

[21 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

for this purpose. It had also submitted its Report. In its Interim Report, the Committee suggested that there should be ten per cent margin for the wholesalers and twenty per cent for the retail-branded generics. For non-branded generics, the cap should be fifteen per cent and thirty five per cent. The drug manufacturers, in spite of this directive, are giving huge margins and are directly involved in increasing the drug prices in India.

Hence, I demand of the Chemicals' and Fertilizers Minister to check this abnormal high margin given by companies and issue 'showcause notices' to them as to why they are giving huge margins. Otherwise, the goal of 'Health for All' will never become a reality. Thank you.

Need for construction of FCI godowns in Tamil Nadu

SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the continued neglect of Tamil Nadu in the functioning of the Food Corporation of India. As regards the construction of godowns for the FCI, Tamil Nadu has been neglected so far. There is a long-pending demand for the construction of godowns in Thanjavur, the rice-bowl of Tamil Nadu. This is the only region in the country where three crops are raised in a year, and yet the FCI has not accorded sanction for the construction of godowns in Thanjavur. A site was identified at Egmore in Chennai for constructing the FCI godowns, but sanction has not been given for that also. I appeal to the Government to accord sanction for constructing the FCI godowns in Thanjavur and Chennai.

There is also a ban on the recruitment of employees in the FCI. It is regrettable that this ban is continuing even after 3500 employees had left the FCI under the VRS in the southern division. The class IV employees who have completed twenty-five years of services are not being given promotion to class III. It is sad that even after the judgement of the Madras High Court, the employees are denied their right to other States has created a fear in the minds of the people. Therefore, the Government should frame a proper transfer policy and protect the interests of employees. The decisions and the functioning of the FCI show that the FCI infrastructure, as well as the employees, are being neglected by higher authorities.

So, I urge upon the Centre to look into these genuine problems and take necessary action on the matter. Thank you.

SHRI C. PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to associate myself

with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI S. ANBALAGAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with it.

SHRI N.R. GOVINDRAJAR (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Need for expediting central clearances for Karnataka's proposals
on water resources**

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, for the last few successive years, Karnataka had borne the brunt of severe drought due to erratic monsoons. Due to scanty rainfall in catchment areas, the water level in reservoirs, has plummeted, restricting power generation and irrigation to a large extent. With water bodies drying up, the State Government had sought expeditious clearances from the Centre with regard to the following major projects:

- (i) Bhima Lift Irrigation Scheme.
- (ii) Varahi Pick-up Dam at Horribe near Siddapur of Dakshina Kannada district.
- (iii) Railway Bridges over Tumkur Branch Canals of Hemavathy.
- (iv) Kalasa and Bandura Nala Projects.
- (v) Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme under the Central loan assistance.

Sir, I urge upon the Centre, the Ministries of Water Resources and Environment and Forests, to accord final clearances for the proposals which are in an advanced stage. Thank you.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to . associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI BIMBA RAIKAR (Karnataka): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for Rehabilitation of Tribal People in Tripura

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, it is a fact that about 40,000