has to be tackled. Remunerative price of agricultural produce is linked with the costs of agricultural production, depending upon inputs like

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]
seeds, fertilisers, various medicines to be used, electricity, water, diesel etc. To make the price remunerative, it is essential that all the inputs that are required by the agriculturists are made cheap.

As far as the Agricultural Prices Commission is concerned, an important basis is, the Commission is, the Commission has to follow a by-product of costs. Norms for fixing up agricultural prices must not vary from these and the prices of industrial goods. Here, with due respect to all those who come from the trade union movement let me speak on behalf of the unorganised peasant movement that one complaint of the rural population is that under the pressure of the urban elites and also the organised working class in the cities, when you consider the question of prices, when you consider the question of prices of industrial goods, you consider everything. You take into account, the cost of production. You take into account the electricity used by the workshop in a textile mill. You take into account that if somebody is working in somebody else's place the rate that is paid. You also take into account the amount that is paid for the yarn. You also take into account the labour that is hired. You take into account even the position of the land on which the a factory is built up and taking all these into account, and a certain margin is left, then only the prices of industrial commodities are fixed up. I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister and since he also comes from a peasant movement, I am sure that he will not basically differ with me: Is it not a fact that in our society while the prices of industrial commodities are fixed all aspects are taken into account but while fixing the prices of agricultural commodities, all the important aspects of inputs and various environmental conditions are not taken note of? That has to be done.

Reconstitution of the APC, Agricultural Prices and Costs Commission with greater representation to kisans is absolutely necessary. Let me tell you, some people have been finding fault with linguistic reorganisation of States. But there was one Gandhi in this country who understood the basic thing. If the administration is to be carried on with

the participation of the people, the administrators' language must be the language of the people. And that is why, Gandhi said this. I will give an illustration of my own State. I come from the State of Maharashtra, formerly it was the Bombay State. There were parts of Gujarat, parts of Karnataka, parts of Bombay. In that situation what used to happen? Nobody was able to know the language acceptable to all. If people spoke in Kannada in the Bombay State Assembly, the Marathi, speaking population would not know. If they spoke in Marathi the Gujarathi population would not know. And, therefore, they only used to address the entire gathering in English. Now here at least when you speak in English or Bengali or Tamil, simultaneous translations are available. Those translations were not available there. And, therefore, only English knowing people, English knowing MLAs used to participate. Now you go to Karnataka, go to Maharashtra, go to Andhra. Some of the best rural men, coming from the rural background, having rural culture, might not have read Shakespeare or Kaldash. But they have understood through their roots in the soil, the problems of the soil and I have heard some of these rural MLAs in the Maharashtra and Karnataka Assemblies. They are able to put forward their point of view in a beautiful manner, rational manner because their knowledge is an empirical knowledge which comes from the roots of the soil. Such people can speak there only when they have to address in terms of their own language. I have seen in your Assembly also that rural people might not be knowing English might not be able to speak in Hindi, are able to speak in Tamil well. Even the persons who are coming from rural areas are able to reflect their views on the floor of the Assembly. That way, people may question that if you have to take the representations of Kisans on the Agricultural Prices Commission, they might not have obtained doctorate in Economic or Agriculture Economics. But they will understand what are the rural problems of agriculture. Therefore, take some of them. They will be communicable to communicate to the experts some of the basic problems of agriculture, the price structure, the input structure and the experts

can utilise that empirical knowledge to rationally interpret their point of view and to arrive at a conclusion. Therefore, restructuring of the Agricultural Prices Commission is a must.

Parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial goods is a must. It might not be a cent per cent physical parity. But, at least a balance between the agricultural and the industrial prices is a must. Unless this is done, it will not be possible to satisfy the demands.

We find that there are fluctuations in prices. One of the consistent demands of those who have been working in the kisan movement throughout the country is that before the agriculturists take to the profession of agriculture, they must be assured that it is profitable to be an agriculturist. When an industrialist puts his capital into industry, he thinks a hundred times what infrastructure and facilities are available and at what cost he will be able to manufacture and sell industrial goods and then he decides on the particular line of industrial production that he has to take up. The same empirical choice is made by the agriculturists. But if the prices are fluctuating, he will not be knowing what price he is going to get. Therefore, the people in the kisan movement have been consistently demanding that before the sowing season of agriculture, the prices should be announced and the agriculturists should be assured that it is advantageous to take to agriculture and that it is a profitable job and, therefore, that particular demand which I think comes many times from both sides of the House has to be agreed to.

I would like to make a concrete suggestion to the Minister for Agriculture. This suggestion has been voiced many times by Members belonging to the ruling party as well as the Opposition and especially those who are connected with agriculture. They have been consistently demanding that if you want to give proper benefit to agriculture, treat agriculture as an industry. If you treat agriculture as an industry, there are a number of benefits in terms of law which are

not available to agriculture today but which will become available. That aspect has to be borne in mind.

Incidentally, I may mention that fishing is supposed to be a part of the Agriculture Ministry. But very often we find that the advantages that are available in terms of bank credit to the agriculturists, are not available to fishermen. You treat fishing industry as part of agriculture. But the concessional loan available to the agriculturists are not available to fishermen. Strangely enough, in this country lot of concessions on duty are available only to those fishermen who are making use of mechanized fishing and are using machines with a HP higher than 150 whereas if they are using machines below 150 HP those concessions are not available. I raised that issue on a number of occasions. The Agriculture Minister said that "I am referring it to the Finance." Finance says "We are giving it back to Agriculture." On one occasion Prime Minister was sitting here. I said "Both the Ministers are quarrelling. Prime Minister, you intervene in the House and ask them to give a harmonious reply." But they have not been able to do it and, therefore, that aspect also has to be borne in mind.

