

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

Nanded Jagdalpur 660 kms, Ratnagiri-Solapur-Nagpur 807 kms, Western Coastal Highway 704 kms., Surat-Dhule 127 kms., Indore-Amravati-Yeotmal-Chanderpore 597 kms., Aurangabad-Nanded-Hyderabad 351 kms., Aurangabad-Ajantha-Edlabad-Barhanpur 201 kms., Betul-Nagpur-Chanderpore-Pattaguddam 408 kms., Amravati-Pandhurna 96 kms., Mangalwadha-Jat-Belgaum 86 kms. The total length of the State Highways is 4679 kms. As the Government of Maharashtra has sent a proposal to the Union Surface Transport Minister and the Planning Commission that these State Highways are very important and the Union Minister for Surface Transport has also agreed that this will be included in the Eighth Five Year Plan, I would request the hon. Minister for Surface Transport and the Finance Minister through you Madam, to include them in the Eighth Five Year Plan for declaring them as National Highways. Madam, the Eighth Five Year Plan is in the stage of formulation and therefore, action must be taken in this regard.

Madam, the Parliament has passed a modified resolution on 13th May, 1985. Accordingly the State Government is to get 5 per cent amount of the total sale of petrol and diesel which is to be credited under Central road fund. It has to be utilized for road development as per the guidelines laid down by the Central Government. Consequently, the Maharashtra Government has to get a sum of Rs. 40 crores every year through this source. This amount also is not made available in spite of repeated requests from the State PWD Minister and the Chief Minister.

It has also been learnt that the World Bank has given financial assistance for the development of the Aurangabad-Nirmal road which goes via Nanded, which is my home town. But the road is diverted from Mantha which is 125 kilometres away from Aurangabad towards Vidarbha and the amount utilized there. Aurangabad and Nanded are two big cities in Marathwada, distance between which is 265 kilometres. So the World Bank fund should be entirely

utilized for the development of the Aurangabad-Nanded-Nirmal road without any short circuits for the diversion of funds.

Madam, Maharashtra is a very progressive State but my region in Maharashtra, the Marathwada region, is as backward as Bihar and other backward regions of Uttar Pradesh. So it is very essential that the Surface Transport Ministry should declare these very important State highways as National Highways and give sufficient funds in the Eighth Five-Year Plan.

Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Dr. Sivaji.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH (Bihar): Is my name there, Madam?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): I called your name but you were not there. At the end again I will call your name.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: No possibility in between?

.... (Interruptions)

Growing Stocks of Unsold Cotton Lying with Cotton Growers of Andhra Pradesh

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, about 2½ lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton valued at more than Rs. 200 crores are stagnating with the growers in Guntur and Prakasam districts of Andhra Pradesh, thanks to the Cotton Advisory Board's strange action of effecting changes in the supply and demand estimates. It is done with the connivance of the textile industry at the cost of the growers. Due to these unwarranted alterations in the estimates, the price of cotton has dropped from Rs. 1,600 to Rs. 800 per quintal. The original estimate of this year's production was 130 lakh bales, the carry-over stock is 22.2 lakh bales and the demand is about 117.5 lakh bales, both mill and non-mill consumption. This estimate was of August 1991. On 25th November 1991, in this

very House the hon. Minister had assured that there would be no import of cotton into this country, but it is strange that by 13th January 1992 the Ministry of Textiles approached the Ministry of Finance to allot necessary funds in foreign exchange to import 10 lakh bales of cotton, stating that the production went down and consumption went up. But the figures reveal that the cost of the cotton imported from Pakistan, for which contracts were made, was at the rate of Rs. 52.85 per kg. whereas the cost of the same cotton in this country was only Rs. 33.89 per kg. So, at that point of time I gave a telex to the Prime Minister from my place and requested for his intervention to see that the necessary funds were not allotted for the import of cotton under Open General Licence. The Prime Minister was good enough to instruct the Textiles Ministry to see that the cotton was not imported at the time of picking so that it may not give a psychological feeling to the farmer to part with his produce for a song. But unfortunately the Cotton Advisory Board, during January 1992, was again at it and stated that the import of cotton was warranted in view of the changed circumstances. Ultimately the mill sector—the textile industry—prevailed upon the textiles Ministry. They cooked up the figures: they reduced the production to 120 lakh bales and enhanced the figure of consumption to 118 lakh bales.

Madam, during the last year the import of cotton was nil, and at the same time there was export of cotton to the tune of 13 lakh bales. During the year before last, the exports of cotton were down to 15 lakh bales. But this year, acting on the wishes and fancies of the Textile Ministry, the export of cotton has been banned. Thereby, the textile industry is happy, and they feel that they need not have any inventory for their mill consumption. So, they reduced their inventories from 3 months to 15 days, and thereby they feel that it is beneficial to the textile industry to use the farmers' houses as well as the farmers' sheds and the farmers' premises as godowns. So, they are not interested to purchase cotton from the growers. On the other hand, the mill sec-

tor also claims that there is 25 per cent. interest rate. To save the interest, they found it convenient not to purchase cotton at all. The Cotton Corporation of India has purchased only 45,000 bales of cotton from Andhra Pradesh, and they say that unless there are some pucca orders from the National Textile Corporation or some export orders, they are not ready to purchase cotton at all from Andhra Pradesh, contrary to their purchases in Punjab where they purchased more than 2 lakh bales of cotton despite the fact that there are no exports or orders from the National Textile Corporation. So, in this regard, I would appeal to the Government to order or direct the Cotton Corporation to liquidate at least 1 lakh bales of cotton from the Guntur and the Prakasam Districts.

