

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

SHBI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice. Chairman Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Agriculture Ministry. Sir, I have an inherent interest in a griculture... (*Interruption*) ... because not only I am an M.Sc. in agriculture but for generations our people have been engaged in agriculture, including myself. And I know what is the condition of agriculturists of this country.

Sir, I would like to start from the famous sentence of our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi —

—कि अगर मुझे पुनर्जन्म मिलेगा तो मैं ईश्वर से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वे रोटी के माध्यम से हो, जिससे मैं गरीब, भूखे-प्यासे लोगों की भूख मिटा पाऊंगा ।

because Mahatma Gandhi has realised in the very beginning the importance of agriculture and agriculturists.

Sir, basically India is an agricultural country. When we compare India with other countries, our entire economy is not only dependent but is related to the development of agriculture. In the case of other countries, some countries are economically dependent on industry, some countries on mines and some countries on tourism or something else. But, India, for generations together is having a very fertile land. We have got the natural boon in this country. One of the scientists has said that the country which has got a bright sunlight, the country which has got good soil, the country which has got a large ocean, that country is definitely the most fortunate" country of the world and that is India.

Sir, I would like to start my speech by giving my hearty congratulations

to our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi who has said yesterday in Kanpur that our planning process should be changed and that planning should be started from the block level and the district level. And I have been stressing in this House that at our planning process should be changed. In this connection, I will also give later the figures of how much we are spending in the rural areas and how much we are spending on agriculture. But now that process has been started, that thought has been imparted, and our leaders have realised that we must now turn towards agriculture first. No culture on the earth can exist without the support of agriculture. If there is no agriculture, there will be no culture. So, Sir agriculture is the basic need of not only a human being but for India it is a priority. So, for that point of view, though I appreciate the working of the Agriculture Ministry under the eminent leadership of hon. Shri Bhajan Lal who is a very skillful politician who wants to lead agricultural India towards the 21st century... (*Interruption*)... surely, he is an agriculturist, and I would like to say that if you want to take a modern India, a strong India into the 21st century, we have to give the first priority to agriculture. So, Sir, from that point of view, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that there was the Tata Consultative Services Committee which conducted one survey through its experts, a survey by the Bombay Chambers of Commerce. They have selected Andhra, Gujarat and Maharashtra. This report has been submitted before the Members of Parliament and the Agriculture Ministry. The feeling of the urban people is that agriculturists do not make proper investments. Unfortunately, nobody knows what happened to that report, what are its recommendations and what action the Government has taken on that report. It was a fundamental report on agriculture and agriculturists. I

would like to ask the hon. Minister at least to go through that report and implement some of the recommendations of that report though I may agree or disagree with the report. And I am very much doubtful about the Tatas because they are industry-oriented and I don't think they could make a proper report. But, of course, I believe in the integrity of the knowledge of these people. And, that is why I request, through you, Sir, the Minister that you please give, effect to some of the recommendations contained in the report. Sir, when we look at agricultural development, the main stress of agricultural development is on food production. Today India has taken a quantum jump in respect of food production. I know that Mr. B. Satyanarayan Reddy is laughing without knowing anything. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): As a matter of fact I want that agriculture should be more developed in the country. I am happy...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: If he is happy, I am more happy and I take back my words. Even then, Mr. Reddy, I will give you some good material. Because though we have taken a quantum jump in agriculture but in the world wheat production where are we? That is my question. Unless we get the maximum yield per acre or per hectare in respect of the different crops that are grown in our country, we cannot compete with the developed countries of the world, be they industrially developed or agriculturally developed. In respect of wheat the per hectare yield we have got is 148 kgs. while as Denmark has 7095 kgs. Ireland has 7291 kgs., The Netherlands has 6773 kgs. This is their per hectare yield. And our per hectare yield of wheat, which is a very important crop that we are producing, I think it is seven or eight times more wheat than what

we were producing at the time of Independence. Even though the per hectare yield has gone up, it is not much as compared to other countries of the world. Take the example of rice. India produces 2025 kgs. of rice per hectare. Japan and China produce 6,000 kgs. per hectare. As the time of our independence 70 per cent of our population depended on agriculture. Today also the same percentage is dependent on agriculture. Now, let us have a look at farmers' practices versus improved technologies. When I talk of technologies, let us have a look at the ICAR reports. What difference has the improved technology brought about? The yield by farmers' practices is 5 quintals per hectare and by improved technologies it is 25 quintals per hectare. Take the case of wheat. It is 10 quintals per hectare rain-fed and for irrigated it is 20 quintals and improved technology it is 48 quintals per hectare. You will see that even after adopting the improved technologies given to us by our ICAR scientists it does not match the yield of the other countries of the world which is more than, 7000 kgs. per hectare.

