

[Sh. Krishan Dutt Sultanpuri]

those areas which have been declared remote area.

I demand that every employee in Himachal Pradesh, whether is a Central Government employee, be given Remote Area Allowance and accommodation facility at the place of posting.

- (vi) **Need to construct a railway over-bridge at railway crossing in Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh**

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): The railway crossing in Pilibhit is surrounded by four sugar mills, rice mill, oil mill and the Mandi Samiti. There is 24 hour traffic on this railway crossing and all modes of transport like bus, truck, tractor, cycle or rickshaw use it. When the trains come, the crossing is closed for a long time and as a result there is heavy traffic jam. There is every possibility of an accident there. Keeping in view the traffic congestion on this crossing, there is need for constructing an over-bridge here.

Therefore, I urge the Central Government to immediately construct an over-bridge on this railway crossing keeping in view the hardships being faced by people of the area.

12.58 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1991 - 92

Ministry of Agriculture,
Ministry of Food
and
Ministry of Rural Development -
CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Item Nos. 11 to 13 together. Shri Sobha-

nadreeswara Rao Vadde to continue his speech.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, because of the inadequate funding made for the development of rural areas and the gross negligence on the part of the successive Governments, today, it is very pathetic to find that nearly one lakh villages are yet to be electrified; more than a quarter of the villages are yet to be provided with road facilities; nearly 75,000 villages do not have an elementary school to cater to the educational needs of the children of such villages. More than 65 per cent of the villages are not yet covered under the veterinary care. Even after a decade of giving such priority to provide drinking water to the rural people, still there are several thousands of villages which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water. The other day, this Government has named the scheme of providing drinking water to the villages after our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. His name was associated with that.

13.00 hrs

This shows to what extent the successive Governments have neglected the villages and the rural people. Unfortunately, from the Second Five Year Plan the Government was giving much importance to industries. They thought even without the agricultural development, the country can go ahead in the industrial sphere to provide employment to millions of people and improve the standard of living of this vast millions of our people in this country. But it proved wrong. While in the First Five Year Plan, allocation for agriculture was nearly 15 per cent, it came down to mere six per cent in the Seventh Plan. Similarly, for irrigation, which is a must for the agricultural development, in the First Five Year Plan, 22 per cent of the outlays were allocated for irrigation development. But it came down to 9.4 per cent in the

Seventh Plan and there is not much change in this year's plan also.

Surprisingly, industry which was given only 2.8 per cent of outlay in the First Five Year Plan, its allocation was increased to 11 per cent in the successive plans. As a result of this, what happened was, after the Seventh Five Year Plan, the country's Gross Net Product is not more than the average of African countries. The incidence of poverty is double to that of the rest of the world. Our five yearly average rate of growth of food production has been declining from one quinquennium to another starting from 1970-71 to 1974-75. And the growth rate in the foodgrains production now is less than what it was in the pre-Green Revolution period. And the employment growth in agriculture has declined sharply from 2.32 per cent per annum during 1972-73 to only 0.65 per cent during 1982-83 to 1987-88. And the share of agriculture and the allied products in the total export basket of our country has declined from 31 per cent to 16 per cent during the period 1981-89.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): That is not because the volumes have declined. That is because the manufactured products have increased and their share has increased.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: At the same time the agricultural share also should have increased.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: There is no way by which agriculture's share will increase. When you start your export drive, what you first export is commodities or agricultural products. As industry diversifies and more and more manufactured goods are exported, the share will come down. But that does not mean the volumes have come

down or values have come down or the unit value realisation has come down. The total prosperity of the agriculture sector is as a result of the fact that exports have increased and it will increase further as a result of new policy also.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Definitely not, because you have not taken and now also you are not taking any step for boosting the agricultural exports. Because of all these things, the country now is facing a very grave situation where the balance of payments position has become so critical that in a very short period, our rupee had to be devalued twice. And our gold was pledged outside our country three times in a very short period. This is all in spite of the fact that the domestic savings rate is at one of the very high levels in the entire world. If India is to be saved from this present condition, a national agricultural policy must definitely be adopted. I am very happy at least during Shri V.P. Singh's Government tenure a beginning was made and a draft National Agricultural Policy was prepared by the Standing Advisory Committee.

It was sent to the Government and very recently, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar was telling that it was sent to the States for comments. My suggestion is that the Government should take a lot of interest over that and see that National Agricultural Policy Resolution is adopted. I do not know whether Shri Chidambaram will agree with it or not?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I like it very much.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Before the National Agricultural Policy Resolution is adopted, some important strategies have to be incorporated. You are aware, till now, lot of differential treatment was shown towards the farmers. In

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respect of industrialists and manufacturers, even the manufacturer who makes pencil has the right to determine its price, whereas, in respect of the agriculturalist, you are determining the prices - the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, recommends to the Government, where upon the Government will take a decision on that. The hon. Minister has said that the farmer is free to sell but in practice it is not so. You are well aware that because of the restrictions - between inter-district movement, inter-state movement- the farmer can sell his rice only if he can deliver the levy to the Food Corporation of India or the State Government and after which only, he can sell his rice in the rice form. In respect of incomes also, the terms of trade were adverse towards the agriculturalists. The average income from the agricultural sector to that of the non-agricultural sector is widening. Even the other day, the hon. Minister gave me the reply saying that the ratio of the income, NDP at current prices of agricultural to non-agricultural sectors was 0.43 per cent in the year 1970-71 and 0.786 in 1989-90. This has almost doubled. In regard to the facilities, the situation is very bad in the rural areas and the plight of the agriculturalists is very much worse. I have just now quoted some examples. I do not want to repeat them for lack of time. Our policy should be such that we should not be content with self-sufficiency. By the turn of the century, our population will be around one billion, when we require nearly 225 to 245 million tonnes of food-grains. This year we could produce nearly 176 million tonnes of foodgrains, which is a marginal improvement over the last year. The future is alarming because the expansion in irrigation sector till now is to some extent only, because of the steep increase in the cost of irrigation. The cost incurred on very big dams is increasing enormously and the cost of per acre irrigation facility works out to nearly Rs. 35,000/- per acre. In future, the irrigation

potential is going to be created for a very less area. So, the food production is not going to be increased at the rate, at which it was increased all these years. It is going to be much less. So, in these conditions, we must take some positive measures, to improve our agricultural production. When we cross the self-sufficiency figure and have surplus, then only, our main problems like poverty, unemployment and deficit trade balance will be resolved.