Since we are discussing the problems of agriculturists and their demands, in this context I would suggest that rationalisation of the machinery of NAFED is a must. NAFED must be streamlined. Proper warehousing facilities, refrigeration facilities and adequate funds should be made available to them. Its functioning should be free from all the bureaucratic checks. If that is done, we will be able to have better NAFED functioning. As far as technology is concerned, I would suggest that in this country, highly mechanised agriculture is not possible at all. Incidentally I may say that where per capita land available in some of the countries. 150 or 300 acres or hectares, they are talking of highly mechanized agriculture. I can't do it. But in a country like India where the per capita availability of land is only 1.5 acres, in such a country, to talk about highly mechanized agriculture with tractors, is a meaningless

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate] proposition. For those who are having large piece of land, it is all right. But we have a number of farmers who have got uneconomic holdings. Therefore, I would concretely suggest that for small holdings tractors are not useful but power tillers on the lines of those which have been used by agriculturists in Japan would be a good pattern to be emulated and I hope that will be done. There are small farmers. Middle and rich farmers are able to get all the services viz. fertilisers and all other services. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to actually encourage more and more service cooperatives so that for extremely small peasants and others, it will be possible to take advantage of various agricultural services through the agency of cooperatives and that will also lead to increase in productivity.

Then, Zonal System has been creating a great problem for agricultural economy. Our country is one. While we talk so much about national integrity in the midst of communal tensions and caste tensions, I would like you to remember that even in the context of agricultural problems, Zonal System should be destroyed and there should be a complete freedom for the peasant to move his commodities from one part of the country to another. In this country, the rich industrialists produce their luxury goods. They produce the essential commodities and wherever the market is available, there is no restriction on industrialists to move their industrial goods from one part of the country to another. But, as far as agriculturists are concerned, why do you give them a discriminating treatment? Therefore I request you to give them the freedom. The agriculturist is one man on whom the entire country depends, 80 percent of the people are involved in rural agriculture. In such a situation, I feel that the Zonal System should be completely abolished. The entire country should be treated as one single unit.

In this connection, I would like to make one concrete suggestion Mr. Minister and please take cognizance of that. It is possible to have certain agricultural industries very close to the land where the agriculturists are

tilling their lands. Industrial units should be in the vicinity of raw-material production centres in a decentralised way. In regard to agriculture, wherever such production units have been set up in the vicinity of agriculturist land, please give the agriculturists the scope to the shareholders of that small industry that has been built up. That will give scope for the participation of the workers as well as the peasants in the process of production.

Our Finance Minister comes from Maharashtra. He knows the problems and complications of monopoly procurement of cotton. He also knows what are the problems. I will again repeat that monopoly procurement of cotton scheme is a welcome scheme. But it can never function as an island in the midst of so many vested interests. Therefore, I would say that experiment of monopoly procurement should be expanded, more funds should be made available and spinning mills should be near the place of cotton production. Peasants, labourers and industrialists are inter-linked with each other. I will just refer to that point and conclude in a minute. Very often some sort of a dichotomy is built up between agricultural labour and also the peasant. There is a fashion to talk in terms of rich peasant. Really speaking, in a country like India apart from some persons who go on violating the coiling laws, basically the kisan is a simpler person. ...*(Interruptions)*. If you go by the composition and break-up of this, you will find that a large number of people are middle-holders, small-holders. Therefore, do not try to dub the peasant as only a rich peasant. Very few rich peasants are there. By and large, middle and small peasants are there. Therefore, their interests are linked up not with the richest barons in the agricultural field but their interests are linked up with the small agricultural labourers and the agricultural labourers in many parts of the country have realised that if only the poor peasant is able to get a better remunerative price than only they will be able to get better wage. Therefore, we must see the entire scope of reconstruction and the struggle for justice. The struggle of the landless labourer and the

struggle of the peasant must go hand-in-hand. That is the reason for which the agitation is going on. Let it not be merely the agitation of the peasants, let it not be merely the agitation of landless labourer but if they work together, they will be able to succeed. I am glad only a few days back we have celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel while became Sardar after fighting the Bardoli struggle. I remember in the Bardoli struggle Sardar Patel said one thing. That struggle was not like the present day struggle. When Madhu Dandavate goes to offer Satyagraha at Boat Club, he tells his wife, "I am going for Satyagraha during this time. I will be coming for dinner at night." But the Satyagraha which Sardar Patel led was not a ritual like this. When he fought, I believe, Gandhiji said: "fight to the last." And he told the Kisans, "when you fight the battle of the kisan in Bardoli you will lose your property, you will lose your land, you will lose your earthen utensils, you will lose everything, be prepared to sacrifice everything. When nation becomes free, Sardar Patel assures you that your land will come back to you." Sardar went away but land came back to the peasants. Remember, that was the manner in which he fought the struggle of kisan tooth and nail and, therefore, he ultimately succeeded. Therefore, we must organise the peasants. Even the conscience we people who are coming from the urban areas, our conscience is not easily roused unless the peasants put their pressure on us. We are more interested in organised working class movement because if they stop the railways, passengers will not be able to move. The poor kisan has no strength like that to paralyse the society, to hold the entire society to ransom. But he has the inherent strength of expressing his conscience in an organised manner. That conscience has come to the *Praja*. Therefore, no matter to whichever party we belong, whether you like the BKU's struggle that was launched, let us try to understand the motivation of the peasants in Mahatma Gandhi's India, in Sardar Patel's India and in Narendra Dev's India. Once again, kisan has become conscious. Let him not be put to more sacrifices. With the best of our interest and best of our respect for the

kisan, let us try to concede his demands in a broader framework of our Indian economy. That will be our great tribute to the working class as well as peasantry who are the moulders of this soil

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am thankful and grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to take part in the discussion. It is good that our Minister for Agriculture is present in the House. He himself is a farmer and comes from an agricultural area.

During the half-an-hour yesterday and also during the half-an-hour to -day, I have listened to both of my learned friends Shri Janga Reddy and Prof. Madhu Dandavate who commenced the discussion respectively.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL VYAS : He is calling Shri Janga Reddy a learned man.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : It is my duty to address him as a learned man.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : But you will start with a poem.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Minister for Agriculture, the farmer and the agriculture are more important than recitation of a poem. I have been reciting poems at times before you but it will be very kind of you if you listen to me without recitation of a poem today.

