Demand to expand the scope of Loan Waiver Scheme Announced for farmers

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): धन्यवाद, उपसभाध्यक्ष जी। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आज मैं आपकी अनुमति से सदन का ध्यान कृषि मंत्री जी के हाल के उस बयान की तरफ आकृष्ट करना चाहती हूं, जिसमें उन्होंने किसानों की ऋग माफी के पैकेज का और विस्तार करने की मांग को सिरे से खारिज कर दिया है। उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आप यह जानते हैं कि किसानों की आत्महत्याओं का मामला हमारे सदन में बार-बार उठता रहा है, पिछले दो वर्ष में एक भी सत्र ऐसा नहीं गया, जब कि यह मसला यहां नहीं उठाया गया हो और बार-बार सरकारी आश्वासनों के बाद भी आत्महत्याओं का सिलसिला जारी रहा। पहली बार, जब इस बार के बजट में यह कहा गया कि साठ हज़ार करोड़ की ऋण माफी की जा रही है, तो किसान की आंखों में चमक आई, उसे थोड़ी राहत महसूस हुई, लेकिन जैसे ही उस ऋण पैकेज का खुलासा हुआ कि किन-किन की ऋण माफी की जाएगी, तो बहुत बड़ी संख्या में किसानों को यह लगा कि वे तो इस लाभ से वंचित रह गए हैं, क्योंकि वे उसकी पात्रता ही नहीं रखते। जैसे विदर्भ के सारे के सारे किसान पांच एकड से ज्यादा बडी जोत के मालिक हैं और पात्रता रखी गई है पांच एकड की। वे असिंचित भूमि के मालिक हैं, इसलिए पांच एकड से ज्यादा उनके पास जुमीन है और यह बात मैं नहीं कह रही हूं, महोदय, यह बात स्वयं कांग्रेस के केंद्रीय मंत्री विलास मुत्तेमवार जी ने एक पत्र कांग्रेस अध्यक्षा को लिखकर यह मांग की कि इस ऋग माफी के पैकेज से वे बाहर रह गए हैं, इसलिए इस ऋग पैकेज की माफी का विस्तार किया जाना चाहिए और उन लोगों को भी इसमें लिया जाना चाहिए। इसी तरह से, हर गांव से ऐसे किसान आ रहे हैं, जो यह कह रहे हैं कि यह जो ऋग माफी हुई है, इसका लाभ हमें नहीं मिला। इसलिए चारों तरफ से यह मांग राजनीतिक दलों द्वारा भी उठाई जा रही है, संपादकीय भी लिखे जा रहे हैं, अखबारों में लेख भी आ रहे हैं। चाहिए तो यह था कि संवेदनशीलता के साथ उन सारी मांगों को देखा जाता और जो किसान इस लाभ से वंचित रह गए हैं, उनको इस पैकेज में कैसे लाया जाए, इस ओर ध्यान दिया जाता और उनकी पात्रता बनाई जाती। बजाय इसके, एक हेकड़ी भरा बयान कृषि मंत्री जी का आ गया कि बस, जो दे दिया गया, दे दिया गया। अब इसके आगे हम किसी को भी यह विस्तार नहीं करेंगे और कोई भी एक व्यक्ति इसमें नहीं आएगा, जबकि उन्हों के क्षेत्र के लोग यह आरोप लगा रहे हैं कि इसका सबसे बड़ा लाभ कृषि मंत्री के अपने संसदीय क्षेत्र को हुआ है। उनको चूंकि मिल गया, इसलिए वे और किसी को लाना नहीं चाहते, यह अनुचित भी है और यह अन्यायपूर्ण भी है। सरकार अगर अपने खजाने में से कुछ बांटती है, तो उसे देखना चाहिए कि हर दुखी और पीड़ित को उसमें उसका हिस्सा मिले. लेकिन कृषि मंत्री के इस हेकड़ी भरे बयान से लोगों में निराशा आई है, किसानों में रोष व्याप्त हुआ है और वे आक्रोश की ज्वाला में धधक रहे हैं, इसलिए मुझे लगा कि मैं उनके इस दर्द को शून्य काल में आपके माध्यम से सदन के सामने रखुं और सरकार से आग्रह करूं कि इस हेकड़ी भरी नीति को हटाएं और इस ऋग माफी का विस्तार करते हुए उन किसानों को भी इसके घेरे में लाएं, जो इसके लाभ से वंचित रह गए हैं।

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI (Maharashtra): Sir, I associate myself with the hon. Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): All associated will be noted.