Sir, I think we must basically do something with what technology we are adopting. We must have a detailed survey done by our scientists and see what technologies they are offering us. If the technology given to us by our scientists is such that it is not comparable with the technologies of the other countries of the world, which cannot produce better yield, or average yield which can be, compared with the other countries of the world, then our technology must be appropriately scrutinised and we must see what technology should be applied by us. That is also an important question. This does not apply to wheat only. I am giving you the example of wheat because I have the figures of wheat and rice only. The same thing applies to sorghum where it is 5 quintals by

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

farmers' practices and 25 quintals by-improved technology. In respect of maize it is 7 quintals and improved technology 37 quintals. In respect of soyabean ordinarily 10 quintals and improved technology it is 25 quintals. The same thing applies to moong, urad and other crops. If by adopting the improved technologies given to us by our scientists we can get 48 quintals against 20 quintals ordinarily, you" can appreciate that if we adopt the improved technologies of the other countries instead of 43 million tonnes of wheat, we can very easily produce hundred million tonnes of wheat. I am giving your data. I am not giving anything of my own. at.

Sir, in watershed management and crop yield in Phulbani, Orissa, they have conducted one survey. Technology today is very important for us; no country can progress without improved technology. It has added to our yield. But still it has got much bigger role to play. It has helped in developing our irrigation system to cover area three times more than what it was in 1950-51. We have today 67 million hectare under irrigation. Fertilizer production was only 60 thousand tonnes and today it is more than 8 lakh tonnes. Our consumption of fertilizer has increased. But much more is still to be done.

Coming to transfer of technology, ICAR and our other agricultural universities are doing a lot. They have various project on hand like transfer of technology project, national demonstration projects, agricultural research projects, all with the aim of getting the highest yield in all crops and in different regions. I appreciate this effort and I congratulate our scientists. They have shown that they can deliver the goods. I was agricultural scientist before 1970,

and I can very well appreciate whatever is being done by our scientists today. But unfortunately, whatever technology is being developed, it has not reached our faring and our farmers. Whatever technology is developed in our laboratories must be taken advantage of by our farmers; it must go to the farmers; otherwise this has no meaning and this has no value. From that point of view, I would request the hon. Minister, through you, that it must be seen that whatever technology is developed by the ICAR and by our other agricultural universities, must be made available to the farmers. We are proud of the working of the Ministry of Agriculture. In 1950, there was not a single agricultural university in the country. Today there are about 26 agricultural universities. Only yesterday, our Prime Minister inaugurated the horticultural university. It is the second of its kind in the world. It is very much related to environment, to which I will come later. If environment is not maintained, agriculture cannot exist, because there is a correlation between these two. Agriculture is very much dependent upon nature and if we destroy nature, if we cut down trees, where from will we get water? We cannot get it from outside. It has to come to us from our own forests, and it is a continuous process. The principle of nature is such that nothing is destroyed; it remains in some form or the other.

We have our very important crops like wheat, rice, groundnut, millet, sesame, and our yield per hectare today has gone up due to introduction of modern technology. In case of rice, the highest yield today is 92 quintals per hectare in Goa; in case of wheat, in Ajmer Rajasthan, the highest yield is 60 quintals per hectare; in groundnut, the yield is 49 quintals per hectare; in case of millets, the yield is 39 quintals per hectare.

tare in Ajmer, Rajasthan; in case of Sesame, the highest yield is 7 quintals per hectare. In mustard in Ajmer, Rajasthan, the yield is 25 quintals. Then about changes in the household income of the farmers as per operational research project in Thane, Raigarh district of Maharashtra, the income of a farmer in 1978-79 was Rs. 3667 and today by introduction of this modern technology, the income of the farmer has gone up to Rs. 10,283. I congratulate our scientists and the Ministry of Agriculture and the administrators who have taken a lot of interest. But all this is not enough. It is not a question of improving the lot of one farmer or farmers of a particular region; it is the question of the farmer community as a whole in the entire country. We have to see that whatever technology is developed in our laboratories, it must go to the fields and the farmers must be taught about it. We have sufficient manpower. We have sufficient technological manpower. If we use them properly, if we manage them properly, I do not think there should be any difficulty in bringing about improved technologies in agriculture.

