

RAJYA SABHA

*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Thursday, April 23, 2015/ Vaisakha 03, 1937 (Saka)

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, I refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of **Mr. Lee Kuan Yew**, former Prime Minister and Founding Father of Singapore, on the 23rd of March, 2015.

Mr. Lee was a great statesman and a visionary, who had dedicated himself to the transformation of the city-state of Singapore into a global trade and financial centre in the ASEAN region. His death is an irreversible loss to Singapore, its people, and also to the world at large.

This House joins the bereaved family, the Government and the people of Singapore in mourning the passing away of Mr. Lee Kuan Yew and conveys its heartfelt condolences to them in this hour of grief.

I also refer with profound sorrow to the passing away of Shri Manubhai Patel, Shri Ghufuran Azam, Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Shri Jerlie E. Tariang and Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar, former Members of this House.

Shri Manubhai Patel passed away on the 27th of March, 2015, at the age of 94 years.

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

Born in October, 1920 at Baroda in Gujarat, Shri Manubhai Patel was educated at the Baroda College; the Law College, Ahmedabad; the L.D. Arts College, Ahmedabad; the B.J. Institute, Ahmedabad; and, the Gujarat University Law College, Surat.

A social and political worker, Shri Patel was a life member of the Servants of the People Society since 1956. He also served as its Secretary and Vice-President. Shri Patel was actively involved with several social, cultural and educational activities and organizations all through his life. He served as Secretary of the All India Prohibition Council. He was the Chairman of the Baroda District Khadi Gramodyog Sangh; the Central School, Baroda, and, the Lal Bahadur Shastri Vidyalaya, Baroda. He was also the Editor of the Gujarati monthly 'Kalyan Yatra' for five years.

Shri Patel started his legislative career as a Member of the Gujarat State Legislative Assembly in 1962 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1962 to 1967. He served as the Deputy Minister of Education in the Government of Gujarat from 1962 to 1964. He was also a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha.

Shri Manubhai Patel represented the State of Gujarat in this House from April, 1978 to April, 1984.

In the passing away of Shri Manubhai Patel, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished Parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Ghufan Azam passed away on the 2nd of April, 2015, at the age of 71 years.

Born in July, 1943 at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh, Shri Ghufan Azam was educated at the Saifia College and Government Hamidia College, Bhopal.

An agriculturist, Shri Azam served as the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Organiser in a number of educational, cultural, sports and Karmachari Unions and Associations. An avid sports lover, he was the Chef-De-Mission of the Indian Hockey

Team's visit to Germany, France, Holland and Spain from 1982 to 1983 and the India-Pakistan Hockey Series in 1988.

Shri Ghufuran Azam started his legislative career as a Member of the Seventh Lok Sabha in 1980. Shri Ghufuran Azam represented the State of Madhya Pradesh in this House for two terms, that is, from June, 1989 to April, 1994 and again from April, 1994 to April, 2000.

In the passing away of Shri Ghufuran Azam, the country has lost a distinguished Parliamentarian.

Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi passed away on the 5th of April, 2015, at the age of 83 years. Born in August, 1931 in District Kota of Rajasthan, Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi was educated at the Rajasthan University. Shri Chaturvedi served as a Lecturer in Physics in different Government colleges from 1954 to 1966.

Shri Chaturvedi started his legislative career as a Member of the Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly in 1977 and was a Member of that Assembly for five consecutive terms from 1977 to 1998. He served as a Minister in the Government of Rajasthan and held different portfolios in the field of Education, Health, Public Works, Local Self-Government and Science & Technology. He also served as the Chairman of the Malviya Regional Engineering College from 1993 to 1998. He worked tirelessly for the welfare of the weaker and downtrodden sections of the society.

Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi represented the State of Rajasthan in this House from July, 2004 to July, 2010.

In the passing away of Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Jerlie E. Tariang passed away on the 9th of April, 2015, at the age of 92 years.

Born in June, 1922, at Mawlai in Meghalaya, Shri Jerlie was educated at the Meiktila High School, Upper Burma and the Spicer College, Pune.

An agriculturist, teacher and journalist, Shri Tariang was actively associated with several social, cultural and sports clubs in Shillong. He was the founder and Life President of the Shon Roy Basan High School, Shillong. He also served as the President of the Freedom Fighters' Association, Meghalaya, and as Deputy Chairman of the State Planning Board, Meghalaya, from 1983 to 1984.

