

## RAJYA SABHA

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### \*SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE

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(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

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Friday, July 19, 2019 / Ashadha 28, 1941 (Saka)

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### MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

#### 1. Need to Declare Floods in Bihar as National Calamity

**SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:** Bihar is affected by the flood. 12 districts, 571 panchayats and 80 blocks are affected by floods. We want to request the Government that this may be declared a national calamity. Construction of a High Dam between India and Nepal is long pending. For this, the Government of India and the Government of Nepal should negotiate in a time bound manner and build a High Dam there.

**DR. C.P. THAKUR:** The condition of 16 districts in North Bihar is bad on account of flood water. The people of these districts are suffering due to flood and rain water. The mud-homes of the people have fallen. The Government of India, the Government of Bihar and the Government of Nepal should solve this problem together. I request the government to do some work at the earliest in this regard and remove the misery of the people of Bihar.

*(Shri Ram Chandra Prasad Singh, Shrimati Kahkashan Perween and Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha associated.)*

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

## **2. Illegal Immigrants in Mizoram**

**SHRI RONALD SAPA TLAU:** In the State of Mizoram, there are about 50,000 illegal immigrants. These people are believed to be from Bangladesh. There have been alarming tension and communal problems all these years. In this context, The statement made by the Home Minister that all the illegal immigrants and intruders living on an inch of Indian soil would be identified and deported is welcome. The historic execution of this unprecedented promise should be done without delay and with without prejudice. I assure him that if need be, 100 per cent of my people will stand ready to support him day and night.

## **3. Extensive Dredging of River Hooghly in West Bengal**

**SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS:** I rise to speak on extensive dredging of the River Hooghly to save habitations, livelihoods and lakhs of hectares of homesteads and farmlands in West Bengal. In recent years, transportation of cargo using large ships, mainly coal, to the power plants located upstream along the Hooghly River in West Bengal is seriously jeopardizing the lives of the people in about eight districts. The aforesaid ships while passing en-route to Farakka cause massive rolling water which in turn generates huge waves which strike the banks ravaging them by causing widespread erosion. Given that fact, the Bengal Government is spending hundreds and hundreds of crores just for human purpose, to save the lives and livelihood of these people, the Central Government needs to step in now. Apprehensions have been raised as the Government in its recent Budget proposal has expressed its intent to step up transportation using its waterways by four times due to its cost effectiveness. Therefore, the most acceptable solution to reap the dual benefits of cost reduction as well as wiping out the immense sufferings of millions of people is by extensive dredging of the said river.

*(Shri Ahamed Hassan and Shrimati Shanta Chhetri associated.)*

#### **4. Need for Social Integration through Inter-Caste Marriages**

**KUMARI SELJA:** We are celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji who has participated in the inter-caste marriage of his granddaughter in 1937. Dr. Ambedkar also spoke of casteless society. But today, we have seen a spurt in violence emanating from these inter-caste marriages. It leads to violence more often when one partner of the couple belongs to dalit community. These types of incidents are taking place in many states including Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. The Supreme Court in its judgment last year, in 2018, spoke of protection homes. Some couples took refuge there. As lawmakers, we do not just have to enact laws, but also have to show a way to society that this is the only way for social integration.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

#### **5. Mass Hysterectomy of Women Sugarcane Workers in Beed, Maharashtra**

**SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN:** Crime against women and children continue unabated at an accelerated pace. Now, new form of violence has come to the fore in respect of mass hysterectomies of farmer women from the Beed District of Maharashtra. There are no means of livelihood in these villages. Sugarcane cutting contractors hire a couple -- a husband and wife for three months to four months. If any one of them remains absent, both of them are treated as absent and they have to pay a fine of Rs.500. Sugarcane cutting contractors are unwilling to hire a couple where the woman gets her monthly periods. Because of this inhuman and absurd condition, for seeking a job young women, sugarcane cutters in Beed are undergoing mass hysterectomies. This is something very serious. The National Women Commission has issued an order to the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra, who is seeking an inquiry. I urge the Government to take a serious note and investigate whether such practices are happening elsewhere in the country.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

## **6. New Railway Line for Ballia, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI SAKALDEEP RAJBHAR:** A survey was conducted in Ballia by the Ministry of Railways for laying a new railway line from Azamgarh to Dohari Ghat, Sikanderpur, Sahatwar etc. to Suremanpur. In the region, people from the northern part of the region have to travel 50-100 km to catch a train to come in southern part by spending their their time and money in the southern part. When a sick, aged and pregnant woman is forced to take the train to the metros by the rail for better treatment, then people have a lot of difficulty. Here, with laying of railway line, it will be easy for the people of this region to go to Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam and Bengal and their money and time will also be saved.