Sir, our Government has done many things for the farmers in the last two or three years. Specially, this year's Budget is a farmers' Budget. It is an agricultural Budget. Government also introduced the Crop Insurance Scheme some two or three years ago. This scheme is working well. Of course, there are some complaints. In a scheme of such a nature, there are bound to be complaints. In this connection, I would like to request the Minister, through you, that the scheme should be largely implemented in the dry zones, in the dryfarming areas because it is the people in such areas who need it more. Drought-prone and famine-prone areas have been identified in our country. We should

lay special stress on the implementation of this scheme in these areas.

Now, Sir, about remunerative prices to the farmers I have raised this point many times in the House. In 1970-71, the price of hybrid jowar and hybrid sorghum grown in Maharashtra was Rs. 70 per quintal. Today, the price given by the Government is Rs. 135-140 per quintal and in the market, the price is Rs. 150-160 per quintal. This means, on the one side, the price is more than 480-490 per cent. on the other side, the price which we are giving to the farmers is just 200 per cent. more. If this is the difference between the price rise and the price we are giving to the farmers, it means there is something wrong somewhere. There are some lacunae. I know, the hon. Minister, who is very dynamic, will take some steps in this regard. The essential thing which should be done is to declare agriculture as an industry. While the industrialists are free to increase the prices of their products, the agriculturists are not. This one step of treating agriculture as an industry will solve the problem of poverty; not only that; it will solve the problems of the entire nation because our main thrust is on agriculture.

Sir, in 1977-78 some groundnut projects were taken up in my area. Some incentives were provided to the farmers. As a result, the farmer who was producing just three quintals of groundnut per acre started producing 20-22 quintals of groundnut per acre. This shows that if the farmers are assured that they will get adequate return for their crop, they will work hard. I would like to tell you, in this connection, that some of the big farmers in my area were able to get a return of Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1,50,000. Later on, such incentives were not given and the momentum has been lost. This is relevant today as we have a shortfall in oilseeds production from the

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

point of view of demand and supply. Therefore, it is very essential that we should do something.

Sir, I am proud to say that the fertiliser consumption which was 69,000 tonnes in 1952 has gone up to 9.1 lakh tonnes now. Credit to the agricultural sector which was Rs. 24 crores in 1952 is Rs. 7,203 crores today. Area under irrigation has increased from 23 million hectares to 73 million hectares. Flow of cooperative credit increased from Rs. 24 crores to Rs. 4,344 crores. Above all, the foodgrains production which was 51 million tonnes in 1952 has gone up to 151 million tonnes in 1987. Here, Sir I would like to ask a specific question. What is the amount of total deposits in the banks? I was going through the report of the Reserve Bank of India. The amount of total deposits at the end of July, 1987, was Rs. 1,07,000 crores. Out of this, how much has been given to the farmers, how much finance has been given to the farmers? Only Rs. 7,203 crores. This is a meagre 7 per cent though the farmers of this country have contributed a lot to the country, have saved the nation and have given a tremendous boost to agricultural production. Farmers who constitute 70 per cent of the population have been given just 7 per cent of the total finance available for credit. If a farmer or an agriculturist goes to the bank, the bank people are already having a prejudiced attitude towards him. Unless the standard or the status of an agriculturist is raised by adopting various methods and systems of economic development, the banker or other financial institutions will not pay proper attention to his requirements.

Sir, I am very happy to say that our target this year, that is 1988-89, is 166 million tonnes and nothing is impossible. The hon. Minister after

taking over the charge of agriculture declared that in one year he could give 10 lakh tubewells to the farmers, if that so, additional 10 lakh hectares of land will come under irrigation and definitely additional 16 million tonnes of foodgrains will be there. The hon. Minister is very practical in his working. I really congratulate him, through this House, and I wish that such a practical attitude is adopted towards farmers.