Alleged misuse of official position by Minister of Shipping Road, Transport and Highhways

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House towards a newspaper report regarding the Union Surface Transport Minister, Mr. T.R. Baalu. According to report, Mr. Baalu has been arm-twisting the officials of ONGC...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I have a point of order.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): One second. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, where is the point of order in this? The Chairman has permitted me. In Zero Hour, there cannot be a point of order. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am controlling. ... (Interruptions)... Why are you trying to do it? ... (Interruptions)... Please take your seat. ... (Interruptions)... I am here. ... (Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, there cannot be a point of order on this. ... (Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I am here to protect your interest as well as his interest. ... (Interruptions)... Please.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, you have to grader the interests of the House, ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF PART 1 1997) that is what I am saying. ... (Interruptions)... This is what I meant. .. (Interruptions) = Property of the ruptions)... What is your point of order? ... (Interruptions)... Please = (Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, Rule 238 says (Interseptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No. please. ... (Interruptions)... You cannot say that. ... (Interruptions)... What is your point of order?

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, Rule 238 says, "A member while speaking shall not refer to any matter of fact on which a judicial decision is pending..."

Sir, in the same news item on the basis of which he said that ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, there cannot be a point of order. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will give the order. ...(Interruptions)...
You sit down. ...(Interruptions)... I will give the decision. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, he cannot ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Dr. Maitreyan, you leave it to me. ...(Interruptions)... You cannot say that. ...(Interruptions)... You sit down. ...(Interruptions)... This is not the way. ...(Interruptions)... What is your point of order? ...(Interruptions)... No. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, there cannot be a point of order in the Zero Hour. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand): Sir, you listen to ... (Interruptions) ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I will listen to him also. ...(Interruptions)... It is my job ...(Interruptions)... Please cooperate with me. ...(Interruptions)... Please cooperate. ...(Interruptions)... Your first point is that a matter which is to be decided by the court cannot be discussed. That is what you are saying. ...(Interruptions)... What is your point? ...(Interruptions)... Tell me. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Sir, in the same news item. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, you cannot say that. ...(Interruptions)... Please ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Tiruchi Siva, you have to mention what is your point of order, under what rule are you raising it, and what is your objection. You cannot read any material, you cannot make any statement. You are raising a point of order which I allowed. Now, say,

under what rule are you raising it and what is your objection? That alone will go on record, nothing else.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I have quoted the rule. It is 238.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I know that. I have that rule book with me. What is your objection now? Tel me.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: The matter is pending in the Delhi and Madra: High Court. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no. You cannot bring in that ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The point of order cannot go on like this. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There are so many issues which may be under the consideration of the court, and if you say that something is under the consideration of the court, you cannot criticise the court, you cannot criticise the judge. That is ruled out....(Interruptions)...

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Since the matter is sub judice, it cannot be discussed. ...(Interruptions)...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, I am on a point of order. The subject matter about which the hon. Member has given notice is like this. Under Rule 238, the alleged misuse of official position by the Minister for Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Shri T.R. Baalu. That is the subject which he has given.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: That is the subject given by your office. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: No, Sir. I can go by the agenda here in this House Kindly see sub-clause (ii) and sub-clause (v) of Rule 238. Sub-clause (v) says: "reflect upon the conduct of persons in high authority unless the discussion is based on a substantive motion drawn in proper terms." Then the words "persons in high authority" have been explained. If it is against the hon. Minister, the hon. Member, the person who is making the allegation, has to substantiate that allegation and give a letter to the hon. Chairman. The hon. Chairman in turn, will forward it to the hon. Minister. After getting explanation from the hon. Minister, the Chairman can allow it, and after the Chairman has allowed it; the Minister has got a right to reply. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: The Chairman has allowed him. ...(Interruptions)... He has been permitted by the Chair. ...(Interruptions)... It is shocking. ...(Interruptions)...(Interruptions)... What is this? ...(Interruptions)...

ंश्री स्द्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): मंत्री बन गए लेकिन फिर भी जुबान नहीं बदली। कांग्रेस पार्टी के चीफ व्हिप। ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Maitreyan, you are permitted by the Chair to make the statement. You can make the statement. But don't make any allegation.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: Sir, I am not making any allegation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Secondly, if you, mention the name of any Minister in the House, and since you have mentioned the name, that Minister will have a right to reply or respond. Now, you please proceed. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I wish to draw the attention of the House to the news-report regarding the Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways, Mr. T.R. Baalu. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): The Minister is present in the House. So, he can do so. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The Minister may be present. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): I have not permitted him to make any allegations. ...(Interruptions) ..