One more point is in respect of fertilizers. The Minister said that 12 per cent of post-tax profit margin was allowed for industrialists. Even after all this *hallagulla*, the Government has not said that they are going to reduce the profit of margin or that the Government is going to reduce the subsidy to the manufactures. You have thrown the burden on the farmers to bear the additional 30% cost. The farmer is facing all troubles, all natural calamities, all risks from pest to cyclone which are beyond his control. Whereas the manufacturing of industrial product is within the parameters of the management, within their control. But in respect of agriculture it is beyond our control. Yet we are toiling day in and day out. Under these circumstances not only the cost of production, but the margin of profit should be definitely there.

When we enquired through the Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee's recommendation on the CACP, they said that there is no fixed percentage of margin of profit allowed to the farmer. We request the Government to take into consideration all these aspects and take steps accordingly.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member will continue after the lunch break.

The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past Fourteen of the clock

14.15 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

(SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*)

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1991-92

Ministry of Agriculture,
Ministry of Food
and
Ministry of Rural Development -
CONTD.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: As Shri V. S. Rao was on his legs, he may continue now.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman Sir, I was very happy when Balam Jakhari, the Agriculture Minister said that the Government is examining the model farmer scheme suggested by Bhanu Pratap Singh Committee. The extension work is going on satisfactorily only in a few States like Punjab. In other States like Andhra Pradesh, the training and visit programme and the extension system is not working satisfactorily. It is only in paper and unless the results of the research work reach the farmers, we cannot expect to attain our full potential. When we compare the average production with the average results that have been obtained on the national demonstration plots, there is nearly two and a half times gap between what is being achieved till today and what can be achieved in future. Sir, this model farmer scheme should be taken up definitely. If a small farmer is trained and given all facilities, he will be an ideal person to see that the fruits of

the research go to the farmers and our agricultural production makes rapid strides.

I was very happy to know when the hon. Minister was telling that the Government wishes to have farmers training centres. I express my sincere thanks for it. Similarly, he said that Krishi Vigyan Kendras are also to be started in a good number. By 1985, actually every district was to be given a Krishi Vigyan Kendra as per the National Commission for Agriculture. But lot of delay has taken place. So, I request the Government to sanction one Krishi Vigyan Kendra in my constituency, Krishna district, that is, in the area of Garikapadu. The Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University has sponsored a programme to the ICAR so that the ICAR or the Government of India need not take that burden entirely on them. The AP Agricultural University has also come forward to bear a part of that burden and see that Krishi Vigyan Kendras are started in every district.

The credit requirements of the farmers are not fully met. You are aware of it and the Finance Minister who is here might also be aware of it. There is some limit to the credit that is made available to a farmer. In some cases, it may be Rs. 10,000 and in some cases, it may be Rs. 20,000. But that is not done as per their need and requirement. It is not proportionate to the extent of land he is holding and the crop he is growing and the amount of loan that is required for each crop. So, my suggestion is that unless the credit requirement of a farmer is fully met, you cannot expect full results from the farmer.

In respect of industrialists, you are giving nearly 75 per cent of the money he requires if he interests about 20 to 25 per cent as his contribution. But in respect of farmer even though his land is worth Rs. 50,000, you are not even giving Rs. 3000 sometimes. The commercial banks are hesitating to give money. There should be a definite and drastic change in the attitude

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and the functioning of the commercial banks towards the credit requirements of the farmers. Till today, the production loan is given from sowing to harvesting. But Sir, the job of the farmer is not getting complete with harvesting. He has to take his crop to the market and sell it. Only after that, he gets some money in his pocket to pay back to the commercial banks or the financial institutions. So, this production loan must be extended till such time when the produce is sold and the farmer gets the money. I fervently appeal to the Agriculture Minister as also the Finance Minister not to stand on false prestige. I am aware that several members from your side also have been pleading in your party forums to restore the full subsidy in respect of fertilizers. Please do not burden farmers who are already treated in a step-motherly fashion all these years.

Though this Government has stated that the small farmers will not be burdened with the 30 per cent increase in the prices of fertilizers, I want to bring to your notice as to what is actually happening today. Even the small farmer has to buy the fertilizer at the increased price of 30 per cent. Then, he has to obtain a certificate from the Revenue Department and the Agriculture Department. And when he submits the certificate, then only he will be reimbursed. You all know how they function at the taluka level, mandal level and the district level. That is why several members from your side also have pleaded that a differential rate is not going to work. It will only lead to corruption and those farmers who are really poor, will not be benefited. Therefore, I appeal to you to kindly reconsider your decision and restore the subsidy in full to the farmers. After all, farmers are very poor, even when they own 10 acres or so. Here I would like to bring one point to the notice of the Government. Though small and marginal farmers comprise 75 per cent of the total farmers, they own only 20 per cent of

the total land. The lower and middle level farmers possess about 50 per cent of land. The other category of farmers own 20 per cent of the land. Sir, you cannot compare the life of even a middle level farmer with that of a chaprasi in Central Government. Therefore, I again request you to kindly reconsider your decision on fertilizer subsidy.