*(Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha associated.)*

## **7. Problems of Jammu and Kashmir Migrants**

**SHRI NAZIR AHMED LAWAY:** The people who came from Kashmir in Jammu do not have water facility in their camps. There are more than 20 percent Kashmiri Pandit, who have developed kidney problem. No work has been done there for the children to play and provide amenities to the elderly. The government should provide facilities for Kashmiri Pandits living in Jammu. In Kashmir, the refugees who got jobs and those who have returned to Kashmir, there is no camp to live there, there is no facility. They do not have a place to live, people are staying there on sharing basis. Kashmiri pundits should be given buildings to stay in the buildings where there are security forces at present, they should be removed from there and sent to some other place.

*(Shri Ahamed Hassan and Shri Mahesh Poddar Associated)*

## **8. Return of Books and Other Documents Taken by the Government from the Sikh Library**

**SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA:** After the attack on Harmandir Sahib in 1984, when the army returned from there, they picked up many valuable things from there which included books, manuscripts and many other documents. Even after talks between the

government and SGPC and Sikh organizations, those things have not yet been returned. According to the records, 12,613 books were taken away and the government has returned only 1,506 books. There are many more such things. We have met the government many times in this regard, but so far no solution has been found. It is my request to government that it constitute a committee that resolve this issue with the help of SGPC.

*(Shri Om Prakash Mathur, Shri Mahesh Poddar, Dr. Kirodi Lal Meena and Dr. C.P. Thakur Associated)*

### **9. Mission Kakatiya in Telangana**

**SHRI V. LAKSHMIKANTHA RAO:** The storage of water was not sufficient in Telangana after its formation in 2014. The Government of Telangana immediately took up the work of restoring the tanks and also constructing the check dams. There are about 46,531 minor irrigation tanks. Due to the negligence of Minor Irrigation Department, it has become essential for the Telangana Government to take up construction of these tanks. The work has been started as Mission Kakatiya. Every year, 20 per cent of these tanks are being restored. We require money for restoring these tanks. It is requested to the Central Government to release the promised amount of Rs.5,000 crores out of which only Rs. 104 crores have been released so far.

*(Dr. Banda Prakash associated.)*

### **10. Disinvestment of Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited**

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** The Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Limited was the first Indian company to be engaged in the manufacturing of quality chemicals, drugs and pharmaceuticals. The company is earning profit for the past successive four-five years. If the current trend of profit continues, then by 2023, the company will be turned into a Miniratna Company. I fail to understand reasons of disinvesting a profit-making company. Last year Kolkata High Court ruled against the sale of this company.

Although Government's appeal is pending, the Government again announce its disinvestment. My apprehension is that it is only to grab and sell the land which is in its possession. I would call upon the Government to desist itself from disinvesting this first prime pharmaceutical company of this country and it should not be treated like other 42 PSUs which are going to be disinvested.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **11. Poor Implementation of Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for Upliftment of Minorities**

**SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN:** India is a welfare state. Here the governments prepare many schemes to include the neglected and weaker sections in the mainstream. The Central Government has a new 15-point program. It is related to promoting education, solving employment related problems, raising the standard of life of minorities, providing legal help to affected people in communal riots and their rehabilitation. It has been said that for monitoring the program, committees have been formed at the district level, at the state level which will review in 3 months. Is this progress going on? I was made a member of the Monitoring Committees of 7 districts of Uttar Pradesh. But I have not received an invitation for the meeting of the monitoring committee from any district in the last 4 years till today. This program has failed in the districts. This program is nowhere on the ground. I demand that the government shut down this program immediately or immediately release this programme.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **12. National Highways Approval for Telangana**

**\*SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:** (spoke in Telugu).

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\* Synopsis of speech delivered by hon'ble Member in Telugu will be published separately as supplement.

### **13. Need for New Law in View of Frequent Building Collapses in Country**

**SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR:** In the past, buildings in Mumbai, Himachal Pradesh, Poona and Rajasthan fell and people died in them. Fire catching in buildings in Delhi is also causing damage and people are dying. Such a provision should also be made for those who make new buildings on the lines of the real estate builders to prevent the loss of those buildings and death of people in them. Assessments of old buildings should also be carried out and those which are in a shabby condition should be improved. A new law should be made in this regard.

**SHRI RAKESH SINHA:** Responsibility regarding engineers, departments etc. for buildings falling in metros and other cities should be fixed. Retired people, elderly people do not have any means to repair their buildings. For such people, the government should provide money at low interest so that they can repair their home. The government should also arrange for the replacement of apartments to make such apartments.

**SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI:** Two days ago a building fell in Mumbai, in which several people got stuck and many died. Among them there were some children too. The surcharge is deposited for the repair and construction board. We suggest that the money should be given to rebuild or repair the buildings. The second thing is that there is no land to build a transit camp. The Central Government has given land to Mumbai Port Trust. If that land is made available for the transit camp, then the problem can be solved.