I will not go into any political background because Prof. Madhu Dandavate is my elder brother and we learn much from him. But it is the first time that whatever we have learnt from him to -day warrants us to say that it would have been better if we have not learnt it. The background of farmers, rally referred to by Madhuji is known to us and to him also. The overall crux of the farmers' movement rested upon one or two things. I have to say with regret that I have to refer to "Veer Arjun"

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi] in which it has been written with responsibility that the people of the Bharatiya Janata Party promised to provide food to those who would take part in the farmers' rally at the Boat Club and the Lok Dal promised to go on collecting the people and urging them to keep sitting and not to disperse. Is this a farmers' movement? There was some or the other vested interest behind it.

Madhuji claims that the rally changed the venue and the Congress went to Red Fort. I want to say humbly that the Congress is the only party which is wise and large-hearted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not only the entire country but also the entire world has acclaimed that the Congress has a big heart and has taken a wise step to change the venue. Those people, who were unarmed as stated by Shri Madhu Dandavate, wielded sticks on the returning Congress soldiers and volunteers. They had to be taken to hospitals for stitches. They beat the Congress people openly.

Shri Janga Reddy said a fine thing yesterday that Shri Rajiv Gandhi could not find time to talk to the farmers assembled at the Boat Club. I do not want to refer to figures because these will go against my friends. I would, however, like to submit one thing that Shri Rajiv Gandhi did not need to go to the Boat Club to talk to the farmers because the Congress is the only party which has been talking to the farmers for the last 104 years. Whenever we talked, we talked to the farmers.

My elder brother Shri Madhu Dandavate has just said that farmers had made a great contribution in achieving independence. It does not look nice to say that the party who has been talking to the farmers for the last 104 years has no time to talk to the farmers. If Shri Rajiv Gandhi has not gone to see them, there must be some reason which should be found out. I can say with conviction that only Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government has done something for the farmers during the last 4 years. I do not hesitate to say this

because it is a fact. 400 representatives of farmers are sitting here. We are representatives of the farmers and have been elected from the rural areas. The Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress listens to us. We do not want to take part in such shows which you go on organising from time to time. One objective of this rally was to make an effort to prevent the Congress rally. The people and the history of Delhi know that the Congress rally held on 31st October surpassed all rallies held during the last 40 years after independence. We do not want to do anything which gives rise to tension. Nobody can deny this fact.

Shri Madhu Dandavate and Shri Janga Reddy, if you had requisitioned the Boat Club for only 25th instant then why this fuss has been created. Some organisers of this rally in the name of farmers and some armed people kept the people sitting at the Boat Club forcibly. Such a news has appeared in the "Veer Arjun" in which it has also been stated that the armed people told the farmers if they left, there would be riots. Those poor people were leaving but were not allowed to go. Your strategy was to keep them sitting till 2nd instant so that you are able to create uproar here. Why the greatest Speaker and the greatest authority of the Lok Sabha, who is himself a farmer, would put off the farmers. We all know where drama and hoaxes are staged.

Mr Deputy-Speaker, I want to tell the whole country through you that we are farmers and I am basically a son of an agricultural worker's family. To be a farmer is a big thing but I am smaller than the farmer. My mother and myself had guarded the crops and cut grass as well as crops in the fields. I know the suffering of agricultural labour but there comes a situation about which Shri Dandavate knows more than us. I want to recite two lines in Hindi in this connection. "Homne beshak unde Nahi Diya Laken unde Ke Bare Mein Murghi se Ziyada Janata Hein." (Though we have never laid an egg but in comparison to a hen we know more about the egg.)

The same applies to Madhuji. No doubt he did not do farming but he knows more about it. He does not lay eggs like a human but he has learnt the art of expressing the pains suffered by a hen. He knows who is eating the eggs of the hen. There was a plan to eat political eggs at the Boat Club which failed and then pain comes to this House through this discussion under 193. Had the demonstration been successful at the Boat Club, there would have been a different state of affairs. They are calling it a revolution. If thinkers like Shri Madhu Dandavate call such a drama as a revolution, then it be noted that no revolution would take place in this country. You are a thinker of this country. I want to tell you humbly that we are farmers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we cannot forget certain things.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Do not be angry?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : vijayji how can I be angry with you. This dialogue is between us. Mamtaji, why are you coming in between. You can never make me angry. It is an expression of love.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : We find love in anger and they find anger in love.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : We farmers are labourers. We learn by working hand and feel obliged to none. There is no question of giving any reply, after all he is my elder brother. We just cannot forget certain things. We always remember that Gandhiji was our emancipator. We also remember that our Congress is that party without which nobody is there to protect us. Congress is the protector of the farmer. We do remember certain things out of which I want to remind you about one or two things. To those who have raised this discussion under Rule 193 and made efforts to raise such a detailed discussion in this House, I want to tell that we remember that the Congress Government had provided a subsidy of Rs 4445 crores on fertilizers during the sixth five year plan. I want to draw the attention of the House that upto the fourth year of the seventh five year

plan a subsidy amounting to Rs 7985 crores which is approximately double, has been given on fertilizers under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Our two greatmen who have raised this discussion under 193, one of them Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Minister of Railways 10 years back and used to sit on this side and the other Shri Janga Reddy whose party members were also ministers, I remember the name of Shri Barnala Sahib in this connection who was Minister for Agriculture. How much subsidy had been granted by them then on fertilizers. It is known to you that they had granted only Rs 24 crores as subsidy on fertilizers. Those who incurred only Rs 24 crore as subsidy on fertilizers in 1977-78 are raising objections today inspite of the fact that the present Government has incurred Rs 8985 crore on the same item. Now, the House is to decide whether we better know about the sufferings of farmers or not. If I also go on giving data, this will go on an endless discussion because you are aware that the farmers represent 67 to 80 percent population of this country and the remaining 33 per cent also are in other occupations. My hon. brother, Prof. Madhu Dandavate perhaps could not say that there are about 900 lakhs agriculture holders in this country and 3/4 of them are those who own only two hectares of agricultural land. We will have to make more efforts for them. If we don't do anything it won't work. We know how much money was earmarked for irrigation in previous Five Year Plans. Total amount spent for irrigation in previous Five Year Plans was Rs 17489 crore whereas under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi this amount has increased upto Rs 49471 crore in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : What about the Rolling Plan?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Why should I ask? Madanji, why you are diverting my attention. I cannot argue with my elder brother but I am saying this through hon. Deputy Speaker. I would like to submit that against Rs. 1,7489 crores incurred for the welfare of farmers in the previous five, Five