Now I come to food production. I will not repeat what my friend, Dr. Ummareddy has stated regarding the per capita availability of foodgrains. I would only mention that per capita availability of pulses and grams which are the only protein food available to poor persons, has gone down by half. The Indian Council for Medical Research says that a person should consume nearly 70 grams of pulses per day. But the per capita availability is only 33 grams per day. In respect of grams also it is the same case. The per capita availability which was 22 grams in 1951, has come down to 14 grams in 1989. The target of 14 million tonnes which was fixed in the year 1974 could not be achieved till today. It still remains a distant hope. I request the Government to be pragmatic. Kindly extend all your cooperation to the farmers. My friend Shri Chidambaram was telling that our manufacturers have exported a large number of products and because of that the percentage of exports in agricultural and allied sectors has come down. At what cost? How much subsidy you have given to the manufacturing sector! You have given hundreds of crores of rupees as cash compensatory support. How much benefit you have given to them by way of allowing complete freedom to import hundreds of crores worth machinery and in some cases import of a complete plant itself! Compared to this, what help have you given to the farmers? If you give them some help, even if it is not to that extent as is given in the manufacturing sector, our farmers also can improve their exports.

Our neighbour China has exported 5

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million tonnes of coarse grain and earned Rs. 100 crore worth of foreign exchange only two years back. Here, coarse grains are produced by the dryland farmers most of them are small and middle level farmers. But, are you procuring coarse grains? How many million tonnes of coarse grains have you procured? How much is produced and how much is procured? The prices in international market are favourable. Even if we have to lose a few crores of rupees in procurement, should we not do it? I say this because by exporting coarse grains, we can earn precious foreign exchange. Nowadays, 60 per cent of the world market in coarse grains belongs to the United States of America. The developed countries are feeding these coarse grains to the animals and then they are consuming them as they think that their mutton will be more tasty and will have more protein. I would say that our country should also take advantage of it.

Though India produces 20 times more paddy than that is produced in Pakistan, we are not exporting that much quantity of basmati rice as our neighbour country, Pakistan is exporting. India can definitely export thousands of crores of basmati rice and also coarse grains.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that on 29th February, 1988, the then Finance Minister in his Budget speech promised that his Government will come forward with a National Agricultural Credit Relief Fund. But we do not find it anywhere. Though a Committee headed by an eminent person like Mr. Tripathi had gone in depth into the matter and made recommendations till now no concrete action has been taken in respect of setting up of NACREF.

As a person coming from the Krishna district, which is by the side of the sea shore,

which have to experience the fury of the nature. Every alternate year or once in three years we have to undergo this experience. You are well aware of it and I will not repeat it. The other day I was asking a supplementary question regarding the Crop Insurance Scheme. I would say it is better to have something than not to have it. This scheme is covered the farmers who take loan from the financial institutions. My suggestion is that it should be extended to other farmers also who pay premium. At the moment you are not prepared to extend it to other crops, I would request you to at least extend it to the standing crops because the present provision says that the crop cutting experiments are conducted before the harvest. The Prime Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the top officers have themselves gone and seen how 15,000 acres of paddy was literally washed away by sea water because of the tidal waves. Though they are covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme, nothing was given to these farmers. I am telling you our bitter experience. I would request you to kindly think how best we can help such farmers who are subjected to such losses very frequently. How can our farmers stand on their own legs if such losses occur frequently? You yourself are a farmer. More than anybody else you know very well the plight of the farmers. So, my appeal to you is to kindly think of it.

Till now turmeric and chillies are not covered under the Support Price scheme. You please also think of it.

In the big cities people are made to pay very heavy prices for the fruits and vegetables but a farmer who is just 5 Km away from there does not get even 10 or 20 per cent of the price which the consumers are paying here in the cities. In Bangalore we have a very good scheme. The Bangalore Horticultural Growers Cooperative Society is making available the fruits and vegetables to the consumers of Bangalore, Mysore and

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some other parts of the State of Karnataka with 20 per cent margin and the rest of the 80 per cent goes to the farmers. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly consider it favourably and try to implement this scheme in all the Metropolitan cities. I know that in Delhi we have NDDB Scheme but it is at a very heavy cost. More than Rs. 70 crores are spent on this scheme. In contrast the other scheme which is in practice in Bangalore is very very cheap. With the scarcity of funds available with the Government, I think the Bangalore scheme is more useful to the consumers and also to the producers.

After many decades the Government has thought to set right the injustice which is being done to the farmers. To give solace to the farmers of this country, the Government had announced to observe 1990-2000 as *Kissan* decade. Their needs will be better taken care of. Their aspirations will be better taken care of. The National Front Government had taken this decade - 1990-2000-as *Kisan* decade. I am very sorry to hear from our good friend, our *Kisan* Leader, the other day that this Government do not think of treating this decade as *Kisan* decade.

So, I appeal to this Government, not to go back from that. Why was such a decision taken by the National Front Government? Because, there was a lot of injustice done to the farmers of this country, the rural people of this country. You kindly continue to treat this decade as *Kisan* decade and really help the farmers of this country.

With these few words, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur): Mr.

Chairman Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants in respect of Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development which is under discussion. Agriculture is the backbone of India. Seventy per cent of our population depend on agriculture for their livelihood. India has made tremendous progress in production of foodgrains. There was a time when India used to import foodgrains from foreign countries. Now we are self-sufficient in the production of foodgrains. Even we are in a position to export some of our agricultural produce. Here, I would like to mention that although there was a green revolution in some of the states of India, the performance of some other states are far from satisfactory. The progress in the field of agriculture is uneven. Even after 44 years of our independence there is regional imbalance. We will have to do away with the regional imbalance in order to gain the confidence of all the states.

India became independent in the year 1947. At that time Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru laid more stress on agriculture and as a result in the first five year plan a sizeable amount was spent for the development of agriculture. At that time also the opposition leaders used to criticise the agriculture policy; because we were not self sufficient in food grain production. Gradually, the situation improved as a result of the effective policy of the successive Congress Governments. Now, India is exporting superior quality rice, wheat, sugar, tea, cotton, jute spices and many other agricultural produce. Unfortunately our opposition leaders fail to appreciate these achievements of the Congress Government. They take keen interest in criticising our government. I wish that there should be a constructive criticism by the opposition leaders. That will help our government to function effectively.