### **14. Proposal to Introduce National Exit Exam for Medical Courses and Replacing M.C.I. with N.M.C.**

**SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:** The Government has given approval for the NMC which provides for conducting National Exit Exam for medical students. This exam provides for licensing test for the final year MBBS students. After passing this test, they would qualify to be registered as medical practitioners and they could be doctors. It is also used for admission to PG students. The methodology of the test is not

known. It discourages the institutions which bring out innovative teaching patterns. This examination has an all India pattern. The Government is bringing a uniform test, the All India National Test. When the syllabus of education differs from State to State we cannot have one uniform test across the country. One examination for all students in the country will not be suitable at all. This will deter the students who are aspiring to become doctors. I urge upon the Government to kindly drop this proposal of N.E.E. test and allow the students as they are now.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

**15. Need to Refund Ticket Fare to Passengers Affected by Pakistan Air Space Restrictions and Start Direct Flights to Najaf from India**

**SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN:** A direct flight of Indian Airlines was arranged for Najaf *via* Lucknow, *via* Delhi in the month of January. This decision not only saved people's time but also reduced their expenditure. But due to the surgical strike, it was stopped *via* Pakistan. Now things have become normal. Therefore, not only from the city of Lucknow and Delhi but from every city of India, a flight can be restarted for Najaf and Zidde. Those who had booked for the Indian Airlines Flight of Lucknow, their money has not been refunded till date. So the request is that Indian Airlines return their money soon. The flight to Zidde, Karbala and Baghdad should be made operational daily from each state.

*(Shri Sanjay Singh and Shri Prashanta Nanda associated.)*

**16. Need for Underground Cabling in Coastal Districts of Odisha in Aftermath of Cyclone**

**SHRI PRASHANTA NANDA:** After the cyclone in Odisha, the power infrastructure of Puri and 13 other districts have been completely destroyed. The transmission and the distribution companies are not in a position to finance these restoration works. Although the State Government has undertaken restoration of power infrastructure from its own resources, this work is too expensive to be

taken care of by the State Government alone. Underground cabling fund proposal was diverted for other work. For cyclone resilient distribution network in coastal towns of Odisha, about Rs. 10,000 crores is required in the first stage. Since there is every possibility of severe cyclones hitting very frequently in future, such one-time investment in cyclone resilient system is justified. I urge the Government for replacement of bare conductors by UG cables instead of AB cable in the towns of coastal belt of the State.

*(Shri Amar Patnaik and Shri Bhaskar Rao Nekkanti associated.)*

### **17. Separate Quota for N.R.I. Students in Humanities and Language Courses**

**SHRI BINOY VISWAM:** N.R.I students from Gulf countries are facing difficulties to continue their education after XII Standard and many of them are forced to come to India to continue their studies. Direct Admission for Students Abroad (DASA) scheme is offered only to students belonging to science branches. But, students wishing to pursue humanities and languages are not eligible to get seat under DASA. I request the Government to extend DASA to all those students who wish to continue their studies in humanities and languages. Students in the Gulf countries get 5 per cent reservation. This reservation can be extended to these students also.

*(Shri Suresh Gopi, Shri K. Somaprasad, Shri K.K. Ragesh and Ch. Sukhram Singh Yadav associated.)*

### **18. Delay in Punishment in Heinous Crimes against Minor Girls**

**SHRI R. K. SINHA:** In many states of the country, five-six year old girls is being made victims of rape. The fact emerged from the investigations carried out in this connection, is that 100 percent of the offenders have committed this crime under the influence of intoxicants. Thus, several ministries, police and judicial system are involved in it. These crimes are increasing due to delays in the judicial system. According to a survey report, presently 16.5% of children

aged 8 to 10 years in Delhi are under the influence of intoxicants. This is a very serious matter. It is a very sad thing to push the future generations into the intoxication and thereafter pushing them committing crime under the influence of intoxication. The government needs to take action by forming a one-point program, forming a nodal ministry. Action should be taken on all the intoxicating offender gangs.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **19. Financial Crisis in India Telephone Industries (ITI) in Palakkad, Kerala**

**SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:** Indian Telephone Industries Ltd., Palakkad, in Kerala is facing a serious financial crisis. If it leads to its closure, nearly 450 people working in it would be jobless. It is yet to realise its dues from different companies. Due to this non-realisation of funds, this ITI is unable to make payment of salaries and meeting day-to-day expenditure. This profit-making plant has been functioning as a model plant among the six ITI units. I request the hon. Minister for an urgent intervention and help in realisation of payment from the BSNL and MTNL and help in the survival of ITI Ltd., Palakkad.

*(Shri Binoy Viswam, Shri K.K. Ragesh and Shri K. Somaprasad associated.)*

### **20. Inadequate Staffing at the Monuments of National Importance**

**SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:** India is known for its rich heritage and culture. The monuments are in cities, in remote areas, and also in villages. We have had a lot of tourism, both domestic as well as international.