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

Year Plans, the Congress Government, under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi have made the provision of Rs. 49471 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. It is said, even after that, that this Government is doing nothing for farmers. Go and talk to the farmers what this Government is doing for him. Whom you bring here are not really the farmers. They are some other people in the guise of farmers. The farmers are those who do not come here and do work in their fields. You yourself say that this is an unorganised sector and the farmer is the one who works in the field. Excuse me, the people who hold rallies with the help of politicians are not farmers. They are the politicians in the guise of farmers. We know that these are the pawns of the chess. As regards oppositions allegation that the Congress Government has done nothing for the scientific development of agriculture in the previous 40-41 years, I would like to say with facts that at the time of Independence when I was in my childhood, the production of foodgrains was 5 crore tonnes while today when you are in the old age, and I am a middle aged man and our children have grown young, the production of foodgrains in the country has gone to 17 crores tonnes. If nothing was done, then how all this have been achieved. Something has certainly been achieved. However, I agree with you that the achievement has been below the expectations in such a big sector. But when you say that nothing has been achieved then it appears to be politically motivated statement. This does not reflect the wished and sufferings of the people. This type of allegations are made keeping an eye on the general elections and when the opposition begins to speak having an eye on General Elections, they adopt the dramatic language to speak which is generally far away from the solid facts. I want that speeches in the House should not be made with an eye over the election instead those should be based on facts. Out of 5.8 lakh villages in this country, 4.4 lakh villages have been electrified in 41 years and even after this the opposition say that nothing has been done for the farmers. The decision about the remaining 1 lakh and some points of the villages will be taken by the Government and the Opposition in the coming years.

I would like to tell that in the current Budget Rs. 300 crore have been provided for the crop based programmes. We are paying our attention towards the intensive cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, jute and cotton. As regards, the prices of fertilizers, the opposition has made it an issue and I am happy for that. I myself belong to that area where fertilizers are used. I want to tell that even today the floor price of urea is the same as it was in 1981. The Government led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi have brought it down by Rs 8.80 per bag and farmers are getting the benefits. But you people say that nothing has been done for the farmers. It seems ridiculous when I see my opposition colleagues starting anti-price rise agitations. I would like to draw the attention of the House and Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to expose the hypocrisy of the people who indulge in anti price rise agitations. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, no one in this country is interested that the prices of cars, watches, fountain pens, shoes or the clothes etc. should be decreased. What do we want? We want to bring down the prices of wheat, rice and sugar. Why? Because these are the commodities produced in the fields of farmers. Sir, though you I would like to say that if such drama over the price rise continues, one day the farmer will come and say that he did not have even the shoes to wear but today he is in the position that he is cultivating his fields by tractors and is owing Maruti car for his comfort. Sir, the economic condition of farmers has improved because of the price rise and they are thankful for it. I, on behalf of the farmers would like to urge Shri Bhajan Lalji not to take step to bringing down the prices. Let the prices go on increasing and efforts should be made to enhance the purchasing power of the farmers. Please remember, if the Government increases the purchasing capacity of farmers, I can assure you that we will make efforts to control all other things. We will make concerted efforts. But you want our produce at a very negligible price, say two maunds of wheat in a rupee whereas the products of Tata at very high price, say a Chesis for Rs 3 lakhs and a pair of shoes of Bata for three hundred rupees.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I thing you will agree with me that the prices of those commodities should be brought down which are required by the farmers too. Will you agree to it or not?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Madhu brother, I am a student of your school of thought. I am the student of your university. This is another thing that you kept absent at the time of convocation. I am also the product of the same school. I have been a member of the Congress Party for the last 45 years and never saluted any other party flag but I read the thesis of every political party. I am gratified to see Shri Janga Reddy and Shri Madhu Dandavate raising the issue of the welfare of farmers in one voice from the same platform. Their ways will be different as they get out of the House. Madhuji, you are changing the name of political party like clothes. Only the God knows what will be the name of his party to-morrow. But on the other hand, yesterday, I was speaking from the platform of Congress party and today also I am speaking from the same platform.

I want to say one thing to you that the farmers never asked you to make the things cheaper. The farmer asks simply the reasonable price of his product. Chowdhary Sahib, you yourself are a farmer, please take Mr. Madhu Dandavate in your chamber and talk to him. You will not be able to say what I am saying from the Congress platform. Is the price of wheat of Rs. 300 per quintal reasonable? No agriculturist can say so. This price is not reasonable. If the price of wheat is increased to Rs. 500 per quintal even then the farmer will come in a position of no profit and no loss. But the elected Government know that if the price of wheat is increased upto Rs 500 per quintal, the poor teachers will not be able to purchase wheat. We, therefore, persuade the farmer to have patience. You are asking for bringing down the prices of raw-material. There has been a Prime Minister, who never attended the sittings of the House, you people made him the Prime Minister, He could never face the House. He called himself a farmer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was made by your party.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Sir, you are shifting the responsibility of electing such a Prime Minister on us. Sir, we did that which the Janata Government could not. We thought it fit to go to the people for a fresh mandate. He did not sit in the House even for a day. He brought down the price of sugar to Rs 2.50 per kilogram and the result was that the farmers stopped sowing sugarcane in the fields. Later on, in 1980, the public had to purchase sugar at the rate of Rs 20 per kg. You want to bring down the prices of those commodities which are produced by the farmer. We shall not allow it to happen in the country. I will be very grateful if Chaudhary Sahib gives his attention towards certain things . I want to request you(Interruptions)..... Shri Virdhi Chanderji comes from Rajasthan and he knows that the cost of agriculture products is more there (Interruptions)..... what can be done, Chaudhary Sahib our problem is that our neighbors create more troubles for us. Shri Chavan, the Minister of finance, beside to you. I am serious to say that by encouraging small holdings you are creating small farmers in the country. I do not mean to say that small farmer should be made big. What I want to say is that the Government should fix a limit of small holding. Day by day he is resorting to small holdings. Government make laws to provide electricity connections to small farmers but what happens in reality is that four members of the same family in the guise of small farmers take four connections and the poor farmers is deprived of the same. This has happened, that is why I am making a reference to it. Kindly make a provision and discuss it in the Cabinet to enable the farmers live with dignity.

