

to the State and Central levels as well as the police telecommunication project, costing about Rs. 152 crores and covering entire country through a satellite, are other examples of Central Intervention in improving policing in the country. Besides, the insistence of the Central Government with the Finance Commission paid off, in that the Commission has recommended an amount of Rs. 735.22 crores to the States for police training, modernisation of police forces, repairs and renovation of jail buildings, medical facilities in jails, etc. in the States.

On the question of attention to weaker sections and minorities, it was at the initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs that the National Human Rights Commission had been set up in 1993. The monitoring of the crime trend in the country and the Home Ministry's interaction with the concerned Ministries such as the Ministry of Welfare, the Department of Women & Child Development and the Planning Commission facilitates their directing their funding and schemes to such areas which are more prone to crimes against the weaker sections.

Let me take this opportunity to assure the members of this august House that the Government is fully committed to provide security of life and property to the citizens of this country and I earnestly appeal to the members, non-governmental organisations, the media and other responsible elements to join hands, as in the past, with the Government in its efforts to improve the lot of the people in this country.

17.08½ hrs.

MOTION RE : CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT
AGRICULTURE POLICY RESOLUTION
AS MODIFIED — Contd.

[Translation]

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Agricultural Policy Resolution.

Indian National Congress, before independence, adopted two important economic policy resolutions, namely, Agricultural Policy and Industrial Development Policy Resolutions. At Lucknow Session of AICC, a resolution on Agrarian programme was adopted in 1936. In immediately after independence, the Parliament adopted officially a policy resolution on industries. It was in 1956 that Parliament adopted the industrial policy resolution and this industrial policy was amended from time to time and announced the same in Parliament on a periodical basis. But, unfortunately, only now, after almost half a century since independence, that a policy resolution on agriculture development is coming up for consideration before the Parliament. All I can say is that it is better late than never. I congratulate Dr. Balram Jakhari, the Architect of the Agriculture Development Policy for taking the initiative to place the document on agricultural development policy before the Parliament now.

India is an agrarian economy. More than 70 per cent of the total population subsist on agriculture. Agriculture provides 30 per cent of our Gross National Income. But it is difficult to say whether or not due importance is being given to

agriculture.

Agriculture is a State subject. The architects of our Constitution wisely considered agriculture as a State subject as factors like Geographical conditions, climate and nature of soil vary from State to State. What is good for Nagaland may not be good for Kerala. What is good for Kerala may not be good for Bihar. So, it is impossible to have uniform programmes and projects for all States. My humble suggestion to the Hon. Agriculture Minister is that while giving final shape to the programmes and projects in the field of agriculture, the distinct characteristics of each State marked by the soil condition, climatic variations, availability or rainfall, proximity of the sea etc. have taken into account.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that the Agricultural Policy that is being discussed embraces all aspects of agriculture. But a clear picture of the programmes and projects that are to be implemented in various fields is not available. I also have a feeling that the present resolution consist mainly of those schemes which are already in existence.

As far as agriculture is concerned, investment is of utmost importance. But, one could observe that during the last decade the Government's share in the investment in the field of agriculture has been showing a falling tendency. The figures tell that the Governmental investment was Rs. 1796 crores in 1980-81 whereas it was only 1043 crores rupees in 1990-91. Taking into account the fall in the value of rupee in the interim period, one could see that this is too small an amount. It is to be borne in mind that no progress will be forthcoming in the fields of irrigation and agricultural research without adequate investment. It is everyone's knowledge that these sectors are of crucial importance to agricultural development. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to think in the line of formulating a long term plan for ten years for the overall development of these sectors.

On several occasions, I have had the privilege of bringing to the notice of this august House the plight of many irrigation projects which are not completed. Once again I feel it is my duty to request the Government to come forward with dynamism to complete the works of those irrigation projects. It is worth remembering that we have reached no where near the goal of irrigating the total agricultural land in the country. So far we have been able to irrigate only one third of the total agricultural land.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me make use of this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Minister for his assurances that proper encouragement will be given to the field of export of agricultural products. Horticulture is a field which has got great potential for development. I am given to understand that in this field one hectare of land could yield an income of R. 5000 and more.