Shri Tariang was the proprietor and first Editor of the local weekly 'UPYARMAN' and had a number of social and political publications in Khasi language to his credit.

Shri Tariang represented the State of Meghalaya in this House from April, 1984 to April, 1990.

In the passing away of Shri Tariang, the country has lost a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar passed away on the 10th of April, 2015, at the age of 93 years.

Born in June, 1921, at Sopore in Kashmir, Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar was educated at the Government High School, Sopore.

A social worker, Shri Kar took active part in politics right from his student days. He worked tirelessly for the upliftment of the downtrodden sections of the society. He was Chief Organiser of the Central Labour Union, Jammu & Kashmir. He served as President and Chairman of the Town Area Committee, Sopore, and as Chairman of the Wular Public School, Sopore, the Indo-GDR Friendship Society, the Tehsil Council Cultural Front and the D.P. Dar Hospital, Sopore. He was the Printer and Publisher of the 'Sopore Times', Editor of 'Dehkaan' and Chairman of the daily 'Khadmat Trust'.

Shri Kar started his legislative career as a Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Constituent Assembly in 1951 and was a Member of that Assembly from 1951 to 1957. He was thereafter elected as a Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly in 1957, 1962 and 1967. He was also a Member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council in 1972 and from 1988 to 1990. He served in the Government of Jammu & Kashmir as Minister of State for Housing

and PWD, Irrigation and Water Works from 1965 to 1971 and as Cabinet Minister of Transport, Food Supplies, Water and Power, PWD and Labour from 1972 to 1975 and of Power from 1988 to 1990. He was also a Member of the Eleventh Lok Sabha.

Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar was a Nominated Member of this House from May, 1984 to December, 1987.

In the passing away of Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar, the country has lost an able administrator, a distinguished parliamentarian and a dedicated social worker.

We deeply mourn the passing away of Shri Manubhai Patel, Shri Ghufan Azam, Shri Lalit Kishore Chaturvedi, Shri Jerlie E. Tariang and Shri Ghulam Rasool Kar.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.)

Reference to the Terrorist Attack on a University Campus at Garissa in North-eastern Kenya on 2nd of April, 2015

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might be aware 148 persons, mostly students were killed and 79 others were injured in the barbaric terrorist attack on a University campus at Garissa in north-eastern Kenya on the 2nd of April, 2015.

The loss of innocent lives in this incident is indeed tragic and unfortunate. This senseless and cowardly terrorist act is deplorable and deserves to be condemned in the strongest terms possible. This House urges the international community to redouble its commitment to fight the menace of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured. The people of India stand in solidarity with the Government and people of Kenya, in their hour of grief.

Reference to the Victims of Floods and Landslides in Jammu & Kashmir in the Months of March and April, 2015

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, 41 persons lost their lives and 26 others were injured in the floods and landslides triggered by heavy rains in Jammu and Kashmir in the months of March and April, 2015. The floods also led to large-scale destruction of houses, property, livestock and other infrastructure, besides causing extensive damage to thousands of hectares of crop area.

Reference to the Series of Attacks by Maoists on Security Forces in Sukma, Kanker and Dantewada Districts of Chhattisgarh on 11th, 12th and 13th of April, 2015

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you might also be aware, 13 security personnel (7 of Special Task Force, 1 of Border Security Force and 5 of Chhattisgarh Armed Forces) were killed and 17 others were injured in a series of attacks by Maoists in Sukma, Kanker and Dantewada districts of Chhattisgarh on the 11th, 12th and 13th of April, 2015. The Maoists also set ablaze 18 trucks engaged in mining work in the Kanker district of Chhattisgarh on the 12th of April, 2015. Such dastardly attacks and acts of senseless violence deserve to be condemned in the strongest possible terms and must be confronted with determination and firmness.

The loss of precious and innocent lives, injury to people in these incidents is indeed tragic and unfortunate.

I am sure, the whole House will join me in expressing our heartfelt condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of the injured.

(One Minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the memory of those who lost their lives in these tragic incidents.)