I would like to say one thing more. If an industrialist goes o Bank after incurring the loss of Rs 300 crores, the Bank manager gets up salutes him, offers him a chair and cup fo tea. But on the other hand, if a poor farmer goes to Bank to take the loan of Rs 500 or Rs 5,000 he is asked to come on the next Saturdays, Friday or the next Monday.

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

The common man is annoyed if he does not get a hearing. I want to draw your and hon. Shri Chavan's attention towards this. An atmosphere needs to be created in which the common man can lead a respectable life. It would be better if this thesis could be changed. Possibly hon. Shri Madhu Dandavate would be in agreement with me on this thesis. In this country it is not possible for any government to pay high prices for major crops, like wheat, gram, maize and pulses. However, remunerative prices can and should be given for small crops like garlic, consider, chillies and species. The burden on the farmer should be shared by every kitchen so that villages can sustain themselves. I want the government to consider this point.

Through the hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to draw attention to a matter which needs serious thought on the part of hon. Shri Bhajan Lal. Yesterday in his speech hon. Shri Bhajan Lal said that he would bring the bureaucracy round. However, will he bring them round. I hope the bureaucracy does not brainwash Shri Bhajan Lal. If that happens the farmers of this country would be in deep trouble. Hon. Shri Bhajan Lal should assess that at some on the other point bureaucrats too are the offspring of farmers. Agriculture in this country first started when Maharaja Janak, father of Sita., drove the first plough. He turned the barren land into fertile one. If we start from that period, every citizen of this country has blood relationship with the farmer. This is a thousand year old relationship. News-papers have been forecasting and we too have been proudly proclaiming that monsoons have been good this year. The Government says that crops being good, 117.01 crores tonnes of foodgrain would be available. This figure was given by the hon. Minister to the hon. Prime Minister. However, yesterday, the hon. Minister gave indications of three calamities—flood, famine and hailstorm. But the left out one calamity.

AN HON. MEMBER : Disease.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Not disease,

but Locust. How is the government going to deal with the predicated invasion of locust? Their source of origin is not known. The government can fight out other diseases, but what scheme does it envisage to combat locusts? I have heard that Press and T.V. reports are predicting the movement of locust towards India. I want to say that no doubt, crops are good, but we must be careful lest locust should play havoc with them. I request the Government to keep in mind its repercussions on the economic and political climate of the country. Now the last suggestion. I am fortunate that the hon. Finance Minister is present in the House today. Since both the hon. Ministers are present together it becomes easier for me to convey my suggestion. The NABARD has announced that a farmer will not get a loan to dig a well if he violates any code. The Government seeks to apply a World Bank rule to this effect. A farmer who wants Governmental help is discouraged. Areas have been declared dark on grey. Mandsaur and Jawra Ratlam districts in my constituency have been declared dark. If a farmer does come to the Government for assistance he is turned away. So what alternative does he have than to dig a well on instal a pump set on his own. How long will this hypocrisy in the name of irrigation continue? The farmer instal a diesel pump on his own and Government lets him do the same. But the Government does not give him an electricity connection on subsidy. This will not do. This rule should be withdrawn. Farmers may draw water from any source of their choice, but he should be given subsidy in every case. The most important problem is that of electricity. If this problem, which is of serious concern to all, is solved, the Green Revolution, will touch the farmers' life in the true sense. Only then will the Congress (I)'s and hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's dream come true.

With these words I ask my hon. colleagues in the Opposition not to stage political starts even though they want to use farmers to make political capital. To the Congress (I), I would say that apart from them, nobody can take care of the farmers. The Congress (I) is the saviour of the farm-

ers. The farmer will prosper if the Congress (I) takes strong measures to tackle their problems.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi: Mr, Tripathi, please be brief, because it is 3.000' clock and ... there are some more Members who want to speak.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : (Khalilabad) : Sir, I have to highlight the important points relating to the development of events that have taken place.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there cannot be two opinions about the fact that agriculture is the back-bone of the Indian economy and 70-80% of the population is dependent on it for its livelihood. Majority of the people live in villages and practise agriculture. We compare the state of the present-day farming community to what it was 30-40 years ago. Previously, in the monsoon months, the 20 crore farmers of India used to skip supper and go to sleep. Nobody can deny that after Independence, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, there has been a tremendous increase in agricultural productivity. Just now hon. Shri. Bairagi raised some relevant points in a very articulate manner I want to draw attention towards certain important issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, It is an indisposed fact that production of crops like rice, wheat, maize, potato, sugarcane and tobacco has increased by 200-300 times. Some crops have registered a 90-100% increase in production. In spite of this development, the farmers continue to have problems. Despite the increase in production and an improvement in conditions, the lot of the farmer remains sadder than other sections of society.

Farmers are an appraised lot. They are

getting rewards proportionate to their labors. As a poet said:

" Jab tan ka rakat undel blihan, nis din mauton se khel kihan, tab ganna se gur le paelin, vah bhi sab gaya lagani mein, sab kahat bahar kisani mein."

