

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, November 28, 2014/ Agrahayana 7, 1936 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

I. News on some TV News Channels regarding the Reported Killing of 39 Indians abducted in June, 2014 by the ISIS in Iraq

SHRI ANAND SHARMA: I wish to draw the attention of this august House to tragic killing of Indian citizens held hostage in Iraq. Earlier when some Indians were released, the Government made the statement assuring the House and assuring the families of all those who were held hostage that it had succeeded in establishing contact with them. The truth is that 40 Indians who were working there were taken hostages. They were taken to a hilly terrain and shot as per the revelations which have now come. The Government made an official statement that we have tracked the captors and established contact, and it assured that all the hostages were safe. Both the Houses have also been misled. But what is more important is that if this was known, why was this not revealed? If this was not known, why was the assurance given? Today, it is the responsibility of the Government, the Prime Minister and the cabinet to tell what has happened? We are seeking a reply from the Government in this regard.

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: If it is true, it is a very sad incident. The families which were hopeful after your first statement that their people are safe, they are very depressed and disappointed. The manner in which ISIS is functioning, not a single word is being said about that. Yesterday, our soldiers have been killed at the border. Our borders are not safe, our people are not safe.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: I hope what we have read in the media is only 'reported' and not the truth. In June, certain statements were made which caused short-term gain. But now the situation, the reality, is one of long-term pain. The Government has to come clean with the facts. We are all concerned here.

KM. MAYAWATI: This is a very serious matter because there has been news that whereabouts of 39 Indian people are not known. Their families are very sad and concerned. The Government should make serious efforts to bring them back. The borders of our country are not safe. Our soldiers are being killed there. These are very serious issues.

SHRI K .C. TYAGI: It is a diplomatic failure of our foreign policy. There should be an extensive debate next week on the foreign policy. We have been diplomatically isolated and we have no friend in West Asia.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE: I am sharing the concern expressed by my learned colleagues. The Government had given an assurance to this House that they had succeeded in establishing relationship with ISIS and that they were using some other sources also. The Government's position of not allowing to pass a resolution in this Parliament has created a hostile approach by ISIS and other countries. The shift in Indian foreign policy has created this situation. I request that the Prime Minister should come to the House because the Prime Minister is the de facto External Affairs Minister of this country.

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: The issue which has been raised here involves 39 people of Punjab. The Government is making all the efforts. But, the parents of these people are very

concerned. I think hon. minister would clear the situation in this matter.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: This is a matter concerning human rights. We should plead for a World Government, for a World Parliament, where such issues can be taken up.

SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI: Today, the Government should clearly tell us why we should not trust the statement made by Shafi and Hasan of Bangladesh? I am taking three names, Ranjit Singh, Kishan Singh and Harish. These three people were among those 39 people. Today, the Government should tell us that where these people are and when did the Government made a contact with them?

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Four-five months back, Hon. Minister of External Affairs had given an assurance to the House that Government of India is concerned about the security of each and every Indian and they will safely come back to India. Are you in touch with the relatives of the people held hostage on a daily basis? Are they alive and safe?

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: It is not the time to fight and political battle here and make political statements. Have you been in touch with the family members of these people and given any assurance to them? Their parents are very concerned. They need to be assured.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Has the Government have any firm information about this news? I would like to know from the hon. Minister of External Affairs that what efforts have been made by the Government to investigate into this matter?

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: All the member have raised the issue of hostages in Iraq. Six soldiers have been killed in Kashmir. Ceasefire is violated everyday in Kashmir. A reply in this regard needs to be given.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ), responding to the matter, said: This news-item has been broadcasted number of times. I have talked to family member of hostages five times. Harjeet had told that terrorists had killed all the Indians but he survived the attack and ran away from there. There is paradox in his story. We had approached every source, which include head of the States, foreign Ministers and organisations, for assistance in this regard. As a result thereof, we got six sources which sent message to us in writing that hostages are safe. I can't disclose the names of the sources because they can be killed at any time. Information is being updated on day-today basis. Government of Iraq has no control over Mosul and People controlling the Mosul has no Government. There is no eye witness that hostages have been killed. Six sources are assuring that hostages are not killed and my intelligence is also in this that I should continue the search operation for hostages. On demand, we have deputed two new officers who are well versed with Arabic language. We will leave no stone unturned in this regard. I have never said that we have track down the hostages. I had said that we are in contact with them through sources. Harjeet is in protective care of the Government and he is fine. We should pray to god that all the hostages are safe and return back to home.

