

loan despite the fact that these educated unemployed pledge their certificates at the time of getting loan from the bank.

My submission to the Central Government is that the interest on the loan taken by the unemployed youth should be waived off as they pledge their certificates with the banks and all the educated unemployed youth of the country should be given loan amounting to rupees one lakh for setting up of industries or for starting other work so that they can lead a smooth life.

Besides, the loans should be renewed in the case of those educated unemployed youth who have failed in their endeavour to start an industry or work due to any reason and they should be encouraged by giving loan again so that they may raise their standard of living.

(viii) Need to resolve the dispute between shipping agents and Calcutta Port Trust early

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar) : Sir, the working of the Calcutta Port Trust has come to a standstill since 14th July, with the shipping agents having refused to undertake any export carting or accept import deliveries. They have also decided to stop their operations in stuffing, de-stuffing, carting and delivery activities. As a result, besides Russia-bound tea, refrigerated shipments—mainly shipments—mainly shrimp and other marine products—to Japan are hit. In fact, shippers apprehend that all commodity exports from the Calcutta Dock system, including cast iron, engineering goods, mica, jute, jute goods and leather products may be dealt with a body blow if the current impasse continues.

I would urge the Minister of Surface Transport kindly to exercise his good offices to resolve the dispute and ensure that normalcy returns soon to the Calcutta Port, and tea, marine products and exports etc. are not upset anymore.

13.00 hrs.

**MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE
'DRAFT AGRICULTURAL POLICY
RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED)' - CONTD.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall now take up further discussion on the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution. It is the turn of Shri Sukdev Paswan. But Shri V.S. Rao has made a request that he may be permitted as he has got some other engagement. If Shri Paswan obliges, we can allow Shri V.S. Rao.

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Sir, let him speak first.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Thank you. Shri V.S. Rao may speak now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I convey my sincere thanks to you and to Shri Paswan for obliging me.

As the hon. Minister for Agriculture said yesterday it was most unfortunate that this country did not have an agricultural policy for all these years. Their industrial policy was formulated as far back as 1948 and eight subsequent modifications have taken place for that. But in this country, where 75 per cent of the population is directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, neither the planners nor the Government think it fit to have an agricultural policy at all. I may tell that if a policy is there it will act like a beacon to the sailors in the sea. If the Government implements the policy with all sincerity it will help a lot in the development of that particular sector and in this case it is our agriculture which is involved.

Sir, Japan was having a basic agricultural law in 1961. Two important objectives of it were to increase productivity and to increase the income levels of the farmers on par with the people who are in other sectors of the economy. Similarly the European Community also has a common agricultural policy.

The first effort to formulate an agricultural policy was initiated by the National Front Government in 1989-90. I was associated with that formulation as I was a member of the Standing Advisory Committee headed by Shri Sharad Joshi at that point of time. We all dealt with the subject at length and we had prepared a draft also. Of course, later it was modified and a very condensed one has been brought out now.

In this connection I would like to bring to your kind notice certain things about the Draft Agricultural Policy as modified by the Standing Committee on Agriculture which has expressed a lot of dissatisfaction with this present Draft. I will quote from their report :

"They are not satisfied with the scheme and strategy enunciated therein and find it inadequate on many accounts to meet the challenges listed in itself. ... The challenges need a more systematic and exhaustive narration. The Draft lacks specifics and is silent on many important issues concerning agriculture and its overall development.

The Committee concluded that a fresh determined effort should be made by the

nodal Ministry in formulating the first-ever agricultural policy of free India which shall set the guidelines for many other policies."

Sir, it is the most important thing. I request the hon. Minister for Agriculture and the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture to kindly consider the suggestions from all the hon. Members and if necessary they may kindly modify the present Draft also.

First of all, I would like to say, with all my affection and goodwill to our hon. Minister for Agriculture, that I am really disappointed with this present Draft.

It is vague and it has not identified the reasons and the deficiencies for the backwardness of Indian agriculture.

Sir, our country is very fortunate. We are having nearly 50 per cent of our geographical area which is suitable to raise crops and we have abundant sun-light. In our country, a minimum of one crop or even two to three crops can be grown in a year. We have 178 million hectares of irrigation potential which can give irrigation to our parched lands and here are our farmers who work like anything day in and day out.

While six million farmers in America are producing 355 million tonnes of foodgrains, in our country 546 million cultivators are able to produce only 180 million tonnes. Japan, which is having only 46 million hectares of irrigated land, is producing 360 million tonnes of foodgrains. But in our country, we have 49 million hectares of irrigated land. Is it the fault of the farmers? Not at all. I would like to say very categorically that it is the fault of the planners and the Governments that have been in power.

Sir, why has India remained so backward in the matter of productivity? In respect of wheat production we stand at 38th place in the world, in respect of rice production we stand at 54th place and in respect of groundnut production we stand at 72nd place. Our productivity in rice is not even 40 per cent of what is attained in China. So, I urge upon the Government to view the necessity of the Agriculture Policy with all seriousness.

The Main fault for the backwardness of our agriculture lies with the allocation of Plan Outlay. Can we expect a child to grow without any food or milk or nutritious food? Can it happen like that? That allocation to agriculture, which is the mainstay of a very large population and which is contributing one-third to the Gross Domestic Product, has come down from 15 per cent in the First Plan to 5.9 per cent in the Seventh Plan and it has come further down to 5.2 per cent in the Eighth Plan. If this is the position, how can agriculture prosper?

Sir, the most important deficiency for the backwardness of Indian agriculture is what lesser investments have been made both in public and private sectors. The gross investment in real terms at 1980-81 prices has come down from Rs.4,636 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 4,480 crores in 1991-92. So, the total gross domestic capital formation in agriculture has come down from 18 per cent in 1981-81 to 1 per cent in 1991-92. The decline was more perceptible in public sector. It has come down from Rs.1,800 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 1,040 crores in 1991-92, though there was a marginal increase in the private sector, that is, from Rs.2,840 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 3,500 crores in 1991-92. But its share in the total gross capital formation declined from 20 per cent to 15 per cent during the same period. The private investment would have been much more if the public investment had increased and if remunerative prices had been given. But the terms of trade were kept against the farmers. The level was 100 in the 1960s and 1970s. But it was around 90 in 1980s, because that was deliberately done to encourage the industry.

Sir, the Government in power, at that time, wanted the industry to prosper. It wanted the industry to grow and it wanted the farmers also to invest their savings in the industrial sector. That is the most unfortunate thing. Then, there are trade barriers on the movement of foodgrains and other agricultural produce from one State to the other, though the present Government has announced that these barriers are to be removed. Even in this era of liberalisation, some barriers are still there in several States.

I request the Government to take note of that and lift all such barriers.

Sir, the other important factor which will help increase in production in agricultural sector is irrigation. The other day, my colleague Shri B.N. Reddy was emphasising about the irrigation. I will not repeat what my friend has said. But till now, only 30 per cent of the area is irrigated and most of the irrigation projects that were taken up in the 60s, none of them has been completed as yet; and the allocations to the irrigation sector have come down from 22 per cent in the First Plan to 9.4 per cent in the Seventh Plan to 8 per cent in this Eighth Plan. Then, how can you increase the productivity in agricultural sector? And wherever irrigation is provided, there also the irrigation intensity has to be enhanced. That aspect also has to be taken care of.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the other most important item is agricultural credit. I am very sorry to say that the Government has neglected the credit requirements of the farmers. Eighty per cent of the farmers are small and marginal farmers in this country with poor financial capabilities. Unfortunately, the

Government has neglected their needs. Adequate amount has to be given in right time. The banks have given only 17 per cent credit to this agricultural sector which is contributing one-third to the GDP, but the banks were very kind and very favourable to industry; they have given 36 per cent credit to the industrial sector which is contributing only 20 per cent to the GDP. I will quote one figure here. In 1987-88, the total disbursement to the agricultural sector was Rs.11,900 crore. Sir, you will be surprised to know that in 1991-1992, the figure was only Rs. 11,200 crore. For the last three years, the direct credit to the agricultural sector has come down considerably. I will also tell you that the direct agricultural credit per account was Rs. 2,500 in 1969 and in 1992, it is Rs. 4,700 only. If you take the inflation factor and the fact that the agricultural input prices have increased by four-folds, is it not much lower than what the farmer got in 1969? Then, how can our agriculture prosper? Only ten per cent of the Indian farmers are able to avail of the loan facilities. So, I urge upon the Government to take into account the Reserve Bank of India Rural Credit Survey which has predicted that by the end of this century the commercial banks have to lend Rs. 64,000 crore and the cooperative banks have to lend Rs. 46,000 crore for agriculture and other related activities. They have also said that agro-processing will require Rs. 16,000 crore, storage and marketing will require Rs. 7,500 crore. This House wants to know what steps the Government is taking to realise these targets, to realise this situation?

So far as fertilisers are concerned which is another important input to increase the productivity, our consumption is only 72 kgs. per hectare and the world average is 87 kgs per hectare; the Asian average is 130 kgs per hectare and even our neighbours — Pakistan and Bangladesh — are using more fertilisers; and China, of course, uses nearly 300 kgs per hectare including the organic manures. I would like to tell you about the impact of fertilisers in China; in the case of rice, the consumption is 245 kgs per hectare. So, they are able to get 3.8 tonnes per hectare. Normally, it is only 104 kgs per hectare and the yield is 1.7 tonnes per hectare. We are consuming only 104 kgs. per hectare on an average for rice crop and the decontrol of phosphatic and potassic fertilisers have enormously increased the prices of these fertilisers. The ideal ratio of this NPK being 1:2:4 has derailed and its ratio has now become 1:4:16. It will have adverse impact on the soil because of excess nitrogen and the Government has admitted that fact on this very floor of the House.

Sir, Many a time, the Government is saying that we are having buffer stocks, that our country has achieved self-sufficiency. It is not a fact; it is because of the low purchasing capacity of the millions of people of this country that you are having some stocks with the Food Corporation of India.

Since independence, for 35 years, we have imported foodgrains and in the recent years, 1991-92 and 1992-93, we have imported 26 lakh tonnes of wheat. So, I request the Government not to take a complacent attitude. The population is growing. The requirement is growing. Moreover, it is expedient the world over to feed the animal husbandry sector. Many more foodgrains will be required. So, we have to take all the necessary steps.

Regarding agricultural machinery and implements, according to RBI Survey, the total value of livestock and agricultural implements with average cultivator is only around Rs. 1,850 in 1981-82 which is only one fourth of Rs. 8,000/- required to modernise the Indian agriculture. While in China, they have 70 lakh power tillers, we have got very small number of tractors in our country.

We feel so sorry Government is permitting import of foreign cars spending lakhs and lakhs of rupees on the Deluxe cars, luxury cars. Why not permit import of small tractors from either Korea or Japan or some other country? I request the hon. Minister who has got so much affection and genuine interest in agriculture to take note of this situation.

Regarding extension, we are spending only .23 per cent on the agricultural GDP on research while other developing countries are spending .5 per cent and the developed countries 2 per cent. So, I request the Government to enhance the allocation to research.

Only 140 KVKs are functioning at present. In every district, there should be one KVK. I will not repeat. Many a time, I requested on the floor of the House that in every district, a KVK must be established. I feel so happy that in Punjab really whenever a farmer is encountering some problem, he will go to the Punjab Agricultural University to know the solution. That is how, in every part of the country that rapport between the farmer and the University or the Research Stations or the KVK must be established which will go a long way in educating the farmers.

Regarding the seeds, the certified seeds remain around 56 lakh quintals only. We require nearly 3 crore quintal seeds by the end of this century. At present, for wheat it is 93 per cent high yielding variety seeds, but in respect of rice and jowar, we are using only 60 per cent of the high yielding varieties of seeds. This item has to be taken care of.

Regarding pulses and oil seeds, I congratulate Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the former Prime Minister, to have initiated this Technology Mission on oil seeds. It is paying dividends. It has given some results. Oil palm is in oil seed sector. You are very good enough to allot so much money for plasticulture and for lift irrigation. There is no ceiling. You are good enough

to extend these benefits to horticulture. Oil palm, though it is a thrust area, which will help us in reducing the oil import bill, since it is under oil seed sector, today this facility which you have provided to horticulture is not going to that sector. You kindly take note of this and issue suitable instructions. We are happy you have announced for the first time some minimum support prices to nigar and other crops yesterday in your statement. There is no minimum support price for the fresh fruit branches of the oil palm. I request the hon. Minister to take of this point.

Regarding sugarcane, if the experiment that is being done in Maharashtra and Gujarat *i.e.*, the real benefit obtained by the sugar factory is passed on to the sugarcane growers, is repeated in other States also, India instead of importing sugar will be in a position to export sugar and earn so much foreign exchange.

The Government was good enough to remove control on molasses. Who is benefiting? It is only the sugar factories in other States which are benefiting. Actually, 50 per cent of the additional profits should go to the farmer. But unfortunately, for some reasons best known to the Minister of Food, they are not announcing this. It is a very important factor. In the Bhargava formula, it is recommended that 50 per cent of the profits should go to the farmers.

Even after two years or three years, the formula 'L' is not announced and the poor farmer is suffering. You do not know how much he has to get as per the statute. So, I request the Government to take note of it and see that corrective steps are taken.

Then poultry, dairying, fruits and vegetables, prawn and fish are really very much helpful to the farmers in augmenting their income. I will not go into the details and the figures. But I would like to say one thing that there is a lot of scope for increasing the production to meet our domestic requirements as per the nutritional standards and also to earn foreign exchange by export. In this context, I would like to say that some of the banks are not helpful to the small farmers. With all responsibility, I want to say in this House that they are mostly helping the big people who have put up five lakh birds or 10 lakh birds or even 15 lakh birds but they do not help the farmer who has put up 500 birds or even 1000 birds. They say that it is uneconomical. It is not a fact. Even though it is 500 birds or 1000 birds, it will help the farmer, his wife and his children. They work in their own poultry unit and earn some income. Similar is the case in respect of prawn culture. The other day, I requested the hon. Finance Minister and I submitted even the previous Friday about it. I will not go into the details. I would like to say about our sad experience in Andhra Pradesh. Though in the

last five years, the prawn culture has increased tremendously from 6000 hectares to 54000 hectares, yet most of that is done at the expense of the farmer. It is his own money or the money he borrowed from his friends and relatives, not from the commercial banks. The commercial banks gave money to the corporate companies, private companies and big and middle-level farmers and not the small farmers. Therefore, I want the Government to take note of that and issue correct instructions so that the banks extend their financial support and insurance coverage to that. Otherwise, that prawn culture which helped you to get Rs. 2400 crore of rupees of foreign exchange during 1994-95 cannot sustain. Please see that the goose that lays the golden eggs survives and try to protect it. Otherwise it will be killed.

Regarding the minimum support price, you are aware that - you are a big scientist and a very knowledgeable person - till now the risk element is not taken into consideration while computing the cost of cultivation. We people in Andhra Pradesh in the coastal districts face many a time cyclonic storms. The cyclonic storms are affecting us, tidal waves are affecting us, droughts are affecting us. But this factor is not taken into consideration and that should be taken note of.

About margin of profit, for any industrial product, you allow some margin of profit. But it is not the same case with the farmers. This injustice should be corrected. I am happy to say that you have announced that a revised Crop Insurance Scheme would be taken up. But yet a beginning has not been made. Even on a trial basis, in one district in one State, for the last three years this is under consideration. Very urgent steps should be taken. Otherwise the farmers are going to suffer. The Model Cooperative Law is very very essential. I am very happy that our Government in Hyderabad has very recently adopted that cooperative Law as per this Model Cooperative Law circulated by the Government of India. The Government should exert pressure on all the other States also to adopt it as far as possible at the earliest. As the North-Eastern region is having a lot of scope for achieving higher yields, we have to necessarily get that from that area. The Government has to take steps in this regard.

Regarding the Post-GATT situation, though you say that we have a lot of scope because the subsidies in those countries are going to be reduced, yet I appeal to the Government to do something. It is not out of any greed for subsidies that we are begging. No, you know the farmers in this country were not really subsidised but they were taxed in the form of bringing the prices artificially. My suggestion to the Government is that they should continue the subsidies to enable our cost of

production to remain at a low level and take a comparative advantage for export. Those countries are not going to reduce the subsidies. In our country, the whole subsidies - which the Government say - amount to nearly Rs. 15,000 crore but in the USA it is to the extent of \$ 75 billion; in the European Community, it is to the extent of \$ 115 billion.

That means Rs.3,40,000 crore subsidy. There, only two per cent farmers are in the agricultural sector. They will reduce it in the sixth year by only 20 per cent. Even then the subsidy level will be very very high.

With regard to the air freight subsidy for export of mangoes and other fruits, vegetables and flowers, some progress is taking place. If the export effort is to be encouraged, this air freight subsidy must be there. For more than a year this matter has been under the consideration of a group of Ministers, but a decision has not yet been taken. I request the hon. Minister to look into it and take a decision as early as possible.

I urge upon the Government, not with any ulterior motive or with any politics in mind, to look into these aspects. We are speaking these words with genuine interest in agriculture and we have been placing all these view points in that spirit through you to this august House and we request the Government to come forward with a revised draft agricultural policy to really help the agriculture, to make a breakthrough and make India the number-one agricultural power in the whole world. We have all the potential. But we have realised only 35 per cent of the potential. The IRI has calculated that if our full potential is realised, our GDP will enhance by another 100 per cent. We await eagerly for that day.

I thank you very much for giving this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is after many years that the agricultural policy is being discussed here. I thank the hon. Minister of Agriculture for providing an opportunity to discuss the agricultural policy in Lok Sabha today after a gap of three years.