Despite all the hard labour, the farmer is not getting a fair price for his produce. Whether it is the State Government or the Central Government, they grow wheat in 50 or 100 acres of land for the development of seeds. The amount of water and manure is the same and the quantity of seeds sowed per hectare is also the same but even after selling the wheat sown on their farms at the rate of Rs. 450 per quintal, their farm run in losses. The poor farmer who has no facility of water, funds, fertilizers tractor and pumpsets nor is he educated, somehow grows wheat but its price is fixed as Rs. 175 by some people who call it a remunerative price. Will you make it clear as to why losses are incurred in spite of the fact that all the facilities are available and the farms are serviced by an incharge who is an M.Sr (Agriculture). Even though he sells wheat at Rs. 500 per quintal he has to suffer losses. On the contrary, one fails to understand as to why a poor farmer who is not provided any facilities is told by experts that Rs 175 is a remunerative price. Who are those experts and from where they have received their education?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur): What has A.I.C.C. done?

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : A.I.C.C. has done incalculable work. You are unable to reach your target because there is a lot of pilferage in foodgrains.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Tell us about A.I.C.C.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : It is all due to A.I.C.C. that today the starving and poor India which was handed over to

[Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi]
Jawahar Lai has become the seventh powerful nation of the world. There are no words to describe the work done by Congress and in future too no one else but the Congress will succeed to deliver the goods. A former Chairman of Agricultural Price Commission, Dr. G.S. Bhalla had conducted a survey in the country and said that an agriculturist with 7.5 acres of land could not save even a penny on the basis of his farming. He had certainly said that the land-holdings of only those farmers who had more than 25 acres of land could be termed as economic ones. In the neighbouring State the Punjab Agricultural University had undertaken a research in regard to farmers and in 1983-84 conducted a comprehensive survey. In its report it mentioned that a clerk working in a Government Department earns Rs 15,736 per annum whereas a farmer tilling a land of 7.5 acres earns only Rs. 12,135 per annum. This means that a farmer possessing a land of more than 7.5 acres earns less than even a clerk working with the Government. You deserve to be congratulated for providing the facilities but there are various drawbacks everywhere so far as facilities, policies, projects, guidelines and the funds for the welfare of farmers are concerned. In spite of your good will, there is no improvement in the condition of the farmers. This is true that irrigation plays a crucial role in increasing agricultural produce and a network of canals is, therefore, being laid. But due to seepage in canals, the alkalines of the soil are coming up with the result that in spite of your best efforts to increase the agricultural produce, the day is not far off when thousands of acres of land will go waste and its fertility be lost during the next 20 years. Similarly, you provide a subsidy of 25 to 33 per cent to the farmers to enable them to purchase pump-sets. But, Sir, every Indian living in a village, knows that whenever a pump-set is purchased after taking loan from a bank, he has to pay Rs 7000 for a pump-set whose actual price in the market is Rs. 4000. A pump-set whose cost is Rs 4000 in the market is made available at a price of Rs 7,500 if purchased from your agency on credit. In my view, he has to pay more than 25 to 30 per cent subsidy given to

him. You should pay attention to it and take practical and concrete steps to improve the condition of the poor so that they may be benefitted. This is right that the price of fertilisers has been reduced but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that when we visit villagers particularly villages falling in our respective constituencies, we get complaints that farmers do get fertilizer but it is so, adulterated that at times instead of increasing the produce, it destroys the whole crop. A provision for a stringent punishment should be made and those who indulge in adulteration should be severely punished without showing any leniency whatsoever so that they are not able to pally with the destiny of the farmer. There has been an increase in the prices of all goods including agricultural produce. I want to present a comparative illustration. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Sir, in 1967, the price of urea was Rs. 40 per bag, the price of diesel was 72 paise per litre and the price of a tractor was Rs 20 thousand. Now the price of urea has shot up to Rs 117, that of diesel to Rs 3.50 per litre and that of a tractor to Rs 1,5000. What I mean to say is that there has been three to four times increase in the prices of every commodity. Whereas price of wheat which in 1967 was Rs 72 per quintal is today Rs 175 per quintal just a little more than double. The prices of other commodities used as inputs by farmers have, however, shot up four to five times. But the price of farmers produce have only doubled. You can very well imagine how a farmer can sustain in such a situation. So far as electricity and diesel are concerned, agriculture has become mechanized these days. This is right that tubewells are installed for irrigation. Funds amounting to Rs 5 lakh are spend by the State Governments but it takes 5 years to energise these tubewells and in the meantime it is shown on papers that irrigation facilities have been provided. If energization is done, there is leakage at various spots in the drains. The farmer draws water for his farm from the tubewell through drains and 30 per cent of the water is wasted in the leakage but he is made to pay the whole amount. The farmer should not be made to suffer any loss at any level and if there is one, then the officer of the

department should be taken to task. The slogan of responsible Government, given by the hon. Prime Minister should be implemented by making recovery from the concerned officer's pay to prevent them from committing such irresponsible acts. So far as electricity is concerned, the position remains the same. No matter how much we claim to have achieved in this fields, the condition in villages is very bad. Electricity is not even available for 2-4 hours and even in that there is a trapping as to when it will be made available. Farmers constitute three-fourth portion of the total population of the country and if the prosperity of India is to be evaluated on the basis of the prosperity of farmers and if the progress of India is meaningless without the progress of the farmers in that case, Sir, the electricity being used by all air conditioners should be disconnected. We can do with a lamp, if electricity is not available in the Parliament House but the required electricity should be made available for agricultural purpose. Air conditioners should not be run at the cost of agriculture as this will be very wrong and unfortunate step.

Our economic system has given rise to two types of farmers i.e. big farmers and small farmers. The former are very prosperous. They possess tractors and are educated and approachable. They exercise a lot of influence on the officials and Government machinery. They are able to get all the facilities and also good price for their produce. But the condition of the small farmers in the country is pitiable and they cannot get any facility from the Government. I would like to request the hon. Minister that just as you have made a provision for advancing loans on 4 per cent interest for the upliftment of the weaker section, similarly a provision for advancing loans on 4 per cent interest to the farmers should also be made for crop insurance and for purchase of fertilizers and implements so that they may purchase the impetus used in agriculture. The rate of interest on the loans given to them should be lowered. We all want that the poor farmer who works day and night should get fair price for his produce and his problems may be removed. In this connection, the Govern-

ment has started "cop insurance scheme" for the benefit of the farmers. I appreciate that but if its preview is slightly extended and made comprehensive by covering cattle, farming implements, and horticultural produce then the farmers can be benefitted to a great extent.