I would like to put several questions to hon. Bhajan Lalji. The first is that you must be more dynamic. You must take all the farmers of the nation and give them a lead in agriculture. I will tell you, we are having 62 million hectares of land under foodgrains cultivation but we are producing just 151 million tonnes, or 166 million tonnes of foodgrains in 1988-89. On the contrary, China is having 32 million hectares of land under food cultivation but they are producing 400 million tonnes of foodgrains. Their average yield is much more higher. I do not say that we should have a quantum jump to the level of the USA or other developed countries, we should at least have 400 million tonnes of various crops per year. How can it be done? I know the management of agriculture is very difficult. As one cannot predict what is going to happen in the nature, in the same way in agriculture also you cannot predict what is going to happen. However, there can be improvement in agriculture by the transfer of technology. What transfer of technology should be there, that is very important to be understood. There are various aspects, the transfer of technology, lab to land movement, nutrition management, wheat control, water management, plant protection, agriculture implements and equipment, post harvest technology, horticulture and live stock management.

Sir, When Panditji was the Prime Minister, he had determined that till the country became self-reliant in its food requirement it would not get its honour or self-respect. This is what Panditji stated. Our entire population should be fed by our own farm produce and today I agree that our entire population is being fed by our 6w_n agricultural produce. But that is not enough. When we are thinking of entering into the 21st century, our food production should be much higher. Today our population is 78 crores, and by 2000 AD, it will be 100 crores. The population rate is growing very fast and we have to prepare ourselves for that. In 1951 our per capita holding was .33 hectares. Today it is .20 hectares and by 2000 AD it is expected to be .15 hectares. India has 15 per cent of the world population and 2.5 per cent of the entire world agricultural land.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Five minutes more. I am giving you half an hour.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): He is giving statistical information. His party has a lot of time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, no, there are 11 speakers from his party.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, I appreciate the contribution of our scientists. At the time of independence our Per hectare production was 553 kgs. per hectare, now it is 1175 kgs per hectare. Although I agree that it is not up to the world's standard, the fact is that we have taken a three-time quantum jump in respect of the yield which was there at the time of pre-independent India. Sugarcane production at the time of independence was 4.5 million tonnes. Today it is 18 crores tonnes. Cotton

was 30 lakh bales; today it is more than 100 lakh bales. Production of pulses was 80 lakh tonnes; now it is 125 lakh tonnes. Oilseeds' production was 50 lakh tonnes; now it is 125 lakh tonnes. Milk production was 175 lakh tonnes in 1951; today it is 400 lakh tonnes of more! These are some of the figures.

The other important thing is that in spite of severe drought, the food production has come down by 7 per cent only. Twenty-one out of thirty-two meteorological divisions have been badly affected by drought and the worst famine of the century. Even then our food production has not gone down too much — it is around 144 million tonnes or so. That is because we had a strong infrastructure in agriculture under the eminent leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He laid great stress on the Technology Missions, the development of technology and introduction of technology. That is why we could have a sound basis in agriculture.

When we look towards the problem of population, the entire world population is growing. I have got some very interesting figures about population, but because the time is less, I would only give three or four figures. In 1758 A.D, the world population was 72 crores. In 1900 it was 160 crores. In 1950 it was 251.16 crores. And in 1980 it is 470.85 crores. That means, the population growth in these three centuries has taken a quantum jump and has been six times more. Food production should also match the growing population." Sir, we had a planned economy and in each Five Year Plan right from the Third Five Year Plan we have laid main stress on agriculture. Our production in 1956-57 and 1960-61 was 72.4 million tonnes and 82.1 million tonnes respectively. I must pay a tribute to late Madam Gandhi. When Madam Indira Gandhi took charge as the

[Shri Vitthalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

Prime Minister of India, our food production at that time was 80 million tonnes. At the time of her death in the year 1984, our food production was 152 million tonnes. That was because she had taken keen interest in agriculture. I do not want to give all the figures, but due to accurate planning in agriculture, our food production went up in each and every plan and today it has come to 152 million tonnes. Madam Indira Gandhi's period was the era of Green Revolution. In November, 1984, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi announced that India would provide to drought-ravaged countries of Africa 1 lakh tonnes of wheat as its contribution to the alleviation of human suffering. This represents one of the largest gifts of grain by nations concerned with the African famine. It has evoked both universal praise and admiration — praise for such a generous gesture by a developing country struggling with its own problems of poverty and under-nutrition, and admiration for India's ability to build a grain reserve of over 22 million tonnes of foodgrains when not long ago India could itself avert famine only because of both concessional food aid and commercial purchases. How did this transformation take place in a country which was depicted in the mid-sixties as one which could survive only with a begging bowl and which is now regarded as one of the major bread baskets of the world? As I have already stated during the tenure of Mrs. Gandhi as Prime Minister of India, food production rose from 80 million tonnes to 152 million tonnes. The Science and Technology Package Programme had also been started by Madam Gandhi. At the same time, the Indian Agricultural Research Institute and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, the two highest bodies in agriculture, have put in much labour and effort for the development of agriculture. My speech

will be incomplete unless I mention the names of Dr. Borlaug and Dr.