*(Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev associated.)*

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

### Establishment of a Rashtriya Kisan Aayog for Resolving Problems of Farmers

**SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR:** I move the following Resolution:-

"Having regard to the fact that:-

(i) India is primarily an agrarian based economy with more than 55% population engaged in farming;

(ii) since long the farmers of the country have been exploited in many ways;

(iii) present Union Government has initiated various measures for the welfare of farmers but despite that farmers are facing a lot of challenges in their day to day lives;

(iv) India has the capacity to produce three crops in a year but suicide cases still occur among farmers;

(v) if appropriate steps are taken to prevent farmers' suicide in India then precious lives of farmers could be saved thereby ensuring further development in the agriculture sector; and

(vi) saving a farmer is not just saving a life but it also means saving agriculture and our tradition, this House urges upon the Government to :—

(a) establish a *Rashtriya Kisan Aayog* (National Farmers' Commission) with constitutional status, to resolve problems being faced by the farmers;

(b) educate farmers about all the latest technologies and techniques to make the agriculture process simple and fast;

(c) ensure proper implementation of *Fasal Bima Yojna* (Crop Insurance Scheme) so that farmers may benefit from this scheme;

(d) provide internet and wi-fi facility for all Government services at village/Gram Panchayat level to help the farmers to gain latest information of the world;

(e) ensure that crops are not purchased or sold at prices lower than the Minimum Support Price announced by the Government and penal action is taken against the violations;

(f) increase the amount of funds provided to the farmers as *KisanSamman Nidhi* from Rs.6000 per year to Rs. 10000 per year till the time farming occupation turns remunerative, in view of the fact that the Government has decided to double the income of the farmers by the year 2022;

(g) fix a limit for the crop loan disbursed at 4% interest on *Kisan CreditCards* as per the paying capacity of the farmers as is in vogue in the case of industries, so that the farmers could carry on his transactions for 5 years and is safeguarded against exploitation by banks;

(h) keep agriculture equipments outside GST;

(i) provide small and marginalized farmers who constitute more than 85% of the farmers in the country and almost 92% in Uttar Pradesh with all those facilities that are being provided for setting up big food parks and cold chains, for setting up storage and processing units by forming '*Krishak Samiti*' in clusters so that there is participation of farmers in storage and processing activities and to facilitate an increase in their income; and

(j) consider to confer awards like '*Bharat Ratna*' to persons who are farmers in view of their contribution to the society."

But still the farmers are not being rescued by looting of middlemen. The ethanol is being extracted from the parali that we burn in the fields. Many schemes have been started. By 2024 the economy has to make \$ 5 trillion. Unless the farmer of this country is prosperous, the country will not prosper. This is the largest industry, it is also the largest sector for employment. The path of prosperity of the country passes through the farm, the farmer and the barn. The country

was called golden bird since ancient times. Agriculture was the biggest industry in the country. 80 percent of people were engaged in agriculture, even when the country got independence. Then 75 percent of the people were engaged in agriculture. At that time, agriculture contributed 51.8 percent in the country's economy. In the middle of 2005 to 2012 many farmers left farming. This survey has been done by a UK institution. The average income of the farmer is stated to be 20 thousand rupees annually. But 10 percent of the farmers are those who have occupied 54 percent of the land. Today the farmer has come down even from the status of a labourer. The farming which was the most respected profession in the country has gone in an appalling condition now. Even today, 52 per cent of the land has no means of irrigation. Irrigation should be done by blocking rain water, making farming committee, putting drip system from ponds. Today water is a major problem. Today the water is being used indiscriminately.

In the center there was a UPA government in 2013. The control from sugar was removed in the Janata Party government in 1977. Then the a commission was formed under the chairmanship of B.D. Mahajan. The Farmers got package earlier also. The money used to go mill owners but they diverted it. The money was not sent to the farmers account. For the first time, 6,000 crores was given. A buffer stock of 30 lakh metric tonnes of sugar was made. Four Thousand Five Hundred Crore was given for the preparation of the infrastructure of Ethanol. Nobody cared for the fact that ethanol should be made out of sugarcane juice. Such a system has been made by our current government that the sugar will not be sold in the domestic market less than 3,100 rupees.

I want to give a suggestion. MSP should be doubled, but if the farmers do not buy at the right rates in the market then the farmer will not get the benefit. The only debt waiver is not the solution of the problems of the farmers.

'Kisan Samman Nidhi' is a very good step towards the fund. We also told the states that they also give six thousand rupees to every farmer.

Loan on Kisan Credit Card is available. The extent of the rebate of debt has increased from Rupees fourteen thousand crores to over eighteen thousand crores.