I come from a very backward state i.e. Assam. The people of Assam are very peace loving. Assam is the abode of so many linguistic and religious groups living in peace and amity. There is never any communal tension in Assam. Paddy is the main crop of Assam and rice is the staple food of Assamese people. The farmers of Assam are very hard-working; but they are not equipped with latest types of implements and technical know-how. That is why their per hectare yield is poor and they cannot contribute much to the central pool. The peasants are subjected to distress sale and they should be free from exploitation.

In the districts of Nowgong, Goalpara, Darrang and Kamrup jute cultivation is done on a large scale. The farmers of our state are very diligent. They produce jute, paddy and many such other agricultural produce. The people of Assam are demanding to set up a jute mill at Mangaldoi since long; but it has not materialised so far. This proposal was put forth by our leader, Late Fakharruddin Ali Ahmed, ex. President of India and the foundation stone was laid there. Therefore it is fervently requested that the proposed jute mill should be setup at Mangaldoi without any further delay. The Central Government should take necessary steps so that the aspirations of the people are fulfilled.

The next point that I would like to make is that Majuli is the biggest river-island in the world; where mustard is produced in large quantity. But for want of high yielding variety seeds, the production is not to the desired extent. Another thing is that our farmers lack in modern technology of agriculture and they do not have modern implements and as a result of that the production is less. Even they are not in a position to use fertilizer since the cost of fertilizer has gone up and sometimes those are not supplied in time. The government should ensure that the supply of fertilizer is regular and it is readily available to the farmers. I suggest that fertil-

izer should be made available to the farmers at their door-step through farmers Cooperative Societies.

Another point is that flood and soil erosion are perennial to Assam. They cause great harm to the farming community. Flood brings manifold miseries; such as, it washes out the standing crop and washes away fertile top-soil, thereby causing great loss to the farmers. In order to restrict soil erosion the government should take both short term and long term measures. This point was raised in this House time and again; but as ill luck would have it, no concrete steps have been taken by the Government so far. It is a matter of great regret. Therefore, once again I urge the government to take immediate steps in this regard; so that the people of Assam may have a sigh of relief.

The next point I would like to refer is that there is flood in one hand and drought on the other. The drought condition is very peculiar in Assam. The planners sitting in Delhi may not understand the real problem of drought in Assam; because it is something different from the rest of the country. They think that there is no drought prone area in Assam. But that is not a fact. It should be ensured that during drought season adequate irrigation facilities may be provided for better agricultural produce. It is my humble request to the Government of India and specially to the Minister of Water Resources to chalk out suitable schemes for Assam and implement them in the right earnest.

Although sugar-cane is not the main crop of Assam; but even then it is a cash-crop and in some areas of Assam sugar-cane is grown. There is only one sugar mill in Assam. That is why Assam is not self-sufficient in sugar production. We are to purchase sugar from other States for which a huge amount is spent on transportation of sugar, which can be avoided by setting up one or two more sugar mills in Assam. If that

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is done people will pay more attention to growing sugarcane. Therefore I urge the Government to give serious thought on the matter.

The next point I would like to refer is that the farming community of Assam are facing hardship in getting the right type of seeds at the right moment at a reasonable rate. The Seed Corporation of India should ensure that adequate quantity of certified seeds are made available on time. Sometimes it so happens that on account of sub-standard seeds, the farmers are to suffer. They get a very low yield per hectare. Alongwith the seeds the fertilizer also should be made available on time. Here I would like to mention one point, i.e. the farmers of Assam are very backward in a sense that they do not have the up-to-date technology, agricultural implements and even they are ignorant of the types of fertilizers to be used for different crops. They are to be educated in this regard.

Another point is that if sowing is not done at the appropriate time, the produce becomes low. So, care should be taken to ensure supply of seeds for various crops, such as paddy, mustard, potato at appropriate time; otherwise farmers are to suffer loss.

The next point is that today Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are very much advance in the field of agriculture. There should be training programme for the farmers of other States to visit these states and see for themselves how best they can use these techniques in their respective states. In this process the farmers of different states can exchange their views on different aspects of cultivation and related things, thereby widening their knowledge through the experience of others. For this purpose a certain number of youths may be invited to visit

different states for training in agriculture. After training they will go back to their respective states and those trained youths themselves can impart training to other interested youths of their states. Such exchanges of ideas in the field of agriculture among the youths of different states will strengthen the thread of unity, and integrity of our mother land.

Mr. Chairman Sir, you are ringing the bell. So I will obey your order. At the end I must say that not only Assam, but the whole of North Eastern region (Seven-sister-states) are lagging behind in the field of agriculture. Therefore, my humble submission is that Assam should get its due share from the centre and the few suggestions put forth by me and many other Hon. Members will be taken care of. Once again I whole-heartedly support the demands for grants in respect of Ministries of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development under discussion. I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in this debate and for a patient hearing. With these few words I conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA (Nowgong): I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Demands relating to the Ministry of Agriculture.

In India agriculture is a primary occupation. 75 per cent of our population depend on agriculture. But this primary occupation depends upon monsoon. If monsoon comes regularly and timely, there will be a good harvest. And if it does not come, then there will be drought. 30 per cent of the cultivable land is covered by irrigation system, and 70 per cent of the cultivable land depends upon monsoon. Therefore, I request the Government for expansion of intensive irrigation systems to cover larger areas of cultivable land because in our country what we find is

that there are some areas which are having heavy rainfall causing devastating floods and some other areas, there is no rain and drought is there because monsoon is not evenly distributed. Therefore, the irrigation system should be expanded more and more to supply water to the agricultural fields.