Another important field is that of agricultural research. ICAR is conducting a lot of research work in the field. The 'Green Revolution' launched by venerable Indiraji which triggered a revolution the field of foodgrain in our country was in fact the fruit of the researches conducted by Indian Scientists. We have eminent scientists like Swaminathan. But the amount spent by the Government for research is too small. I would say it is even less than one per cent. This is too small

an amount in comparison with the amount spend by other developing countries on research. We have the capacity and know-how to advance a lot in fields like Genetic Engineering. Other possible fields where good results would be made are invention of high yielding seeds and seeds that the immune from pests, preservation of the fertility of the soil etc.

Another important point I would like to mention is the prices of agricultural products. Prices are not being fixed realistically. The farmers' real cost of production is never taken into account. There should be a new approach to this matter. Prices should be fixed on the basis of a scientific estimation of the cost of production. One of the main reasons for the low investment in agriculture is the fall in the prices of agricultural products. So long as the farmers are not getting adequate returns the field of agriculture will continue to move from crisis to crisis. It goes without saying that the poor farmer who does not have any savings cannot make investment on land. So the moot point is that a lot of improvements are imperative in the present system of price fixation.

Sir, it is being observed that the foodgrain production in my State Kerala is showing a decreasing tendency. Paddy growers are always suffering losses. As a result the farmers are giving up Paddy and turning to other crops. A Paddy Board has to be set up with a view to examining the problems of Paddy Growers realistically. Every year, a lot of paddy growers give up the loss incurring paddy and try their luck with other crops. The Hon. Minister said right now that the farmers have the right to grow the crops of their choice. I welcome the declaration. But the actual situation shows the other side of the fact. The poor paddy growers who are compelled by the poverty inflicted on them by successive years of inordinate losses to take up other crops are being prosecuted. I am constrained to say the Land Looters' Act hangs above the heads of the farmers like the Sword of Democlese. Prosecution is resorted to without discretion even in the cases of small farmers who turn to the crop of their choice in a mood of disappointment as a result of a series of set backs in the paddy sector. Therefore, I demand that the Hon. Minister's words should be put to use and the farmers should be allowed to select their crops. The existing laws that turn a cruel face on the farmers fundamental instinct for survival should be reviewed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to brings to the notice of the Hon. Minister an important disparity in the subsidies given to farmers on fertilizers. As per the existing laws the subsidy is given only to those fertilizers that contain potassium and phosphorus. Mixture fertilizers are denied this benefit. In Kerala the major portion of agricultural land are small farms. These farmers are mainly using mixture fertilizers. It is learnt that the Government has decided not to supply Urea at subsidised rates to those companies that produce mixture fertilizers. The subsidy given to the fertilizers containing Potassium and Phosphorus is not given to these companies. This disparity affect the farmers of Kerala adversely as they do not get any benefit from the subsidy system. This is because 30 per cent of the total NPK fertilizers used in Kerala are mixture fertilizers. This policy has to be relooked. The State Government has brought this matter to

the attention of the Central Government. I request the Hon. Minister to consider this favourably and make the facility of subsidy available to all farmers in the State.

The prices of fertilizers and pesticides should be brought down gradually. Curtailing subsidy may be a good idea but in an economy like that of India subsidies are essential. What is important is to identify the areas where subsidies should be given and to decide on the volume of subsidies. Priorities should be fixed and subsidies should be given to crops on the basis of priority.

The condition of coconut is deplorable. The fall in the prices of coconut has become a regular feature. The prices have fallen to a low from where no further fall is possible. Though minimum support price has been fixed for coconut, the growers have not begun receiving its benefits. The minimum support price is inadequate. I demand that the minimum support price should be increased and the problems of coconut growers should be viewed realistically.

I welcome the decision to set up an Agro-Business Consortium which would create more income and more employment opportunities in the rural sector. But while welcoming this decision which would cause multifaced development in the rural sector, I would like to point out an important lacunae in the framework of the consortium. The Minister of Agriculture will be the Chairman of the 15 member governing body. The activities of the Consortium includes exchange of technologies, co-ordination of various agencies etc. I have serious doubts as to whether Ministers who have a lot of other responsibilities can function effectively as the heads of institutions like this. What is preferable is to find out an expert and entrust him with the responsibility of heading the Consortium. The same model may be followed at regional levels also. While implementing this plan in Kerala a provision should be made for availing loans from Banks. There are already complaints that many of the small scale and medium scale projects are not getting Bank loan facilities. This should not be the fate accompli of the new schemes.

