

water and the lack of awareness programmes amongst the general public are all responsible for the present situation. In my State, Karnataka, this year, the evergreen Malanadu region is facing an acute shortfall of rain, and this has resulted in a severe drinking water problem. Most of the districts have already been affected by the bad monsoon and the lack of underground water, thus severely affecting the people. The condition of farmers is unexplainable. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to initiate more awareness programmes on environment protection and protection of natural resources, such as water, air, etc., against pollution, which should reach the common man across the country. The children of today are the future of our country tomorrow. Let us hope that steps taken now in this direction would prove a blessing for their better future.

Distress sale of paddy in Orissa

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR (Orissa): Madam, distress sale of various products by farmers in many parts of the country this year has created havoc, and the farmers have been the worst sufferers. Since there have been no takers for paddy, particularly in parts of Baragarh, Sonepur and Sambalpur Districts of Orissa, which come under the Hirakud Command Area, the farmers are forced to sell their paddy at much below the Minimum Support Price fixed by the Union Government. Madam, Orissa's economy is primarily based on agriculture, and paddy is the major source of income for the farmers. The distress sale has broken the backbone of our farmers. The performance of the FCI, which is mainly responsible for procurement of foodgrains at the minimum support price, has been very discouraging. On the pretext of shortage of storage facility, etc., the FCI did not make timely procurement, as per the target fixed by the State Government. The decision of the Union Government to dispatch surplus paddy from other States to Orissa for storage purposes, has also aggravated the situation.

Keeping in view the experience of the current year, I would urge upon the Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs to initiate necessary measures, including the creation of additional storage facilities, to prevent such occurrences in the coming procurement season, or else, the farmers of Orissa will have no other way left but to commit suicide, as has been happening in States like Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI B. J. PANDA (Orissa): I associate myself with what the hon. Member has stated.

SHRI BIRABHADRA SINGH (Orissa): I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

**Demand for Permanent Bench of Supreme Court
at Hyderabad**

DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, in a democratic polity like ours, rule of law is the basic requirement and, for that purpose, we have an independent and impartial judiciary. It is equally important that all the citizens should be able to redress their grievances against the State and others, from such independent judiciary. The Preamble of our Constitution promises justice to all citizens. In our judicial system, the Supreme Court is the apex court for dispensation of justice.

However, New Delhi is the seat of Supreme Court, as per article 130 of the Constitution. This article also provides that the Supreme Court shall sit at such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, decide. This shows that the founding fathers of our Constitution had desired that the Supreme Court should also sit at places other than New Delhi.

Madam, the Southern States are very far from Delhi, and an ordinary, poor, litigant from the South cannot even think of fighting his case in Delhi. Hence, there has been a demand from Andhra Pradesh for a very long time for the setting up of a Bench of the Supreme Court there. For this, the most ideal place is Hyderabad. The advocates there had observed 25th January this year as the Protest Day, demanding the establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court at Hyderabad.

Madam, in view of the strong popular demand, and also in view of the desire of the founding-fathers of our Constitution, I demand that a permanent Bench of the Supreme Court should be established at Hyderabad, without further loss of time.

SHRI C. P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU (Pondicherry): Madam, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Madam, I also associate myself with what he has stated