Felicitations to Scientists and Engineers of ISRO for the Successful Launch of IRNSS-1D

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, as you are aware, ISRO's PSLV C-27 successfully launched IRNSS-1D, the fourth Satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) designed to

provide position information in the Indian region and 1,500 km around the Indian mainland, from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota on the 28th of March 2015. The successful launch of this satellite adds yet another precious milestone in the success story of the Indian space history. The credit for this landmark achievement, undoubtedly, goes to our scientific community, particularly those working with ISRO.

On behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I congratulate the scientists and engineers associated with this project who made us feel proud about this achievement. I wish them all success in their future endeavour.

Felicitations to Ms. Saina Nehwal and Ms. Sania Mirza on becoming the First Indian Women Players to attain the World Number One Ranking in their Respective Sports

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, on behalf of the House and on my own behalf, I also congratulate Ms. Saina Nehwal for becoming the first Indian woman badminton player to attain the world number one ranking in Badminton Women's Singles.

I also congratulate Ms. Sania Mirza on becoming the first Indian woman tennis player to attain the world number one ranking in the Tennis Women's Doubles.

The outstanding accomplishment of these two sportspersons is a matter of great pride for the entire nation. I hope this would be a great source of inspiration for our upcoming players.

The entire House wishes Ms. Saina Nehwal and Ms. Sania Mirza the very best in their future endeavour.

Farewell to the Retiring Members

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, the term of three Members from the State of Kerala, namely, Shri Vayalar Ravi, Shri P. Rajeeve and Shri M. P. Achuthan, came to an end on the 21st of April 2015. Of these, Shri Vayalar Ravi has been re-elected.

The House will, however, miss Shri P. Rajeeve and Shri M.P. Achuthan who had contributed significantly to the deliberations of this House through their active participation on many occasions. They have definitely enhanced the dignity and prestige of this august House.

I do hope that the retired Members would cherish the memory of their association with this august House which they have left with a sense of fulfilment in having played a stellar role in strengthening the democratic system of the country.

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL: Mr. P. Rajeeve and Mr. M.P. Achuthan are leaving this House. Mr. P. Rajeeve was successful in making some new precedents in this House. He got the privilege to move the first amendment motion under rule 93(2) in the history of Parliament. By implementing MPLADS funds, he installed one of the biggest dialysis centres and an MRI scanning centre in Ernakulam district. I wish all the success to Mr. P. Rajeeve and Mr. M.P. Achuthan for their future.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): We are extremely fortunate to have Mr. Vayalar Ravi back in the House. He is one of our most experienced Members. But, we are all sad that two of our very industrious Members – Mr. P. Rajeeve and Mr. M.P. Achuthan – have retired. We will miss them for many reasons. Both were extremely serious about their work. They had an extremely pleasant inter-personal relationship with almost all members. We will miss Mr. Rajeeve as he used to study the rules very well and he researched the provisions well. We have all learnt from him. He should be brought back to this House.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I will miss the retiring members. I am very happy that Vayalar Ravi ji is back among us. Rajeeve ji has immense knowledge of rules. Achyutan ji has been very active member of his party. We would remember them and wish them good health. They should be brought back to this house.

KM. MAYAWATI: Three members of this house have recently retired. One is already back in the House. Rajeeve ji always came with full preparation. He used to raise issues for the welfare of the country and people. He was active member of this House. He should be brought back to this house.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: This is the time to bid farewell to competent members of this House. One senior member is already back in the House. Rajeeve ji and Achuthan ji are very serious and knowledgeable. Their retirement is a big loss to this House. I wish them good health. Rajeeve ji should be brought back to this house.

SHRI D. RAJA: We are happy that Shri Vayalar Ravi is back among us. Shri P. Rajeeve and Shri Achuthanji were commendable. Both are hardcore party activists. I wish them all the best.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Out of the three retiring Members Shri Vayalar Ravi has come back to the House. We are very happy about it. Mr. Rajeeve has studied Economics, Law and Chemical Engineering. It is a rare thing. He fights anything legally till the end. He is very humble. I wish all success in their lives.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: A very warm welcome back first to Mr. Ravi and a very warm farewell to Mr. Achuthan and especially to Mr. Rajeeve. We wish them happiness in whatever they do and all the best to their families.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Communist parties are disciplined parties and we appreciate that Rajeeve ji and Achuthan ji were very active members. They always talk for vulnerable people. Their retirement is a big loss for the nation.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Parting is always a painful experience. I am very happy that we have got back Mr. Ravi in this House. Mr. Rajeeve made his mark in this House by way of interpreting rules. Shri Achuthan is a very humble person. Both were very active members. We wish them to come back again.