In 1926, an Agriculture Commission was set up under the Chairmanship of Linthgo K. Markos. This commission was asked to submit its report after investigating the agricultural situation and the rural condition prevalent in India and also to make recommendations augmenting the welfare and prosperity of rural population in order to improve the agricultural sector. Subsequently, after the partition of the country in 1947 an imbalance erupted again in the agricultural sector. After independence, efforts were made for the first time to formulate a national policy for improving the agricultural sector which aimed at not only removing the prevalent lacunae

but also the imbalance created as a result of partition, strengthening the national economy, giving importance to this sector for the country's development and raising the living standard of the people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the plight and pitiable condition of the farmers of India even after 47-48 years of independence is unparalleled in the world. The agricultural Price policy is an important aspect of the Government's policy in order to give boost to agricultural development. It is an exaggeration to

say that the Agricultural Price Commission, which was later called as Agricultural Price Cost Commission has been helpful for years in determining stable and remunerative prices for agricultural products by recommending support prices of many important agricultural products. The presence of loopholes of agricultural price policy regarding the farmers' crops is very unfortunate. The Members of Lok Sabha in particular coming from the farmers' families might be well aware of the plight, the farmers face. I come from a small farmer's family and I know that the prices of a produce or crop be it jute for example, are genuine during the harvesting seasons but after two-three months when the farmers have sold their produce, its prices shoot up three fold or even fourfold. Same is the case with paddy, wheat and rice. For example, the prices of a particular crop range upto Rs.200 per quintal during the harvesting season, after 2-3 months one has to procure it at the price of Rs. 300-400 per quintal from the market.

In my opinion, our agricultural price policy is quite faulty. Who are the people who determine this policy. At the moment, Shri Arvind Netam is present here but the hon. Minister of Agriculture is conspicuous by his absence. Why is not a person directly concerned with agriculture and farming included in the Agricultural, Price Commission and why is not his suggestion sought while determining the prices of agricultural products. Through you, I would urge upon the Government that a person coming from a farmer's family should be included in the Agricultural Price Commission as a Member or a representative because he is aware of the problems a farmer faces while growing crops. The Government officers and the mill-owners are not even remotely aware of the farmers' pains and predicaments.

With the measures of economic reconstruction in the Five Year Plans, agriculture has come to occupy a pivotal place in national economy. Today, agricultural sector has become a means of livelihood for about 70 to 80 percent labourers of the country. Its share in Gross Domestic Product is 32 percent. Agriculture has a lion's share and a dignified place in the country's export trade. The greatest problem confronting the farmer today is non-availability of fertilisers, seeds and pesticides on time, because a

farmer does not get fertilizers and seeds well on time in the rural areas when it is the sowing seasons due to which he has to face enormous difficulties.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as the prices of fertilizers are concerned, India stands at fourth position after America, erstwhile USSR and China from the point of view of total consumption. Despite that, what is the position of availability of fertilizers in our country and the price differential thereof over a span of 4-5 years. I remember that the price of a 50 kg. sack of either Shaktiman Urea or Sufila Urea ranged from Rs.105 to 110 but today a 50 kg. bag of urea costs Rs. 250-300. So far as D.A.P. fertilizers is concerned, a 50 kg. sack of D.A.P. fertilizer cost Rs. 188.50 earlier but now it costs Rs. 450-500. On the other hand, what is the trend of prices of different crops. The prices of crops did not register as much rise four years ago as did the prices of fertilizers, seeds and insecticides.

Therefore, through you, I would like to ask then hon. Minister of Agriculture as to why to do the farmers continue to face problems despite the fact that 70 to 80 percent people depend on agriculture. To my mind, the main problem of the farmers today is the non-availability of fertilizers, pesticides and other necessary ingredients well on time and on cheaper rates. All their problems can be solved once they are assured of the availability of these items on times. But I cannot understand why is it so that the Co-operative Banks extend loans to them only when they sell their crops? I wish that the farmers of the whole country should get the facilities which are available to the farmers in Punjab and Haryana. If this is done, I am sure, that no other country of the world can compete with India in foodgrain production. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge upon the Government to extend all the facilities available to the farmers of Punjab and Haryana to the farmers of all the states in the country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the situation of floods in the country and the difficulties faced by the farmers as a result thereof hardly needs any mention. A farmer toils hard to sow the seeds, irrigates his fields, applies fertilizers etc. and when the crop is ready to be reaped, there come the floods all of a sudden and his whole crop is destroyed. In this way crops worth millions of rupees are destroyed in the country. A small farmer who invests Rs. 10,000 for growing crops does not get a single penny in return once floods wash away his standing crops. Hence, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take adequate measures to prevent the crops from the scourge of floods. Crops in every state, be it Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or any other State, are destroyed by floods.

Every state is faced with the same situation. Effective schemes should be formulated to control flood so that farmers could feel relieved and they could safely take their grown crops to home.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about seeds. The position in this regard is also not satisfactory. The farmers do not get seeds in time. The Government of India had set up National Seed Corporation and its 13 centres were set up in 13 states of the country. I urge upon the hon. Minister to set up the centres of National Seeds Corporation in all the states.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Standing Parliamentary Committee on Urban and Rural Development Ministry which is headed by Shri Bhonsle, has made some recommendations, about making the barren land fertile. If we act according to these recommendations, we will be able to change all the barren land into fertile land. I request that serious efforts should be made in this direction because we cannot add more land but we can turn barren land into fertile land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the assistance from the World Bank, the work on phase-III of National Seed Corporation was taken up in March 1990, which involved a cost of Rs. 236.01 crore. But presently, good quality seeds are not made available to farmers at low cost anywhere in the country. Therefore, I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to make arrangements to provide good quality seeds at low cost to farmers. The present arrangements are not sufficient because the farmers do not get seeds in time. The new policy of development of seed was introduced in October 1988. Under this new Policy, arrangements had been made to provide good quality seeds to Indian farmers from any part of the world. Even then farmers do not get seeds in time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the National Seed Corporation was constituted in 1963. Its present authorised capital is Rs. 20 crore and paid up capital is Rs. 20.09 crore. Out of the paid-up capital, Rs. 8.11 crore have been invested as share capital in State Seed Corporations under National Seed Programme-I and II. In this way, the actual share capital of National Seeds Corporation was Rs. 11.98 crore as on March 1992. Till the end of March 1991, the Corporation incurred a loss of Rs. 24.51 crore which reveals mismanagement somewhere. The management act arbitrarily and the funds are not utilised properly due to which loss is incurred. There will be no question of loss if funds are utilised properly and monitoring is done over it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Kosi river Project is one of the River Valley Projects taken up under Indo-Nepal Corporation. People who have visited the Indo-Nepal border must have seen that thousands of millions of rupees have been spent by the Government of India on the barrage over Kosi river. It was inaugurated by the first Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru. A lot of soil have collected at the bottom of the barrage due to silt. The areas of

Bihar touching the border have been badly affected by it. This Canal has not been cleaned for the last 25 to 30 years. Therefore, I demand that a survey should be conducted to find out the reasons for not cleaning the canal, and not releasing water for farmers' fields. Farmers face a lot of problem to irrigate their fields. You will be surprised to know that without using any manure, 60-65 maund Garma crop is produced in one acre of land. We can get much more quality of Garma, wheat and other crops if proper arrangements of irrigation are made.

With the assistance from the World Bank, several development projects have been launched in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. Among them include watershed project in Karnataka. Watershed Area Development Project at Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu and Integrated Watershed Area Development Projects for hilly areas of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana. For plains, Integrated watershed Area Development Projects have been introduced in Gujarat, Orissa and Rajasthan with the World Bank assistance. National Watershed Area Development Project has been introduced for rainfed areas. In 1990-91 the Central Government sponsored national project in 35 States of the country. However, Bihar has not been included into it. Bihar has always been excluded from the mainstream.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this question needs serious consideration as to why India spend much on agriculture in comparison to other countries. The reason for it is that in India 80 percent population depend on agriculture. The country will be economically strong if agricultural sector is strengthened. The new economic policy is not beneficial to agriculture. For your information, I would like to tell that renowned Agriculture expert and Director of Reserve Bank of India, Prof. S.S. Chahal has said that new economic policy will adversely affect the agricultural sector. It is a well known fact, that Indian economy is based on agriculture.

In the end, I would like to say that instead of blocks and districts, Panchayats should be considered as primary units for distribution of fertilizers and seeds, to farmers. This will help in improving the conditions of the farmers and development of the nation.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you.

13.43 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till forty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.52 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifty two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED) - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Prataprao B. Bhonsle.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, may I make a submission? Please allow me to speak for a few minutes, as I have some important business to attend.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE (Satara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Draft Agriculture policy resolution which was presented by the hon. Agriculture Minister in this House yesterday.

This resolution should have been presented here quite earlier. Agriculture policy is being discussed in this House after a gap of two or two and a half years. Only four hours have been allotted for it. This issue relates to 70 percent people. It reveals as to how much our Government and this House is concerned over this subject relating to farmers.

Through you, I request the Government ...
(Interruptions)

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : All front benches are unoccupied. They are not worried about the cause of the farmers... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE : Sir, through you, I request the Government that time allotted for debate on this issue should be increased so that all the hon. Members who want participate in the debate could get a chance to express their views.

I am sorry to state that the Department of Agriculture has always been a victim of injustice. The old Department of Agriculture has been given a new shape by adding more Department to it. As a result, the questions relating to Agriculture Policy and the Department of Agriculture have been taken very lightly. Although, new Departments have been created, yet it appears that Government is not at all concerned about agriculture and the farmers. I would like to thank Balram Jakharji for his personal concern for agriculture and the farmer. His intentions about agriculture policy and programmes are crystal clear.

But I would like to request him not to take the remarks and criticism of the Members made against the Government as an attack on him.

The total land area of the country is measured to be around 32 crore 90 lakh hectare. The data regarding total fertile land vary in different reports. In some reports, the area of fertile land is estimated to be around 16 crore and 60 lakh acres while in other reports, it is around 18 crore acres but actually the total area of fertile land is believed to be from 14 crore 10 lakh hectares to 14 crore 30 lakh hectares. It shows that about two and half to three crore hectare land is still left unutilised. It means that more than 25 percent land is either barren or left uncultivated. It is the duty of Government to make infertile land fertile as the farmer alone is not able to do this work. For this purpose a separate Department was created but the programmes chalked out by that Department during the last 2-3 years for transforming the infertile land into fertile one, give the impression that it will take at least 100-150 years to achieve this target. Is our country so rich and capable that it can wait for 100 years for making the land fertile? I would like to say that we must think as to how this infertile land can be transformed into fertile land so that it is utilised by poor farmers of the country.

We always hear about the new Industrial Policy. In this regard every Member of treasury benches supports the policy of single window system, whereas, in the case of farmers and agriculture, such windows go on multiplying. It looks ludicrous that a person who has got money, means and who can get his work done through any channel of the Government, enjoys the facility of single window system whereas the farmer has to move from one window to another. If the farmer needs seeds he has to visit seed Corporation and when he needs loan, he turns to bank. Thus, he is required to knock at many doors before getting his work done. However, despite this much of efforts, he gets success very rarely. The Government should think about decreasing the number of windows so that the farmers can get their work done without any difficulty. As regards loan policy, the Reserve Bank of India, in its guidelines, has stated that at least 18 percent loan should be provided to farmers but the fact is that the farmers are provided loan not more than 10 percent.

Today the price of every item is rising high but we are decreasing the percentage of loan meant for farmers.

15.00 hrs.

The second point worth mentioning is that if a person opens a shop by investing Rs. 5000, his credit limit is fixed at once. Whereas, for a farmer, how so big he may be, neither any credit policy is there nor any credit limit is fixed. He is required to run from pillar to post for obtaining loan.

15.02 hrs.

(Shri Tara Singh in the Chair)

As the facility of credit system is available there, credit limit should be fixed for the farmer and he should be issued a credit card. In this way, he will go on repaying his loan whenever he gets money and he will be eligible for the next year's loan only when he repays the old loan. Then, why does the Government not give it a concrete shape? I am neither against any industrialist nor the industrial policy. However, it has been observed that sometimes, the loan provided to most of the industrialists, is considered as bad debt and they declare themselves bankrupt. But on the other hand, these industrialists change their postal address and launch new companies. It can also be seen that not a single farmer of the country has ever become a bankrupt. Further, he neither changed his postal address nor left his village to escape from repaying the debt. Even then, we are always apprehensive while providing loan to farmers and go on changing our policy in this regard. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to provide credit cards to the farmers and fix their credit limit so that they can get loan, easily. Thirdly, the rate of interest on the loan should be decreased. I have been writing to the Government including the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance for the last ten years in this regard as this is not a big industry. Even today, 70 percent farmers of the country toil in the drought prone areas. Despite having no facility of irrigation, he is still toiling in his fields. I would like to thank the Government for providing some facility to farmers in return of their service to the nation but this is the right time for the Government to think over the problems of the farmers. I would like the Government to reduce the rate of interest on the loan upto 5 percent because the majority of the farmers reside in the places where they have less facilities. They always become victims of either flood or cold or drought. Therefore, on behalf of all the farmers, I would like to request you that the rate of interest on crop loans should not exceed 5 percent.

I would also like to say something on the problems of soil erosion and barren land. It is the duty of the Government check the transformation of fertile land into barren land due to deforestation in the country. If it goes unchecked, many crises will arise. For instance, due to deforestation, the level of the rivers beds rise up, the life of the dams gets shortened, the menace of floods increases and there is more erosion of the soil. I know that able people of this country can import technology, get investment from abroad in terms of dollars, import machinery etc. but they can not import the soil. Therefore, protecting and preserving the soil of the country is not only a service to the farmers but to the nation also. I tried to get data about the extent of soil

erosion but nobody is ready to provide the figures. Unless the information regarding the extent of soil being washed away and the reason for rising of the level of river beds is known, it is very difficult to tell anything about it. Flood is caused not by heavy rains only but also by rise in the level of river bed. Therefore, this factor will have to be considered on priority basis to check soil erosion. It will be in the interest of the nation if such an arrangement is made.

Thirdly, I would like to touch upon the position of fertilisers. It is a very technical point as to how much subsidy is to be provided on fertilizers. I think that most of us do not know the fact that the consumption rate of fertilizer in different states of the country varies. It is a matter of great concern that five states of the country consume fifty percent of the total fertilizers while the rest of the country utilises the remaining fifty percent. For example, in Punjab consumption rate of fertilizer is 171 kg. per hectare while in other states of the country this rate is even below 10 kg. per hectare. Why this discrepancy is there? Same is the position regarding electricity and water. I would not like to take much time of the House by producing facts and figures.

There are many states which utilise fertilisers less than one percent. 5 kilogrammes nutrients for one hectare of land will serve no purpose. Except Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and some parts of Maharashtra, the position in the rest of the country is more or less the same. It is a very serious problem. The main reason behind all this is increase in the cost of production. Most of the fertilizer producing companies are sick. Production cost of fertiliser of many companies is between Rs. 11-20 thousand per tonne which we are not able to bear. Therefore, these units are incurring losses. It is being thrust upon the farmers but how long will it continue. I would like to state that a few companies, which are incurring heavy losses, should be handed over to workers' co-operatives. The Public Sector units located in West Bengal, Orissa, and Bihar, which are not running in profit, should also be handed over to these workers. This point should be kept in mind as to how the farmers will bear the heavy cost of fertilizers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have not been able to develop new technique of making manure. As per old method, we have been putting the dung in the pits but the manure that we get from this process has very low percentage of nitrogen.

The raw material put in a pitch gets 40 percent evaporated but if the same is converted into Gobar Gas, its nitrogen content increases by four times. It can be testified by researches. Besides providing electricity and gas to houses, it has many other uses and benefits. It is more economic than any other industry and if I reproduce the data in the House, you would not believe them. There are atleast 4 crore and 20 lakh farmers in the country who have

cattle and out of them, there are 120 lakh such farmers who are capable of acquiring loan. They have sufficient space and required number of animals and the gas plant can be installed at their houses. How many such plants have been installed by the Government? It has been stated in the report of the last year that about 20 lakh plants have been installed so far. If during this long span of 40 years, the Government could install only 20 lakh plants; one can well surmise the time Government will take in installing 120 lakh plants and the loss suffered by the country due to this. Atleast 20 lakh people are waiting for these plants to be installed at their houses so that they may also can get electricity from manure. This is the report from your department. The installation of these plants will involve very less amount but we have become interested in other matters. The files of NRIs are cleared on priority basis. We are always read to roll out red carpet for multinational companies but pay no attention to the problems of the farmers and therefore farmers have to come across with many difficulties. But I request you not to take these remarks otherwise since the Government as well as we are equally responsible for this plight of farmers. No one is to be blamed in particular for this. This is happening with each and every issue, but still we are wasting our's as well as the House's time on other issues. We will have to oppose it with our main and might or support the fixing of a time limit for this purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my second issue pertains to irrigation. Who decides in the country as to which crop should be irrigated for how many days and how much water should be released for that. This is not decided by the departments of agriculture of the states which have no knowledge of agriculture. Of course, there are engineers to decide the period of rotation; that is as to after how many days water will be released in specific canal. This is not decided by the agriculturists. That is why such a change has taken place. Crop pattern has changed still we are following the policy prepared some fifty years ago. The country has irrigation potential of atleast 11 crore and 20 lakh hectare but during last 45 years Government has brought only 8 crore and 10 lakh hectare land under irrigation. We should see the feasibility of the system and try to remove the shortcomings, if any, and decide whether drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation will be fit for any specific area. Still, 3 crore and 20 lakh potential of the country remains untapped. I would like to know as to in how many years this unharnessed potential can be exploited? Completion of any project takes 15-20 years, time and the poor farmer waits mutely till then. The second thing that I noticed is that the Government outrightly refuses to give permission for lift irrigation, if any individual goes for it. This is unfortunate that the Government at once accords permission to such cases in which 100 percent

expenditure from the exchequer is involved but which gives no return. But if the farmers form a co-operative society and then seek permission, the Government refuses and tells them that there is scarcity of water. Farmers arrange for irrigation on their own but the Government's trend of refusal is increasing day by day.

This is happening in every state. No doubt these are State matters but the Central Government and the State Government cannot have different opinions about agriculture. A decision by consensus has to be taken in this regard as it will decide the fate of the farmers, the agriculture as well as that of the country. Therefore, the decision should be beneficial for them all. I suppose that hon. Minister for Agriculture has taken personal interest in this regard. We have to think on this point also that we have limited water for per hectare land and that is to be utilised either through drip irrigation or sprinkler irrigation or it is to be used traditionally. We have to think as to how the limited water is to be utilised upto optimum level. This is not a single man's concern, therefore, we should reconsider this policy. Now there comes the policy for agricultural education. Due to favourable improvement in agro technologies and great contributions of the agriculture experts, the various agricultural yields have increased, but it is unfortunate that when a student is admitted in Agriculture Universities and 'Krishi Vidyapeethas', he never thinks of becoming a farmer and go to fields. Is it our success? While admitting a student, it is considered that he belongs to the family of a farmer and after completing the education, he will take farming as profession. Even a person hailing from a farmer's family and attached with the fields, is indifferent to farming. It shows that our policy is to groom youngsters into bureaucrats. What does it reflect when after completing education, one does not return to his fields? We are creating jobs only and what will they guide after they become bureaucrats and start pocketing a hefty salary? They will never touch the soil.