Coconut was declared an oil seed long back but the benefits are yet to reach the farmers. The coconut growers are not getting the benefits given to other oil seeds. Mere declaration will not be sufficient. Follow up action should be taken to see that the due benefits reach the coconut growers.

Another important matter with regard to coconut is the need for a proper action to save the coconut trees in Kerala from the fatal disease that has spread in some areas. At present the Central Government is giving Rs. 200 per tree to fell 1,25,000 disease affected trees in a year. This 'Operation Felling Down' has started in two districts only namely Thiruvananthapuram and Thrissur. I request the Minister to expand the operation are of this project and the number of trees to be felled a year be increased to atleast 3 lakhs. This dreadful disease which does not leave the slightest chance for the survival of the tree is fast spreading to other districts. This is something that demands immediate attention and proper action.

Many of the Irrigation Projects proposed by the State are yet to get the sanction of the Central Government. One such project that deserves a special mention is the Kuriarkutty-

Karappara Irrigation project. So far the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not given permission to this Project. Another project that has met the same fate is Attappady Valley Irrigation Project is palakkad district. This project is on the verge of being given up inspite of the huge amount of money spent on it, as the Central Government has turned a Nelson's eye on it. This project is completed would have effected a face lift for the Attappady region which is mainly a tribal region. I request the Central Government to take a favourable attitude to this Project and facilitate its completion.

Sir, I would like to make another point regarding the loans given by the bank to farmers. There is a Reserve Bank regulation that no compound interest should be charged on loans given to farmers. But some of the banks in Kerala overlook this regulation and impose compound interest on agricultural loans. They say that they are doing so as per the instructions given by NABARD. Whatever may be the pretext, under which they are charging compound interest from the poor farmers, I feel that, it is high time this cruel measure be dropped. I request the Central Government's intervention to put a stop to this injustice.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have another point to submit to the consideration of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture regarding the formation of Agriculture Policy in general. In the formation of the Policy provisions should be made as to ensure the increased participation of farmers in the policy making process in future years. Gradually, the Government role in the form of Departments and Corporations should be minimised and farmers and their organisations should be given an important role. More participation by farmers and their organisations has to be the goal.

We would be in a state of delusion if we think that by formulating the Agriculture Policy the development of Indian agriculture is ensured. Mere declaration will not serve the purpose. There should be a long term plan about the various schemes and projects to be implemented. Proper care has to be taken to ensure that the benefits of the governmental schemes actually reach the deserved. There are so many middlemen and agencies in operation who pocket and benefits of various schemes. There is a long distance between a government scheme and the farmers who are envisaged in them as there beneficiaries. There are so many cases where the real farmer who is at the fag end of the chain is cheated of their rights by the middleman. So I feel that it is the responsibility of the policy makers to see that the fruits of their policies do reach the sons of the soil, the real farmers. Those who snatch away what is due to the farmers should be treated with a stern hand. A monitoring cell should be set up for this purpose. The cell may monitor the whole process of subsidies and review the schemes in order to make them more useful to the farmers.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I have made a few points for the consideration of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. I once again congratulate him for bringing the Agricultural Policy Resolution in this House. I support the resolution. Thank you.

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the new Agriculture Policy, as tabled by our hon. Minister, is supposed to be for the all-round development of the country

and the peasantry. But I am sorry to mention that actually it is not true. First and foremost, I must make it clear that our hon. Minister is confusing the landlords with the majority of the peasantry of our country who are poor. I must also mention that the policies are part of the liberalisation measure and they come from the structural adjustment under the diktat of the IMF and the World Bank. That is why, I say that the policy is not aimed at keeping the interest of the majority of the peasantry but keeping the interest of foreign and multinational corporations. So, I must very clearly say that some of the policies are meant for the removal of trade restriction on agricultural commodities, making the domestic prices subservient to foreign prices. Therefore, our agricultural prices will depend upon the foreign diktats. There is a drastic curtailment of food subsidy. Now, the Public Distribution System is confined only to some of the deserving poor. Even replacing the overtime system with Employment Guarantee Scheme has limited scope.

One element in the Policy is to bring a change in the cropping pattern by giving priority to foodgrains production. It has entirely derailed our agriculture. In the name of export orientation, the production will be subservient to the interests of big landlords and also of foreign imperialists and of the IMF's interest. This will result in the derailment of our agriculture. By this, the policy of self-reliance which was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, followed by Indiraji and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, will be derailed. It will depend on other factors and particularly on the foreign multinationals.