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY: We are very sad that Rajeeve ji and Achuthan ji are retiring from this house. They taught us many things. I hope that they will come back again to this House.

SHRI JAVED AKHTAR: Mr. Rajeeve and Mr. Achuthan were very good parliamentarians. Whole House is feeling sad on their retirement.

SHRI MAJEED MEMON: I must congratulate Ravi ji for his return to the House. Rajeeve is a very brilliant lawyer. He was extremely hardworking worker and well-versed with the rules of the House. Others should also learn from him. His party should reconsider the request of bringing him back.

SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: It is very sad that Rajeeve ji and Achutan ji are retiring from the House. They have left a mark on the House with their humility and affection. I do hope that Rajeeve ji would be chosen for Outstanding Parliamentarian Award.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Retirement of Mr. Rajeev is a very big loss. All the leaders have expressed their desire to see him back here. We will definitely reconsider it very seriously. Mr. Rajeeve has been given much greater responsibilities of the party in Kerala. Both Mr. Achutan and Mr. Rajeeve always did their homework. I am very grateful by the comments made by various leaders.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Mr. Achuthan is a very humble Communist. He is a very polite and extremely hard working person. He used to make his point and never used to disturb others. Mr. Rajeeve is very articulate and knowledgeable person. Mr. Rajeeve is a good worker. He is very proficient on rules. He is a very good parliamentarian and we should all draw inspiration from him. I convey my best wishes to Shri Rajeeve and Shri Achuthan.

(As agreed by the entire House, the Chair dispensed with the rest of the listed business of the day and decided to take up discussion on the issue of agrarian crisis and suicides by farmers in various parts of the country.)

**Discussion on the Issue of Agrarian Crisis and Suicides by
Farmers in Various Parts of the Country**

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): The plight of farmers in the country has reached to such a woeful condition that earlier suicides took place in States but situation had never been so serious that any farmer would commit suicide in Delhi in a farmers' rally. If such a situation has arisen in the country today, the biggest factor is that the country witnessed untimely rainfalls and hail storms. I don't think that any crop in the country has been spared. During these 65 years land has decreased manifold but our population has increased four times. Those farmers and labourers who provide food to 125 crore people and on whose strength this country exports foodgrains to foreign countries, are in danger today. They have been deprived of their lands. People believed that they were owners of the land but now they feel that they will again be deprived of this right of ownership and Government will take away their lands whenever it so desires.

I would like to request the Prime Minister that he should not insist on getting this Land Acquisition Bill passed and save lives of lakhs and crores of farmers. Otherwise these suicides will continue to take place. The Government must disclose that how much fund has been provided by Central Government to each state so far and how much fund the states have distributed to farmers from their side and also on behalf of Central Government. How much compensation is being provided to farmers who have committed suicides?

Now, I specially want to draw the attention of Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs towards the incident that took place yesterday. You can understand the degree of frustration of that farmer that he decided to end his own life. The Chief Minister said that he had been asking police to save him for 45 minutes. If this is the fact, police personnel are equally guilty. They must be punished. I fully believe that Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs will take action in this matter and Hon'ble Prime Minister will find out a solution to the distress of farmers in the entire country. I also want to know whether Government will write off the loans taken by farmers for crops. I request the Government to withdraw this Ordinance Bill and enhance the minimum support price for all foodgrains. At the same time, FCI should be directed to make the procurement of the affected food grains as well. I fully believe that this step will solve the problems of farmers in the country.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: The Leader of the Opposition has made land acquisition a major issue instead of suicide of farmers, flood or hailstorm. The land was acquired from farmers earlier also for establishing big factories, if that had not been acquired, country would not have been developed. NDA Government wants to do the same thing today. Farmers were not adequately compensated then. This Government wants to compensate in a better way now. We will acquire the land for a good cause. We have not laid more railway lines, but resorted to doubling them. Lands of farmers were acquired for the purpose of establishing factories and constructing airports etc. since independence. If we want that new canals be constructed, more power houses be set up, more rivers be interlinked, then land is required for all these. This is a continuous process. Now, roads are required to be widened. The farmer, whose land would be acquired, will be compensated besides providing a job to a member of his family. Now, if there is 33 percent loss, then that will also be included in the category of loss. It has also been decided if wheat or any other crop has been destroyed, then that will also be procured. Government of India will also send the relief money to the State Government ultimately and State Government will procure their