Swaminathan. Dr. Borlaug 1.00 P.M. had given us the semi-

drawt variety of wheat which had created a great revolution in wheat production. Under the eminent leadership of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan, the former Director-General of the International Rice Research Institute, this new technology of semi-dwarf, high-yielding variety of wheat was brought to India from the United States and it had created a great revolution. Sir, being an Agricultural Scientist, I know that we are not having high-yielding strains and so, transfer of technology from improved countries is a must in this field. This technology is already available in the world and there is nothing wrong if we purchase or borrow this technology from other countries because then we need not undergo the difficulty of doing research and developing the technology because it already exists in other parts of the world. From that point of view, I recall Mrs. Gandhi mentioning, during a conversation, sometime in the 60's that the first and foremost task before the nation was to build a grain reserve of at least 10 million tonnes. She was determined to accomplish this as early as possible. Consequently, in 1971 it was 12 million tonnes and today we have got a grain reserve of 22 million tonnes.

The other important thing is, when we look at our Seventh Five-Year Plan, how much are we spending on agriculture? The total outlay of the Seventh Plan is Re. 1,80,000 crores. And what is the provision for agriculture? It is Rs. 10,523 crores which means it is not even five per cent of the total outlay. I understand that it is not so with agriculture alone. It is so with rural development, energy, fertilizers and other things. I have taken all the figures together. For agriculture and allied activities it is Rs. 10,000 crores,

for rural development H is Rs. 8,903 crores, Special Area programmes it is Rs. 2,803 crores, irrigation and flood control is Rs. 16,478 crores, energy — not only power generation — is Rs. 34,273 crores. The Energy Minister has stated that 20 per cent of the power is given for agriculture, but I have taken it as 25 per cent and with that, the allocation, on the side of agriculture will come to Rs. 8,568 crores. So, altogether, for agriculture, rural development, rural energy, rural industries, village and small-scale industries IRDP, ERDP, even railways, communications, telephones — everything together — to the lot of rural areas only Rs. 63,388 crores fall out of Rs. 1,80,000 crores. That means, in terms of percentage it is only 35.21 which in turn means for a population of 70 per cent residing in 95 per cent of the geographical area you are spending only about 35 per cent whereas for 30 per cent of the population residing in five per cent of the geographical area you are spending 65 per cent. That is why I demanded that the planning process should be changed and accordingly our Prime Minister himself said that they are going to change our planning process with more stress being given to rural development.

Then there are other things like livestock production, horticulture, home science, agricultural engineering and fisheries. We are having sufficient technical manpower. The Krishi Vigyan Kendras have trained manpower to the extent of 1,42,668 people in this field. Now how to make use of this manpower is the problem before us. I would like to tell the honourable Minister that Mao Tse-tung, when China became free, took all the scientists and technicians for four or five months to the field and engaged them in the development of the country. Now the time has come when, if India does not follow the path of China or any

other improved country, our existence will be ill-fated. That is why I request the honourable Minister that our scientists, technicians, university teachers, who are agitating for higher salaries, must be allotted some field duties and they must be made to show their efficiency for the development of the farmers and then and then only they must be given justice. Sir, lastly, I would like to conclude my speech by quoting what Madam- Gandhi has said. Madam Gandhi used to visit agricultural universities and agricultural research institutes wherever she got time. She used to tell the farm scientists to pay greater attention to practical training and updating of knowledge of teachers. In one such meeting she quoted from a poem of Rabindra Nath Tagore. With this quotation from the poem, I will conclude my speech. She quoted;

"A lamp cannot light another lamp unless it itself is also lit. A teacher cannot truly teach unless he himself is also learning."

So, that process should be started not from the teacher but from the politicians, from the people and from the farmers.

With these few words, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH'DESAI): Mr. Vishwasrao Patil.

SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL (Maharashtra): I will speak in my mother tongue, Marathi.

{The Vice-Chairman (Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya) in the Chair}

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO; Sir, I take this opportunity to felicitate you on occupying the Chair,

श्री बिट्टलरव साधवरव जधव :
उप-भाष्य में भी काफ़ी अति-
नन्दन करता हूँ :

श्री कल्पनाथ राय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : अंग्रेज़ी
हिन्दी में बोलिए ।

SHRI N. E. BALARAM (Kerala)
Let him speak in Marathi.