Today, cultivators are facing the problem of high cost of production because the prices of agricultural inputs are rising day by day. The price of fertiliser has risen by 40 to 50 per cent. At the same time, Government has withdrawn subsidy on fertilizer. Therefore, the poor agriculturists, those who are small and marginal agriculturists, find it very difficult to have those inputs because of higher cost. The Government has given the support price. Even then there is a wide gap between the support price and actual cost of production. At the same time, support price may help the big landlords and not the marginal farmers or small farmers because they produce crops only for their livelihood and they cannot sell it in the market. Therefore, there should be parity between the support price and the actual cost of production.

Again, what we find in our country is the problem of land re-distribution. Though there are land reforms Acts, those are not properly and sincerely implemented. With the result that there is no re-distribution of land among the cultivators. What we find is that the feudal landlords hide their properties by means of benami transactions. They keep their landed property in the name of their servants, husbands, wives, relatives, sons, daughters and even in the name of their cats and dogs. Therefore, I request the Government to bring some practical amendments so that actual re-distribution of land among cultivators take place, which is not the case so far. Not only that. The Government must be sincere in their hearts and purpose for the implementation of Land Reforms Act.

Again, what we find is that there is a vast

difference between the prices of agricultural produce and industrial products. There is no parity between the two. The agriculturists supply raw materials to the manufacturers, but the prices of industrial products are much higher than the agricultural produce. Therefore, the gap of parity should be removed and some sort of a parity should be maintained.

Again the farmers are suffering from lack of facilities for marketing their products. I may give an example in the case of Assam. One of my hon. friends has already mentioned that Assam is famous for jute cultivation. There is a Jute Corporation. But, Jute Corporation never go to market; they engage some *Dalal*. The actual farmers never get the reasonable price of their products. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to ask the Jute Corporation of India to go directly to the market and purchase the products from the market.

In Assam, there is an iriand which is famous for production of oilseeds. We find that we are suffering from the foreign exchange resources because we have to purchase large quantity of oilseeds from abroad. But, we can improve the position by increasing the production of oilseeds. If we take firm steps such as extension of financial aid to the poor cultivators, to equip themselves with the modern techniques of production, they will be able to increase the volume of production of oilseeds.

Then, I appeal to the Government to engage the cultivators in order to go to the deficit crop areas and deficit crop areas should be covered by the irrigation system so that they can contribute a lot.

Again, we have been boasting that we have got surplus foodgrains. But for the last two years we have been maintaining that by taking foodgrains from our existing stocks and we want to have self-sufficiency in the

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case of foodgrains. But, at the same, time, what the Government of India did? They increased the price of the fertilisers. Is it not a blow to the cultivators? Is it not a serious blow to the production of foodgrains. Therefore, on the one hand we feel proud of having surplus foodgrains, but on the other, we want to increase the value of foodgrains. In other words, we want to restrict the cultivators from increasing the foodgrains production in our country by increasing the price of fertilisers.

The poor cultivators in rural areas are suffering from power. Power is one of the most important factor for the cultivators. All the farmers are suffering for lack of power. Power is most important thing for helping the agriculturists. Therefore, in that direction, the Government should take some steps so that there will be a regular supply of power to the poor cultivators.

In our rural areas there are some development works such as IRDP, Nehru Rozgar Yojna etc. All these schemes are for uplifting the poor people. In India, we find that 52 per cent of our population are living below the poverty line. We want to bring them up and for that purpose we have been interested in many schemes. The purpose of all these schemes is to generate more employment. But, in practice what happened? The people are not engaged there. Those things are done through contacts. The very purpose of the scheme is defeated because the local people are not employed. Where these schemes are implemented, the local people should be employed, so that there will be scope for generation of more employment and for generation of more social assets. But, in fact, we generally find that there is no such programme for more employment. There is need for more social research. But all these things are considered in the case of a few individuals. Therefore, my earnest

appeal to the Government is that it should not fail in its duty. Government say that they have been spending Rs. 600 crores on rural development. Government may spend on rural development. But that is the financial target that they are giving and not the physical target.

The Government should give more attention for the fulfilment of physical targets than the financial targets. For example, for the last forty years, we have been seeing the Government showing statistics only on financial targets and not physical targets. Therefore, the attitude of the Government should change from achieving financial targets to physical targets.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI LAETA UMBREY (Arunachal East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, It is very unfortunate that even after forty four years of independence, we have not been able to solve any of the problems that are faced by the farmers. We have neither been able to provide dams and sufficient irrigation facilities, not to speak of the drought-prone areas but even in other parts of the country, nor we have been able to take the adequate flood protection measures.

There are many other serious problems faced by the farmers today, some of the problems faced by them are the land acquisition, fertilisers, quality seeds, support prices, marketing facilities etc. These problems demand the immediate and most sincere attention of the Government. In spite of so many problems, we are now self-sufficient. The Hon. Minister for Food has intervened in the debate yesterday and said that we are in a position to export the foodgrains. If so, I think the farmers of the country deserve congratulations from all of us.

Approximately 70 per cent of the total population are in the rural areas and about

65 per cent are directly engaged in the agriculture. That is why I would like to request the hon. Minister and the Government that they should give top most priority to agriculture.

I welcome the decision of the Government to open an agricultural University in the North East, in Manipur, which they have announced yesterday.

There is another aspect which needs the attention of the Government and is connected with the agricultural farming and that is family planning. Unfortunately due to shortage of time, I think, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Health will not be discussed and is going to be guillotined.

15.00 hrs

But I would request the Government to give due importance to family planning. Because every problem which we face today in the country originates from the fast growth of population.