produce. We will procure food grain and will provide compensation as well. Some States have issued cheques of meagre amount, State Government should not be held guilty solely for it. Farmers have been committing suicide since independence. Death of the farmers should not be politicised.

PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Untimely rain, hailstorm and cyclone have caused a great loss to the farmers throughout the country and as a result of it many farmers have even committed suicide in various states. The main reason is that farmer has never got remunerative price in the country and he continued to suffer loss. While determining the Minimum Support Price, labour of children of his family and all other people be counted. The present government in his election manifesto had mentioned of fixing the Minimum Support Price at one and a half times the cost price, but it has not been increased by three percent, leave alone the increase by fifty percent. If a farmer will not get remunerative price and continued to suffer loss then he will be depressed and can take the extreme step of committing suicide in that situation. When a farmer will suffer loss in cultivation every time and this type of rain and hailstorm will happen, which destroys all the produce, he resorts to this kind of step in depression ultimately. Uttar Pradesh has suffered various types of loss in many of its regions. The produce of gram, oilseeds, mustard, wheat, etc. has been completely destroyed in many places. When rain happened second time which caused heavy loss in compare to rain in the first time. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent Rs.1,100/- to the districts so far. Approximately 700 people have died so far. The persons who have committed suicide, Rs. seven lacs have been given to their families. Crop Insurance Scheme has been in force and 25 percent amount of compensation is to be given immediately in the case of loss of more than 50 percent. But insurance companies have given only two crores of rupees so far despite such a big damage. Insurance companies have not performed their duty. The Government will have to rein in the insurance companies. Who have suffered more than 50 percent loss, even they be given money by the insurance companies.

Farmers are dependent on Government. We can't make any law or system in favour of farmers to save them from any crisis. The Government should think about the farmers. Agriculture is the backbone of our economy though its share is reducing in GDP. The whole crop of the farmer has destroyed and insurance companies are not paying the claim amount. Minimum support price should be one and a half of input cost. People responsible for deciding about MSP don't understand the basics of farming. Representatives of farmers should be included in the price deciding mechanism. Nationalised banks have not met the target of loan disbursement. Farmer's record is better in repayment of loan as compared to debtors of other sectors. Conditions of farmers and landless farmers are almost same. Therefore, my request to the Government is that farmers should be given relief urgently.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Production on 93.4 lakh hectare land has been damaged. Procurement by Food Corporation of India was lesser due to damage of yield in the field. The Government should give relief to the farmers through insurance companies. Share of agriculture is reducing in GDP. This is injustice to the majority population of the country. Incidents of committing suicides are making news on social media. The farmers are under acute crisis and they need immediate relief. No relief is being given to marginal farmers while his whole crop has damaged. How Government will give relief to such farmers directly? This issue of farmers has been discussed number of times earlier but its usefulness is in fast implementation of things discussed. An all party meeting should be convened wherein all should find a solution for this problem. This unseasonal rain and hailstorm has completely destroyed the farmers. I hope that the Prime Minister will provide an immediate solution for this problem because any relief at later stage will not meet the purpose. Government will establish industries and these industries will shut down in absence of consumers as farmers are consumer of the market.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Yesterday's incident of committing suicide by a farmer should be taken seriously. Problems of farmers are increasing day by day and suicide cases of farmers are also increasing. We have to look into this matter seriously. Farmers are facing huge loss due to hail storms and unseasonal rain as their produce has been destroyed. The storage capacity of FCI has been reduced. The policy has been changed regarding providing assistance to farmers but the announcement made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister has not been circulated for implementation at district level. It should be circulated as early as possible. The Fair and Remunerative Price fixed by the Government for sugar is even lower than the price of sugarcane. Sugar mills are not in the position to pay the huge outstanding amount of the farmers to them. There is a need to take some steps in this situation to help the farmers. There is a need to manage at least 20 or 25 lacs ton buffer stock by the Government and all the sugar mills should be involved in this. We have to decide the quantity of production of sugar.