The farmer takes a loan in the compulsion. My point is that the government has made crop loan only and the word 'crop' should be removed from this. As such, other loans are given, in the same way the farmer should be given a loan. The soil health card has reached over 17.5 million farmers. Soil health card and neem layer urea, both of which have a great advantage. It is the effect of neem layer urea that the cost has decreased by 10 percent and the production has increased by 6 percent. The Mobile laboratories should be established for soil testing. Water is wasted, people need to be educated to save water. The drip system should be used. When we are deducting the cost of agriculture, then there should be only zero percent GST on this. The GST on agricultural equipment should not exceed 5 percent. The Modi government has also brought "Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme", which has rates of one and a half per cent, two and five per cent. The Central Government has taken a very good step along with raising the budget in the field of irrigation.

The Central Government has taken a very good step, I want to congratulate that along with raising the budget in the irrigation sector, it has worked to make a corpus fund of about 40 thousand crores. Here are the schemes that are well implemented. The budget that was given last year in the Prime Minister's Agriculture Irrigation Scheme has been increased. Infrastructure is a very important thing. If there is no infrastructure the farmer can not do anything. The goal of building 1.25 million kilometers of roads has been given. Digital connectivity is also very important. The crop insurance scheme has been increased from 13 thousand 900 crores to 14 thousand crores. To make the 'Anndata' the 'Urjadata' the farmer is being encouraged to make use of agricultural waste for energy production. The government has given the facility of Kisan Credit Card in fisheries and animal husbandry. The farmer's income is still not worth it that he can run his own expenses. The farmers' commission should be such that it has got constitutional status.

**SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR RAY:** I support the issues raised in this resolution. All issues from my point of view are important issues. The rich are grabbing the land of poor farmers and there are clashes due to this. Section 21 has ensured 'protection of life and personal liberty'. In a particular State ten tribal farmers have been killed. There have been some killings in our state too. But within a month, four advisories were sent under Section 355 and at least one advisory should be sent to that particular state.

**SHRIMATI CHHAYA VERMA:** India is an agricultural country. Whatever rules and regulations should be made, they should be for farmers and not the industrialists. In all the states, indiscriminate industrialization has taken place in the country, due to which the cultivable land was reduced. Our agricultural land has reduced in all the states in this regard, the government should make rules that agricultural land should not be given to industrialists. The government says that the cost of the crop will be doubled and it has also come in the budget. But there is no mention of how it will be doubled. If the government provides diesel and petrol at affordable rates on Ration Card, the income of farmers will increase. Scams are happening in the crop insurance scheme. This is a failed scheme. The government reduced the number of beneficiary farmers in the second instalment after the disbursement of the first instalment under the 'Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi'. Still thousands of farmers have not been able to get even the first instalment. The benefits of the scheme made for farmers are not reaching properly. The Chhattisgarh Congress government has launched a scheme called 'Narva, Ghurva, Garwa, Bari, Ella Bachaana hey Sangwari'. Under this scheme, by making small dams in small drains, accumulating water, making manure and compost by collecting dung and garbage, keeping cows in one place by creating Gothaan and keeping homeless wild animals in one place because they have been made homeless due to cutting of forests, are included. The government of Chhattisgarh is making the Gothaan in every Gram Panchayat. If this work is done through MNREGA, then every Gram Panchayat, boys will get employment. Chhattisgarh has the highest support price of paddy. If the government wants to do justice to the farmers, then it will have to increase the

support price of paddy. When the country's farmers will be prosperous then only the country will prosper.

**SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV, making his maiden speech, said:** I associate myself with every point made by Mr. Vijay Pal Singh Tomar. If someone has worried about the villages and farmers after Chaudhary Charan Singh, he is respected Modi. He has given strength to crores of people who are living below the poverty line. He has given free gas connection and free electricity connection. He has provided toilets and accommodation for free. He reduced the rate of crop insurance, given constitutional status to the Backward Classes Commission and provided reservation for the Backward Class. Modi ji has made provision for the first time in the budget for marginalised people, labourers, working women and nomadic tribes. Small businessmen and small government employees were given exemption in income tax. He has given exemption to GST for small traders. Former governments are responsible for the pathetic conditions of farmers and their suicide.

**SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:** Farming is a human enterprise in India. 77 per cent of the people are directly or indirectly involved in farming. It is also a huge area of livelihood. When the country got independence, the contribution of agriculture to GDP was almost 50 per cent and now it is barely one per cent. We are self-sufficient in agriculture and food production. The eating habits of people in the country are also changing. Consumption of fruits, vegetables or other products of agriculture along with grains is also increasing. Even after 70 years of independence in this country, suicide by farmers is a very serious issue. The government gives a lot of benefits in the pieces, which the farmers are not getting. Agriculture should get government's protection. The farmer is discharging the responsibility of production only. Intermediaries are doing marketing, processing companies are doing processing and marketing and distribution companies are making profits from it. The village should have become a unit of production, processing, packaging, trade and transport. Our producers are not organized here but the market is organized. There should be an upgradation of the

skills of the workers in the villages so that value added services can be developed in the villages. Market's responsibility is to provide social security to the farmer and his family. Still, sugarcane farmers have not been paid Rs. 12,000 crore. There is no transparency in the insurance for farmers. I support this resolution and want it to be passed unanimously.

**SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA:** A high-powered committee of Chief Ministers has been formed by the Central Government for the transformation of Indian agriculture. The Committee has deliberated upon in its meetings that the Centre would provide crop loan to farmers to the tune of Rs.13 lakh crore. The Central Government is providing that. But, a large number of farmers, especially the small and marginal ones, remains outside the institutional credit mechanism. Most of the farmers are getting trapped into the loan trap of the private moneylenders. That is one of the foremost reasons that the farmers are committing suicide. The growth rate in agriculture is decreasing every year. There has been two successful green revolutions in this country. In spite of that, farmers are committing suicide. The basic reason is that the production has improved but the farmers are not getting the actual price of their produce. The Government has not implemented the Swaminathan Commission Report so far as the MSP is concerned.

\* **SHRI B. LINGAIAH YADAV:** (spoke in Telugu)

**PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:** When the Prime Minister was talking about suicide, he said that it is a national pain. The series of suicides has not stopped. This raises questions not only on the government but also raises questions on our sensibilities. I want to

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\* Synopsis of speech delivered by hon'ble Member in Telugu will be published separately as supplement.

congratulate my farmers, who continue to work in the scorching heat of summer in their field. Most of the major parties keep silence on the land reform. Revolution cannot be brought without land reform in the agricultural sector. Farmers are the backbone of our country. Land Tribunal and Fast Track Court are needed. 5 acres of land should be given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Farmers' opinions are important in case of farmer and agriculture. If Parliament is strict to save farmer, agriculture, down trodden, tribes from crony capitalism, then there will be importance of farmer commission.

**SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY:** The country would collapse if we do not support the farmers and agriculture. Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar's proposal to set up a National Farmers' Commission with constitutional status is really appreciable. This National Farmers' Commission should be on the lines of the SC/ST Commission. Every State in this country should have a State Farmers' Commission, thereby, the problems of the farmers across the nation could be addressed. The Resolution urges the Government to increase Kisan Samman Nidhi from Rs. 6,000 to Rs. 10,000. Government should exempt GST on agricultural equipment. There should be 90 per cent subsidy for farmers to purchase agricultural tools and machinery. The land holdings are coming down. Therefore, the government should make a policy for pooling of farming land among the farmers. The National/State Seeds Corporations need to be strengthened so that good, high yielding seeds can be supplied to the farmers. I urge the Government to remove the intermediaries. I urge the government to address the issues raised and act in a pro-active manner.

**SHRI G.V.L. NARASIMHA RAO:** There is a lot of politics in this country in the name of agriculture. Waiving of loan is promised, but that promise is not fulfilled. Some schemes of the Central Government are for all farmers. But they are not implemented by the state government because its credit can go to the Central Government. The Swaminathan commission report was submitted in the year 2006-07. No action was taken until the coming of our government on the recommendations of that commission. The first

recommendation of this commission was to give at least 50 percent profit of the cost of the crop to the farmers. Under the Kisan samman Nidhi, the benefit was given to about four crore farmers as the first instalment. But, only 9,300 farmers were given this benefit in Madhya Pradesh. Under this fund, 100 percent assistance comes from central government fund. But some states are not fully implementing it. This is injustice to the farmers. Despite the contribution made by the people and the Central Government under the 'Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme', the farmers are not able to get compensation for their crop because many state governments do not contribute to it. Due to the negligence of the state government, the farmer has to suffer huge losses. Under the Prime Minister AASHA Scheme, in the last five years the government has procured the farmers' produce of more than Rs. 30 thousand crores. Due to which many farmers have got the benefit. Under this scheme, if the state government purchases the crop at a higher rate than the market rate, then that amount is reimbursed by the Central Government. Farmers are not getting the minimum support price. Farmers have to sell their crops at low rates to middlemen and middlemen are taking advantage of this scheme. The measures should be taken so that the benefits of the schemes of the centre can be received by the farmers.

**SHRI SANJAY SINGH:** The former Prime Minister of the country, Late Chaudhary Charan Singh had said that the path of progress and prosperity of the country goes through fields and barns. But today, the path of suffering of farmers is going through fields and barns. This is a matter of concern for everyone. Today, the farmers are filling the country's godowns with thier hard work but they are dying due to poverty and are forced to commit suicide. Their fields are not getting water. When they go for seeking fertilizer, water and potato, onion price and land compensation, they are beaten with sticks. This is the truth of the farmers. Farmers' land is used for making highways, opening a factory, making the airport and laying railway lines. For them, land acquisition of farmers in the entire country is done at an minimal price. These policies should be stopped, only then the farmers of the country can be benefited. Farmers' land