In this Policy, there is a mention of removal of input of subsidy on fertilizers. Nowhere in the Minister's speech, it is said that the priority is being given or will be given to irrigation in the planning of all these things. In name of technology, many major projects are incomplete. Some five hundred projects are incompleting in our country. And still we depend on rain-fed agriculture. Seventy per cent of our agriculture depends on rain because seventy per cent of our cultivable land has no stable means of irrigation. Our major production is coming from the places where our land is irrigated. Therefore, the position about irrigation is not at all clear to us.

Now I may mention about the land reforms. First and foremost, the importance must be given for land reforms. What happened in Bengal? It clearly showed that where the productive forces got land, the production improved. If the land is distributed to the tiller of the land, the productive forces will be released and production will increase. Our hon. Minister has mentioned many a time about production. Our production is not growing rapidly in our country. How is it that in other countries particularly in China and Japan, production is going up rapidly? How is it that our production is still stagnant? The central reason for this is that the land is not in the hands of those who till the land. I must clearly mention that as a result of this Policy, it will accentuate the pauperism among the peasantry and will increase rural unemployment. Our main focus is to depend on imported foods and to compel the agricultural sector to play a subservient role in the interests of multinationals and imperialist forces.

We should clearly reject that. When hon. Minister goes around the country many times he boasts that he expresses

the sentiments of *kisans*. But I am sorry to say the he expresses the landlord's sentiments and not those of the *kisans* who are tilling the land. What about the majority of the peasantry? They are still poor. So, poverty must be removed among the peasants.

About the price policy he says that restrictions have been removed. When the restrictions have been removed the price will be under the influence of big landlords or multinational corporations. Then the common people or the common peasantry will not get any benefit. About the supporting prices I would like to ask whether anyone in the Government has implemented the supporting price policy in true spirit? With this supporting price policy, only big landlords and big peasantry will get all the benefits. At the time of harvesting, peasants should be able to get the benefit under the supporting price system. Mostly the common and the poor peasantry depends upon the local traders. They are forced to sell their land at the lowest rate. The peasantry is unable to get remunerative price. At least a majority of the peasantry is unable to get it. As a result of these policies, pauperism among the peasantry will increase and many peasants will be thrown out of their land. Therefore unemployment will increase. The very agricultural activity which must stand on self-reliance will be derailed by the changing crop pattern. Some alternative agricultural policy must be there. The question of land reforms should be given the foremost priority. The land should be disturbed to the tiller who has no land. There are lakhs and crores of such people. Then only the productive forces will increase and production will increase. That is why priority should be given to eradicate big land holdings. Give land to the tiller and water for their crop.

Is the hon. Minister prepared to say that a major part of the cultivable land has got stable irrigation, stable water means? 70 per cent of the cultivable land depends upon the rain. The *kisan* always looks to the sky. There are about 500 incomplete irrigation projects on Ganga, Cauvery, Godavari and Krishna rivers. I must say here that one hundred million hectares of land in our country is either drought prone or flood prone. This is the bitter truth we are facing. We should harness water from our major rivers which were the pride of our country. We have got sufficient water.

But it is not harnessed. So, it is a failure of our Government up till now. Water must be given to feed the crops of peasantry and the distribution of wastelands should be made among the poor and not among big businessmen. We are surprised to find that the land is being allotted to big businessmen and to big landlords around Hyderabad or Bombay. Now, this is going on. In the name of production and in the name of technology, big landlords have been allowed to get the land. According to the Central Minister's comments, in vast majority of the country land reforms are not going on satisfactorily and major land is under tribunal. With determination, land distribution has been done in West Bengal and we have to claim credit for it. It is progressing very well there. What is your answer for this? There is no mention about this in the entire policy. I must clearly say this. Are remunerative

prices being given to the peasantry? No. Is the hon. Minister prepared to say that remunerative prices are being given to the poor peasantry? Majority of the peasantry are not able to get remunerative prices. What does the hon. Minister say? Only landlords are able to get support price. *Kisans* are not able to wait till that time and they are forced to sell their lands at the lowest rate; and this is going on.

What about the public distribution scheme? No mention is made about this in the hon. Minister's speech. Public distribution of grains must cover not only the labour, not only the poor peasant, but also the middle group peasant so that they get at least food. After the harvest, the poor peasantry saves their grains only for two or three months; and after that they will have to depend on purchasing the grain and food. So, the public distribution scheme should be extended to cover the poorest peasantry also. Is the hon. Minister prepared to give answers to these questions? I want to know this.