We should say, "You are son of a farmer; go back to your village and undertake farming for atleast four years and then come to us, we shall provide you with a job."

But unfortunately, not even a single student goes back to field again and instead, tries his best to settle down in the city only. We ask him to produce a certificate stating that he is son of a farmer. If he intends to work with you, it means he is not a farmer's son. We should think whether our policy is going to benefit the country or leading it to ashtray. Therefore, I would like several amendments to be made in this policy. After awarding degree, he should be advised to go to village and experience the ground realities there and acquire the actual knowledge of rain and cold and after two years' such experience when he

goes in search of job, he should be given good job earning good salary. But unfortunately this does not happen. They directly get a job and acquire only bookish knowledge. The Geography teacher in the country wants a few time and a few periods of geography since without preparation, it is very difficult to teach although the Geography is the same but for teaching in school or college it must be brushed every day. Likewise, if any one having bookish knowledge, teaches the method of farming, he will certainly harm the progress of the country. Therefore, I would like to request hon. Minister of Agriculture to bring some change in this policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Minister had stated yesterday that he was ready to reconsider the crop insurance policy. But actually this cannot be termed as crop insurance, this is actually a loan insurance. The scheme will apply on those farmers only who have acquired the loan. The farmers who can manage the money on their own for investment will not come under the purview of this insurance. I would like to know its reason. This scheme should have been implemented in the whole country but it has been applied only to some limited crops. What will the people of drought prone areas, rain-prone areas or the persons living in barren area do in this situation or hold will they make their livelihood? I hope that hon. Minister of Agriculture will agree to my proposal of implementing agriculture crop insurance scheme on industrial pattern.

Thirdly, I would like to say something about 'Agricultural Produce Market Committee' (APMC). Vast area is required because the farmers bring their produce to that area by bullock carts, tractors or trucks but the Government has levied non-agricultural on that. Government has also levied income tax and other taxes on 10-15 APMCs of the country running into losses. Tax worth crores of rupees is due on them they are on the verge of closure I would like the Government to levy tax on private trades, buildings, shops or offices but there is no reason on levying tax there where the farmer brings his produce by bullock carts. It is known to you that some market committee are running very well but they too will close within two to four years. Four days ago, I had gone to one of the markets of Delhi where the farmers of Haryana and Punjab had come to sell their fruits. I think, you are not aware of the practice as to how they sell their fruits. A Big handkerchief is put on the hand and one of the fingers is caught. Rajveer Singhji says that their should be transparency in big industries but nobody pays attention towards the handkerchief under which everything is happening because we are engaged in trade that can benefit the politician. But nobody thinks about it as to why it is happening in Delhi. The morning rate of a sackful of fruit is Rs. 30 but the evening rate of the same becomes Rs. 125. Similarly, the brokers increase the

price of every item, four or five times while the farmer does not get even Rs. 30 for his produce on which he devotes the whole year's labour. The same fruits cost Rs. 150 for users. If we do not think over it, who else will think? Would we not like to change their plight? We unitedly work for many other things because it is published in the newspapers but since this issue is related to farmers and a sackful of fruit costs merely Rs. 30, it is not published in the newspapers. If any issue is related to Enron, it will be published in all and sundry newspaper. Why do we try fish in the troubled water and how far have we changed our way of thinking? All of us know that the same method of auction is adopted in every city. This is not a question of any party or any state because as per today's condition, every party has its Government in one or the other state. This happens everywhere. In Bombay also, the same method of putting a handkerchief on the hand and catching the finger from inside is adopted and price is fixed by bargain. No attention is paid to the producer of the produce. The question is not as to what they think about all this but to change their attitude and the attitude of all of us... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : (Aonla) : We have a lot of welfare activities in our mind but this should come to your mind.

SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE : It is a matter of great concern about agriculture. There are many such issues about which we need to change our attitude.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now, I would like to raise the issue of dairy development. No doubt, development work has been done in some areas in the field of dairy development, but even after 40-45 years of independence, when I visited four states with my committee and enquired at a place as to what method did they adopt for increasing the milk capacity of the animals, I was told that they were using siemen. Then I asked them as to where did they get semen from, I was given the names of several places. When I further enquired as to whether there was some arrangement of genetically tested bull at these places where they got the frozen semen, I was not given reply to my question by any of the officers in the three states.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it clearly shows that inspite of sea change in the technology and in many other things in the world, we are still walking on the trodden path. The Government presents the same old techniques to farmers.

I presume that in atleast fifty percent states, not even a single bull would have been genetically testified. How do we plan to bring about the change and how will we increase the production-capacity of milching animals. Unless we bring this change, we

cannot progress in this field. In other countries 'Amario Transfer Theory' has been successfully implemented, while we are still lagging behind.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Bhonsle Sahab, you have already taken the time allotted to you. Please try to finish your speech.

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech i.e. I am speaking for the first time during the last ten years. Therefore, please do not ring the bell. I myself will finish my speech soon.

I would like to tell you one thing about milk. Nobody ever told as to which state is not showing concern about genetic test. If we give any observation about it, the Government will circulate order, stating that the act of creating misunderstanding is not proper. When I asked the State as to how much fat does standard milk consists, I was told that the percentage was 5.5 It was stated that it consisted 90 per cent buffallow milk and 10 per cent cow milk. I asked him to go to any of the Indian village and if it consists less than 7 per cent fat, I am ready to undergo any punishment, you may like to impose on me. It is the human being, and not the animals, that follows the dishonest path. Why should we buy milk having 5.5 per cent fat when buffallow milk, consisting 7 percent fat, is already available. It is injustice and it also teaches injustice to countrymen, but nobody is paying attention to it. Even the milk of a buffallow having 15-20 day old calf, will not consist less than 7 per cent fats then why the fat of standard milk is 5.5 percent. It sounds that you are encouraging the people of the country to practice adulteration and compelling others to eat adulterated food items. I do not want to say anything about the process after which the fat content of the milk reduces but I totally disagree with the fat content fixed for standard milk even before the process. It means, you are showing the way for adulteration to the countrymen. If everyone starts doing the work according to one's own standards, the country will go to ashtray.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I therefore, would like to urge upon hon. Minister to convene a meeting and discussion-session after inviting the states which are giving good performance and think about the corrective measures through it and try to build up a friendly environment.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of the farmers who keep bullocks. The economic condition of the farmers who keep bullocks, is not good. Farming by bullocks is in no way economic in any part of India. They have to face difficulty and so, they want to do farming by tractors.

Today, the price of a tractor has increased very much and the interest on loan taken to purchase a tractor is also on the higher side. Amount of interest

on loan becomes more than the cost of a tractor. My submission is that the price of a tractor purchased for cultivation should be less and the rate of interest on the loan should also be kept lower. Then only farmers of this country will be able to utilise that for cultivation. In our country, supply of electricity is a matter of serious concern, because the generation of electricity in several states like Orissa, Assam, Madhya Pradesh and the smaller states in the country is very low. The percentage of electricity being supplied for agricultural purposes is also very low. Only 28 percent of the electricity is being supplied for agricultural purposes whereas there are 70 percent farmers in the country and that too is only in two - three states like Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra. In other states of the country, it is not more than 10-12 percent for agricultural production...*(Interruptions)* but why do not we think that we are farmers and our country is pre-dominantly an agricultural country? Why do not we resolve to reconsider it?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that we should think about it again. I have clearly said about fertilisers. I have been the Chairman of the Fertilizer Pricing Committee. All the facts cannot be covered in the report. However, I can provide figures relating to other countries about the use of fertilizers. Use of fertilizers in our country is very less in comparison to other countries. The per hectare average use of fertilizers in Bangladesh, China, India, Japan, Korea, the other Korea, Netherland and Asia is 99.3 Kg, 284.6 Kg, 68.7 Kg, 417.9 Kg, 407.4 Kg, 425 Kg, 642 Kg and 117 Kg, respectively. The average use of fertilizers this year in our country has been only 66 kilogram. It means that the Government boast of doing so much but the the ground realities are totally different. In this regard our country is far behind in comparison to other countries.

I would like to submit that this matter should be re-considered. Subsidy on fertilizers should be given anyway whether it is nutrient-wise, quality-wise, hectare-wise or on the basis of per quintal of production. I think that if the Government curtails the amount of subsidy, farmers of this country would not be able to make any progress. I would, therefore, like to submit that the Government should review its policy on fertilizers. The Government should try to expedite the non-conventional energy programmes. Jakhari, we all share your concern on this subject which you expressed yesterday in your speech. You should have courage and become our representative in the Government. Do not become the representative of the Government. No party can mobilise this country overlooking the interests of the farmers. A Government can survive if it thinks of farmers. Government should provide strong representation, strength and courage to the farmers to achieve the targets fixed for the year, 2007 to take this country

forward. I resorted to comment on the performance of the Government safeguard the interests of the farmers. I am not talking about any individual. I have already said that our concern on this issue should be brought to the notice of the Government not presuming it a personal matter. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, to save the time, I will neither go into the details nor will I repeat the figures. During the regime of Janta Dal, a proposal was put forward to make an agricultural policy and a committee was also constituted. Among the parliamentary standing committees, committee on agriculture was constituted first. Even then it did not serve the purpose. In the proposal which is about Agricultural Policy, a detailed reference was made in regard to land reforms and delimitation. Now the hon. Minister will say that this issue relates to the Urban Development Ministry. What type of agriculture we want? Do we require agriculture on the lines of the USA, where the people of Europe made it a country of white men after killing the original inhabitants of that area? Population there is less and land is vast. Is it possible to make agricultural farms of lakhs of acres on the basis of that policy? It is not possible in India. Even if it is possible will industry make progress? Will anybody be able to purchase our other products? Nobody will have purchasing power. Even after partition in 1947, the population of our country is 92 crores. Out of such big population, most of the people are dependent on agriculture. In such a condition what will be our policy? My submission is that we should have the self employed agriculture. Most of the agricultural land is in the hands of absentee land owners. The owners of the land do not cultivate themselves whether they are member of parliament, officers or Government employees. They live thousands of miles away from their land. A man who cultivates the land, should be given its ownership. This is the serious problem in our country. And if we do not make certain provisions our production will be adversely affected.

I give an example of myself. If during election, I raise the issue of Dam, Canal, it seems that mentally I am not in the normal position because servants have no interest in production, that is why they do not care when a farmer is destroyed by calamities. Our hon. member has rightly added the term 'servants'. Mentality, today this mentality is all pervading. Hence, as regards the case of ownership, Government should encourage self employed agriculture so that a man who cultivates the land may earn his livelihood from it and fight for its development, he may exercise his right as a voter and help the Government to remove the social disparities like casteism in our society. A democracy should be strong enough to fight the evil of booth capturing.

The other people who are members of Parliament for 10-12 years, why should they remain the owners of the land? we, neither cultivate ourselves nor we like to make our sons and grandsons to be a cultivators. A Government employee whether he is a class 'A' 'B', 'C' or 'D' employee, will not like his son to be a farmer. However, he will not leave his holding. This is mere cultivation in absentia which is the main obstacle in agricultural development in India.

Therefore, raise a slogan of self employed agriculture. It is correct that we become sluggish to some extent. I am talking about revolutionary groups. We have become impotent because of communalism and casteism. But when crores of people who toil very hard in the fields come forward, then Red-revolution will come instead of Green revolution as the then Home Minister Shri Chavan Sahab had said. The same crisis will be created in the country. Therefore, impotents can not build India of tomorrow. It will have to be changed. You wait.(Interruptions) You please keep quite for a while. I have said that inspite of our impotence, a change will come therefore...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please address the chair and not the other side of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I am doing same thing. Therefore, my submission is that the law regarding consolidation of land, land obtained by Bhudan and the wasteland should be handed over to the people who work hard and we should go ahead on the basis of self - employed agriculture.

Agricultural wages will increase, the number of landlords will increase and we will give them wages, all this should be over. Actually the system should be that a man who is landlord, will also cultivate his fields but today, things are different. Today, Punjab is a leading state in our country with regard to agricultural production. Punjab is also leading in snatching the lands of small farmers, where big landlords take the share of agricultural products from small farmers and there are potato kings, who have several tractors. I think that David Pranayam' is being done. This Pranayam'.(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please resume your seat. He is on a point of order.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : Sir, the hon. Member who is speaking is a very senior Member. I just want to tell him that in Punjab, there is no such

thing happening because the average holding in Punjab today is less than two acres and thus, that version of the hon. Member is not correct. It may be the position 40 or 50 years ago. There is no big agriculturist or a big landlord now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Shri Jha may continue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to visit some districts with my colleague. The big agricultural cultivate the lands of small farmers on contract basis as share-cropper. The owner is paid in instalments. The land legally remains in the owners name but it is under the occupation of the share-cropper. Therefore, I contend that his complicated procedure is proving to be counter-productive. The proposal of land reform is a fundamental issue before the nation. The Minister is right in saying that suggestions made during discussion would be incorporated in the agricultural policy and we together shall move ahead with a national Agriculture policy.

After this, I would take up the issue of pricing policy. It is true that through this some improvement has occurred in irrigation, land reforms, price policy, and agricultural production has increased slightly. The production in 1950 was five crore tonnes whereas today, the production is 19 crore tonnes. This may not be a big achievement. But, still it is an achievement, although achieved at a slow pace. We did not attain what we could have. This can not be termed as progress but at the same time we can not negate our achievement. The price policy has also contributed towards this. We speak of giving remunerative prices to the farmers. Cultivation is not possible without this. When we were dependent on America for foodgrains, under PL 480 scheme, we used to receive tobacco and lipstick alongwith foodgrains. One can forgo food but not Lipstick ! At that time also, I had raised this point. At that time, the late Shri Morarji Desai was the Finance Minister. In the lobby of the House, he told me that he was against it. Now we no longer need such assistance. Though we import foodgrains at times, we are not longer dependent on it. There has been an improvement. But what is the result? I ask my colleagues to name out even a single village in the entire country where the consumers of foodgrains are not in majority? Such farmers are in minority who keep a year's of foodgrain in stock for consumption and sell the surplus. This can be seen in any village. Such farmers are in majority who have to purchase foodgrains either for three months or six months or nine months from the market for consumption. Such farmers are consumers too. How

can the interest of both be harmonised? Therefore, it is essential to determine an integrated price policy. At present I will not talk of the cities but of the villages. Therefore, the formulation of an integrated price policy is essential. This can be achieved through mandatory remunerative price for agricultural produce. Secondly, there should be a policy of constant co-ordination between the prices of agricultural and industrial products. Thirdly, the actual producer should get remunerative price. I am saying actual, because the Janata Dal Government—which was supported by us also—twice increased the price of wheat after it was sold to them by the farmers. This benefitted the traders, not the farmers. Therefore, the benefit should go to the primary producer. And the price which the real consumer has to pay should be fixed in such a way that the difference between the retail price and Governments procurement price is not more than 20-25 per cent. This should be fixed after taking into account the interest rates etc., so that there is not much difference. What is happening now is that the actual farmers sell their produce at low price. He lacks the means and capital to store his produce. For his consumption, the farmer has to buy at double price after four or six months. The consumer has to pay twice the amount, whether he is in service or is a farmer. The latter, by selling his land. It is the wholesale traders and the middlemen who benefit the most. As per my knowledge, there is not even a single wholesale trader who does business with his own money. He takes loan from bank, purchases it at cheap rates from the farmer and stores it in the godown. When there is a scarcity the prices rise and the consumer is the sufferer. This condition is as per the theory propounded by Adam Smith and Marshall. Therefore, an integrated price policy is required to safeguard the interests of the consumers and the producers. If we increase the price of some product and the price of fertilizer several times more, water and electricity rates still more, that of the implements further more, and the interest rate of the money lenders, all these prove very dangerous. I am now not talking of the banks. But of the moneylenders of the villages. In view of all these, how can the farmers benefit? Therefore, water, electricity, fertilizer implements, seeds and loans should be available easily and inadequate quality to cater to their requirement. We can formulate an integrated pricing policy. Inflation is on the rise continuously and we blame the farmers. This issue concerns the entire nation. In such a situation, I would urge that the agricultural implements should be made available to the farmers at fixed cost and according to their needs.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Neither the Agriculture Minister, nor the Minister of State of Agriculture nor any Minister of Cabinet rank is present here. Is this the expression of Government's sympathy towards

agriculture. Does this express their concern for the agriculturists. Some Minister should have been present here. Though two Ministers are present here, they are chatting, neither of them is attentive. This is the attitude of the Congress Party towards agriculture.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Therefore, I have said that multi pricing policy benefits neither the farmer nor the nation. In the agricultural policy, integrated pricing policy should be incorporated. Regarding agricultural implements there are technical aspects, as in case of tractors etc.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the sub-division or land, the landholdings would become smaller. My suggestion is that there should be a single policy for the entire country regarding the implementation of land ceiling and land consolidation laws. With the sub-division of one or two acres of land, it no longer remains profitable. Mechanised farming is not possible on small land holdings. I am referring to suitable technology that can be used in small holdings.