श्री विश्वास राय रामराव पाटिल : मैं
अंग्रेज़ी दफा हिन्दी में बोलूंगा । हिन्दी में
ट्राई करूंगा । 30 वर्ष से फार्मिंग
में मैं काम करता रहा हूँ । मराठी में
बोलता रहा हूँ । (व्यवधान)

श्री कल्पनाथ राय : हम लोग कैसे
समझेंगे ?

उप-भाष्य (श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) :
उन्होंने कहा है अंग्रेज़ी बार हिन्दी में
बोलेंगे ।

*SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO
PATIL: Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, the problems
of agriculture in India, are closely connected
with irrigation. Unless and until we develop
irrigation potential fully, all the advanced
technologies are not going to give any results.
But we have not paid sufficient attention to
the problems of irrigation in all these 40 years
after Independence. The State Governments
do not have necessary resources to create
irrigation potential. The States have almost
become bankrupt. So, as I have said, in spite
of having modern technology and plans to
assist the farmers, we will not be in a position
to give them a better deal, unless we develop
our irrigation potential. Irrigation alone can
enhance our agricultural productions. -

•English translation of the original speech
delivered in Marathi.

Along with irrigation what is required is
supply of agricultural credit to farmers at low
rate of interest. But unfortunately the rates of
interest have gone up over the years. Farmers
tilling in the non-irrigated land should be
given loan upto 7 to 7½ thousand rupees at 4
per cent interest. In the absence of these
facilities the poor farmers are caught in debt-
trap. Unless we render them this assistance
their condition will never improve.

Another important point is that
Government should pay remunerative price for
agricultural products. But it has failed to fix
remunerative prices so far. And these seems to
be no possibility of fixing remunerative prices
for agricultural yield. But since the
Government is following the capitalistic policy
there is severe exploitation of working class
and specially farmers. According to the
doctrine of Marks, there is continuous
exploitation of workers. Generation of more
wealth leads to much more exploitation.
Industrial workers being an organised class,
can unitedly fight against their exploitation.
But the farmers who is contributing maximum
production is most exploited. And the main
reason for this Plight of the farmer is that
remunerative prices are not paid to him.
Therefore providing irrigation facilities to
farmers and agricultural credit at lower rates
of interest are the most important factors. At
the same time he must get remunerative prices
for his produce. But unfortunately Government
did not pay any attention towards these
problems in the last forty years. It has been
mentioned in the report of the Ministry of
Agriculture that I quote "In a view to
encourage them to higher investment and
production and to safeguard the interest of the
consumers by making supply available at
reasonable prices"

However all the safeguards are given
only to the consumers and not

to the farmers, " As pointed out in the report. I quote "Price Commission also keeps in view the effect of the price policy on the rest of economy. Particularly on the cost of living, level of wages and industrial cost structure".

It only means that for protecting the cost structure of goods manufactured in the industrial sector no protection would be offered to agricultural sector at all. I want to congratulate Hon. Member Shri Jadhav who said that prices of agricultural products must be fixed as industrial goods. I would like to suggest further that, along with fixation of prices of agricultural goods, the Government must also provide irrigation facilities and agricultural credit to farmers. But without paying any attention to these basic requirements of farmers, we are only developing modern technology which will not give us desired results. But let us understand that farmers are also not ignorant about their problems as urban elite or Agricultural scientists think. The farmers are clever enough to adopt all the modern technology provided, if we give them agricultural credit and irrigation facility. The farmers are well aware of the methods of cultivation and they know how to maximise their production. But the only difficulty is that they lack financial resources and do not get remunerative prices for their yield.

In this connection let me say that the condition in rural areas is sure to cause concern. The farmers are leaving their homes and hearths, selling their land and migrating to cities. This itself shows that the condition of agriculture is very bad in our country. The growing slums in cities is the direct result of migration of farmers to cities. This has led to uncontrolled growth of cities. The growth of population in cities is mainly due to the migrated illiterate population from rural areas.

This has resulted in flow of money from rural areas to cities. The wealth of the rural areas is thus being diverted to cities. It is necessary to reverse this trend.