Sir, I would like to confine myself to the problems of Arunachal Pradesh as I am the only speaker from the State. We have about 84,000 sq. kilometres of geographical area in Arunachal Pradesh. But only 5 per cent of the total area is in the foothills and 3.35 per cent of the total area is cultivable. Our state Government which is very strong and stable has been doing their best to provide irrigation facilities for terrace cultivation and also to educate the people to avoid jhooming cultivation. Efforts are on to promote horticulture and other types of farming. But as you know, due to paucity of funds, our Arunachal Pradesh Government has not been able to do much. There are many other areas where tremendous scope for development. These are apple, pineapple, orange, potato, gardens etc. Many hundreds of medicinal herbs are also understood to be found in Arunachal Pradesh. Prominent among them

is mishmiteeta which was once exported and was one of the foreign exchange corner of this country. Our State Government has taken up many steps to encourage the cultivation of mishmiteeta which are found in the areas more than 7000 ft. from the sea level. A number of schemes have been taken up under IRDP, but now it is understood that there is no market for mishmiteeta. So, the beneficiaries of IRDP are facing serious problems today. I hope the hon. Minister for Agriculture will seriously take note of it.

Arunachal Pradesh Government has also taken measures for development of dairy farming, goatery farming and fishery farming. Fishery farming is found to be doing very well in Arunachal Pradesh. So, it is my sincere request to the Central Government that they should provide more funds to Arunachal Pradesh for all round development. They should not provide meagre amount as is done every year to make the small and poor States depending entirely on the Centre.

Sir, very recently, a few tea gardens also have come up in Arunachal Pradesh. But the NABARD is found to be not interested to advance loans to Arunachal Pradesh. I hope the hon. Minister for Agriculture will kindly take up the matter.

With regard to the Ministry of Food, I do not have much to say, but I will definitely say, Sir, that we entirely depends on foodgrains from other parts of the country. But the quality of foodgrains which we get is too bad. As you know, there is communication problem in our State. Even the district headquarter from which I have come is not linked with the road communication.

So, in many administrative circles including my district HQ, foodgrains are being dropped by air. Due to defects in packing, the packages get burst and force us to take these bad quality foodgrains. So, I would like

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to request the hon. Minister for Food to look into this problem.

Then, I would like to speak a few words on rural development. Our Congress Government had taken up various poverty alleviation and employment generation programmes such as IRDP, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, etc. The IRDP schemes and Jawahar Yojana and other poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes, are implemented successfully in my State. I think, it is mainly because of the proper functioning of the Panchayati Raj system and the village councils. Therefore, I would like to request the hon. Minister to give more money, especially for IRDP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana programmes because Jawahar Rozgar Yojana is the scheme where the interference of political leaders like MLAs, MPs, and Ministers are not there; money goes directly to the Zilla Parishads and the people elected from the grassroot level decides the areas of implementation and it is being implemented successfully. Then, there are modalities fixed for the implementation of IRDP schemes which are uniform throughout the country. I request the hon. Minister and the Government to look into it and review the matter because the problems are different from place to place and the modalities which are being recommended are not suitable in places like our State. So, it should be based on the problems of the areas concerned.

Sir, the 64th Constitution (Amendment) Bill was brought and it was passed in this House, but unfortunately it was defeated in the other House. The Bill was brought to give power to the people and for strengthening the democracy at the grassroot level. I demand the govt to bring the Historic Bill of Panchayati Raj and Nagar Palika within this session. It should be brought not because our party had promised it during the election, but it is felt very necessary to strengthen

democracy at the grassroot level. So, I would like to tell the Government, through you. That we have already delayed on the Bills and from the way the Government is delaying, it seems to me that the Government will not be able to present this Bill in this Session. If we are not able to bring this Bill in this Session, we will be doing great injustice to our people and they will not excuse us.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khar-gone): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I begin with the 'Arthdevan-Suktam' of the "Rigveda" Krishim idat Krishasva witte ramasva bahumanya manavah". It reads that one must opt for agriculture only and lead an honourable life with the wealth gained from it. The farmers too, as I think, started agriculture following the above 'Suktam' but I am sorry to state that even after 44 years of independence, the farmers did not get their right of leading an honourable life in states during the rule of any Government.

Even today, villages do not have a school, roads, a post office, or a dispensary. If there is any dispensary at all, it is without any building, if there is any doctor at all, there are no medicines, if there is any doctor at all, there are no medicines, if there are medicines at all, there is no nurse in the dispensary. During these 40 years, the benefit of Government's efforts did not reach the deserving persons. Therefore, we may notice today that the condition in villages is not satisfactory, there is exodus from villages. Today the educated youth blacksmiths, carpenters, weavers and the poor are fleeing to towns. Today, there are 32 crore such persons who pull trollies in towns and are spending their lives on footpaths. What happens today is that for every purpose, may it be a problem of electricity, or of water or of school, the farmer has to rush to the Government with a bowl in his hands. Today

the farmer has boosted the prestige of the country by increasing the production of foodgrains from 5.5 crore tonnes, in 1950 to 18 crore tonnes. The farmer has saved the country from turning a beggar. There was a time when the ministers used to rush to America with a begging bowl. Today we can say with pride that the foodgrain production has reached a record level. But the farmer did not get any benefit of that record production. His condition is still unchanged. Even today he lives in a hut the roof of which leaks during the rains as hithertofore and he has to shift his bed and so, he from one place to the other to avoid being soaked. Even today his house is what it was before - having nothing worth to be called asset. The only reason behind this, as I think, is that cotton is cheap but the cloth made from it is dear, similarly sugar-cane, and ground-nuts, are cheap but sugar and oil are dear and this is why the farmer has in a miserable position today. Today the rate of cotton is Rs. 10 per kilogram, but the rate of yarn is Rs. 50 per kilogram and the rate of cloth is Rs. 100 per kilogram.