II. Alarming spread of Cancer Disease in the Country

DR. KANWAR DEEP SINGH: Cancer cases in Greater Noida and villages in Punjab may be due to contamination of dangerous chemicals and metallic substances in the ground water. But, even otherwise, this dreaded disease is spreading very fast in our country due to various other reasons. On the other hand, there is acute shortage of cancer specialists and radiologists in the country. Detection of cancer and its treatment facilities are not available in the vicinity, as a result, by the time the patient reaches a diagnostic centre, it is already too late. Hence, I request that the Government must take this dreaded disease seriously, and the ground water of villages reporting higher number of cancer cases must be tested to find out the

contamination. In such areas, only treated ground water should be given for human consumption as well as for the livestock. Cancer diagnostic centres should be established in all the district hospitals and a special ward with sufficient number of beds for treatment of cancer cases should be set up with Central funding in such hospitals along with necessary medicines and requisite therapies. The Medical Colleges should encourage its students to opt for Oncology and Radiology to increase the number of cancer specialists in the country. Massive information campaign be launched through print and electronic media to educate the masses about this painful and dreaded disease.

(Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy, Shri K.N. Balagopal Shri M.P. Achuthan ,Shri C.P. Narayanan, Shrimati Jaya Bachchan, Shri D. Bandyopadhyaya, Dr. Anil Kumar Sahani, Shri Ram Nath Thakur and Shri Md. Nadimul Haque associated.)

III. Supply of Fertilizers to Farmers in Bundelkhand in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: I want to raise the issue of shortage of fertilisers in Uttar Pradesh. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has written a letter to the Prime Minister in reference to this. Fertilisers sent to State are not sufficient. Soil of Bundelkhan needs special type of fertilisers. Therefore, I demand to the central Government that demand made by our State with regard to urea should be met.

IV. Creating Social Awareness about Donating Human Organs of Brain Dead Persons

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Number of road accidents are increasing in the changing times. Most of victims of such accidents are youth. Accident of an youth has an impact on the whole family as head of the family is no more. There are cases of accident also wherein victim is brain dead but his body is still alive . These

people can donate their organs through their relative to the patients who are in need of organs like kidney, liver etc. An organ bank should be established in each state where such organs can be preserved safely. I request that central Government should take initiative and support all the State Governments in this regard.

V. Observing Thiruvalluvar's Birth Anniversary

SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Language is not a structure of words and sentences but it is a carrier of culture and civilization. The language should not be barrier but it should be a bridge and there should be no controversy on this issue. People in north India don't know about Thiruvallur who were born in south India about 2000 years ago. India is not complete without Kannagi and Thiruvallur. Birthday of Thiruvallur should be observed through out India.

(Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya , Shri A. Navaneethakrishnan, Shri K.R. Arjunan ,Dr. V. Maitreyan ,Shri T. Rathinavel, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth, Shri A.K. Selvaraj and some hon'ble Members associated.)

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

“INDIA’S STAND IN THE WTO”

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I am making this intervention in the House today

in order to place before the Hon'ble Members the facts relating to recent developments in the World Trade Organization (WTO), which came to a successful conclusion yesterday, vindicating the principled stand taken by India.

On 5 August 2014, I informed the Hon'ble Members that India had decided not to join the consensus in the WTO on the implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement till our concerns relating to the implementation of other Bali Ministerial Decisions, in particular, the Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, were addressed.

There was much criticism of this stand in the subsequent months but India stood firm. Over the ensuing months, we concentrated our efforts on explaining the concerns underlying India's stand and working with other WTO members to find a way forward. These efforts have borne fruit. We were able to resolve our differences with the United States, and persuade them to support us in the WTO on our requirements.

I am happy to report to this House that we have been able to secure an outcome that addresses our concerns. Yesterday, the General Council of the WTO adopted a Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes, a Decision on the Trade Facilitation Agreement and a Decision on Post Bali Work.