has been given to multinational companies under the name of SEZ, but no use has been done. According to the rule, if this land is not used for 5 years, it should be returned to the farmers, but this is not being done. The Kisan Samman Yojna has mentioned repeatedly. After 72 years of independence, 6,000 rupees per year means that only 17 rupees per day is being given to the farmer. Therefore, it is not a plan of respect for farmers. The government should give the farmers one and a half times of the cost of their crop. They should be provided with affordable fertilizers, cheap diesel and water timely. Today, farmers producing potatoes, tomatoes, onions have to sell their crops at very low prices. Even they are forced to destroy their produce on farms or roads. They do this because they do not get the right price of their produce. Sugarcane farmers are also forced to burn their crops in fields due to non getting the fair price of sugarcane. Sugarcane farmers have outstanding of thousands of crores of rupees on private sugar mills. The government provides funds to private sugar mills but the amount does not reach the farmers. We have made compensation of the crop Rs. 50 thousand per hectare in Delhi and we have decided that the wheat from the farmers will be procured at the rate of Rs. 2600 per quintal. The government should make a proper scheme for the farmers for the storage of crops, procurement of crops and sufficient compensation for land. I support this resolution.

**SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH:** The land of India is very much ideal in terms of farming, but it is also true that our agriculture is lagging behind. The area of agriculture sector in our country has decreased day by day and people engaged in agricultural work start getting involved in other tasks. In this resolution, one thing has been said that farmers should get Bharat Ratna. The feeling in it is that the honour and dignity of the farmer should be restored in the country. Earlier agricultural work was considered to be the best and the job was considered to be the lowest work, but today the situation is opposite. Today, farmers can not meet the expenses of their family with the help of land. So he tries to get government jobs. Today farmers are selling their land to get government jobs by giving bribe. Farmers should be provided water, adequate electricity, fertilizer and seeds at the time for

irrigation. They should also be given subsidy on agricultural equipment. I support this resolution.

**SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR:** Water will be the biggest problem in the agriculture sector. We will have to use modern equipment such as drip and sprinkling in agriculture. The drip and sprinkling system is a very important thing for India's future. Earlier, there was a practice to fill the entire farm with the water, but changing the system can save water significantly. Mobile connectivity in villages also needs to be improved. GST should not be more than 5 per cent. Farmers will benefited from the storage and processing facilities in the villages. India's population is very high. Our land is divided with each generation that is why land is left for no use. The younger generation likes to go to big cities for a job. Nowadays, the government is promoting the green house. Green House is a very good scheme. We can grow fruits, vegetables and flowers therein. A lot of farmers want to quit farming. I would urge the government to take steps to encourage them.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA) intervening in the discussion, said:** I know the status of production, land and income of farmers. In states where good experiments have been made to improve the condition of the farmers, all other states should follow them. 6.5 crore farmers have taken loans from institutional credit. Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi has started "Kisan Credit Card". For this, only three documents are required and the farmer can get Kisan credit card within 15 days. A drive of Kisan Credit Card is going to be launched in this country. This is the priority of our government. As far as doubling the income of farmers is concerned, that was not the election slogan. In order to realize this, our government is committed towards reducing the cost of farmers, increasing their productivity and fixing the right price. I did not get any complaint from any farmer in the case of manure. Coating of urea with neem was done much earlier, but no one has shown the courage to implement the same. Now we have urea in surplus and the

farmers are getting urea in whole of the country easily. Let me tell you that we have also started the campaign for Soil Health Card. It was started by Modi ji in Gujarat and Swaminathan ji had praised a lot that program of Gujarat. The farmers of our country are producing cereals, fruits, vegetables etc. at large scale. In the countries like Israel, the irrigation of the fields is done by drip and spinklers, but our farmers irrigate through the drains. We have to make all the farmers aware of it. There is only one solution to the fragmentation of the land, that all these small farmers should be gathered. Our government is working on giving inspiration to the farmer to work in this direction by making an FPO. It was the notion that there is no agriculture in the North East states but the achievement of being the first organic state in the country was achieved by Sikkim. Our government has started a program on mission mode for special organic farming. Under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji, our government is making efforts to improve the condition of the farmers of the country. During this period, when excellent people of my country were honoured, there were 12 farmers too. We have done a lot for the farmers and will continue to do so. I request Shri Vijay Pal Singh Tomar to withdraw his resolution.

**SHRI VIJAY PAL SINGH TOMAR, replying to the discussion on the Statutory Resolution said:** I thank all the respected members for their views. On the appeal of Honourable Modi ji, farmers made the country self-reliant in pulses. I hope we will be self-reliant even in oilseeds. Farmers are doing their job well. Irrigation projects will be completed soon. I withdraw my resolution.