I want to give some examples. Prabhakar Potteries in Bihar manufactures tubewells. I would request the Minister to have it verified by sending someone there. Since 1982-83 about 30 tubewells are in operation around Mather Chowk in Darbhanga district. Iron can rust. But not fired clay even after thousands of years. I am requesting to help them a little. Bihar Government contends that it is a policy matter. The suppliers of iron tubewells give exorbitant commission. How can one give commission if one is unable to make both ends meet. By using fired clay components in place of iron components in tube wells, we can tap underground water, at only one-fourth cost, throughout the country. And I am ready to accompany you. You can see and investigate it and adopt this on a large scale. Otherwise a large movement will ensue. The Himalayas are the largest mountain range in the world. Even if it experiences drought for 30 years, even then snow will fall and melt. The waters from the Himalaya is the elixir of life. It is an important source of water but we do not have a conservation plan. This is the reason for our recurring draughts. It is true that the Ministry is not concerned directly with agriculture but it is not aloof from agricultural policy. Whenever there is any agitation over small issue, e.g. resettlement, such as in case of Tehri, Narmada Sagar and Koel - Karo projects, that issue should be settled first. Proper utilisation of water resources is necessary for self-sufficiency in agriculture to remove poverty and backwardness. Therefore, agricultural policy should be formulated continuously to arrive at a national policy. For this, a national consensus is needed. So as to prevent floods, flowing of excess water into the ocean, to utilise excess water to tide over draughts.

When Shri Devi Lal was the Deputy Prime Minister, the Government had decided to make small tractors, suitable for land holdings of one to two acres. What happened to this plan?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the adoption of suitable technology should form a part of the agricultural policy. It should suit small holdings. Availability of power is an integral part of our agricultural policy. Our colleagues have said that people seek technical education for jobs. You should extend loans or grants to such people for 4-5 years so that they can take up ideal farming. This can be started under the aegis of Central Agricultural Service. By utilising their technical knowledge they will progress and the nation will gain. During the Swaraj movement, Gandhiji had termed school and colleges as slave producing factories. Our educational system churns out graduates who are job seekers. They have become stereotyped. This would not benefit them. During Demands for Grants you spoke with conviction. I urge you to speak today also with the same conviction.

As far as the question of patents is concerned, it permits grants for certain period only. It is an assault on humanity on our patents on process. WTO allows patents on products. This would hinder exchange of knowledge. Shri Nitishji spoke of removing Shri Balam Jakhar. Those responsible for such removal become Prime Ministers. We are under the threat of Dunkel laws. We should continue with our policy through an all party consensus so as to safeguard the farmers' interest. This will be in our national interest.

16.00 hrs.

If there is rural poverty, the sale of industrial commodities would suffer. If there is no market for agricultural produce, then the industry would not get its raw material. Therefore, the progress of industry and of agriculture is interlinked. Hence, it becomes our fundamental obligation to work for agricultural progress.

Tomorrow, on 9th August, the farmers will gather at Jantar Mantar, under the aegis of All India Kisan Sabha. I urge the Agriculture Minister to go there also and enlighten the farmers with his views. Other Members who want to address the farmers, should also go there, as this meeting is not being organised by any political party. I am the general secretary of this organisation and I invite you to join the meeting. Their demands are just. A time will come when they will awake. If you want to put an end to their misery, then arrive at a consensus to formulate an agricultural policy. Otherwise majority of the farmers i.e., the marginal, the small and the medium farmers would rise up in protest. Whether the bigger farmers protest or not, the small farmers would certainly do so.

With this I conclude.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, very few members were present here when the discussion on this subject began yesterday. It was my misfortune that I was absent. It is evident from today's newspapers that in view of the thin attendance of the Members, the Minister was in a dilemma whether to present the agricultural policy or not. Wherever there is an important discussion here, the attendance is low. The topic which we are discussing is directly related to the majority of the people. But this issue under discussion - the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution was placed long back in the House by the Government. Its modified version was perhaps also placed on 14th May 1993. Today we have taken up this discussion.

The draft placed by the Government here was referred to the Agricultural Standing Committee. The Committee discussed it at length. Agricultural experts and farmer's leaders from all over the country were called to give their views. Representatives of cross sections of society, who were associated with agriculture, were called by the committee. Views of the Government were also sought. People from Agriculture Ministry were also called. People from various related Ministries, like Water Resources Ministry, Food Processing Ministry etc, were also called, for their views. After so much labour, the Committee presented its report in both Houses of the Parliament on 10th May 1994. I do not know whether or not the Government paid heed to the recommendations of the Standing Committee, and today we are discussing the Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution introduced by the Government.

I fail to see the purpose of the Standing committee. The Standing Committee was formed by the Parliament. The Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution was passed on to the Standing Committee. It made its recommendations. The members know how important document it is. It was prepared with great labour. All the sectors associated with agriculture have been mentioned in it. It has adopted a comprehensive and integrated approach. And today we are still discussing the Committee's Draft Agricultural Policy Resolution.

It would be discussed here also and the Report of the Committee, which has worked hard on this subject has also been presented and he has seen it. After the discussion here, he will announce the Agricultural Policy. In such a situation, it can be called the Government's Agricultural Policy and not the National Agricultural Policy.

The idea of National Agricultural Policy is not new. The draft of the Agricultural Policy was almost ready when National Front Government was in power. That Government lost power and a new Government took over, which remained in power for a shortwhile

but that also worked on it. Later on, when the new Government was formed and hon. Shri Balram Jakhar took the charge of this Ministry. Then this work was started again and a new procedure was adopted for it. The Chief Ministers of all the states were called and Modified Draft Agriculture Policy Resolution was moved in 1993. Even today no amendment has been made in it. The draft which is being discussed here consists of 14 main points and a mention of 17 challenges have been made in it. We expressed our views in the Committee and experts from all over the country were called. That report is also before the House. All have expressed their views unanimously on it that it cannot be called National Agriculture Policy.

The Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture also came in the meeting of the Committee. He was informed about the views of others and asked his opinion on it whatever be the opinion of the people the Agriculture Policy Resolution was incomplete in itself.

16.06 hrs.

(Shri Peter G. Marbaniang in the Chair)

The Secretary, Minister of Agriculture said that draft should not mention the challenges only but it should describe the measures to be taken to counter these challenges and long term strategy to be adopted on it. It was the opinion of the Agricultural Secretary before the Committee. We had thought that the Government would review this report and a new document will be presented here. The lacunae in the report would be removed and a National Agricultural Policy will be formulated. But now it seems to be a mere formality before the elections. Earlier he was not worried about it and this issue was taken up for discussion during the last days of sessions. But now he is worried about it as elections are coming near. He has no specific objectives behind this discussion and wants this debate simply on the same line as he has made announcement regarding some schemes.

I respect Shri Jakharji but in view of what he said yesterday, I would like to say that he does not put any specific point. He says in a casual manner that these schemes are being taken up in the interest of farmers. Now he has said that multinationals will be under his thumb. It sounds well. Earlier we used to say that GATT Agreement would adversely affect the Agriculture. His reply was that there would not be any adverse affect and farmers would progress through it. He would not permit anyone to do any wrong. There is not ban on making such speeches. But when Minister of Agriculture speaks something it should bear some meaning.

This draft regarding Agriculture Policy would have been modified after the recommendations made by

the Committee. Secondly, this Resolution was prepared before the GATT Agreement. There is no mention about the measures to be taken to face the challenges in agricultural sector, arisen after the GATT agreement. It is a different thing if you want this debate for sake of debate only. It seems that you do not intend to draft a National Agricultural Policy by creating a consensus. Elections are coming and no one knows that this Government will remain in power or not? All accepts that this Government will not remain in power and new Government will be formed. You should formulate such an agricultural policy that it should guide the country for coming 25 to 30 years and in some matters for 50 years. What more can I say to Shri Jakhar. He is the Minister of Agriculture under the Prime Ministership of Shri Narsimha Rao ji. You can think about the views of the earlier Agriculture Minister.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : These days, news items are being published in newspapers that hon. Prime Minister is going to utilise his services in the organisation and relieve him from the charge of Ministry of Agriculture. It will really be unfortunate.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It is the internal matter of their party.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : It is their internal matter but Agriculture Ministry will suffer for it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He was the Returning officer of Congress Party and Hon. Narsimha Rao was declared President before elections were held at lower level and now he is the Minister of Agriculture. You can see that now the Ministry of Agriculture has become smaller. The size of the Ministry of Agriculture has not remained the same as it was before the Government headed by Shri Narsimha Rao. The Department of Rural Development and Department of Fertilizers were the parts of Ministry of Agriculture earlier but now both of these have been separated from it. A new Department has been constituted under the name of Agriculture and Cooperative Department. He has been left with Animal Husbandry, Dairy Farming and Agricultural Research. Now who will hear you. You have no control over fertilizers. If we discuss the Agricultural Policy, without these topics under which the issue of rural and urban income comes, no one is going to listen to your views because Rural Development too is not under your control. Now Agricultural policy does not relate to a single Ministry. Irrigation, Rural Development, Food and Food Processing and Forest, all these Departments relate to Agriculture. There was a time when Forest department also used to be a part of the Ministry of Agriculture. Ministry of Food was also a part of it but today it is not only a separate Department, it has also been divided into two parts i.e. Ministries of Food and Civil Supplies. Various independent

Ministries have been formed out of the Agriculture Ministry with the result that today you have been left as an incharge of a small part of it. Earlier, the Forest Department, Irrigation Department, Department of Food and Food Processing Department were the part of this Ministry. Recently we had gone on a tour and I was surprised to see that you have made a fun of the functioning of this Ministry. I would like to discuss this matter.

In the context of Anand Dairy, I would like to say that it has earned fame in the field of cooperatives and milk production. Some more cooperative societies should be set up the pattern of Anand. They have really performed very well. Late Shri Lal Bahader Shastri visited it and he was impressed by its performance and helped in setting up of N.D.D.B. on the pattern. But presently you will find that milk production in Anand Dairy Farm is under the control of two ministries. The work of collecting milk is under the control of Shri Jakhar and the preparation of ghee, butter or chocolate by milk comes under the Food Processing Department. Two different departments are controlling it. Then how far your Agricultural Policy will be effective.

Therefore, first of all you should create effective coordination among the various Ministries related to the Agriculture Ministry. A larger Ministry should be constituted by merging the present Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Food Processing Ministry, Ministry of Rural Development and to some extent the Ministry of Forest for creating effective coordination otherwise the Agricultural Policy being presented here will remain meaningless. Who will listen to your views. If you really intend to implement and formulate a National Agricultural Policy then suggestions given by us should be considered and proper arrangements should be made in this regard.

In the context of the draft of Agriculture Policy, I failed to understand the issues on which you want to emphasize. India is a country of vividness There are 15 type of climates in the whole world and these all climates are available in India, more than 2/3 of total types of soil of the world are available in our country. Only 11 percent of total land of this world is cultivable but in our country the 56 percent of land is cultivable. According to the figures given by you about 91 million hectare of our cultivable land is not being utilised. I wish that it should be utilised. Which are the challenges before us.

Sir, actually the challenges before our country have not been properly addressed in this draft. The first challenge before us is that we should make arrangements to feed our people. It is an issue of food security. You can do anything on paper but in reality you should not think about exporting foodgrains until the population of the country is

properly fed. The USA is diverting out attention from the, Agriculture. It has a big storage of foodgrains. When we will stop the production of foodgrains then by this storage of foodgrains it will compell the whole World to accept its conditions. Therefore, I request you to stop the export of foodgrains till our country has sufficient quantity of foodgrains in storage.

Sir, till 1990-91, the Agriculture Ministry has fixed a target of producing 240 million tonnes of foodgrains by the end of this century. It had estimated that by that time, we would need that much of foodgrains. Now they are telling that we would require less quantity, though they have not told about the basis of this revised estimate. They have not told as to what was the basis of their estimate at that time of the basis of their estimate at present. But we have been thinking about their target of producing 240 million tonnes of foodgrains. In view of the total growth rate of Agriculture, we would hardly be able to achieve a target of 180 or 190 million tonnes. In this situation we will not achieve the target of foodgrains production and provide the required quantity to our people. You find surplus quantity of foodgrains because the purchasing power of people have declined in the country. Still we are unable to produce the required quantity of foodgrains for the population of the country. In this way we have a challenge of food security before us.

Sir, now I would like to say something about scarcity of land. How can we remove this scarcity of land? At first we can remove this scarcity by increasing production. Secondly, we can remove this shortage by utilisation of the land lying vacant. But so far no scheme has been framed to remove this shortage. No such scheme has been mentioned in Agriculture policy also.

Sir, just now Shri Bhogendra Jha was saying that this problem cannot be solved unless proper arrangements are made for land management. This Government is silence over the issue of land reforms. It is also going to abolish the land - ceiling. This process has been started in Maharashtra. In the name of Horticulture, Food processing, liberalisation and globalisation, the land Ceiling Act will become ineffective after implementation of GATT. Jakharji, nothing is going to happen by simply nodding your head. This process has been started in Maharashtra. State Governments are lying with each other in inviting multinationals for setting up Food processing industry in their States. What does it mean? In the name of captive farming you intend to allot to big industrialists. The meaning of Food Processing is that farmers would get higher prices for their produce through processing. It means that prices of Farmers produce should be raised for their benefit. But now in the name of food processing, multinationals are being invited and farmers are incurring losses.

Jakharji is here and he can tell that Pepsi was given licence for producing and processing tomatoes for exporting. But today it is exporting Basmati rice after purchasing it from various states. Whether it has any authority to export rice. You are making fun of it. You say that multinationals will function here under your control but I am saying that your Government will work under them because you are inviting such big multinationals whose annual turn over is more than our annual budget. They will swallow you.

How you are going to face the challenges before the county. Land is being divided into small pieces. How you will stop the fragmentation of this marginal land. You are going to allot land to corporate sector for other purposes, then what will be left with the farmers? Cultivable land is acquired by the Government in the name of public purposes. The term 'Public Purposes' should be redefined. We provide cultivable land to multinationals for setting up their company. Instead, you should ask them to set up their factories on desert land. Jakharji, Maruti Udyog is nearby and you can see as to whether they are utilising the total land allotted to them for factory purposes. 500 to 600 acres of land is lying unutilised. Why do you not get this land back from them? Why the land is not being handed over back to the farmers who have acquired it? It is very inappropriate that the factory owners should keep under their custody such a fertile land without making any use of it.

What is the Government's policy about land? Will the Land Ceiling Act remain a quotable quote or it will be implemented effectively? Secondly, would the Government give some new explanation for the land acquired for the public purpose? Well, we can give our land for setting up hospitals, schools and for constructing roads but should we keep on giving away land for setting up industries as well? The Government should ponder over it or the agricultural land will be destroyed by and by. They claim that they are not going to abolish the Land Ceiling but what about that being given away to the multinational companies. (Interruptions) The Agricultural policy has just been launched. (Interruptions) It should be debated and the 74 percent population of India.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Four hours' time has been allotted by the Business Advisory Committee to this subject.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, time will be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It has been decided by the BAC. You have taken more than thirty minutes.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : There should be no limit for the discussion on the Agriculture Policy. The time should be limitless. It concerns 74 per cent of the population of this country... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are other Members to speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : All right, Sir. Everybody will speak. Everybody should speak.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what is the position of farming today? Saying things cursorily about land will not do. They should talk solid about it because most of the disputes in this country are land related. Therefore, there is a need to formulate a national land policy. They cannot escape by saying that it is the State subject. A unanimous decision should be taken about it when a national policy is being devised and all the states taken into confidence. (Interruptions) The result will be that they will acquire the land and other people will possess that Shri Bhogendra Jha rightly said just now that the Government should first do away with the Benami land holders. Jakhar Sahib is present here and his farm is flourishing.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : This is totally wrong. I am on my legs to State that the States considered some points but approved none, nor was the policy modified. There is no question of acquisition of land.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You will become worthy of our compliments if you can accomplish it but in view of the way things are going on, it is our duty to bring this matter forward before the House and the country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The State Government of Uttar Pradesh, west Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka have written to us in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Well, what is the position and contribution of agriculture today. In 1991-92, the contribution of griculture to the Gross Domestic Product was 56 percent. In 1992-93, it was reduced to 32 percent. There has, of course, been a marginal decrease in rural population. As per the Government figures, 80 percent of our population lives in villages earlier. Now, it is 70 per cent. But we are facing a very serious challenge. The agricultural development is almost at par with the rate of increase in population. Agriculture that contributed 56 percent to the G.D.P. so far has today been reduced to less than one-third. 70 per cent people depend on it. Thus, the most important issue in the country is Agriculture. How can we augment production and income? There should, in any case, be an Agricultural policy. Formerly, there have been some policies in piecemeal - that of the Green revolution, of subsidies, of market intervention scheme, of determining the support price. Thus piecemeal policies were enforced but never was a comprehensive policy adopted which is a necessity. As of now, the Government is giving a minimum

support price. It announced the minimum support price for Kharif crops last week. Now, the fixation of minimum support price will not satisfy the farmer. He should get a remunerative price. Will the industrial sector people be satisfied by a minimum support price?

Recently, the ENRON deal has been scrapped. A company stated elsewhere that they can decrease the amount. The Government in giving the counter-guarantee to the outsiders and asking the farmers to be contented with the minimum support price. There is a huge gap between the rural and the urban income. The hon. Prime Minister has not entrusted him the portfolio of Rural Development Ministry even if he wants to benefit the farmers. He could have done some work were he in charge of the Rural Development Ministry but in the absence of rural development how can he achieve agricultural development? He might claim augmenting agricultural production, extending good marketing facilities to the farmers but how can he achieve that in the absence of an approach road to the villages.

This country has abundant fertile land, very good soil, different climates and as per the Government figures one-third irrigated land. The ground water is also being utilised. In certain areas, it is unjust to utilise the ground water because the area has turned dark and grey and exploitation of 80 percent has already taken place. On the other hand, the rain water goes down the drain. Water flowing down the Himalayas and other mountains flows down to the sea. No measures have been taken to contain it. What does the Government intend to do for less rain-fed areas.

The Ministry of Agriculture has devised a very ambitious scheme for the Eighth Five Year Plan - the Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Areas. A provision of about Rs.1300 crore has been made for that. Will that serve the purpose?

Recently, we saw that Anna Sahib Hazare has done a laudable work in his village Ralegaon Sindi. He was inspired for social service after reading a book of Swami Vivekananda. He realised that the man has been bestowed with the gift of life for public service. After realising this, he went straight to his village and started work on watershed. We express our anguish on the watershed scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture. The Government wants to run the watershed programme in a casual manner. Anyway, it is a separate subject and a discussion on it will consume much time. But the way the watershed programme has been undertaken, the irrigation department will like the programme to be entrusted to it, the rural development department will also like to undertake it whereas it is already lying with the Ministry of Agriculture. To my mind that we have to do in practice and on the basis of the experience we gathered after talking to the people of the Ministry of

Agriculture, we have come to perceive that water management on the basis of watershed development programme is the most appropriate scheme for irrigating the fields in this country. The Government should go in for water management on the basis of watershed programme and prevent the rain water from going down the drain. Every year one centimeter of the top soil flows down with the rain water. We are aware that it takes 300 years for the formation of one inch of top soil whereas our one centimeter top soil flows down every year. In such a situation, it is extremely necessary to utilize this water and prevent it from flowing down by undertaking the watershed programme.