Our Prime Minister is very keen on changing our method of planning. If it is so then let us have planning in such a way that farmers will get better prices and will be well off. And they will be in a position to set up industries in the villages with their own resources. But in reality this is not a fact. The prices that are paid to him are so low that he has no purchasing power and he cannot pay wages to agricultural labourers. The labourers in villages do not get good wages because the farmers also don't get any profit. That is why the flow of money from villages to cities is continuing which is causing exploitation of farmers and creating a capital base in cities which must be diverted to villages. With the available resources farmers cannot increase his agricultural production, earn more profit and use the same for the development and industrialisation of villages. This will lead to modernisation and industrialisation of rural areas. But such a condition is not there because the Agricultural Costs and Price Commission which is supposed to look after the interest of farmers is only looking after the interest of capitalists and industrialists in the cities and giving them all concessions including employment opportunities in the cities. But the farmers' interests are totally neglected.

In respect of levy policy also the farmers are ultimately losers. Out of every three sugar bags produced by sugar factories two bags have to be supplied to Government at levy price. This reduces the price paid to the farmers and what is actually paid to him does not even meet their cost of production. But same, levy policy is not applicable to industrial goods. Had it been so, the farmers could have got some goods at cheap-

[Shri Vishwasrao Ramrao Patil]

per prices. But this never happens. Though the Government fixes the support price, it is regrettable that Government itself does not purchase agricultural goods at that support price. Instead, it only purchases agricultural produce at levy price. As the Hon. Member rightly pointed out that Maharashtra Government fixed support price of Jawar at Rs. 135 per quintal, but failed to make the purchase at that price. The condition of market at Latur Constituency of the Hon. Minister Shri Shivraj Patil is so bad that the market is full of Jawar bags but Government did not come forward to purchase it at the support price which had already been declared. And in the hard time of drought the farmers were forced to sell Jawar at 100 Rs. a quintal, in the open market. The Government does not fix support price it makes purchases at levy price. The levy prices are fixed for supplying agricultural produce to common consumers at cheaper rates which results in loss to farmers. I want to know from the Government whether it would be prepared to apply the same levy policy in drug manufacturing and make medicines available to farmer at levy price. Similarly, is Government prepared to supply tractors to farmers at levy price or will Government consider to supply cloth at levy price? But this does not happen. It only means that the attitude of the Government towards farmer is one of exploitation. The Government is only exploiting the hard work of farmers. The industrialists are well organised. The workers have their own unions. But as farmers are totally unorganised, their exploitation is the worst. A lot is said about farmer, but very little is done for their sake. Therefore the use of technologies will be really fruitful only when irrigation facilities are provided to farmers, looking at the condition in Maharashtra, I don't think that we will have ten to twelve

dams by the end of this century. This is true of the country as a whole as well. The dams which were to be completed in ten years could not be constructed in twenty years. There is no possibility of their completion in another twenty years. It only means that the State Government have become bankrupt? What has happened to allocations made for construction of dams? There is concentration of wealth in cities. All the luxuries are available to city dwellers while the rural people are totally deprived of them. This has led to growth of population. The urban population is conscious of growth of population and try to check it. But in the rural areas there is a tendency to have more children in order to get more earning hands, so that they help in earning the livelihood and achieving the welfare of the family. Another aspect of this problem is that rural people who are not aware of the standard of living who do not have sufficient clothing to wear, who are barefooted, who have no sense of hygiene are not at all concerned about the growth of population or need to control it. People in rural areas link the problem of population to the will of God. It is not possible to check the growth of 70% of population of farmers in our villages unless we improve their standard of living. The Government is looking at rural development from different angles from time to time.

While fixing the price of sugarcane the agricultural cost and price commission takes into account the cost of production from the stage of sowing to cutting of the sugarcane in the fields and on that basis the price of sugar is fixed. But it does not take into account the cost of cutting of sugarcane and its transportation. This cost approximately comes to about Rs. 35 to Rs. 65 per quintal. I failed to understand why this cost is not taken into account while fixing the prices. The only reason is that

the- farmers do not raise their voice. Such thing can't happen in industries or any other sectors where WOK-kers are fully organised. This means that the farmer_s have to sustain a lofc of Rs. 35 to Rs. 65 per quintal. His pocket is picked to that extent. The Government is doing a wrong thing by not taking thi_s cost into account. The rules of market are also such that they cause loss to farmers.