Priority should be given to self-sufficiency of foodgrains and increased foodgrains production. When the cropping system is there and when the cropping is changed, we cannot have self-sufficiency in food. Food is the central point for our country. As a result of this Resolution, we will have to depend on food import. The present rural employment generation scheme should be linked to the development, progress and increased production. Administrative and executive powers should be decentralised. More powers should be given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions. Sufficient powers should be given to the Panchayati Raj Institutions and they should help the poor people; they should implement the land reforms with initiative.

I must finally say that the Dunkel Draft which influenced the making of the present policy and the IMF diktat's should be rejected in toto. That is what I want to say.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you very much, Shri Reddy. Now, I want to say one thing. The time allotted for discussion on this subject is four hours. Each political party has been allotted timings as I read out now :

Congress Party -	1 hour 48 minutes.
BJP -	45 minutes
CPI (M) -	15 minutes
Janta Dal -	10 minutes
CPI -	10 minutes
Samta Party -	6 minutes
AI DMK -	5 minutes
Telegu Desam -	3 minutes.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, there are 11 members from the AIADMK Party in this House. Why only five minutes have been allotted to this Party?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The purpose is, sometimes if the Chair does not disclose the timings as to how much time has been allotted; how much time should one Member speak for and how much time has each political party been allotted, then there is no control over time. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Rao, I would hear your

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

views afterwards. The previous day, one hour was allotted for a Bill but it consumed six hours thereby the entire schedule got upset. There was dislocation. Though the matter has been discussed threadbare, it was not implemented. Therefore, my request to the hon. Member is, kindly bear all these things in mind. Names should come through the Whips of the respective parties only. Individual slips would not be entertained. The Whips could give the names as to how many Members would speak and accordingly allot the timings within the allotted time for this Bill so that there is proper order in the House.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that for the first time since Independence, this House is discussing about the agriculture policy. Please consider all the aspects.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : My request is, you note down the relevant points about which you want to impress upon the Minister. If there are some salient features you could note down that also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, do not restrict it to the Whips.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shall we strict to 10 minutes for each individual speaker? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why I am insisting on this is, the previous Bill took six hours.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE : Sir, I would like to submit one thing. Most probably you are referring to the Workmen's Compensation Bill. Most probably you are having that in mind. My submission is, in this House so many times, the problems relating to the organised sector, the trade unions, labour are being discussed. But it is for the first time that the agriculture policy which has been drafted has come for a discussion in this House. The subject is very vast and the hon. Minister of Agriculture has also envisaged concrete suggestions in it. Kindly allow some more time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : So, let us strict to timings.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN : Sir, when six hours discussion were allowed for discussion on the Workmen's Compensation Bill, why not for the agricultural policy?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I shall call the name of Shri Ashok. A. Deshmukh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What I said is, four hours is being allotted for discussion on this subject. Each individual speaker will have ten minutes. Each political party is being allotted the timings and the names would have to come through the Whips of the respective Parties and they should give only such names who could be accommodated within the stipulated time. That is the point which I wanted to impress upon the hon. Members.

Now, Shri Bhupinder Singh Hooda — not present

Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri — not present

Shri Umrao Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very glad that you have given me an opportunity to

speak on the issue. I have patiently listened to the speeches delivered by hon. Minister as well as by other Members. Since you have allowed 10 minutes time, therefore not going into the details, I would like to attract hon. Minister's attention towards certain essential points.