We have many mega irrigation schemes. The soil will be rendered unfertile, will become saline and be damaged unless we do not make a conjunctive use of the surface water and the ground water but the Government pays no attention to all that. We were waiting for your response, concern and initiative for discussing this matter. I did not want to touch upon this issue but because we have worked on it in the Standing Committee, I thought that the Government will bring forward an amended policy on it but when I came to learn that the same old thing was going to be discussed, I could not restrain myself thinking as to what was the fun of doing so much hard work? As there are many issues under discussion, it is our duty to draw the attention of the Government towards these.

Watershed development is a very useful programme and it should not be divided among three-four Ministries. The watershed programme should be entrusted to one and only one Ministry - the Ministry of Agriculture - if we are really going to formulate a long-term agricultural policy. It should not be, that the Krishi Bhavan people may remain indifferent from the changes happening around the world. Despite preventive measures, 49 percent of our rain water flows down the sea. The person concerned widened the canal they already had constructed. The water was again stopped by new experiments at three places and it created humidity. We should learn a lesson from their experiments and should not tread a beaten path.

There are plains in our area, there is rough and rugged land and there is undulation at places. Leaving that aside, cannot the principle of watershed be applied on even level lands? It is required and has its utility there also but different technology shall have to be applied at different places. We cannot complete the watershed programme with one strategy. It is to be applied in different ways at different places.

We have not only to ensure the fulfilment of the need of a living for the people of the country but have also to augment their income. Much needs to be done.

It is being said since long that a model co-operative law should be formulated but the State Governments are not taking action on it. The farmers' income can be augmented in the Villages by constituting Co-operative Societies. It has been floated in the air since 1964 and 1965. At that times, the then Prime Minister, Shastri ji, had said that he wanted to replicate the Anand pattern throughout the country. Much time has elapsed since then. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to say that Bihar is disreputed for everything where things go from bad to worse. Yet there is the Patna Dairy Project, which was entrusted to the NDDDB that ran it for some time. It is still running smoothly. The milk producing farmers of the whole area are benefited from it and earn additional income. Now, the Government wants to entrust this field to the multinational companies and is thus, paving way for the destruction of the co-operative sector.

We has raised the question on DMS in this very House that it was using urea for increasing the solid net fat content. The Government had firmly denied this charge but it was true. They will also confirm the veracity of this fact outside this House. Nestle, a multinational company has been in the news recently for its condensed baby food. What has it done for raising the S.N.F. content in the milk? Has the Government inquired into it? Should it be permitted to continue its business here? It has mixed urea in the milk for raising the content. Is urea worth human consumption? This company wants to lead not only us the whole world by nose. I will not go into this issue as it merits a discussion. Once we had raised the issue of D.M.S. milk and I hope the Government might have taken some action on it. Has it even inquired into such reports coming in the newspapers? We also came to know about it from reliable sources. We want a clarification on it. Should the multinational companies from all over the world come here, deteriorate our health at their whimsical prices? Should they give us poison to drink in the name of milk? We should not tolerate it...*(Interruptions)* They talk while rising above party lines and we respect them.

Just now, a senior Member of the Congress who has been a Member of Parliament since 1984, spoke for the first time. We felt glad but so far as fertilizers are concerned, the wreckless use of chemical fertilizers will render our fields useless. Therefore, a movement should be launched, the farmers should be educated. We do not propose that its use should be stopped forthwith as it would affect our production. But there should be a discreet and balanced use of organic and inorganic fertilizers so that the country's production and productivity is augmented and sustainability is also not ignored. It should not happen that with the increase in productivity, the

nutrients of the land are exhausted and it is rendered barren. Therefore, while we have to increase productivity on the one hand, on the other, we should also ensure that the land does not lose its fertility and remains worth farming.

Agriculture is such a subject the discussion on which can be unending. It can be initiated at any point and wound up anywhere as well. If it is your order, then I will have to conclude. Therefore, before concluding I want to urge that it should be given the shape of a national policy and should not be allowed to be a subject of dispute between the ruling and opposition party Members. Further, it should not be made a subject of propaganda. If the recommendations of the Parliamentary Committee are accepted, a comprehensive agricultural policy can be framed. We felt the need of it when we had gone to the Marine Fishery Research Institute. We saw there that the work was going on very well on each research item. I.C.A.R. is also doing a good work in the field of research. But the Government does not provide adequate funds to them not even equal to what developing countries provide. The developed countries provide at least 2 per cent of their budget's allocation.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur) : The funds allocated for agricultural research in India are the lowest, despite India being the largest agricultural country in the world.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I admit it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : These are the data given by the Government, we are only quoting them. However, the reality is something different. We expend 0.32 percent on research. This should at least be raised to one percent. We saw that the research institute needs two acres of land and if we do not soon give it permission to acquire land, then Cochin Development Authority will sell it out and the institute will not be able to get the land. Therefore, a timely decision should be taken and the amount spent on research. I want to draw your attention towards some broad facts. Unless all the existing Ministries and Departments are brought under a comprehensive department irrespective of whosoever heads it, no purpose will be served. If you are at the command, we will feel very happy. This Ministry consists of such people who have nothing to do with agriculture. You represent the big farmers community and we are speaking here as the representatives of small farmers...*(Interruptions)* So we are not talking of farm holding agriculturists because they have access to the markets of the world. The slogans of globalization and liberalization have become old. Let the Government increase the income of farmers and make such an advancement in the field of agriculture so that we are in a position to feed entire

India and also lead the world politically. Therefore you should formulate a national policy. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I also thank Shri Balram Jakhar for he has initiated a discussion under agricultural Policy in Parliament for the first time during this period of 40-45 years. I am hopeful this debate will help formulate a good policy. This policy will definitely, help the farmers. This debate is not confined to political parties only. Whosoever has given suggestions - be it Shri Nitish Kumar, Shri Pratap Rao etc. all members are united on the issue of welfare of the farmers. There is no party politics involved on this issue. Every Member has put his views concerning farmers before the hon. Minister and he is himself a good farmer. Being the Minister of Agriculture, it is his responsibility to make it a viable policy. The reports of committees including Chokharam Committee have been received by the Government. All the committees have gone very good work. I hope that the hon. Minister will also keep in view the points raised by the Members in this House. All aspects have been touched upon. Watershed programme is the most important aspect. I would like to emphasize that the Government should bring improvement in it and implement it expeditiously. It must be noted that 2 to 4 villages get benefited by the water from watershed and it helps solve the water problem of the farmers. Watershed Programme has proved very successful in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Measures should be taken to make it successful in entire India. Technology should be developed for plateaus and hilly regions. We can go in for different Water Treatment Plants but it is necessary to implement this programme in a planned manner so as to effect land reforms and achieve more production.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, so far as the provision of loan, is concerned, my request is that that loan should be given before the onset of Monsoon so that farmers need not go to Moneylenders. Simultaneously, every crop should be covered under insurance.

Farmers need godowns for storing their crops. If godowns are made available to them then their crops will remain on the fields and it will soon perish. Therefore, godowns should be provided in the villages so that they could keep their crops safe and sell them out whenever the need arises.. As soon as his crops come to the godowns, he must get 50 per cent of the minimum support Price. In this way, farmers will not have to go to moneylenders and they will continue to get benefit on this crops.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, fertilisers is also necessary for cultivation. It is often said that if a farmer does not get bread it does not matter much to him but he

must get fertilizers for his fields. The price of fertilizers has increased considerably over the last 10 years. There is a need to bring changes in the import policy of fertilizers. As regards sale and purchase of fertilisers, we will not allow any compromise with the interests of the farmers. There may be a separate Department for this. If any agency offers higher prices at the time of import and farmers are required to pay even 60 dollars more, then this is not going to materialise. It is necessary to bring fertilizers, irrigation, and cooperative sector under Agriculture Ministry. Therefore, my submission is that the hon. Minister should give it a serious consideration.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the new economic policy. I have already spoken on that but our agricultural policy should be uniform. We have entered into bilateral trade agreements with 117 countries but the pending issues are still to be sorted out. It was said that a Bill on patent seeds would be brought in the House but so far this has not been brought in. If we do not bring the Bill to protect our seeds, then we will be left behind and our Government will have to pay royalty.

Therefore, the varieties developed by I.C.A.R. are required to be protected and to be registered. There are several companies in India which have carried out research work and modified it.

16.51 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker *In the chair*)

The companies which have done research work in this field are required to be protected and registered so that no country may steal the technology developed by our researchers.

Marketing is very important in this policy. We do not have marketing of required standard and such infrastructure also as in other countries. We should have it so that we can make good export. Marathwada region alone can supply foodgrains to entire Maharashtra. We have sufficient production of fruits and vegetables. It is not that Congress Government has done nothing. The Government has done a lot during the last forty year....(Interruptions)

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Just now the hon. Member said that the Congress Government has done a lot of work during its rule in the last forty years.

I would like to state that in the second Lok Sabha Shri Vishwanath Gahmari was a member of Parliament from Gazipur district of Uttar Pradesh. He had raised a question regarding development and poverty of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. He had stated in this House that so much poverty prevailed in Eastern

Uttar Pradesh that some casts had to eat the foodgrains picked up from the dung. On hearing this, tears came out from the eyes of Pandit Nehru and Shri Vishwanath Gahmari.(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : This is not point of order..

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : I am speaking on the issue of poverty and development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singhji's it is his opinion and opinion differs from person to person.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH : This is a very important question. I want to say this because he had referred to the forty years rule of Congress Party. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at that time Pandit Nehru appointed Patel commission and Patel commission conducted a survey of Eastern Uttar Pradesh....(Interruptions) Pandit Nehru had assured to implement the recommendations of Patel commission but Government did not implement it.

The development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh can take place only after implementing the recommendations of Patel Commission....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singhji, when you get a chance, you can express your views.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Singh ji, there is no point of order. I wish to bring to the notice of the Members of this House that this debate shall have to be concluded today. Therefore, I request the hon. Members to cut short their speeches and put forth the relevant points only so that the hon. Minister can note down and try to implement them.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, please do not ask to cut short the speech. He is speaking well and everyone should be given a chance to speak. If the allotted time for this debate is four hours, extend it for next four hours. This is a very serious matter and our speeches should not be cut short....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Shastriji, this has been decided in the BAC. The leaders of the various political parties thought that four hours are sufficient for this debate.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state through you that marketing is an important issue. Export is also the most important issue which can affect the farmers. Therefore, while making policy we should decide that there should be proper infrastructure should be it Aircargo, godowns or orchards : would like to tell the Government that as the policy regarding this is going to be finalised, Jakhar Sahab will definitely keep in mind our relations with the other countries and their agricultural policy, and pros and cons of markets. This policy should cover all these things. We will have to keep an eye on the production of fruits and foodgrains in other countries and their marketing by them. Whole market depends upon trading. We will have to survey the markets in other countries. Why Japan has made such a remarkable progress? It makes a deep study of the international market. Though Israel, is a very small country, their Agricultural policy is better than that of India. We have electricity, water and all types of facilities.

We are leading in the production of fruits and vegetables. Vegetables and fruits get rotten because there are no marketing facilities. Sometimes, these are sold at the rate of 50 paise per dozen. If there are proper marketing facilities then only farmers can get good prices for their products. The support price to be provided to the farmers should be fixed and the share of middlemen and traders should also be determined. Therefore, the most important thing is infrastructure and marketing.

There are two or three more points in the agricultural policy framed by the Government. Research has been done in every field. There is no need to repeat it. No amount of appreciation is sufficient to acknowledge it. But the dissemination of information regarding the results of the research work should be done immediately for adopting that technology in the fields. Unfortunately, it has not been done. I, therefore, would like to submit that the Agricultural Research Centre should be strengthened. Jakhar Sahab, Planning Commission does not provide funds to them. Agricultural Research Centres are in each district. They publicise the researches made by them, in every village. They publicise new varieties. If more productive varieties are provided to the villages, then more production can be achieved and we will come to know about the varieties which are being produced in the foreign countries.

In the end, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister has stated in the Rajya Sabha also that all the points raised by Agriculture Price Commission has been covered. There is one Agricultural price commission in Maharashtra also. Last time some of its points were covered and as a result thereof farmers got more support price. But still some points remain to be implemented. Perhaps the Government has not funded it. I think that the office of Agriculture Price Commission, be it in Maharashtra or some where else, it asks the concerned office to bring the data after manipulation. The farmers must get that much minimum support price which they deserve for the different commodities. Therefore, I would particularly like to submit the names of two or three commodities for which the farmers should get the minimum support price which they deserve since they have got some less support price.

Along with it, I would again like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing the draft agriculture policy and hope that he would pay attention to what I say. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture and hope that being a farmer himself, he will pay attention to the cause of the farmers. The report of the standing committee has been presented and the hon. Members of the different parties have given their suggestions in it, there is no question of parties to which they belong since first of all they are farmers. They have put forth some good suggestions before is and keeping all those in view, the I.C.A.R., which has been constituted for carrying out research in the field of agriculture should collect the data and make efforts to develop the agriculture. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, the discussion on the draft report of the agriculture policy has been going on since yesterday. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Agriculture for bringing the draft report of the agriculture policy in this House, it might have been brought half heartedly but it has facilitated the discussion which could not be held during the last 50 years. This draft policy may not be able to deal with the situation adequately, but it has been brought, though belatedly, is a matter of gratification.

Just now Nitishji was saying that perhaps it is the year of elections therefore the draft of the agriculture policy has been brought in the House. I also feel the same but it has been brought at least. The hon. Minister has right now said that this draft had been presented in the House two or three years back but the hon. Minister is not at fault in it. He wanted to bring it but the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is a big politician therefore he wanted to bring it in the House near the election time and that is why he kept it pending.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Do not run away please (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I am not running away. I am not among those who run away but I am very much afraid that you may not run away from this department.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : I will not run away anywhere please do not be worried.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : All right. The agriculture has been neglected it becomes clear from the fact that we had formulated the industrial policy 50 years back but now after 50 years we have brought just the draft of the agriculture policy. It does not make anything clear as to what are you going to formulate.

Ours is an agricultural country but our agriculture is in a miserable condition. I would like to recite a couplet of a renowned poet of our area :-

"Uttam Kheti, Madhyam Ban, Nikhad Chakri, Bheeka Nidan" But today the situation is just reverse *"Nikhad Chakri, Krishi Bheekh Nidan"*. We say many good things and give attractive figures on the higher side but have we ever thought about the marginal farmers and those who have just one acre of land, in which the whole family is engaged? Today their condition is that their children do not get proper education. Uneconomic holdings have been created by you. The whole family of a farmer and his children toil hard but neither they get adequate meals nor do they get any education. Today the condition of the farmer is that he is unable to buy Ox and he does farming with his own hands and spade.

It is a fact that there are a very few farmers like our hon. Agriculture Minister, The name of the hon. Agriculture Minister is very good — Balram — Balram is also called *Haldhar*. He is Balram but not a *Haldhar* but a *Tractordhar*. Had he been a *Haldhar*, he could have understood the plight of the farmers much earlier.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing through you. The Tata consultancy has given some data. It has been stated in it that the net production of the agriculture sector at the price level of 1980-81 has been Rs. 11 thousand crore during 1990-91, while the production during these years has been worth rupees 23028 crore. In this way the industries have produced only 40 percent of the agriculture sector. On the basis of stable price level, 16 percent of the total capital was invested in agriculture sector in 1970-71, 12.6 percent in 1985-86, 8.1 percent in 1989-90 and 9 percent in 1992-93. Why it is so and on what basis it was so. If the central Government had this policy for the 5½ lakh villages, then are not the policy makers of the Central Government responsible for poverty and unemployment in the villages? These are the statistics provided by Tata consultancy and not mine.

It is a very famous consultancy service and enjoys a good reputation in the country. It has made the situation clear and we are happy over it. We are blowing the trumpet of development.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit one more thing on this basis. Agriculture sector had made a contribution of 56% in our Gross Domestic Product in 1950-51, it was reduced to 32% in 1995-96 while during this period the population living on agriculture in villages has reduced i.e. it has come down to 70% from 80% which means that a very less population has shifted to other profession from agriculture. It is a well-known fact that unless the burden on agriculture is reduced it will not be a profitable business. What have we done to reduce the burden on agriculture? We have not done anything so far in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, keeping in view the fast pace of the population growth, it seems to me that by the end of this century we will be 100 crore and what is our condition, we have fixed the target of 180 million tonnes. One day I was discussing with the hon. Minister and he was worried at the target, whether the target will be achieved or not as there was scarcity of rains. It was not raining at that time. It means that till date our target is dependent on rains. It is good that the opposition parties had staged a walk out on that day and the rains started. My submission to the hon. Minister is that whenever he likes, he should discuss with the opposition parties, stage the walk out and it will rain soon. Now, the rains have taken a fierce shape of floods.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate for this country and the farmers that sometimes, he is hit by drought or some times by floods. It is our bad luck, and the hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar is not responsible for it. I am not among those who say that it is all due to the idleness of the hon. Minister. No, I will not say so. It is all due to our geographical situation and its negligence for the last 50 years. I do not blame the hon. Minister Shri Balram Jakhar for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are 17 challenges in the draft policy on agriculture. How will we face those challenges? No solution to these challenges have been suggested. It has been said that if a particular thing is taken, then it will cause stomach-ache but it has not been told as to how to get it treated. Challenges have been put forth before us but how the country will face those, there is no scheme for it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to read out a paragraph of what has been said by the Standing Committee on Agriculture. After a thorough reading of the draft agricultural policy resolution, the committee is bound to comment that this committee is not satisfied with the schemes and the policy of this draft. The causes of the challenges are not

suitable. Not only this but the committee also feels that there is a need to estimate these challenges in a proper way. Nothing has been said in it regarding agriculture, its total development and other important issues which include the implementation of the policies also. Therefore, the committee thought it wise to ask the Government as to how it will implement the policy to face the challenges. Since the committee feels that if there is no scope to implement it effectively then any policy will merely remain a document. The Government in its reply has stated that only the main criterion of the long term efforts of the capital investment for the development of agriculture and rural areas have been mentioned in the draft agriculture policy. The Government has not mentioned the efforts made in the agricultural sector, since agriculture is done in different parts of the country and in different climates. Therefore, all these cannot be included in the national document. It can be understood but the committee is of the view that it is not satisfied with the logic. Therefore, it has asked to give the revised notes on the draft agriculture policy. The committee has discussed with the renowned agriculture specialists, and the famous national and international scientists to reach to the root cause of it. I am not reading it out fully as there is the shortage of time. You will ring the bell in a short while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It will ring right now and not short while.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : If you say then I will take my seat.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already spoken for 10 minutes.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I would like to submit that the Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture has also agreed with us. He says that instead of mentioning the challenges, many other things can be done. Therefore, the committee has decided to analyse the suggestions given in the paragraph 4 of the draft agriculture policy resolution.

