

- (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