

The House then adjourned for lunch at thirty minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock, (The Vice-Chairman Miss Saroj Khaparde) in the Chair,

#### SPECIAL MENTIONS—contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We will continue with Special Mentions. Shri S. S. Surjewala.

#### Overbetting price and high maintenance cost of tractors

SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA (Haryana): Madam Vice-Chairman, I wanted to draw the attention of this House towards a very important problem being faced by the farmers with regard to tractors in the country, particularly of Northern India. Tractors which at one time had become a symbol of the Green Revolution in the North Indian States of Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan is no longer considered a friend of the farmers and is increasingly becoming a white elephant. It is estimated that there are more than 5,00,000 tractors in the State of Punjab and Haryana. The fact that small and lower middle class farmers are abandoning the tractors for various reasons is not only a matter of anxiety but it also reflects the helplessness of the poor peasantry. The exorbitant price of tractors being charged by the manufacturers is amounting to a loot and the high maintenance cost of these machines is forcing farmers to adopt the age-old system of using bullocks and camels for ploughing their lands and means of transportation.

The nationalised banks which were supposed to improve the living standards of the farming community has exploited the general illiteracy prevailing among the small and middle farmers. The banks lured farmers into obtaining loans at high rate of interest and in

return mortgaging their small land holdings. Unaware of the compound interest rates and a large number of recovery suits filed in the civil courts by these banks, which led to the attachment and sale of their land, the farmers fell cheated at the hands of the banks.

A sharp increase in the cost of agriculture inputs, high maintenance cost of tractors, bank disputes and spurious diesel and lubricants are causing a heavy damage to the engines of the tractors. These things are forcing the farmers in the Northern States to abandon their tractors.

Unless and until the State Governments and the Union Government come to the rescue of the farmers and find a solution to the various problems this is going to cause a serious set-back to the food production programme in our country and will also reduce the size of the peasantry which helped the country in producing surplus foodgrains. They will also be forced to degradation. Thank you.

श्री इकबाल सिंह (पंजाब) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं भी इसके साथ एक्सोसियेट करता हूँ। यह देखा गया है कि बैंक इतना ब्याज ले रहे हैं और इतना तक कर रहे हैं और खास कर के पंजाब में मैंने देखा है कि मेंटेनेंस करना फार्मर के लिए इतना कास्टली हो चुका है। इस लिए सड़ल को जरूर इसका ध्यान रखना चाहिये ताकि इसको सांख्य किया जा सके।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खानडे) : धन्यवाद।

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS) 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1994-95.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, we shall take up further discussion on the G.O.