The secretary also admitted that suggestions could be given in it but it seems that the Secretary admitted it honestly before the committee and he had to pay a heavy price for it as he was removed from the post of the Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture. We will come to know about the sensibility of the new Secretary wherever we meet him and discuss with him what more should I say in this regard...(Interruptions)

The hon. Minister is also likely to be changed but he claims that none can shift him from the present portfolio.

You remain as hon. Minister of Agriculture. I would like to submit that nothing regarding marketing

has been said in it. How Marketing will be done? Today the condition is that the foodgrains is produced by the farmer and he needs money to repay his loans. Soon as the foodgrains reach at the door step of the farmer, the money lender starts chasing him and on account of it, he sells his foodgrains at throw away prices. The same is purchased by the middlemen and is sold to the Government. Have you made any arrangement of marketing? Right now you said that there is no arrangement of marketing. You have made a mention about step by step development at 'Nyay Panchayat' level. I would like to know as to whether the farmer should think about his saving or not? How much loan he will get on your support price and on the market rate. If he does not get a sizeable even, he will leave his foodgrains there only. Nothing has been said about it. Now here, it has been said that such steps would be taken at the Nyay Panchayat level where the farmer will be having the facility of banking so that he is able to sell his wheat and his foodgrains...(Interruptions)

Should I sit down?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, two minutes are left.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I can not speak. I have just now started while the other hon. Members have spoken upto 40 minutes. If you permit, I may take my seat.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please understand me. For every hon. Member, ten minutes are given. Immediately after ten minutes are over, the bell is rung. It is for the hon. Member to respect the bell or to deny the bell.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : It is not my hard luck but but the hard luck of the farmer that if someone speaks about him, the bell starts ringing. Once cannot speak both inside and out side, as well. If you do not allow, I will not speak. I will maintains the discipline. The bell has rung. Therefore, I take my seat...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rajveer Singh, you are perfectly correct. Immediately after ten minutes, the Chair rings the bell. It is up to the hon. Members to respect it or deny it. There are four bells : the first bell, second bell, third bell and fourth bell.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : That is correct. But we want more time to speak. We request you to give enough time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It was already decided. The time was allotted by the BAC which opined that four 'hours' time is sufficient for the discussion on the Draft Agriculture Policy. That is the opinion that the Committee has come to. It is up to us to respect the decision taken by the Business Advisory Committee.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : For the Workmen's Compensation Bill, we took about six hours.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is the mistake we did. Though the time allotted was only one hour, we took six hours.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is a general subject covering from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is from there that you have to realise the mistake. That is why the Chair has the opportunity to regularise the time. That is my request. It is up to you to respect it.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is our duty to respect the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We all put together have to regularise this. It is not the fancy of the Chair. It is the system which we have to honour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I was speaking about the arrangement of godowns. The godowns should be licensed and in the rural areas, as the land, bricks and construction cost is comparatively cheaper there. Those will be nearer to the fields also for storing the produce. The second thing I would like to submit that you will also make arrangements for their supply. Do not give anything to the farmer but give them a time-bound programme. Farmers are not begging alms from you. There was a time when our Minister of Food and Prime Minister had to go abroad with a begging bowl. At that time, farmers of our country kept the honour of the slogan of 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan' given by late Lal Bhadur Shastri high and they tried to take India towards self reliance and you were saved from that disgraceful position. But give some facility to farmers. Today, farmers cannot take their products to market to sell as he does not have means to do so. Out of five and half lakhs, how many villages are there, which are linked with the pucca roads. You just do 3-4 things. Just as you have done for big industries, you may provide them transport facility, roads upto villages, fertilisers, electricity and water. The farmer does not need anything else, he is not worried for subsidy from you but at least you should make arrangements for electricity and water. Water is not available to the farmers for irrigation. You could not make available drinking water facility

in the villages for the last 50 years. Leave aside the issue of water for irrigation, you have not been able to provide them fertilisers and seeds even.

In spite his preoccupation, the Minister of Agriculture has said that the Government will give agriculture the status of an industry. I am afraid this appears like a cheat in friend's grab. In the name of giving agriculture the status of industry, you will say that we have imposed taxes on industry. I hate this terminology. Tomorrow you will make agriculture an industry, thereafter you will allow multinational companies in the fields of agriculture also. If the agriculture is given the status of an industry, then you will have to categorically mention in this policy that no tax will be imposed on farmers, no sales tax will be imposed on their produce and no income tax, nor any excise duty will be levied. You will have to make a promise to this effect in the agriculture policy, otherwise we see a big threat on hearing this promise of making the agriculture as an industry.

Now as the issue has come up, I want to speak on it again. We had gone on a tour and came to know about the works done by the agricultural scientists. They have done a commendable job. It appears to me that our scientists are working with great dedication, we should let them work. But their problem is that they do not have funds to do the work. This is because the developing countries spend only 2 percent on research work. Some of the developing countries which are poorer than us, spend just 0.56 percent. India is a vast and agricultural country. It spends just 0.32 percent on it. These are the figures given by the Government. I would like to tell you that a Science Congress was held at Jaipur. Hon. Prime Minister had also addressed that conference. Dr. P.N. Srivastava, the then Chairman of Science Congress while delivering his speech in that conference expressed his resentment and said that though the money being spent on research and development works had increased from 0.32 percent in 1958-59 to 1.13 percent of the Gross Domestic product in 1981, for the past few years it has come down to 0.9 percent only.

He said one more interesting thing. The industrialist set up factories for agricultural Products. Factories for jute, canned-food processing units are being set up. Many other things are also happening. But less amount is being spent on research work. This matter was raised in Jaipur congress. They have said that the private sector is investing about 40 percent of the total national expenditure on research and development work in the developed countries and some of the neo-industrial countries. Whereas in India, it is stable between 11 to 13 percent for the last several years. It has also been stated in the report that for investing 2 percent of the Gross Domestic Product on research and development, it

is necessary that the private sector may also invest on research and development work. Hon. Minister, Sir, I am helping you out; I am not saying it to the Government only. Private industries are not spending on research and development. They are devouring all the profits. This must be stipulated in the agricultural policy that the private industrialists, who invest in agricultural production industry will also have to invest on research and development work. This will have to include in the policy.

Since you are ringing the bell I will conclude my speech in a short while.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, I fear ringing the bell. We must maintain the discipline regarding time.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I wanted to say one more thing. We have talked to Green Revolution. We have concentrated on wheat only in Green Revolution. We have not paid attention to paddy. You should not get offended; I am telling, you did not pay the attention to paddy, which we should have. We are running after only Basmati rice and bring in foreign exchange. You must have world market in your mind. You may now pay attention to Indian market. India is a country of 92 crore people. There is a very big market here. The poor mill workers cannot buy basmati rice being sold at Rs.40 per kg. He wants rice at the price of Rs. four, five or six per kg. He is being ingored. Interesting thing is that the production of coarse rice is much more than the other. This may help you attain your target very soon. You must be knowing that the production of scented rice which is called basmati rice is less. If you realise, then you should not run after dollars only. You leave aside dollars and fill up the stomachs of the poor ...*(Interruptions)* you leave aside Petro-dollar. I am talking about dollar only.

Now, the matter concerning milk has also been raised. Nitishji has said so many things. I do not want to switch over to that topic, but I want to say this much only that it is true indeed, we were told with a great responsibility in a committee that urea is being mixed in the milk supplied by Delhi Milk Scheme. We are drinking this urea. We are pouring urea in milk in order to increase thickness and fat in the milk. I am serious in saying that you get it investigated. I want to say another thing that milk dairies are functioning in the cooperative sector. Anand Dairy is main among them. Milk Dairies are in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. We had gone to see Anand Dairy. We talked to the Chairman of National Dairy Development Board. He expressed his anxiety that licences are going to be given to Multi National Companies for Producing milk. The set up that we have established with so many years' efforts will get ruined if the MNCs troop in. Whether you want the cooperative sector to compete with MNCs? Today, Private sector are not in a position to stand in

competition with these companies and are fleeing from the field. This should, therefore, be stipulated in the agriculture policy that the institutes related to agriculture cooperative sector cannot be opened to MNCs. It is indeed interesting that they have raised this set up with such a hard labour and when the time has come for them to make profit, then you want to hand it over to MNCs and thereby want to earn dollars.

I want to speak one more thing. Just now, we have said, and the hon. Minister, who is sitting here, also knows it that I have been apprising him of my apprehension in each meeting. We fear that the way we are blinding using chemical fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides, it would prove counter-productive. The production increases only when we resort to use of more and more fertilizers every year. The scientists of your department have also stated that if we do not stop excessive use of fertilisers, the silt formation will take place under the soil in some years. Then, this silt will become so hard that even iron will not be able to break it, what to talk of root of the tree.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it was decided in yesterday's meeting of Leaders and in the BAC meeting that the discussion on Draft Agriculture Policy possibly will conclude today which will include the reply of the hon. Minister also. Therefore, although we are running short of time and there is a long list of Members, if you will take the sense of the House and then decide as to when the hon. Minister will reply, then we will be able to arrange things. I will cut off the names of the Members from my Party.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : The Members of your party have already consumed double of the allotted time.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Let me complete my submission. I am only saying that we are willing to sit late. But there should be no problem about quorum. If the Agriculture Minister wants to reply and when he gets up to reply and somebody raises the question of quorum, it will create a problem. I am bringing it to your notice, so that you can regulate the proceedings of the House in accordance with the decision taken in the Leaders' meeting and in the meeting of the BAC.

* MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is true, Parliamentary Affairs Minister. A couple of minutes back, I narrated the entire thing to the Members. If each Member

were to take ten minutes, many people can participate in the discussions. This is all my request. It is not my intention to wound the feelings of any hon. Member. It is only for that purpose that I said this.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH : We are discussing here the agriculture policy. It is not the question of any particular party. It concerns the farmers, there should not be any time constraint on this discussion.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are we prepared to sit very late?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar) : I request the Minister to reply tomorrow.

SHRI ANANTRAO DESHMUKH (Washim) : If you could kindly go through the list, there are many Members waiting to get an opportunity to speak. Therefore this discussion can also be continued tomorrow. Otherwise Members would not get an opportunity to speak....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, we will continue.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA : Sir, I would be associating myself with the sentiments of the hon. Members. We want that every hon. Member should have the opportunity to speak and express their views on this vital matter. But if the time of the hon. Members is regulated, as you are pleased to suggest, then we will be able to accommodate as many hon. Members as possible. I am not asking for curtailment of their time unnecessarily; otherwise, tomorrow's business will be affected if it is carried over for tomorrow. Therefore, I am pleading with you, Sir, that you may kindly request the hon. Members to make their submissions in a short time so that we can finish this debate today and we can take up other business tomorrow.(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are all very anxious to participate in this debate. Every hon. Member has got very important points to make. My request is that let us sit late and finish this. I will regulate the time and if every hon. Member takes about ten minutes then it is easy for the Chair and also we can complete the business of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : This much of time has been wasted in the discussion. I have not spoken in between....(Interruptions). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, should I start? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We shall do one thing. Shri Reddy, let Mr. Singh complete his speech. Then you can say whatever you want to say.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, this is a very important subject. There is a long list of hon. Members who want to participate in the debate. In the beginning, every leader has taken one hour or 40 minutes or 45 minutes to speak. If the time of the small parties are going to be curtailed to just five minutes or so, just for the sake of making their submissions, it is quite unfair. So, my suggestion is that if it is necessary, it may be extended for tomorrow also because this is an important subject and there shall be no question of curtailing the time of other hon. Members. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MR. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I fully support what he says. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From the very beginning, it has been insisted that every hon. Member shall have to speak only for ten minutes. At the end of the tenth minute, there will be a bell and the hon. Member should conclude so that the Chair can regulate the time. ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : It has been insisted, but not implemented. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Suppose after ten minutes the bell is rung and if the hon. Member does not regard the ringing of the bell, what can we do? ... (Interruptions)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir my suggestion is that you take the sense of the House. We can continue this tomorrow also. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you can take the sense of the House. There should be no time limit for discussing this subject. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If Shri Nitish Kumar's advice is to be implemented, I think, one hon. Member will speak for the whole day. This is possible outside when we conduct a seminar.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, this debate is on the agricultural policy and it is going to decide the fate of the agriculturists. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA (Rohtak) : Sir, the Rajya Sabha has allotted for hours to discuss this subject. Our strength is double than that of Rajya Sabha and so, this House needs at least eight hours to discuss this... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rawale, the hon. Member, Shri Rajveer Singh has not yielded. How do you speak?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after more than eight hours discussion in Rajya Sabha, the rent control Bill was passed there and sent to the President for his assent. However, this House had to repent because it was passed in a hurry. Later it was decided that it should be withdrawn. This should not happen with the agriculture policy since it is related to 74-75 crore people....

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : No, it is related to 92 crore people.

DR. S.P. YADAV : Perhaps, the hon. Minister does not know the meaning of agriculture.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was speaking on excessive use of chemical fertilisers. We must exercise a check on it. It is a very serious matter. We are becoming addict to fertilisers just like a drug addict. Therefore, instead of chemical fertilisers, we should emphasise on the use of bio-fertilisers. I do not suggest that the use of pesticides and fertilisers should be stopped abruptly but there should be gradual decrease in its use. After some time, the use of these fertilisers should be completely banned. Farmers should be encouraged to adopt the old methods. In America, use of 240 insecticides and pesticides has been banned. The reason advanced in this regard is that these leave adverse effect on the health of human beings. In India, only 12-13 such pesticides have been banned. The vegetables, immediately after being sprayed with pesticides, come to market for sale. We remain unaware of this fact and the contents of pesticides pass into our bodies. Today, we observe that more than 90 percent people are suffering from gastric trouble and long queues of patients can be seen in the hospitals. Shall we ruin the health of our nation in the race of increasing the production? Our scientists should give a clean opinion in this regard. The scientists speak more openly before us but they fear loss of their jobs. It is the duty of 'Vaidya' (Doctor) to advise the king to avoid sugar, if it is harmful to him. If he does not do so, it will result in the death of the king. Here, the king is not the Minister but the people. Their lives are in danger. Some days back, a scientist had warned that before eating fruits, we should first boil them in hot water, wipe them out and then keep them in the refrigerator for at least 3 days. But how will the poor person do all this? Therefore, this serious matter should be given immediate attention. The agriculture scientists, who are doing research work in this regard, should be initiated for discussion and their views should be included in the agriculture policy.

I would like to add that there is a great need to educate farmers. A separate channel on T.V. and

Radio should be started for this purpose. Every day, new channels are being started on T.V. They are telecasting vulgar programmes which are not worth watching along with the family. An initiative can be taken in this direction so as to help the farmers get more information on agricultural matters. The hon. Minister can discuss this issue with Information and Broadcasting Minister and then include it in the agriculture policy. So far as food processing is concerned, there is a separate department for it. Licences are being given to multinational companies for this purpose. First, the licence was given to Pepsi Cola and it was stated that tomatoes, cauliflowers, potatoes turnips, radishes and other fruits grown by our farmers will be exported to other countries in canned pack. I would like to know as to how much fruits and vegetables have been preserved and exported by Pepsi Cola during the last 9 year i.e. from 1980 to 1995. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have also stated that Processing Centres and Taining Centres will be opened in every district. But so far, no Centre has been opened in any of the districts. Only writing the policy on a paper is not enough. It should be implemented. Today, injustice is being done to farmers and they are being cheated too. Basmati rice is being exported by Pepsi Cola and the whole profit in foreign currency, is being diverted to America. Had our Government exported the Basmati rice, the profit would have been retained by our country itself. What was the need to allow multinational to export Basmati rice when Basmati rice is imported on request by the foreign countries.

No know-how was required for this even then it has been acquired. God Know what has been conspired. We do not know what has happened. Anyway, it should be checked. Food Processing Ministry should have a control over this and it should stop malpractice. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Sir, time has come when we will have to consider land reforms while making Agriculture Policy. This is the most appropriate time for that. For that, Government should take the services of experts and asks for their views regarding land reforms and better utilisation of land. What should be the size of a holding, how they should be improved. There is some disparity in our land reforms. People fight over petty things.

Hon. Minister had raised a point that how much land should be given to the Industrial Houses and how much they are actually acquiring. My submission is that industry should not be allowed to be set-up on cultivable land. There is a lot of wasteland in our country and we are not in a position to change it into a cultivable land. Therefore, my submission is that new industries should be set-up on that land only. But actually what is being done? New Industries are going to be set-up at Gurgaon and Bareilly and we have made recommendations for the same. An example of Maruti Industry has also been put forward

before the committee. The second example is of Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi. Out of its two thousand acre land, 500 to 600 acre land is lying unutilised. In Bareilly also, the rubber factory is in possession of hundreds of acres of land which is cultivable and nothing is being done in that. Now a factory has been set-up on that factory is lying vacant. My submission is that this land should be taken back. Still 91 million hectare of land remains unutilised. What will the Government do with that land? The main problem is that the department of the hon. Minister is separate and this comes under the wasteland development Department. You are not concerned with that then what for he has become a Minister? Has I been in his place, I would have resigned, I would have not tolerated such an insult. You say that you will help the farmers but you do not have Department like wasteland, fertilizers, chemicals and water resources. Then what do you have? The Government has nothing except goodwill.