Today, the farmer cannot afford to store his produce for a long time. My submission is, that facilities of cold storage or chilling houses should be provided at district or tehsil level to the farmers by the Government so that they have not to sell their produce out of the fear of its being destroyed. The situation today is such that a farmer has to buy potatoes at a rate of Rs 10 per kg for his own use, whereas he has to sell his own potatoes at such a time when its price is only 50 paise per kg. Farmers cannot get a fair price for their produce unless we make provision for cold storage or chilling houses. Therefore, the Government should make all these facilities available to the farmers so that they may feel that the Government is working in their interest. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since you are repeatedly ringing the bell, I conclude while submitting that the Government has done a lot for the benefit of farmers but there still remains a lot more to be done. The Government should help in raising the standard of living of the farmers by taking solid steps to solve their problems.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada): I express my heart-felt thanks to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

It is most unfortunate that the farmers of this country who are producing nearly 37% of our gross national product, are compelled to come to Delhi to press for their demands. I will not go into the details of the Farmers' Rally organized by the Bharatiya Kisan Union under the leadership of Shri Mahendra Singh Tikait. The hon. Members who preceded me Mr Junga Reddy and Prof. Madhu Dandavate and others have all gone into the details of the Rally, and the difficulties they had to encounter. It is very shame-

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]
ful on the part of this Government to have denied drinking water and food packets for the farmers who had come from very very far-off places, braving the extremely chilly weather. What are the abnormal or unreasonable demands they have made? I believe you will certainly agree that almost all the demands put forward by the farmers' association are quite reasonable.

I will cite only a few examples. One is that they wanted a uniform tariff for the electricity supplied to the agricultural sector. Do you feel that it is an unreasonable demand as a member coming from an agricultural family who has served as Chief Minister of a very prosperous, agriculturally developed State?

Now, at present, The Commission for Agricultural Prices and Costs determines the minimum procurement prices or support prices or the statutory minimum uniform prices for the agricultural crops throughout the country. Even fertilisers supplied to the farmers throughout the country are at a uniform price. The Government of India is bearing the transport subsidy and seeing that the fertiliser is supplied to the farmer at the same rate. Then is it not the duty of the Government to see that the agricultural power supplied to the farmer is supplied at a uniform rate. Now, there are lots of variations. For example, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are supplied electricity at Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. If you calculate it, it will come to around 10 paise per unit; in Punjab, it is 12 paise per unit; in U.P., it is nearly 20.70 paise per unit; in Bihar, it is 36 paise unit; and in Maharashtra, it is Rs. 100 horsepower per year. So, there are wide variations. The request of a farmer is that you kindly supply it at a uniform rate. What is the difficulty in doing it? You may say that the power is in the hands of the State Government; but you advise the State Government to see that this power is supplied to the agricultural sector at a uniform rate at Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. After all, our State Government of Andhra Pradesh is already burdened with several social welfare

measures like the supply of rice to the poor people, supply of cloth at a subsidised rate to the poor people, houses to the poor people, in spite of this burden our government, out of affection towards the farmers, is supplying power at the rate of Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. When our government can do it, why not other State Governments should not do? Why should not the Government of India advise the State Governments accordingly, if necessary, come to the rescue of the concerned State Government? In view of the fact, they have to see that the farmers, whose one of the main inputs is power, is supplied to them at a uniform rate and at a cheaper rate.

As you know, the government invests so much of money on medium and major irrigation projects; sometimes they spend even thousands of crores of rupees; and you are making available water at a comparatively lesser price to the agriculturists under flow irrigation and the government is burdened with so much of money for maintenance and other requirements. But when a farmer himself has gone in for a tubewell/dug well with his own investment, is it not the duty of the government to see that water is brought out of the land from a deep place to grow crops at a lesser price? So, the demand of the farmers is quite reasonable and I hope the government will consider it in all earnestness and see that the power is supplied to the agriculturists at a uniform rate Rs. 50 per horsepower per year or at the rate of 11 or 12 paise per unit.

What is the other important demand that they have made? They wanted that an efficient rural credit delivery system should be arranged for the benefits of the farmers. Now the farmers are going from pillar to post for getting short-term loan or long-term loan. He goes to a cooperative bank in his own village or near his own village for a short-term or medium-term loan; he goes to the Land Development Bank or some other commercial bank or, other regional rural bank at different places for getting medium or long term loan. Why not he be supplied the necessary credit from a single agency in his

own village or near his village through the Primary Cooperative Credit Society?

When our Government, the Andhra Pradesh Government, has taken up this single window cooperative credit delivery system for the farmers, why can the Government of India kindly not take suitable steps to encourage the State Governments to see that credit is made available to the farmers through a single credit agency both long term and medium term as well as short term loans?

Now, what is going on? The farmers are not given the necessary quantities of credit and as a result of it they are compelled to go to the private money lenders, who charge very very high rates of interest. It still goes on.

The medium and large industry sector, which is not even producing nearly 20 per cent of the gross national income, it is walking away with nearly 36 per cent of the bank credit, whereas the entire millions of farmers in this country, though they are producing nearly one third of the gross national product, they are not getting even 17 per cent of the total bank credit. Is it not injustice? Is it not indifference towards the needs of the farmers? So, my suggestion is, you kindly see that more amount is allocated for making available the credit requirements of the farmers in this country.

The other important demand they have made is, to waive off the bank arrears, the dues to the banks which they have taken for raising some crops. Some times it is so happening, that droughts are taking place and floods are taking place and the Government is giving the particulars that on an average in a single year either due to drought or floods nearly Rs. 2000 crores worth of damages are taking place either to the crops or public utilities and the major portion relates to the loss of crops and so what is it we are helping them? Apart from the crop insurance scheme there is no other thing to help the farmers. And in these circumstances, the farmers are demanding

a waiver of the loans. But unfortunately the hon. Minister is not so kind enough. But the Union Government and Reserve Bank are writing off Rs. 200 crores. The Reserve Bank is writing off loans as bad debts for these industrialists, whereas the Government of India does not show any sympathy to the farmer.