The General Council Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes is a new, unambiguous Decision. It makes it clear that a mechanism, under which WTO Members will not challenge the public stockholding programmes of developing country members for food security purposes, in relation to certain obligations under the WTO Agreement on Agriculture, will remain in place in perpetuity until a permanent solution regarding this issue has been agreed and adopted.

This would do away with any ambiguity on this aspect as well as guard against the possibility of no cover being available after 2017 in case a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes is not arrived at by then. It, therefore, strengthens the

safeguard available for continuing the Minimum Support Price policy which is a lifeline for millions of our low income, resource poor farmers. It is also critical for food security in India and in countries which have similar policies.

The indefinite continuation of the waiver mechanism ensures the interest of the WTO membership in expeditiously working towards a permanent solution and protects us from the risk of having to accept an unsuitable solution under the threat of a limited duration peace clause coming to an end.

The Decision includes a commitment to find a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes by 31 December 2015 on a best endeavour basis. This introduces a sense of urgency in the process and would encourage other developing countries also to join the effort in pushing for a permanent solution at the earliest.

The Decision has a firm commitment to engage in negotiations for a permanent solution through an intensified programme of work. The provision for dedicated sessions in an accelerated time frame for taking forward the negotiations will ensure that the WTO accords priority to this issue and works on it in a focused manner. It would, moreover, avert the danger that countries like India would have to make concessions in some other area of the agriculture negotiations, in order to achieve a permanent solution.

The General Council has also unequivocally agreed to delink the negotiations for a permanent solution on public stockholding for food security purposes from the agriculture negotiations on other issues under the Doha Development Agenda. This would ensure that the negotiations for a permanent solution would continue even if the negotiations on such other issues are delayed.

As per the relevant provisions of the WTO Agreement, a General Council decision on these elements has the same legal status as a Ministerial decision.

The General Council also adopted a Protocol to make the Trade Facilitation Agreement a part of the WTO Agreement and opened the

Protocol for acceptance. After this, the Trade Facilitation Agreement would automatically come into force if ratified by two-thirds of the members of the WTO.

As per the Bali Ministerial Decision, the Trade Facilitation Protocol was to be open for acceptance by Members until 31 July 2015. WTO Members have now decided to leave this open-ended. This would enable them to complete their internal processes for acceptance of the Trade Facilitation Protocol.

When I stood before this House on 5 August I expressed confidence that India would be able to persuade the WTO Membership to appreciate the sensitivities of India and other developing countries and see their way to taking this issue forward in a positive spirit. And we have accomplished this without any concessions, compromise or new conditions.

This is what India has now done. We were able to achieve a breakthrough because we were negotiating from a position of unassailable strength in the interests of those vulnerable sections who have no voice. A just cause, clearly articulated and backed by the strong leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, made for a compelling argument. This ensured that our concerns were heard, understood and addressed.

This positive outcome reaffirms our faith in the multilateral trading system and proves that this is the forum that offers the best chance for developing countries to participate on equal terms in international trade. For that reason it is important to make our concerns known in time, ensure that development aspects remain in focus and to make all efforts to bring trade talks back on course when required.

We were never alone or isolated, even though not many chose to - or were in a position to - speak up in support of India's stand. I know from my interactions with several of my counterparts over the last few months that our stand resonated widely because we were fighting for a just cause. India is grateful for their support.

I would like to thank the WTO membership for their cooperation and efforts in enabling this successful outcome. We now look forward to working with all WTO members on the full implementation of the Doha Development Agenda including all elements of the Bali package, to obtain the real development dividend for the poor and vulnerable around the world.

In conclusion I must, once again, express my sincere thanks to Hon'ble Members of Parliament, farmers' organizations, civil society groups and academicians; their unstinting support of India's efforts to ensure a fair deal immeasurably strengthened our hands.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

The following Bills were - *Introduced*:

- 1. The White Asbestos (Ban on Use and Import) Bill, 2014**
- 2. The Supreme Court (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Nagpur) Bill, 2014**
- 3. The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2014**
- 4. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of Article 371)**
- 5. The Illegal Immigrants and Missing Foreign Nationals Identification and Deportation Authority of India Bill, 2014**
- 6. The Homeless Pavement Dwellers (Welfare) Bill, 2014**
- 7. The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014**
- 8. The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of Article 107)**

9. **The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of Article 130)**
10. **The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of Article 155)**
11. **The Compulsory Physical Fitness of Children through Sports in Schools and Development of Sports Infrastructure Bill, 2014**
12. **The Criminal Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2014**

The Compulsory Military Training Bill, 2012-Contd.