17.42 hrs.

(Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair)

MR. CHAIRMAN : How much time you will take?

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : I will take less time than you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That you have already taken.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chariman, Sir, You are a farmer. You should have sympathy with us. I would like to state that the Government has spent Rs. 45000 crores on providing water so far. As a result thereof, a total 16 million hectare of land is being irrigated. But even then only 33 percent land is being irrigated and 67 percent land still remains unirrigated. Our fields are dry even after spending Rs. 45,000 crores in 50 years. These figures have been provided by the Government itself and if we take figures of private company, in this regard, I am sure that they will be very worrysome. Now I would not Like to mention about water resources, water management as our hon. Chairman Nitishji was speaking and referring to Anna Hazare. We can pay tribute to his ability, sacrifice and penace. The Government should make it as a model and sent to the villages. I was surprised to see that village. That village has become like a heaven. It seems like a India of old times. People do not lock their houses as in old times. There is a golden statue established in a temple there. The gate of that temple is not locked. That village belongs to Anna Hazare. Nothing is stolen in that village. Nobody goes to a police station or Court. No policeman goes there. I am afraid it may not catch your eyes, if it does it will be bad for that village.

I will conclude after 1-2 points. Today, how much investment is being made on Agriculture? The

Government talks of giving a status of an industry to the Agriculture but the investment is being made on other works. Today, 70 percent people are engaged in agriculture, and they are providing food to the 92 crore people. Whereas the investment being made on agriculture is very less. The Government should do something for that and this point should be included in the Agriculture policy...*(Interruptions)*

There are 370 million cattle in our country of 92 crore people. Cattle are also living creatures. The Government is not thinking about them. They are the backbone of our agriculture. Today, the number of cattle is reducing. As a result thereof, the quantity of manure is also declining. Urine and dung of cattle are very useful for agriculture. Government should pay attention to that and it should declare in its Agriculture policy that the flesh of cattle will not be exported to earn dollars. If a cattle head dies, it will die at its peg only. We will get the manure from it till the end. Today, healthy cattle are being slaughtered and their flesh is being exported. If their master has to pay even Rs. 20/- to the doctor for their treatment, he says that it is useless and should be slaughtered. This is a very serious matter and it should be checked. About oilseeds and pulses, I would like to appeal to the scientists of our country that they should create such varieties which require less water. Today, why the production of pulses is decreasing? Why the prices of gram are going up. Previously, the poor used to eat grams and the rich rice but today things have reversed. Now gram is eaten by rich people and wheat by the poor. At that time, gram was grown abundantly because we had no such fertilizers which require more water. Today, gram crop is getting spoiled in every field. Government should earmark those areas where gram is grown.

The Government is spending millions of rupees on family planning. Population clocks have been installed on intersections. Will the Government ever make plan for Agriculture? Has the Government ever made assessment about wheat, rice, sugarcane, pulses and vegetables required for in this country? I do not say that a law should be framed in this regard because I am opposed to it. For this, farmers should be educated. It will be beneficial to both, Government and farmer himself. Sometimes import of sugar is resorted to because the production of sugarcane is very low. Government should make a plan for Agriculture Management and educate farmers accordingly. Farmers can be educated by starting an additional channel on Radio and Television and it can be publicised. Agriculture scientists and farmers should be brought in the programmes whether they know to speak English or not but they should be allowed to speak. I am very sorry to say that all the researches made in the field of Agriculture till today, have not been published in such a language which the farmers understand.

Literature is not being published in regional languages. English literature is abundantly available in Krishi Bhawan and in the library of Agriculture Ministry but it has not been got translated. How much English an Indian farmer knows? My submission is that it should be translated in regional languages. Is it not possible in this country to write original literature in regional languages?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was a member of ICAR. When I went to attend a meeting there, I saw that all were speaking in English. I had gone there to attend a meeting of ICAR but I felt as if I was attending a meeting of some council of England. Hon. Minister Sir, you will be surprised to know that in that meeting a Keralite was speaking very good Hindi. It is not that they all do not know Hindi but the fact is that they do not want to speak in Hindi because they feel that they are officers of group 'B'. All should speak in Hindi... *(Interruptions)*

Literature should be available in regional languages. It appears that they have not freed themselves from the slavery of English mentality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, though I have lot of things to say but time is very short. However, it will be very useful if the hon. Minister includes the points raised by us, in the draft of Agriculture policy. The draft made by them should be thrown into the waste paper basket. Moreover, if the report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture is accepted as it is, it will be beneficial to all. Government should have control over all the Ministries but I am afraid that your position has become very awkward. There is a saying that "Arba Satta Jyon Ka Tyon, Sara Kunba Dooba Kyon." In this regard, I remember an incident that there was a wiseman. He had to cross a river alongwith his family as no bridge was there. First of all he measured himself and then his wife and children and after guessing, he said that all can cross the river. Therefore, come forward and cross the river. But they all drowned as soon as they entered the river. He was surprised over this and uttered as quoted above. Same is the position of this Government. The figures provided by the Government are correct even then why the farmers are so much backward? Why their poverty is not being removed? If Government brings all these things into practice, it will benefit the farmers and then I will appreciate its efforts.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Prime Minister and Agriculture Ministry for bringing this policy and it is fortunate for me that I have been given a chance to speak on Agriculture policy.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is predominantly an agricultural country. Among all other points which many of my friends have raised here, I agree with

one of them that the purpose will not be served by merely bringing this policy here. However, I welcome the step Government has taken and I am sure that it will succeed in achieving the target. Agriculture is the historical and traditional occupation of India in which more than 70 percent people are engaged. If the names of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and Choudhary Charan Singh are not mentioned, history of development of agriculture will not be called as complete.

In 1950, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru had said.

[English]

'Every thing can wait, but not agriculture.'

[Translation]

Choudhary Charan Singh wrote in his book "The Economic Nightmare of India" that —

[English]

"Our economy would have developed several times faster, if only our investment priorities had been proper."

[Translation]

This is the gist of this policy which the hon. Minister has brought. He also wants to say that the investment made in agriculture sector has not been sufficient and as a result thereof.

[English]

"Indian agriculture has lost to industrial sector in race for financial allocation. Agriculture has lost to grand alliances of urban elites and industrialists."

[Translation]

In the Agriculture policy, the hon. Minister has specifically mentioned many challenges, which we have to face. The hon. Minister has stated 17 challenges. Out of which investment in agriculture, agriculture credit, Agriculture price policy, Export of agricultural products and to provide manure, electricity and sources of irrigation on low rates are the main challenges. If we do not take decision on these points considering far reaching consequences of them. Our liberalisation policy may cause heavy loss to the farmers instead of proving to be beneficial. There is a lot of confusion with regard to the food policy of the country. There are four secretaries in The Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies. Perhaps they themselves do not know on which subject they have to take decision.

In this draft, irrigation is the most important issue. As far as the availability of water is concerned, if the price of water is paid in the same way, then in the

coming time it would become unaffordable. At the same time, if we do not think seriously on this issue our agriculture sector will not make development even after bringing many such policies. I would like to request the hon. Minister that

[English]

"water should be a national wealth"

[Translation]

and it should be managed by a nation.

Speaking on the issue, my friends stated that Punjab and Haryana have the surplus production of foodgrains. It's reason is that the concept of Bhakra Dam was put forward by Choudhary Chhotu Ram in 1946 and Pandit Nehru got it completed and then water could be made available. That is why, today Punjab and Haryana are able to provide sufficient foodgrains to entire country. As far as the water management is concerned, Government should pay attention to it. Only 10 percent water of total surface irrigation is sufficient to the plants and 90 percent water goes waste. The Government has made surface irrigation canals but arrangements for sub-soil drainage have not been made so that there can be a better utilisation of water. The Government has given 50 percent subsidy on drip irrigation which should have been started seven years ago from today. Still it would be in the interest of our country to make its better use. Today, there is a water dispute between Punjab and Haryana. The same dispute is between every two states. If water management is good then water dispute between Punjab and Haryana will be over itself. Today the distribution of water is not equal whether it is a dispute between Punjab and Haryana and between the areas within Haryana. In Haryana, 70 percent water is available for 20 percent population and 30 percent area of the state.

18.00 hrs.

On the other hand, only 30 percent water is available to 80 percent population and 70 percent area. This problem can be solved only by water Management. The Government has invested Rs. 25,000 crores in big projects by which 16 million hectare potential has been prepared.

But we have not utilised 6 million hectares' potential so far. In one hectare of irrigated land, four to five tonnes foodgrains can be produced. But, at present, our production average is 1.7 tonne per hectare. About 7 million hectares land has been rendered useless due to water logging and salinization. I am quoting the views of scientists. If the problem of water logging continues, the soil of Punjab, which is giving higher yield today, will not be able to produce anything after 10 years. Therefore, water management has become an important issue. Only 33 percent of the total cultivable

land of our country is irrigated so far. This area was 17.8 percent in 1949-50, which has reached 33 percent till 1990. During this period, only 15 percent area could be added. If this trend continues, then, keeping in view the population explosion in the country, it will be difficult to achieve the target fixed for foodgrains.

Shri Prataprao Bhonsle and yourself has spoken same thing in different ways. Both of you advocated single window system facility for the farmers. So far as I think, single window system can bear fruit only when this system is governed by your Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 6 p.m. now. If the hon. Minister agrees, I may extend the time.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): We intend to complete today the discussion and the reply on this. So you may extend the time of the House by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : This is a very important issue. Therefore, the time must be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are 25 Members to speak.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The time should atleast be extended by the one hour.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, I am waiting since morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will get your chance.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : You are not calling anybody from our Party, but you are calling the names of the Members of all other parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The name are being called as per the list. When your turn will come, I will call your name. Please do not worry and do not get irritated. You will get your chance.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of House is extended for one hour.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was stating that Single Window System can be successful only when this scheme is governed by the Ministry of Agriculture.
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He want to conclude. Let him finish his speech. You yourself had stated that it was an important issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time of the House has been extended upto 7.00 p.m. and the Chair has also been informed about it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am of the view that through the existing departments of the Ministry of Agriculture, in isolation with other departments, there can be no complete development of agriculture, be it water resources, rural development or fertilizers. Development of Agriculture will not be so easy until the Central Government go in for 'Integrated Single Window System'.

Issues raised by the hon. Minister of Agriculture are just and there solution can be found out in an integrated manner. So far as fertilizers are concerned, the price of fertilizers have increased by 236 percent after the with-drawl of subsidy from July, 1991 onwards. Earlier DAP fertilizer be used to cost Rs. 180 but now the price of the same bag has gone upto Rs. 450/-. The prices of urea have increased by 60 percent. The urea bag, which costs Rs. 108 earlier, is now available at Rs. 175. It has adversely affected our agriculture. One can notice this effect from the fact that when a farmer uses 1 kg fertilizer, only seven and half kilogram foodgrain is produced therefrom. This is the reason that we could produce only 185 million tonnes of foodgrains as against the fixed target of 195 million tonnes.

Shri Rajveer Singh has just mentioned that there is 650 million tonnes of rural compost availability in our country. Out of it, we utilising only 263 million tonnes. Besides, there is 16 million tonnes of urban compost available in the country but we are utilising only 6 million tonnes of it. If fertilizer is produced in full quantity and delivered in time to farmers, they can get benefited a lot. Our farmers are facing the problem of non-availability of fertilizer at the time of their need and its solution is not so easy.

So far as the remunerative prices of different commodities are concerned, hon. Minister of Agriculture has fixed the minimum support price of 25 commodities. He has tried to fix the remunerative price of every commodity but it is a fact that the farmers have got the maximum remunerative price during the tenure of this Government and the Minister of Agriculture than ever before. The Government claims that the remunerative prices are being increased by Rs. 40 to 50 each year but the living standard of the farmers is deteriorating because the farmers are not getting the benefit in real terms. When we see the figures, we find that if in 1980-81,

the farmers used to get Rs. 100 per quintal for any commodity, they are getting Rs. 60 today for the same commodity. It means, their income, as compared to 1980-81, has come down from Rs. 100 to Rs. 60. It has many reasons.

The issue of rural credit has also been raised here. Indiraji had nationalised the banks in the country during her tenure. Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and Chaudhary Charan Singh equally contributed to it. During the tenure of Indira Gandhi, priority sector was also fixed with the nationalisation of banks. Out of that, 18 per cent was earmarked for agriculture, but today it has come down to 11 per cent. Today, the merger of rural banks is being talked about in the country. But when rural banks were set up, their aim was not to earn profit.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, rural banks were set up to help the farmers in agriculture. If the subsidy, being provided today, is withdrawn, the cost of production of wheat will increase by 51 per cent in Haryana and 34 per cent in Punjab. Similarly, the production cost of paddy will increase by 56 per cent in West Bengal and 21 per cent in Punjab. The wheat which is available at present at the rate of Rs. 4 per kg. will not be available even at Rs. 8 per kg after the withdrawal of subsidy. In such a situation people will not be able to purchase wheat and they will have to sleep without meal.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as regards rural credit, I would like to state that all the existing banks, cooperative institutions or other institutions meet only 35 per cent loan demand of the farmers and villagers. 65 per cent loan is sought by them from money lenders at the interest rate of 4 to 5 per cent. Today, the contribution of agriculture sector in national income is 35 per cent and that of industry is 20 per cent. However, the industrial sector having 20 per cent contribution in national income is getting 35 per cent loan, while for agriculture sector, which has 35 per cent contribution in national income, the loan limit has been fixed at 18 per cent, but this sector actually gets less than 11 per cent. In this situation, how can the nation progress?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, comprehensive crop insurance scheme has also been discussed here and I agree with the views of Shri Prataprao B. Bhonsle who has termed the crop insurance scheme as a loan recovery scheme. In this connection, a comprehensive scheme is under consideration for the last two and half years and that should be implemented expeditiously. This scheme should cover all the crops and its unit should be considered a village or revenue circle instead of Tehsil or district.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the question of exports has also figured in the debate. There are not two opinions that with the increase in the means of communications, the world has come closer. Now,

with the export of agricultural products, the nation can earn a lot of foreign exchange. In 1950, the share of agricultural and allied products in the national export was 95 per cent. But today, that percentage has fallen down. We need Rs. 15 thousand crore to build up infrastructure and with this facility, we would be able to process and export only 25 per cent of the total fruit and vegetable being produced in the country. It should also be mentioned in agricultural policy the actual profit of this export will go to farmers. The farmer does not get the actual benefit, be it the export of wheat, processed food or Basmati rice. The middlemen get the actual benefit. Therefore, I would like to request hon. Minister to make such a provision in the agriculture policy so that the farmer can directly get benefited. Today, the price of Basmati rice in the international market is rupees four thousand per quintal while the farmer gets hardly rupees one thousand or rupees one thousand one hundred per quintal. Therefore, arrangements should be made to give direct benefit to the farmers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now conclude please.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Sir, you yourself had said that this subject is very important. Therefore, it would naturally take more time. However, I will try to finish quickly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Did the House accept my point?

I am still in the Chair.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Now, I am in your place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time has been increased for one hour only. If you consume less time, other hon. Members will be able to get a chance to speak.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am speaking on relevant points only. I was speaking on agriculture-education and research. As has been stated by my colleagues, only 0.3 per cent is being spent on agriculture education and research out of total GDP of agricultural whereas as per the recommendations of the Standing Committee, this should be at least 1 per cent. If we do not spend on research education, we shall not be able to produce good quality seeds. As Mahatma Gandhi had said that unless investment is made in the villages, the country, particularly rural areas, cannot be developed. But I regret to state that there is persistent decline. Public Sector Capital formation in the field of agriculture has been constantly declining since 1980. The capital formation in 1980-81 was Rs. 1892 crore, which has decreased upto Rs. 1313 crore in 1990-91, the public investment on agriculture, be it on link roads, canal system or rural power supply has been less. Due to this, private investment has also been declining. However, there has been increase in private investment for the last two-three years but

unless there is adequate public investment, the private investors will also hesitate to come forward. The per capita income in 1988-89 in agriculture sector was 420.7 whereas in non-agriculture sector; it was 1783. The disparity ratio which was 1-2.2 in 1970-71, has gone upto 1-4.2. The per capita income in agriculture sector is continuously decreasing.

The third point is about mechanisation. If we go through the term of trade today, we find that it is not in the interest of agriculture. Twenty years ago, a farmer could buy a small tractor by selling small quantity of wheat but today, he is required to sell ten times more wheat to purchase a tractor. Our holding has drastically gone down. The Government has not brought agriculture machinery and implements commensurate with it. I had been to South Korea and Japan where I found small tractors and agricultural implements available for half an acre of land. We cannot develop in the field of agriculture unless we make available such type of agriculture implements and tractors to farmers. Besides, I would also like to add that there should be single window system at every stage.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need to repeat it.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : I am not repeating. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here and all eyes are centred on him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : And the whole House is looking at you.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH HOODA : Despite, our hon. Prime Minister, hon. Minister of Agriculture, hon. Minister of Food and hon. Speaker as well as the Chairman being the sons of farmers, the Government could not develop agriculture. I think, this is right time to bring in such a policy. I had mentioned irrigation in total plan outlay. If we go through the first five year plan, we find that 28.1 percent of the total plan outlay was allotted for irrigation. But today it is 7-8 percent. Seventy percent population of the country which is dependent on agriculture, can not develop unless and until 40 per cent of the total plan outlay is allotted to agriculture. I support this policy. The hon. Minister of Agriculture has taken initiative and I hope that he will take the nation to its destined goal.

18.21 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Fifty-third Report

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): I beg to present the Fifty-third Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

18.22 hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION (AS MODIFIED) — CONTD.

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunneveli) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate after a long waiting since this morning. I am going to make only points. Point No. (xiv) of the Draft Resolution says :

"Providing improved variety of seeds, agricultural implements and machinery and other critical inputs to farmers in or near their village."

That is the sentence written in the Draft Resolution.