I do not want to take much time, because my time is very limited. But I would like to repeat that the forty deaths of unfortunate cotton growers could not bring any change in your attitude, your very very rigid attitude. My succession is, very recently also two persons died. So, I request the Government to kindly reconsider and in such extreme cases, in some special cases where the circumstances require, due to continuous drought for three years or some natural calamity in the country, please show sympathy. It is not a question of readjustment or re-phasing of loans, but you must try to write off the loans.

When, several decades back, the great man Rajaji, could bring forward the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, in view of the problems of the farmers, giving relief from indebtedness to the farmers, why not, after several decades—nearly forty-fifty years—this Government which claims to take the country into the twenty-first century, does not have the softness towards the needs of the farmers?

Though several friends from the other side have said that this Government is doing so much, so much, for the farmers—I do not say that it is not doing anything—I do say, that it is not doing enough or what it should do for the benefit of the farmers.

Under that Act, the total interest including penal interest should not exceed the principal. But now what is the commercial bank doing? Yesterday, my friend Mr. Janga Reddy has quoted instances in Chittoor district where the farmers who have taken a few hundreds of rupees are made to pay several thousands of rupees and after that they are put behind the bars, in the jails. Is it justifi-

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] able? I ask the Government to kindly look into this and bring the necessary changes in the Banking Regulation Act and see that the banks also follow the provisions in that Act, the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, so that the banks also do not charge compounding interest and that the interest including the penal interest does not exceed the principal. I request the Government to take this very important step to help the farmers, most of whom as my friends Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi has said, are small and marginal farmers.

In this aspect, I would like to bring to your kind notice that our State Government has taken a step to write off loan arrears of interest amounting to nearly four crores of rupees, on the loans due to the Cooperative Banks in respect of the cotton growers of Prakasam and Guntur Districts. Why not the union Government, which is getting nearly thousands of crores of rupees by way of exporting fabrics, cotton garments and other things to other countries, cannot do it? The cotton growers in those two Districts, who have helped so much in exporting cotton to other countries, are suffering very much. After all the amount is only Rs. 24 crores. My information is, the interest due on the loan arrears of the cotton growers in those two districts to the Commercial Banks is Rs. 24 crores. Not Sobhanadreeswara Rao or my colleagues in this House or in the other House have been requesting you. Several peoples' representatives and MLAs of your own party have come to Delhi and made fervent pleas. Kindly reconsider it and see that it is written off. Then, regarding remunerative price, my good friend Prof. Madhu Dandavate had dealt in detail. So, I would not like to go into in detail and repeat those things. The Government has appointed three growers' representatives in CACP. We welcome it. In spite of that, there is one hard reality. The figures which the CACP is arriving at are not realistic. The hon. Members on the other side of this House have just now said that the prices are fixed by the Government are not remunerative. The computation of cost of cultivation or cost of production

is not quite realistic. The prices which are determined by the CACP and finally agreed to by the Government are not really taking care of the additional cost of cultivation due to the escalation in several factors.

If your prices were remunerative and incentive, then definitely this country would not have gone to other countries for import of pulses; this country would not have begged other countries for oilseeds or edible oils. Sir, in 1956, the per capita availability of pulses, which is the staple food for the common man of this country, was at 70 grams per head per day. Now it is only 40 grams per head per day. Is it not a miserable state of affairs, I would ask this Government? After all, you had fixed the price of grams in 1986-87 at Rs. 260/- and in 1987-88 at Rs. 280/-. There is only a marginal increase. The price increase is not enough to encourage the farmers to go in a big way for growing blackgrams or greengrams or pulses or other varieties. In fact, the area is coming down and the per hectare yield is not increasing. I would request the Government to kindly take care in seeing that the prices are quite realistic so that this country can have enough foodgrains, pulses and edible oils for the necessities of the people of this country.

Why you are so adamant to the request of the farmers? I will tell you one instance. Today, the Government has given the particulars of assets owned by Tata and Birla. Tata company was owing assets worth Rs. 4900 crores in 1986; they were having only Rs. 2800 crores in 1983 and Rs. 1530 crores in 1980. Similarly, Birla have increased their assets by three times. Can you show a small number of farmers who are having five crores, have acquired additional five acres? When the Government is helping big capitalists and monopoly industrialists to acquire so many crores worth of properties, why not you see that the farmers get a fair price for their produce.

After all, he is producing by toiling day in and day out and by risking his crop to natural calamities like drought and floods. So the basic attitude towards farmers must receive

a radical change. The Government should make amends to its attitude. It should not treat it as a prestige issue. If necessary, call the representatives of the farmers' organisations, sit across the table, discuss their problems and try to solve their problems. Then only the country can make a rapid progress. Even in communist countries like China, they are making rapid changes. They have given property right. Now they are allowing the farmers to get more income in order to purchase any amount of consumer goods. This in turn will help the rural industries and also provide further employment in those areas. Similarly, if our country is to develop, we have to make necessary changes in our policy. I request the Government to make necessary changes in its policy.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take only one minute. Though this discussion will be concluded on Monday or Tuesday but since Shri Bairagi has mentioned about *locusts*' invasion, it would not be appropriate if this gets published in papers. I want to simply inform that this year many stages of North and North-West Africa are threatened with *locusts*, invasion. A programme at international level has been started for the control and destruction of locusts by the officials. There is no indication as such of the advancement of locusts towards the North-Eastern border of India, and even if locusts enter our country, we have made full arrangements to prevent them to cause any damage to our crops. After holding talks with the B.S.F., we have deployed the entire staff in aeroplanes, so that if the locusts arrive here we may tackle that problem. But there is no indication till now if locusts are entering India.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 16)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.

SCHEDULED CASTE CONVERTS (RESERVATION OF POSTS AND OTHER BENEFITS) BILL*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.