The second aspect I would like to add is that the market cess is collected by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. More than Rs. 180 crores is lying in the Treasury of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, unspent, for the development of marketing. Every year the Government is collecting more than Rs. 50 crores of market cess from the farmers. So, I would like to advise the Government to earmark some funds from the market cess so collected from the cotton-growing area, earmark at least Rs. 20 crores for the seed capital to float a Cotton Corporation of Andhra Pradesh and to arrange another Rs. 40 crores from the nationalised banks for purchase operations for purchases from the cotton growers directly to liquidate the stocks. Unless this is done, I am very much afraid of what will happen. About four, five years back the cotton growers were thrown to the corner, and they had to commit suicide. More than 100 cotton growers committed suicide both in the Prakasam and the Guntur Districts. I am very much afraid that this may recur again if some corrective measures are not taken by the Government.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I associate myself with what my friend ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Your association will be recorded.

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM : Just one point I would like to make, Madam. The point is that the Government of India has already declared that they are going to import 10 lakh bales of cotton into the country. Because of that announcement only this price of cotton has gone down by half. Therefore, the textile lobby is working overtime with the Ministry of Commerce and trying to manipulate the local prices, the indigenous prices to be paid to cotton growers or other growers. Therefore, what I demand through you, Madam, is that the Government of India should immediately announce that they are going to review the import policy on cotton in view of the situation developing in various parts of the country.

Thank you.

Need to Implement Sone River Project in Bihar

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, सोन नदी पर एक कदवन जलाशय परियोजना के लिए बिहार सरकार की ओर से बहुत पहले से प्रस्ताव आ रहा था। उसको 1989 में दिल्ली सरकार ने स्वीकार कर लिया और उस की नींव भी पड़ गई। कदवन जलाशय परियोजना का हथ्र यह है कि नींव पड़ने के बाद उसमें एक खोंची मिट्टी नहीं पड़ी। न उस पर एक पंसा कहीं से आवंटित हुआ। बिहार सरकार की तो स्थिति ऐसी नहीं है कि वह इस पर रुपया लगाये और भारत सरकार जो दे सकती है वह भी चाहती है कि बिहार को भूखों मारे। महोदया, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कदवन जलाशय परियोजना अगर नहीं बनी और बाणसागर डैम तैयार हो गया, जो तैयार होने वाला है एक दो साल के अंदर तो बिहार के 10 जिले जो बाउल आफ राईस कहे जाते थे जो अन्न भंडार कहे जाते थे वे मरुभूमि बन जायेंगे। बिहार के साथ जितना जुलूम हुआ है उसका एक नमूना रिहन्द डैम है। रिहन्द डैम से हमको एक मैगावाट बिजली नहीं मिली। तीन सौ की तीन सौ मैगावाट बिजली उत्तर प्रदेश को दे दी गयी। 18 हजार क्यूसेक

पानी जो बिहार को मिलने वाला था वह भी अब नहीं मिलता हमें 9.5 या 6 हजार कभी-कभी मिलता है और हमारी फसलें मारी जा रही हैं। समझौते में था कि पानी तो मिलेगा 18 हजार क्यूसेक फीट बिहार को और बिजली मिलेगी 300 मैगावाट उत्तर प्रदेश को। लेकिन आज परिणाम यह है कि 300 की 300 मैगावाट बिजली जाती है उत्तर प्रदेश को उत्तर प्रदेश से बिजली आ जाती है बंडीगढ़ दिल्ली लेकिन बिहार में नहीं जाती है। वह पानी जो 18 हजार क्यूसेक फीट था वह भी सिंगरौली के बिजली उत्पादन केन्द्र के लिए चला जाता है। हमारी फसलें मारी जा रही हैं। बाणसागर डैम से जो पानी आने वाला था अगर यह बन जाएगा, पूरा का पूरा तैयार हो जाएगा तो मध्यप्रदेश पानी उधर रोक लेगा यहाँ हम भूखे मरने लगेंगे। भोजपुर, रोहतास, धनुषा, बक्सर, औरंगाबाद, पटना, गया, नवादा ये जो जिले हैं ये सब के सब मरुभूमि बन जायेंगे। इनको मरुभूमि बनने से बचाने के लिए यह हुआ कि सोन नदी पर एक नया बांध लगाया जाए कदवन की जगह पलामू जिले में, फिर पानी को रोककर नया एक भंडार तैयार किया जाए। इस भंडार से साढ़े चार सौ मैगावाट पन बिजली और 27 हजार क्यूसेक फीट पानी तैयार हो सकता था यह बीच का रास्ता निकाला गया। दिल्ली सरकार अपनी जवाबदेही समझती नहीं है और बिहार को भूखों मारने पर उतारू है। ये दो बांध बाणसागर और रिहन्द बनने के बाद जो स्थिति हमारी बिगड़ी थी उसको सुधारने के लिए कदवन जलाशय परियोजना की परिकल्पना की गयी थी और उसको मंजूरी मिली थी। उस पर काम शुरू हो गया है लेकिन दिल्ली सरकार इसमें झुकी खामोश है। मैं आपको क्या बताऊँ। अगर यह परियोजना पूरी नहीं हुई तो हमारे 9 जिले मरुभूमि हो जायेंगे। इतको कोई बचा ही नहीं सकता है। महोदया, मैं आपको एक और उदाहरण दूँ। सोन नहर है एक। हिंदुस्तान की सबसे पुरानी नहर, 110 साल पुरानी नहर है (समय की बंडी) जिस समय देश की किसी कोने