First of all, the most important thing for a farmers is seed. That is the basic cuisine and the vital input. For the sustainable growth of agricultural production, we must have good seeds. For that there are two National Seed Corporations, one State Farm Corporation of India, thirteen Seed Corporation, nineteen State Certifying Agencies and 86 State Seeds Testing labs. Breeder seed is the first stage, foundation seeds is the second stage and the third and last stage is the certifying seed. I want to submit to the House that the breeder seeds are not easily available to any farmer who is residing in the village. But in the Annual Report I am very much surprised to find the sentence:

"To ensure access of the Indian farmers to the best seeds available anywhere in the world with a view to maximising their yield and farm increase".

This is the sentence written in the Annual Report. But our farmers are not able to get the basic breeder seeds easily. Only those who are influential are able to get the breeder seeds. Therefore, I bring it to the notice of the hon. Minister who is a well-wisher of the farmers that the breeder seeds and the foundation seeds are not easily available to the ordinary and marginal farmers and certifying seeds that he needs also are not available to him. The basic foolproof seed is not available to the farmer.

The main and basic thing the Central Government should do is to see that the foolproof seeds are distributed to the farmers easily and on timely basis. For the rabi crop kharif seeds are being sold and for kharif crop rabi seeds are being sold. This is because in the seed industry private people

are taking up distribution. Only 20 or 10 per cent of seeds are being distributed through the Government agencies and most of the seeds are being distributed through private industries. Therefore, a strict monitoring system should be there. Without proper and foolproof seeds there is no use of the insurance scheme to be employed. As an agriculturist, you know it.

Therefore those private industries who supply seeds to the farmers must know that the germination process is alone not the main thing. They must look into the seasonal crops also. Secondly, so many details have been given here on this. Farmers' land and seeds are the main thing. A farmer who is owning a land either in my village, Kadambur or at any other place in India, will earn a few lakhs or a few thousands of rupees, while a person residing in Delhi or in Madras or in Calcutta who has a land, may earn a few crores of rupees. That is, the imbalance. That is the common men's imbalance, according to me; and it needs no statistics. We are all farmers; but no one in this Parliament can say that he is a real farmer. Here, all are farmers, but at the same time, we are not farmers which is a reality which everyone must accept because when we got independence at that time, Gandhiji was alive and the symbol of 'bullock cart' was there which indicated that the Government is for the peasants, by peasants and of the peasants. But once that 'Bullock cart' symbol has gone, the policy has also gone.

I am speaking in English here, but that does not mean that I am slave to English. One hon. Member has told that those who speak in English are slaves to that language. I may say that I am slave to no other language in the world except Tamil which is my mother-tongue and it is the King for me. That world of the hon. Member has gone on record and therefore, I must also tell my views or opinion. We say that only Tamil is the leading language.... (Interruptions) It is because I want the Minister to understand and I want you to understand. I can speak in Tamil also, but you should not have said like that. The trees and plants do not have any language. They give fruits to us; they yield only result ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not get excited ... (Interruptions)

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : It is because he has gone on record. We want to tell this to the hon. Member. Our Tamilian MPs are here only because of the language issue; I am not a great man otherwise. ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Jha, please sit down. If you want to speak, you will have to seek permission from the Chair.

[Translation]

Shri Bhogendra Jha, Please sit down.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are no two opinions in the country or in the House about what he has spoken regarding Tamil.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no need of your arbitration. You sit down. The time is running out.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Tamil is one of the most ancient languages of India, except Sanskrit.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is expressing his sentiments. Let him express his sentiments, then he will speak on agriculture.

[English]

Now, Shri Janardhanan may continue. Now, we move on from language issue to agricultural policy.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, he has uttered the word and the sentence has gone on record. So, I said that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, you continue your speech.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Coming to the 13th point, the policy says that, 'increasing the utilisation of irrigation potential and promoting water conservation and its efficient management'.

Here I want to say to the Government that the ground water goes down. In India we are having all the new economic policy, globalisation policy, etc. But we want water. There are so many rivers in India. God has given Bhramaputra, Yamuna, Ganges, Cauvery, Godavari, etc., The waters of the rivers go to the sea.

The statistic given in a book gives classification of States according to the share of irrigated area to the total area under all crops. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Sikkim, Tripura comes under 0 - 20 per cent category; Gujarat, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, West Bengal, Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur comes under 20 - 40 per cent category; Jammu & Kashmir, Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, UP comes under 40 - 60 per cent category. Tamilnadu which has no water comes under that category. Haryana comes under 60 - 80 per cent category. Punjab comes under above 80 per cent category. These are the statistics given here. But, hon. Members from Punjab are saying that water resources are less in their State.

We spend a huge amount on watershed irrigation. The percolation scheme, which is being used to improve the water table, is being misused by the officers because they do not select the right places. In my constituency I have requested the officers a number of times to choose the right percolation point but in vain. As a result of this, the whole scheme is

getting wasted. Instead of wasting all the money on schemes named after Gandhiji and Nehruji, I say it is time for us to use the water which God has given us. Water in the form of rivers is a God given gift to us but it is getting wasted. We should have the proper watershed management scheme, only then we can make adequate water available for our agricultural needs.

You have one scheme for correcting the terms of trade to make them favourable for agriculture thereby increasing the flow of resources and augmenting the rate of capital formation. In this regard I would like to say that you are taking the sowing time as the basis for making the estimates. Because for the uncertainty of monsoon and the climate, we often go wrong in our estimates. So, I feel that the tentative estimates should be made only during the flowering season. If you take the flowering season as the base for price estimation, then only farmers will be benefited. You are merely counting the chickens before they are hatched. If you take inflation by making the sowing seasons as the base, you will always go wrong. Last year also we went wrong with our estimates about cotton and we all know the result. That is why, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to take the flowering season as the base for making price estimation, which is for the welfare of the country. Flowering season differs from State to State. In North the flowering season for cotton is in October whereas in South it is December or January. Especially for the cash crops, the price estimation should be made keeping in view the flowering season of different crops, like cotton, groundnut, chillies, etc. Only then the price speculation will not be there and it will go to the benefit of the farmers.

Many Members talked about the prices of fertilizers. In Kodaikanal hills the farmers who are producing shoots by using the natural manure are getting 15 per cent more yield than those farmer who are using the chemical fertilizers. Even with regard to cotton, the yield is better from untreated soil, i.e., the soil which is not at all treated by the chemical fertilizers but is treated by composed manures like cow-dung. The time is changing fast. As you have rightly said, the life of the topmost soil is finished because of the excessive application of chemical manures. Therefore, the Central Government must pay more attention to land, seed and water. In agriculture the same solution does not hold good everywhere because seasons changes from Tamil Nadu to Kashmir. Every State has got a separate sowing season and has different rate of soil fertility. Punjab's soil is more fertile than Tamil Nadu's soil. Fertility of soil varies from State to State. Implementation of various schemes is an important thing and in this regard the States must be given more power and more money. The Central

Government should have a monitoring system to monitor the implementation of various schemes that are there.

Let me say this in Tamil

"UZHUTHAVANUKKU ULAKKU THANN MICHAM".

This in English means that he who tills the land, he whos ploughs the land gets one fourth of a measure. Now, the situation is the even that is not available for him.

There is a proverb in Tamil which says : "KAIYILE VENNAI VAITHUKONDU NEYIKKU ALAIVA NEN". This in English means : "When there is so much butter in your hand, why do you wander for ghee?" When the river Gods have given so much water to us, why do we worry for water? Link the rivers. Create integrity in the hearts of youngsters. Stop all other thing. Money will follow. Unity and integrity of the country will automatically follow and the land of the farmers will produce gold. All the rivers of India must be linked. Then only Gandhiji's double bu'ock-cart and Nehruji's principle which got freedom for this country will have a meaning. With these words, on behalf of AIADMK, I conclude my speech.

I am very sorry to all the hon. Members. I got irritated and became emotional because of the remark made that whoever speaks in English is a slave of that language. That should not have gone on record. It is not fair for this Parliament and it is not fair for any Indian. If there is any party which holds language only as its card, it will be utterly defeated.

I conclude with these words, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject of national importance is being debated in the House. Today, seventy five percent people are dependent on agriculture India is an agriculture dominant country. Our country would not develop unless and untill our agriculture is developed. The draft of our agricultural policy was laid on the Table of this Houses on 14th May 1993. We had studied three tenses in school days is present, past and future there is another tenses — conditional past tense also in which nothing is said with certainty. Likewise, this is an ambiguous draft. It does not look like a national policy. It has been presented here like an agenda. The Government wants to stretch this issue further since the election is near. The farmers feed entire nation. Today, villages have become synonymous with poverty. It is not the question of 75 percent population only. This is the community which feeds entire nation and they cannot be dishonest.

I would like to mention here a very practical point. Unless and until fields are ploughed, irrigation

facility is made available, good quality seeds are supplied to farmers and labour of supervision is done, the target of production cannot be achieved. As regards engineering sector, if 5 km road is required to be constructed, only one kilometre road is constructed and the funds for remaining 4 kilometres road are manipulated. I mean to say that there is a room for corruption in every sector. But if there is corruption in agriculture then the targets can not be attained. Therefore, we will have to plough the fields, provide irrigation facility and do hard labour. Shri Hooda is a good friend of mine. We both are Member of a Committee of Lok Sabha. He belongs to farmers' community. But it seems that the bench on which he is sitting has an effect on him. He says that Shri Narsimha Rao is the son of a farmer. Sir, there are different categories of farmers like big farmers, marginal farmers and small farmers. I do not know which category of a farmer he is referring to. This draft favours big farmers and is ambiguous. *(Interruptions)* I have drawn your attention towards this because this agricultural draft is not a Resolution. The word 'Resolution' should be deleted before we discuss it. As a matter of fact, there is nothing in this agriculture Policy. It is like a wondercasted. They have presented it like an agenda here and now they want us to decide the policy. This resolution was moved in this House in 1993 and not it is being discussed in 1995. It is still not clear when this will be enforced. This policy is likely to be enforced by the time when the present and future of our country will be in danger.

First of all, I want to say that today cultivation has become a non-profitable occupation. Who are responsible for this? It was the responsibility of those people who were at the helm of affairs in Government during the last 47 years of independence. They cannot backout of their responsibility. It is a good step that they have come up with this draft. When there will be awareness, farmers will unite. Earlier farmers hesitated to speak but today they are raising their voices. As regards the reasons for agriculture being the non-profitable occupation today, I would like to point out one thing. He has just now referred to the support price of agriculture produce. The support price is decided by the Agriculture Price Commission. The Members of this Commission do not know the cost involved in producing a foodgrain as well as requirement of water, seeds, labour and the labour of supervision. On the other hand, the prices of items manufactured in Industries, are decided by the Industrialists themselves. They do not care of buyers and their purchasing power. The prices of foodgrains produced by farmers are decided by the people sitting in air conditioned rooms.

"Dukh Jane dukhiya Ki Maya,

Jake paon na phate phate Bivai,

Wo Kya Jane Pir Parai."

Those who do not understand farmers' sentiments, decide the prices of food-grains. There may be persons who have not heard the names of millet, barley, maize and mandua, (a kind of millet). *(Interruptions)* Jakharji may be knowing about them because these varieties would have come to him for test.

I would also like to say something about 'makhanas'. A large quantity of makhanas is produced in Madhubani, Darbhanga and Saharsa Districts of North Bihar. The Agriculture Department calls it seed of lotus, whereas fishermen grow it in water with great difficulty. But they get only Rs. 45 for a kilogram. It is sold at a rate of Rs. 160 per kilogram in Delhi and in America, it is sold at a rate of Rs.3300 per kg. It can be converted into a fast food through processing. Moreover, it is cholesterol free. A large amount of foreign exchange can be earned through its export.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should make it available to hon. Members so that they could have a taste of it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Agriculture Department calls it a seed of Lotus.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why I want you to make it available to us to have a taste of it.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : The Government has not paid any attention towards its processing. No sales centre or processing centre has been set up for this purpose.

Today, the Government is proclaiming in Rajya Sabha about the increase in support prices but the reality is different. It has been said that price of this foodgrain has been increased by Rs 20 per quintal and that foodgrains by Rs 40 per quintal. But the prices of those foodgrains are raised which are generally consumed by rich people. No attention is paid towards the support prices of coarse foodgrains which are consumed by the people living below the poverty line. Farmers in hon. Minister's home states i.e. Punjab and Haryana get benefited most by the increase in support price because agricultural markets are available there at every place. Do the farmers in Rajasthan, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Northern Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa get the support price for their produce. Whether any employee of FCI goes to a village for providing remunerative prices to farmers? There is a circular of the Government of India, which provides that the employee of FCI will go to the village to give remunerative prices to the farmer. The middlemen earn huge profit by purchasing the foodgrains produced by poor farmers in villages. Farmers are compelled to sell their grains to them because they are in dire need of money to purchase essential items of their daily use. Thus farmers are being

exploited by middlemen as they purchase their produce at lower prices. I challenge that poor farmers of villages do not get the support price. I would like to quote from the Economic Review, 1994-95 of the Government of India. The hon Minister can himself see it.

The Government claims that production of agricultural produce has increased. It is a matter of pride for the country. However, production of Basmati rice and special variety of wheat is increasing, but the position regarding coarse foodgrains is different. It is clearly stated in Economic Review that during 1992-93, coarse foodgrain was produced in an area of 344 lakh hectares, which was 3 percent more than the previous year. But the production of coarse grain declined during 1993-94 in comparison to preceding year and there is a possibility of increase in the production during 1994-95. Secondly, 40 percent people of our country are living below the poverty line. They eat coarse foodgrains like barley, millet and maize and production of these grains is declining continuously. In the Economic Review, it has been stated that costlier crops are grown in more areas by reducing the area under coarse grains. The Government does not care for raising the production of coarse foodgrains for poor. That is why, I have raised the issue regarding coarse grain here.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, I have already referred to the issue of support price. This draft Agriculture Policy to be changed drastically from the legal, budgetary and credit point of view. I would not like to say any thing on the support prices announced by the Government because it has already been published in newspapers. The prices of paddy have been raised from Rs.340 to Rs.360 per quintal. Likewise, prices of 'Arhar' 'Moong' and 'Urad' have been raised from Rs.760 to Rs.800 per quintal. The they say that produces of coarse grain will be given more encouragement. This is all what has already been published in newspapers and there is no truth in it. I am bringing these facts to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister. I hope that during his reply to this debate, he will clarify the position. I have tried, to place the facts regarding the condition of poor people, who consume coarse grain. Since production of coarse grain is declining, the poor will face a lot of problems. A few days back, the Government had said that the International food policy research Institute has praised its efforts. This institute has laid emphasis on diversification and more investmetn in agriculture sector, more budgetary outlay for Agriculture Research early completion of current irrigation projects, increase in Institutional loans and involvement of governmental and other organisations in building basic rural infrastructure. I do not want to quote anything from this report. However, I would like to say that in the report of S.R. Sen Committee,

a reference has been made to misuse of ground water in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. Growth rate of food production also finds a mention in it. But, there is no mention of water logging problem in the command area of Kosi and Gandak. The land of Bihar is fertile. The growth rate of food production was five percent during 1951 to 1961 and after 1981 it has come down to 1.2 percent. In the annual report of Reserve Bank of India for 1985 it has been said that Orissa, Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bengal have only 33 percent irrigated land. During the kharif season, the land of Darbhanga, Sitamarhi, Madhubani and Muzaffarpur is damaged due to flood. In such a situation, how could crops be grown there. Whether the Government has prepared any special scheme to tackle this problem? This draft is silent about it.

No remedial measures have been proposed in the agriculture policy. According to the report, the land of Saran, Siwan and Vaishali is also washed away during this season. We should be more liberal in giving loans to the poor in Bihar, Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Orissa so that the poor could be benefited by it. NABARD gives small amount of loans. It has been said in the report that Rs.50 crore were given to Bihar, Rs.37 crores to Orissa and Rs.130 crores to Eastern Uttar Pradesh...(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you have been very kind to me. I would like to take two minutes more.

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Farmers feed the whole country and they are being given loan at the rate of 23 percent interest, whereas industries are given loan at a rate of 18 percent interest. Can the Government not reduce it up to 8-9 percent for farmers? Farmers can also be provied facilities and we should be more generous so as to raise their standard of living.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to say that Agriculture universities should be set up in every State Headquarter but nothing has been said about it in this policy. This draft policy is not correct. There is no mention of storage facility for fruits and vegetables produced by farmers. In the absense of the storage facilities, 30 percent fruit and vegetables get perished. There should be storage facility at block level. We have only 25 percent irrigated area, whereas in China, it is 50 percent. I do not know in which direction this Government is moving?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Government has been trapped in the linement of Dunkel proposals and economic liberalisation policy. It wants all American companies to set up industries here. But, it is not going to improve the economic condition of farmers.

This will lead to end of employment opportunities in the country. As a result, there will be more unemployment and poverty. I want to say in explicit terms that this Agriculture policy is of no use. It will pose danger to the present and future of the country. On the one hand, support prices are declining and on the other hand, governmental assistance is also being reduced. Our Government is working under the pressure of GATT. In 1947, the foreign policy of the country was evolved. But in the absence of any Agriculture policy, the economy of the country is being controlled by foreign companies.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the quantum of foodgrain under PDS is being reduced. Therefore, I fear PDS will gradually be abolished. The subsidy being given to farmers is also likely to be withdrawn.

While concluding I would like to recite the following couplet about the ultimate end of this Agriculture Policy which is being discussed here :—

"Sheeshe ki adalat mein Pathar ki gawahi hai,

Katil hi muhafiz hai katil hi sipahi hai"

MR. CHAIRMAN : I take the sense of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : It is a very interesting and important discussion. The point is four hours were fixed for this discussion. Now seven hours have gone. It is not the only point.

The other point is, today all Members wanted to have this discussion. On 11th 14th, we are not sitting.

So, we have to complete the business. So, there is no way in which we can postpone this discussion beyond today. It must be completed today. Kindly ensure this ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, this has been agreed to by the Leaders in the Committee. This is what was agreed to by the Leaders yesterday in the meeting...*(Interruptions)* We will fully cooperate with you. But some time has to be fixed. Some sort of a cooperation should be there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue. The time of the House was extended for one hour. Now the House should be adjourned till tomorrow.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not possible for us to sit late.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is an important issue and should not be taken lightly.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Can we all sit for some more time.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : No, Sir.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 9th August, 1995 at 11 a.m.

19.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 9, 1995/Sravana 18, 1917 (Saka)