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: I rise to support this motion. The purpose of Military training is not just to make a person physically fit but is also bring enormous changes in the personality of a person. It brings the feeling of nationalism and makes us more disciplined. Military training is mandatory in several countries. When we give military training to the children, they become disciplined and understand how to behave with others. They also understand that they have some responsibility towards the nation and the society. When they go to serve the nation they become more committed and responsible citizen in all spheres of life. Military training seems me essential to encourage nationalism. There is security threat to the country not only from outside but from inside also. I think that a society developed on military training can produce nationalist citizens. Whose contribution in the emergency situation in the country will increase. I think cleanliness drive has been started keeping in the mind the individual responsibility. The people from villages seem disciplined to some extent. NCC and Military training should be made compulsory. It will start a new nationalist era and new nationalist society in our country. I support this Bill.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: Only the tribal people are the victims of the Left-Wing extremism. We must recruit unemployed youth there. I Want to know as to how many people are working today in the Defence and what is the plan for the next decade to

strengthen our manpower requirements. Which are the States where appointment is the least in the Defence? The military training is very essential for the school children. It will also support national integration and there will be less communal violence. I support this Bill.

PROF RAM GOPAL YADAV: I support it. Self discipline is the biggest thing in the life of a man. Training will do this work. It will be a very good work for the country. There should be security, unity and development of the country in the minds of youth on the priority basis. At least sixty minutes time should be for the NCC type training for the students. They should be given training in the school time itself. There should be good monitoring. A committee including educationists, retired and serving generals, higher officers should be constituted to prepare curriculum. Action should be taken on the basis of its report. With such training students confidence will go up. The Government must think positive on this.

CHAUDHARY MUNVVAR SALEEM: Today our country is facing problems like terrorism, naxalism, casteism and communalism. If we want to get rid of these problems, military education must be made compulsory. This Bill is related to security and love both. By this sense of nationalism will increase. I support the Bill.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA, continuing his unfinished speech dated 08.08.2014, said : The compulsory military education is synonymous with discipline and it should not be left on anybody's will. If we want to save our country, we would have to send our citizens to borders one by one. If discipline is made mandatory, certainly we would be able to achieve the goal of restoring our old glory. I support the Bill.

SHRI VEER SINGH: The Compulsory Military Education Bill is very important for youth of this country. Imparting Military Education to youth is essential for the security and progress of the

country. Today the sense of nationalism is vanishing. Those young people who are joining military today are not driven by nationalism but by unemployment. The lesson of patriotism must be taught in every school of the country. This is a very important Bill. I support this Bill.

SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE: I support this Bill . One of the most important things that is discipline, which is lacking in our country. Everybody must have compulsory military training for two years. The money spent on NCC can also be diverted to conscription. The compulsory military training would in some way be helpful to resolve issues of corruption, naxalism and terrorism. Can the Police and the Paramilitary forces take care of all problems? It is not possible. You need such people who can defend themselves. It can be done only through conscription. Whatever technology may be there today, the importance of foot soldier is always being there. I support this Bill.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR), intervening in the debate, said: I thank all those who have expressed their support for this Bill. I will support it but I will point out those issues which can create problems. I am quite happy that the debate was across party lines. It proves that nationalism does not have a colour. The Bill talks about a minimum of one year compulsory military training. In physical military training, I don't think 50 is a very conducive age. The second aspect is, even if you consider it from the age 18 to 25, the number will be too big. How do you train them? I will have to put the full Army to train them. It will require expenditure and infrastructure.