Due to this very injustice and tyranny the condition of the farmers continued to be miserable. In past due to wrong policies of the Government and their wrong implementation thereafter, the farmer became poorer. Today we may see that the farmer grows sugarcane with hard labour shedding his blood and sweat. Brother-in-laws and sister-in-law irrigate their fields, irrigate the sugarcane, the sister-in-laws taken here 6 month old baby with her to the field, and somehow she manages to put to sleep the child on a make shift swing tied between the two trees and thereafter she starts irrigating the fields. In course of irrigating the fields her finger is cut by the sharp leaf of the sugarcane plant and her finger starts bleeding, she is not able to even bandage her bleeding finger and she dips it in the water. Blood is flowing with water there, thus the farmer feeds the sugarcane his own blood, then grows the sugar-

cane. Thus, the farmer grows the sugarcane by investing his blood, sweat, water and money but he does not get the full price of the sugarcane. Even today shortcomings in agriculture policy exist. Sugar Mill is set up but no industry is set up there for the by products of sugarcane. Paper can be prepared from bagasse.

Wine and petrol may be prepared from molasses. If above industries are set up in places where there are sugar mills, the farmer may get a price of Rs. 150 per quintal for his sugarcane instead of Rs. 40 per quintal and the condition of farmer may thus improve. But I am constrained to say that the Government has not paid any attention to all these schemes. If no attention is paid to the farmers, their anger may burst any time like a volcano. The farmer will not tolerate injustice and tyranny for a long time.

Today the farmer has understood that he has the power with which he can make or change a Government. So, today due attention needs to be paid to the farmers. Mr. Chairman, Sir, soldiers and jawans come from villages to face the enemies; labourers come from villages to run the wheels of factories; labourers come from villages even to pull trollies in towns. Today, 60 per cent industries in towns and factories run with the help of agricultural products; the contribution of villages to the national income is 30 per cent, even then he is not given his due share, So discontent is spreading among farmers. Migration is taking place from villages these days. The water of rural rivers is flowing in to the seas, and there is flight of youth to foreign countries. Doctors, scientists, engineers and labourers are taking up employment abroad. What is the reason that we can not give them incentives in our own country?

So, far as the agriculture policy is concerned, it has disheartened and disappointed the farmer. I would like to cite an example. The Government fixed the support price of

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wheat at Rs. 130 in 1981. The then Agriculture Minister made a statement that adequate foodgrains had been produced in our country. Despite it, wheat was purchased from America and the price paid was Rs. 174 per quintal and its freight was Rs. 80 per quintal and thus it cost Rs. 274 per quintal in India. But we did not pay to our farmers more than Rs. 130 per quintal. At that time the rate of cotton was Rs. 500 per quintal, yet cotton was purchased from abroad. It was purchased at the rate of Rs. one thousand per quintal from Pakistan whereas the Indian farmers were paid at the rate of Rs 500 per quintal for the cotton purchased from them. Hence, why should the India farmers increase the production of foodgrains and cotton? If they are not given a fair price for their produce, why will they increase the production? Keeping all this in view, I am giving you an example of 1980-81, because at that time also we were deficient in sugar and even then sugar was exported. We purchased sugar from London at a higher price while it was available at cheaper rate from Thailand. Although there was shortage of groundnut and edible oils in the country, yet groundnut was exported to America and then we imported groundnut oil and rape seed oil.

I fail to understand the logic behind this game of the Congress Governments. The articles which are in shortage in our country are exported abroad, and then we go in for purchase of those very articles from abroad. It makes it clear that payment of commission is involved in the transactions for sale and purchase, of that is the reason being first exporting an item and then importing the same into the country. If this policy continues, it will create frustration and despair among the farmers.

I recall the days of 1951-52 when our leader Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and

Sardar Ballabh Bhai Patel had asked to give priority to agriculture. Had we given that priority to agriculture since 1951-52, the plight of farmers and poor of the country would not have reached the present stage and they would have got maximum benefit.

15.19 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

If we look at the agriculture policy of the country, we will find that average percentages of irrigation is different in different States. We can't supply water to farmers of every State, equally. I would like to submit that during 1986-87, the percentage of irrigation vis-a-vis production of foodgrains was 92.1 percent in Punjab, 16.5 in Madhya Pradesh, 48 percent in Tamil Nadu, 17.5 percent in Karnataka, 19.9 percent in Gujarat, 21.8 percent in Rajasthan, 67.9 percent in Haryana and 45 percent in Andhra Pradesh. The different percentage of irrigation in different States causes discontentment among States. The irrigation percentage is the maximum in Punjab and Haryana but still there is a river water dispute between the two states. You are also aware of the Cauvery water dispute between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It is also the cause of discontentment there. Since irrigation percentage is only 16 percent in Madhya Pradesh so there should be more discontentment there. We try to solve river water disputes through Inter-State Tribunals but these disputes become more complicated. All the awards given by tribunals relating to Godavari, Krishna and Narmada took 8-10 years but they became more complicated. The dispute has begun on Interim-order of Cauveri Tribunal. It is before us. The Central Government will not take keen interest to solve these matters until we pay attention towards it.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this regard, I would like to suggest that all the rivers should

be nationalised. Rivers should be considered as a national asset and much water should be allocated to the States where irrigation percentage is less. The principle of lower riparian should be abolished and water should be distributed to all States equally so that irrigation percentage is equal in all the States.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today the irrigation percentage of whole of the country is 32.7 and 70 percent foodgrains are produced with only 30 percent irrigation. The alarming rate of population growth will touch the mark of 100 crores at the end of this century and the mark of 160-170 crores till 2024. We will have to initiate efforts now to ensure that foodgrains are available to the people at that time. What are you planning in this regard? Today, the population is increasing continuously and you have failed to check it. Keeping in view the situation, if we don't increase the production of foodgrains, we would be faced with a great difficulty in future.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards one thing particularly to dry farming. Today we are spending crores of rupees on dry land farming. But it is not going to benefit us much. How long we would depend on dry farming. Until and unless you make arrangement for providing water, agricultural sector would not be benefited. In this connection, I would like to quote an example of Madhya Pradesh. Narmada river is the most pious river of Madhya Pradesh. According to the award of Narmada Tribunal, Narmada Sagar Dam was to be cleared. But the matter has been pending in Central Water Commission, Delhi for 3-4 years. Bureaucrats are sleeping over it. Time and again one or two questions are asked and it takes years to get the reply. Four years ago, the cost of the Dam was estimated Rs. 900 crores which has now been escalated to Rs 1500 crores and it would become Rs 2000 crores after some-