There is a fear in the mind of the farmer that what would be the fate of our land? Relief should be provided to the farmers by the Government as early as possible as per the criteria announced by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, recovery of the loan should be suspended and the loan should be waived off where the damage is caused at large scale. There is a need to relook the Land Acquisition Bill as there is no mention of provision social impact assessment in this. Right should be given to the farmers to take back their land if it not used for the purpose for which it has been given. We have to address this serious situation all together.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: We cannot find a solution to the suicide committed by Gajender Singh. But the august House should look into the steps that can be taken to prevent them. Today, there is no profit in agriculture. Crop Insurance Scheme, which is now in existence but is of no use, because the farmers are not getting sufficient or appropriate compensation from it. The crop insurance should have right clauses to benefit the farmers. I came to know, through the press reports, that the agricultural interest has been enhanced to 11 per cent. The farmers are not in a position to repay the

loan availed by them with the 11 per cent rate of interest. As per the circulars issued by the Reserve Bank of India, the compound interest shall not be levied on agricultural loans. But all the banks including the nationalised banks, are levying compound interest. The concept of non-performing assets should not be made applicable to agricultural loans because it is not a commercial activity. I request the Central Government to constitute the Cauvery Water Management Board. The AIADMK Party expresses its deepest sympathy to the family of the deceased Gajender Singh.

SHRI RAJPAL SINGH SAINI: The unseasonal rain, hail storms and stormy winds have destroyed the crops of the farmers in the entire country. When the dreams of the farmer get shattered and he faces lots of problems then he is forced to commit suicide. Government has increased only 3 percent rate of produce. I demand that problems of the farmers should be considered. The smart cities being developed in the country are not beneficial for the farmers. The condition of sugar-cane producing farmers in the western Uttar Pradesh is also very pitiable. Their last years outstanding have not been paid yet. Damage to their other crops such as wheat and potato due to this natural calamity has also worsened the situation. In such a situation these farmers are committing suicide. They are even being denied the benefits of crop insurance. In such a scenario I would urge upon the Government to waive off their bank loans and also to provide sufficient compensation by accessing their losses. The representative of the farmers should also be included in the committee which decides the MSP, so that the farmers could get the remunerative price for their crops. The promises made by the hon. Prime Minister to the farmers should also be fulfilled.

DR. T.K. RANGARAJAN: The scenario of agriculture in India is extremely bleak as far as the small and marginal farmers are concerned. In Southern India, especially, in Tamil Nadu, we have thousands and thousands of migrant workers. Three lakhs of farmers committed suicide in the country in the last two decades. The Swaminathan Committee recommended up to four per cent interest for farmers but it has never been taken into consideration. For the past forty to forty-five years, we have been talking about linking of rivers. But we never attempted to link the rivers. I would also request the Government to kindly revisit their Seed Bill because the Seed Bill is not helping the farmers. The entire country, from Himalayas to Kanyakumari, whoever rules, the farmers facing biggest problems. In view of this, I request the Government to intervene.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH: The farmers of the country have made us proud and self-sufficient. But the condition of the farmers of this country is very pitiable at present. He is being forced to commit suicide due to the damage of crops. The hon. Prime Minister had announced that now the farmers would get the compensation even for the 33 per cent crop loss. But I would like to know whether the insurance companies are ready for this or not? I would also like to suggest that there should be a Commission for the Farmers on the line of SC/ST Commission, OBC Commission etc. which can hear the grievances of the farmers. Whenever the land of the farmers is acquired by the government the right to quote the price or market value of his land should be given to the farmers. The MSP of cotton is very less in comparison to the last year. In case China stops the import of cotton, the government should come forward for the rescue of the cotton farmers. The government should create a perfect market for the farmers with the help of FCI. I would also like to suggest that the Padma

Shree Awards should also be awarded to the talented farmers of the country. It is very unfortunate that a farmer has committed suicide in the capital city of the country. It is the failure of the government. The government should also try to meet the families of the farmers who have committed a suicide so that the reason behind such suicides could be ascertained.

Discussion not concluded.

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****Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.