I have taken cognizance of the confusion at meals in Gwalior and Rajasthan. Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are areas where young generation wants to get into the Army. So, we will work out proper meals. I feel, we should think about certain hours of training in our schools. The Government decided to increase the sanctioned strength of NCC. I think it is inadequate. Now the number of students has increased beyond control. Introduction of a compulsory training for a

certain number of hours for completing the graduation seems more reasonable. But along with this what we need is nation-building and character building. I feel that our education has slipped. Value education is nowhere to be seen. So, we need to take all these aspects into consideration before we come to a type of conclusion.

The motion for consideration of the Bill, was negative.

The Fertilizer (Price Control) Bill, 2013

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA, moving the motion for consideration of the Bill, said: Fertilizer is as important as the seed in the Green Revolution. I don't understand that when we have the capacity to make these fertilizers then why we are resorting to imports. The price of DAP, MOP has gone up. Every farmer now wants to use Urea because that is the only fertilizer still available at old prices. Because of our latest subsidy scheme the manufacturer is now reimbursed on a cost plus basis. I think, this scheme has some flaws in it. Lakhs of farmers in India have committed suicide. Due to various difficulties faced by the farmer's lakhs of farmers quit farming. There is drop in the amount of subsidy disbursed on fertilizer. 90 percent of our phosphorous requirement is imported, potassium is also imported. I would like all the fertilizers to be produced in India. Farmers don't even know what is the nature of soil and what does it need? The detailed information is not being given to them. Subsidy is being enjoyed by the rich and the poor farmers both. I would like to make a distinction.

There is no doubt that the gas based fertilizer plants are much more effective. Oman and India have a joint venture and the joint venture was a win-win situation. We can easily bring back the entire production here or we can increase the scale and size of the joint venture since it is cheaper. There should be crop insurance. If there could be two separate entities for checking the quality and disbursing the subsidy, it would benefit everybody. The Government can somehow control the price and this MRP formula because MRP formula is even growing faster than the inflation. The fertilizers could be distributed through public distribution system so that the whole

dealer-distributor-manufacturer nexus is eliminated. Some kind of study or assessment should be undertaken. The fertilizer should be used to the optimum. With growth in technology, even the fertilizer quality and standards have taken quantum jump. We could target the subsidy in such a manner that for every increase in production or yield, the farmer is allotted some better quality fertilizers. EBITA margins of fertilizer companies or their profit margins are fluctuating widely. If it can be moulded in a price range band it would discourage them from going in for unholy tactics. We should promote the use of bio-fertilizers. For every increase in fertilizers, the farmer is sacrificing some part of his life. Let us try to make his life as much easy as possible.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: The farmers took the soil to the centres, tested it and had very good quality seeds which were rightly fixed to suit to the soil conditions. There was a wide range of agricultural improvement and it was a great agricultural revolution taking place in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government has urged the Centre to continue to provide subsidy for naphtha based fertilizer plants till gas connectivity is established to these plants. Many companies have shut operations at their urea plants as the Centre has decided to stop subsidies. The cost differential between gas and naphtha would be negligible if oil marketing companies supply gas at the rate of export parity price. In order to overcome any shortfall, the Department of fertilizers had allotted mostly imported urea to Tamil Nadu in this highest harvest season. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to take this issue very seriously because the production of the MFL and SPIC one million tone per annum. I would like to urge upon the Government that the gas and the associated infrastructure may be provided to revive these two plants.

There should be periodical inspections by the TAC to check the sub-standard SSP and quality control of fertilizers should be ensured. The main objective of the Government should always be to maintain reasonable and affordable prices of the fertilizers used for agricultural purposes, including the farmers. The Government will

have to lift the price control. The main intention of this Bill is to stop the suicides by the farmers. Our main concern should be how to reduce the use of chemical fertilizer. We should promote the use of organic fertilizer. As a result, the fertility of the soil will be improved and in turn, the capacity of the farmers will also be improved. We need to protect the farmers' livelihood. The Government must take the initiative of controlling the prices of fertilizer and also of improving the standard of living of the farmers.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR: Unfortunately, the agriculture did not receive as much importance as it should have got as compared to the industry and the services sector. The share of agriculture and the allied sector in the GDP declined. Two years, 1956-66 and 1966-67, were the watershed in the Indian agricultural economy. This gave the way for the Green Revolution. There was rice revolution also in some states. The entire Green Revolution is called seed, fertilizer and water revolution. There are several Commissions and Committees that went into examining the problems and the difficulties of the Indian agriculture. I request the Government, going beyond the party lines, to think about this as a national problem of many farmers thinking to leave agriculture as an occupation. We can increase the agriculture production by bringing more and more area under cultivation and by increasing the agricultural productivity of the selected areas. The agricultural prices, compared to the industrial prices, have been considerably low and that is why the agricultural profession has become nobody's profession.