*The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.*

## **SPECIAL MENTIONS**

### **1. Demand against Privatization of Public Sector Banks**

**SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH:** Half a century ago, the then Prime Minister, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalised fourteen private banks. Since then, public sector banks have played a hugely transformative role. They have fuelled the Green Revolution and rural development and have stimulated the growth of the women's Self-Help Group movement. Public sector banks have catalyzed industrialization through both the organized corporate sector and SMEs. They have also enabled the economy to withstand severe global financial crises. I welcome the announcement of the Finance Minister regarding recapitalization of public sector banks to enable them to meet prudential norms. But at the same time, I urge the Government to come out with a categorical statement in Parliament that privatization of public sector banks will not take place. This assumes importance in view of statements made by senior officials that Government holding in public sector companies could be reduced to below 51 per cent. It is also important because foreign funds have majority stake in most Indian private banks. The resilience and sovereignty of the economy is ensured by having the core of the banking system owned by the Government. I, therefore, urge the Government not to go ahead with privatization of public sector banks.

*(Several hon'ble Members associated.)*

### **2. Demand to Include Rich Cultural and Historic Heritage of Jharkhand under Swadesh Darshan Yojana**

**SHRI SAMIR ORAON:** Jharkhand has vast tourism potential. In its Gumla district, there is a worth-seeing huge trident of iron at the ancient Tanginath Dham that never catches rust. There is a place of mythological importance, popularly known as Pampapur in Gumla district. Mata Anjani Dham, which is the birthplace of Lord Hanuman, has not been given appropriate importance even today.

Navaratangarh at Sisai block, despite being included in world heritage, has not been given proper attention. Sira-Sita-Nala is also located in this district, which is the basis of the religious traditions of the tribal society. Similarly, there are also other important places of tribals' faith. Therefore, I urge that in view of the rich cultural, historical, religious and natural heritage of Jharkhand, the said destinations should be included under the Swadesh Darshan Yojana.

*(Shri Ranvijay Singh Judev associated.)*

### **3. Demand to Include Life Skills & Thinking and Emotional Learning in the Curriculum to Check Suicidal Tendency among Students**

**DR. VIKAS MAHATME:** More than twenty students have committed suicides in Telangana in a span of one week after Telangana Intermediate Examination results. At the same time, a student of IIT-Hyderabad and a student of class XII in Maharashtra allegedly committed suicide. The stress of excelling academically and professionally is driving students to take their own lives. The Government should help improve students' susceptibility to stress so that they don't take such an extreme step. I urge the Government to include life skills and thinking and social and emotional learning in the curriculum. This will help in developing an emotionally stronger young generation that can cope up with challenges in life. Also, we need to imbibe in our curriculum learning about thoughts and emotions.

### **4. Demand to Provide Financial and Other Assistance to the Flood Affected People of Assam**

**SHRI KAMAKHYA PRASAD TASA:** In Assam, flood is creating a serious situation and 5,170 villages in 32 districts are submerged, disrupting lives of over 56 lakh people and livestock. Till date, 19 lives have been lost in floods. The Government of Assam has

taken good steps to tackle the flood situation. I also thank the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for constantly monitoring the flood situation and sending the Jal Shakti Minister to Assam for firsthand assessment. The Government has released Rs.251.55 crore from SDRF. The Government of Assam is giving financial help to flood victims -- Rs.95,000 for fully damaged house, Rs.35,000 for partially damaged house and Rs.3,800 to the family of flood victims. But more help is needed for the families of flood victims. So, I request the Government to grant more aid to the flood-affected people so that they can earn their livelihood after flood is over. Also I request the Government to grant loans under Livelihood Mission to SHGs and to grant PMAY houses, especially in the flood-affected areas on priority basis. The Government should conduct a study of the river courses in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland as the rivers are creating erosion problems. I hope that the Government will do the needful and instantly, the Departments including DoNER would deal with the post-flood situation in Assam.

## **5. Demand to Scrutinize the NRC for Resolving Grievances of Genuine Citizens**

**HRI RIPUN BORA:** NRC, D-Voters are two major issues in Assam. Several lakh people have been made D-Voters on the grounds of being illegal migrants. As a result, the Foreigner Tribunals during the past one year declared several thousand genuine Indians as foreigners. Meanwhile, five genuine Indian citizens committed suicide at the detention camp out of depression and frustration. In the draft NRC and recently published additional list of NRC, names of a large number of genuine Indian citizens belonging to Bengali Hindus, Gorkha, Tribal people have been dropped. Even the names of family members of freedom fighters, Sahithya Academy Award winners, army personnel and war martyrs are also left out in the NRC. Meanwhile, more than 50 persons died out of heart attack not finding

their names in the draft NRC. I urge upon the Government to scrutinize the names of the alleged immigrants in a meticulous way so that no Indian citizen is harassed in this way.

*(Shri Jairam Ramesh and Dr. L. Hanumanthaiah associated.)*

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**Desh Deepak Verma,**  
*Secretary-General.*