Sangli in Maharashtra, is the -wholesale market of turmeric. Erode area of Andhra Pradesh produces turmeric. The turmeric growers of Andhra Pradesh send their produce to Sangli market. But the marginal profit that is given to turmeric growers is much less than the profit given to their merchants. This only results in fall of prices in the market. Farmers sell turmeric at Rs. 850 a quintal. It means they get 8 Paise for ten grams. But consumers pay 30 paise for 10 grams. This only mean_s that the consumers and growers have to. suffer a loss and the profit is cornered by middlemen who earn huge profit. This evil practice must be checked somewhere.. I feel that the Government is neglecting this situation. This attitude of the Government has created a serious problem for our sugar factories. Huge deposits of molasses are accumulated in many sugar factories which is polluting the atmosphere. The molasses can't be stored for a long time and the Government is not taking any decision about its disposal. This has only resulted in pollution of the atmosphere around the sugar factories. This has also contaminated water but the Government has callously neglected this problem. The policy of the Government is to protect the industrialist and the consumers in urban areas, The Government bows to the pressure of the person_s in cities who are well organised and united. Whereas 70% of the farmers' population which i_s unorganised is being totally neglected and

exploited by the Government The exploitation of farmers and agricultural labourers must be stopped now. Unless this is done any number of agricultural Universities will not be of any help to poor farmers. Such Universities and their research is helpful only to rich farmers, whose lands are fully irrigated. Farmers having non irrigated land are drowned in debts. Huge debt has forced these small farmers to sell their land and their belongings and rush to cities as slum dwellers.. All this has happened only because of the neglect of the Government. For these farmers, the high sounding technologies and co-operatives and the glossy reports of agriculture Ministry do not mean any thing at all, and will not mean any thing. The peril of the farmer_s will- certainly lead to the peril of our country. Therefore I feel that the Government must take a fresh look at the agricultural policy. The Government must suitably change its policy to give remunerative prices to farmers and also supply all the necessary inputs at the cheaper rates. Needless to point out that irrigation is the most vital input. All the inputs like seeds, fertilisers and agricultural instruments must be made available to the farmers at the cheaper rates. Let us take a look at prices of agricultural commodities in the year 1970.

उपसभाध्यक्ष(श्री सत्यप्रकाश मालवीय) :
मिस्टर पाटिल, आप कितना समय और लेंगे ?

श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल : ठीक है, मैं कन्कल्यूड कर रहा हूँ ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष(श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय) :
कितना टाइम आप लेंगे ?

श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल :
ठीक है, चार-पांच मिनट ले लूंगा । मैं यह चार मिनट में समाप्त करूंगा ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्य प्रकाश)
मालवीय : लंच के बाद आप कंटिन्यू
कर सकते हैं ।

SHRI VISHRAO RAMRAO PATIL: No,
No. I will conclude within two three minutes.

Therefore I say that the prices of agricultural produce must be fixed On the pattern of industrial goods. It is also important to provide agricultural credit to farmers at low rate of interest. It is also necessary to complete the ' pending irrigation scheme! Many irrigation projects are pending in Maharashtra. Maharashtra Government does not have necessary resources to complete these schemes. Therefore the Central Government must do something and complete these schemes on priority basis and irrigate the agricultural land of farmers. Only then the planning of the agricultural department will be fruitful.

The industries in the urban areas and the urban population are safe because the farmers has not yet awakened. But if the farmers revolt; then they will throw this Government. . Therefore, before the situation comes to that stage, the Government should solve this problem by giving them irrigation facilities and agricultural credit. I request the Government to take these steps immediately. With these words I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सत्यप्रकाश)
मालवीय : अब सदन की कार्यवाही
बाँची बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की
जाती है ।

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

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-two minutes past two of the clock,

The Vice Chairman (Shri B. Satya-narayan Reddy) in the Chair]

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Promotion of new industries by KVIC and increase in wages of khadi artisans

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Sir, we wholeheartedly welcome you on the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Thank you. Shri M. Arunachalam will make the statement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Members of this House have, on various occasions, emphasised the importance of speeding up the process of rural industrialisation and improvement in the economic conditions of village artisans. I may, Sir, recall that last year, with the approval of this House, we had amended the Khadi and Village Industries Act to enable the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to take up more and more industries under its fold for promotion in rural areas, the main criterion being employment creation. I am glad to inform the Hon'ble Members of this House that KVIC has identified 33 new industries for promotion from this year in addition to the existing List of 26 industries. I am placing on the Table of the House, the list of new industries so far identified. The intention is to add to this list from time to time depending on the experience gained and resource available, both men and material. The pattern of assistance for these industries is being finalised by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in consultation with the State, XVI