Market forces are not only demand and supply forces. Marketing forces imply the bargaining power of different stakeholders in the economy. Profit motive cannot be altogether eliminated. It is from that point of view that I appreciate this decision to provide fertilizers to the farmers in adequate quantity and at affordable prices. This is the need of the hour if agriculture is not to suffer. When anything is available at subsidized prices, there is no incentive. That is why this decision of reducing or doing away with nutrient-based subsidy policy and to restore the earlier system of fixing the maximum retail price of fertilizers is extremely welcome. There are about 75 percent small and marginal farmers in the country. That is why, it is

not necessary to decontrol the prices. As I mentioned earlier, profit motive is an important incentive, but there has to be limit to the profit motive. The decision of making fertilizer at the statutorily determined price and not to allow the manufactures, retailers and the wholesalers to make the maximum profits, is absolutely most welcome.

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Hon'ble member has said that big farmers should not be provided subsidy. I had made an effort as to how farmers be given subsidy directly, but it had some problems. Small farmers now hold bank accounts under the Jan-Dhan-Yojna started by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. I think currently the prices of fertilizers are fixed but the dealers sell them at higher prices. Therefore my request is that the dealers of fertilizers be reined in. A strict law should be made so that farmers get fertilizers at original prices. The subsidy on fertilizers should not be reduced in the interest of farmers.

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY: Seeds, fertilizers and subsidies made the Green Revolution successful which gave us the second freedom. Fertilizer was the critical component in ensuring our second freedom. Large number of farmer suicides that take place all over India are mainly because they are unable to repay the debt that they take for purchasing fertilizers. We should take a major initiative for producing bio-fertilizer and also for selling it in the market. There is a lot of black marketing in fertilizers. Fertilizers may be sold through the ration shops at the prescribed price. Farmers should get his quota of fertilizer on the basis of size of land he has. At lease, the minimum quota should be given to them. I am suggesting of the issue of ration card on the basis of land, because those who can afford beyond their ceiling point should not be given any subsidy because there is a heavy drain on the Exchequer and we may get into problem.

SHRI C.P. NARAYANAN: Now, I want to speak about the changing condition of the farmers and agriculture workers in the country. The share of agriculture is shrinking, whereas the number of people who are dependent on agriculture is not shrinking. Per capita income of those who are engaged in the field of agriculture is decreasing. This has to be increased. One way of tackling the

problem is to take care of the fertilizer availability. We have to concentrate on converting all kinds of waste into bio-fertilizers for use in our fields and grow various kind of crops. If all bio waste is properly treated and used for farming operations, will be able to increase our productivity and the per capita income of farmers. (*Speech unfinished.*)

Discussion not concluded.

SPECIAL MENTION

Need to Give a Special Financial Package to Resolve the Problem of Irrigation in Bundelkhand Region of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh's Bundelkhand constitute the most backward regions of the country. Rain-fed farming is mostly happening there. Farmers are on the verge of famine after years of drought, hailstorm and frost etc. The ground water level is constantly depleting. The tube-well level has sunk 2 to 10 meters down. Of the nearly 24 lakh hectare cultivable land of Bundelkhand, only 4 to 5 lakh hectare is being irrigated from various sources of irrigation. The rest has to depend on rain. Farmers from Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalon, Banda, Hamirpur, Mahoba, and Chitrakoot districts of Utttar Pradesh and Sagar, Damoh, Datiya, Panna, Chhatarpur, Tikmagarh, Satna, Riva etc districts of Madhya Pradesh, are fleeing. I request the Prime Minister to kindly provide a special package of at least 25,000 crore for building canals, check dams, tube-wells, ponds and recharging old ponds and dysfunctional tube-wells in the said districts of Bundelkhand towards permanent solution of irrigation problem faced by farmers.

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