time. In this way, Madhya Pradesh has suffered double loss. On the one hand, the cost of the Dam has been increasing and on the other hand, Madhya Pradesh have been deprived of the benefits of this dam. Would we hold officers or Ministers responsible for it? Because of whom the matter was delayed? Would we hold Tribunal responsible which could not dispose of the matter in time. No agreement has so far been signed till now regarding financial assistance to be provided by the World Bank for the construction of Narmada Sagar Dam. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is approaching Prime Minister time and again, we are also making requests to the Central Government again and again to make available the financial assistance from the World Bank, for the purpose. 157 crores of rupees should be allocated to the Government of Madhya Pradesh from the Eighth Five Year Plan until the assistance is received. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has made a demand in this regard. Only then the construction of Narmada Sagar Dam would be possible. After constructing the Narmada Sagar Dam would be possible. After constructing the Narmada Sagar Dam, 450 lakh acres of land would be brought under irrigation in my Constituency alone and 2 lakh acres of land would be irrigated in its adjoining Dhar District. It is such a comprehensive plan that the Central Government should take interest in it and allocate more funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, similarly, Maheshwar Project falls under Khargon District. It is a plan of Rs. 467 crores and 400 MG electricity would be generated from it. C.W.C., C.E.A. have already given their approvals to it. But the Department of Environment has not yet cleared it. That is why the matter is pending and this project could not be started. All the queries have been replied to by the Government of Madhya Pradesh. The cost of Onkeshwar Project is of Rs. 788 crores and 520 M.G. electricity would be generated from it. The clearance

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from the Ministry of Environment and Forests is also awaited and the matter is lying pending. I would like to urge that the Department of Agriculture should take keen interest. I would like to request the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture to make coordination among the Environment and Forests, Finance and other Ministries which keep the matter pending. The coordination work should be done by the Agricultural Department because agriculture department is responsible for the welfare of the farmers which is only possible if there is adequate irrigation facility available for which dams are required to be built. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has sent 51 projects to the Central Government. These projects are lying pending because of not getting the clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Ten, fifty and even one hundred acre of land at different places has submerged—(Interruptions).... It should be cleared by the Central Government. In 1980, an amendment was made with drawing all the powers of State Government. If ten acres of land submerge, we have to obtain the clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The clearance is not given that is why 51 projects of Madhya Pradesh are lying pending. There is one project in my district under which a dam was to be constructed. It was started prior to 1980. Sixty lakh rupees have already been spent. An act was enacted during 1980. Now it requires permission. No permission has yet been given. There are several projects of Madhya Pradesh which aim at supplying electricity to rural areas. Poles were to be erected on the land of Department of Forests. But the Central Government does not give permission. It has been mentioned in the record that it is the forest land. But there are no forest on this land. Permission is not granted on the pretext that land will come under submission. Permission should be granted to this effect at the earliest by the Department of Forests.

There has been indiscriminate felling of trees through out the country and the percentage of rainfall is decreasing. Wells and tubewells have been dug in many areas but there the water level has gone down. We have no way to raise the water level. We depend on nature. Even today, the rain water goes waste to the sea but we are unable to check it. There is a well-recharging system for it. Special Application Centre, Ahmedabad and Technical Institute-Indore have prepared ambitious projects. A technique has been develop under which rain water goes back to wells with the method of recharging wells and tubewells. Rain water can be sent down to the ground and the water level can be raised.

[English]

Exploration on Recharge to the ground water aquifer by percolation bores and wells. ▶

[Translation]

Our scientists of Indore Agriculture College have implemented this scheme properly. I am also a farmer. I myself have experienced the recharging of water in my well. The said well used to dry up during summer. If recharging is done during rainy season, there would be water in the wells for a period of four hours. If recharging method is adopted the country would be benefited a lot. The project which the Government of Madhya Pradesh intends to implement, should be implemented through out the country. Only then, we would be able to raise the water level which is going down constantly. I demand that powers should be given to the States under the Forests Conservation Act so that small projects could be cleared at the level of State Government, otherwise these projects will remain pending with the Central Government for years together. We should avoid pendency.

Pilot Crop Insurance Scheme was intro-

duced for farmers during the regime of Janata Party in 1978. It is incomplete because it was introduced only in some selected blocks. This Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced only in the areas where adequate irrigation facilities were available.

How will the farmers be benefited by that? I would like to submit that in areas where there is scanty rainfall farmers should be covered under Crop Insurance Scheme. Unless the farmers are covered individually the purpose would not be served. Once wheat was ready in the fields and the area suddenly experienced hailstorm. The insurance amount was calculated on the basis of the land holdings and the total crop production. If a farmer had 5-10 acres of land and his entire crop was ruined he got a meagre amount of Rs. 1000 only. Unless the system is changed and crop insurance is done on individual basis and the areas where there is scanty rainfall is also covered, it will not serve any purpose. Similarly, unless insurance cover is provided for pulses and oil seeds, the production of these crops cannot increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to suggest that the premium of the Insurance cover for crops of the farmers should be paid by the Government as is done in Japan.....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Member may continue his speech on the next occasion.

The house shall now take up the Private Member's Business. Introduction of Bills.

15.31 hrs.

HIGH COURT OF ORISSA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT SAMBALPUR) BILL*

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): I beg to move for leave to introduce a

Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Orissa at Sambalpur.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Orissa at Sambalpur."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I introduce the Bill.

15.31 1/2 hrs.

THE CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of New Articles 23A, 23B and 23C)

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

MARRIED WOMEN (PROTECTION OF RIGHTS) BILL*

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to protect the rights of married women and for matters connected therewith.