Our country has made remarkable progress in the field of agriculture. In spite of that, in comparison to other countries, per acre production of our country is very less. The crops are not only dependent on rains but these are irrigated by tube-wells which involves much expenditure. I am not talking of other states, but in Punjab, the water level has receded so much that every farmer is bound to install tube well which involves expenditure worth Rs. 70-80 thousand. The prices of tractor, fertilisers and electricity are soaring which and causing great difficulties to farmers. I have been listening to the hon. Minister alongwith others for quite a long time. I have also written to Planning Commission but no concrete proposal has been received so far. Farming is not possible without water. It is true that we have made remarkable progress in agriculture sector and many noteworthy achievement have been made but we have still to register our progress in developing seeds. We had been discussing the per acre yield but if the farmer is provided with good quality of seed, he can increase the per acre yield.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was discussed in recently held WTO Conference that farmers will get certified standard and hybrid seeds at higher rates. I represent the farmers of Punjab and therefore, I can say that the good crop can be harvested with the help of good quality seed even at the higher rate. A farmer can afford it as he can produce the crop worth Rs. 2-5 thousand with this seed. Farmers in Punjab are earning Rs. 30-40 thousand with the help of tomato seeds developed by Pepsi people. I would like to request hon. Minister for Agriculture to encourage research work for quality seeds like Sunflower hybrid. If farmers are provided with such good quality of seeds, they can earn good money. Likewise, farmers have limited resources of water. One of my friends was just mentioning that water is being drained out to Pakistan. I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to provide funds for Shahpur Water project in Punjab as hon. Prime Minister too holds the same opinion. It will help in stopping the Water being drained out to Pakistan. This water will be made available to the farmers of Punjab and they will be able to produce better crop.

I would also like to say something on marketing aspect. Farmers have to come across a lot of difficulties in marketing, specially those of perishable food items. Government should make a policy for apples of Jammu and Kashmir, potatoes of Punjab and other fruits. There are two organisations engaged in marketing, one of them is FCI, which purchases wheat and rice, but that is suffering from the problem of corruption which needs to be rectified. The benefits of the farmers depend on the efficient functioning of the Corporation. The worst comes when farmers reach market with their hard produced crops; they have to suffer the fury of inspectors. If FCI functions properly, the farmers will get rid of the inspectors, to whom they have to bribe, and the commission agents, who exploit them. Another marketing organisation is NAFED which is enjoying lot of facilities provided by the Government. It has

been supported with support price and enjoys market intervention right. It also avoids to deal in the perishable goods. Very few organisations trade in perishable goods. Therefore, Government should pay attention towards perishable food products in its marketing policy. Hon. Minister has just talked about promoting the horticulture and its products but unfortunately the fruits and vegetables last only for three days after reaching the market. Perhaps hon. Minister must be remembering the time when the price of potato fell down to a throw away price. It was then that a farmer was guarding his pile. Someone asked him as to why he was guarding his potato crop when it was very cheap in the market? He replied that he was not guarding his crop but that of neighbouring farmers crop, lest he should throw his potatoes in his field. It may happen with wheat in future. Hon. Ministers sympathy with farmers is praiseworthy but sweet words butter no parnips.

Now, I would like to say something on credit. In this regard my suggestion is that the farmers should be provided with pass books. Pass book system was launched in Punjab and hon. Minister was at that time with us. We had become darling of farmers but the successor Government discontinued the system. The pass book held by farmer will bear the information regarding his land and its ceiling. He can deposit his money in and take loans from the bank functioning in his area by showing his passbook. He can get rid of many problems specially faced by him at the time of taking loan, when he has to take proof of his land records from Patwari. This is a very troublesome process. Many a time Patwaries and bank officials demand a certificate from Tehsildar and sometimes two or three witnesses besides guarantors. It is troublesome for a farmer. A money lender can avail of loan but a farmer cannot. Therefore, the facility of loan should be made available to farmers.

Farmer keeps his produce in the Government owned godowns, while other industries have their own godowns and they store their products in them and avail loans by mortgaging their stock. Banks as well as the traders put their separate

locks to the godown. This facility should be made available to farmers also. It will equally benefit the farmers as well as the Government. A facility for providing loan on crop was started sometime back and was to be launched in some districts of India but today its whereabouts are not known. I do not know as to whether it was successful or not but I would like to request to restart this scheme after removing its shortcomings.

At the end, I would like to mention about co-operatives. In this context, sugar mills have been mentioned in particular. Most of the mills in the co-operative sector are sugar mills and out of them, many are viable and many are running into losses. Mills are owned by the persons who are investors but as the elections are not held from time to time, the same board continues for four years. As a result, the mills are actually run by bureaucracy which converts the mills into loss making units but the actual loss is suffered by the farmers. Therefore, co-operative policy must contain the provision to this effect that board should function properly and that elections should be held regularly. Co-operative institutions should be run of the pattern on other elected institutions and all the possible steps should be taken to streamline the co-operatives.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now it is a six 'o' clock. Can we sit for another half-an-hour because there are a number of hon. Members to speak?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : We will continue tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : From tomorrow onwards let us make up our minds to sit late so that more hon. Members can participate.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 8, 1995/Sravana 17, 1917 (Saka)