- DR. V. MAITREYAN: According to the report, Mr. Baalu has been arms-twisting the officials of the ONGC and GAIL of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry. As per the report, he is directing them to bend the rules to supply gas from the Cauvery Basin to the two companies owned by his sons, and in which* are large shareholders. "The two companies, in question, are Kings India Chemicals and Kings India Power Corporation. The Minister, according to the report, has summoned the GAIL Chairman, Mr. Choubey on March 1, 2007..."
 - that is according to the report.
 - "... and told him to direct ONGC to supply gas to his family's companies."

It is pertinent to note at this point of time that Kings Chemicals figures in the 2004 list of Tamil Nadu bank loan defaulters! The matter, according to the report, has been taken to the hon. Prime Minister seeking his permission to prosecute Mr. Baalu under the Prevention of Corruption Act. The undue influence exerted by Mr. Baalu, according to the report, has to be viewed in the light of conflict of interest. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please listen to me once again, Mr. Maitreyan. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN:to benefit the related companies. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr. Maitreyan, you said 'report'.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I said 'according to the report'.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Number one. Are you prepared to authenticate the report?

DR. V. MAITRÉYAN: Yes, Sir. Not only the report, but also the other document. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Listen. Number two. Whatever is allegatory will be removed from the record. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: That is according to the report, Sir. I am not making any allegations against the Minister. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): There is a rule. ...(Interruptions)... The rule is clear. ...(Interruptions)... As per the rules. ...(Interruptions)... As per the rules. ...(Interruptions)...

^{*} Expunged as ordered by the Chair

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am coming to that ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): As per the rules.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: As per the rule ... (Interruptions)... He is already authenticating papers, and also the report.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: I am authenticating the papers. ... (Interruptions)...

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is authenticating, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Why do you worry about that? ...(Interruptions) .. I said only 'the rule'. I go by the rules. ...(Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The Minsiter, Mr. Baalu, has not contradicted, so far, any of the above allegations. On the contrary, he has the audacity to say that it is for the Prime Minister to reply. Hence, I urge the Government to come out clean on this subject, and the Prime Minister should take this House into confidence and clear the picture.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okey. ... (Interruptions)... Do you want to respond first, Mr. Baalu?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Yes, Sir.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The matter has gone to the Prime Minister. ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Mr.Baalu, are you going to reply to it later or now?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Yes Sir, I have to reply. I have got some other business in the other House. It is not possible to reply later. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Please listen to him.

SHRIT.R BAALU: Sir, my friend Mr. Maitreyan has made some allegations against me.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: No, I have not made any allegations.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN). Mr. Maitreyan, that I will see, if there is any allegation or not.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, he has cast aspersions on me. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN). I will see that. You make your point, Mr. Baalu.

SHRITR. BAALU: Sir, I have to make the record straingt. I should say I was Managing Director of King Chemicals, and also of the Company called King Hi-Power. King Hi-Power was envisaged so that King Chemicals is rehabilitated. It was having about 40,000 shareholders. Public money has been invested in that particular Company. And King Chemicals has been provided, has been allotted about 10,000 cubic metre of gas by the Gas Authority of India. To rehabilitate the King Chemicals Company, King hi-Power has approached the Gas Authority of India; they have provided 4.5 lakh cubic metre gas to see that power is produced out of gas. Here, you should know, Sir, that a BIFK Company has got more than 40,000 shareholders; Public money has to be saved. The responsibility lies with the management, whether 'X management' or 'Y management'. And in 1999, I my self signed

the agreement. The agreement was between the Gas Authority and. ...(Interruptions)... As a Managing Director, I have signed the particular agreement.

DR. V. MAITREYAN: As a Minister, Sir! ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: As Minister? ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No, no; you please don't intervene. Please continue, Mr. Baalu.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: But, then, you have to make that allegation also. ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF.P.J. KURIEN): You do not respond to them...(Interruptions)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: He knows in which year... ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): You address it to the Chair. Don't respond to him.

SHRIT.R. BAALU: See, I have signed an agreement along with the Gas Authority Chairman. Sir, the thing is, the employees of that particular Company approached me and said, "You only appointed us." And thousands of shareholders approached me and said, "The Company has got sick. Now, you are at the helm of affairs. You are Minister. Why don't you put our case before the Petroleum Minister so as to have the justice?" What was the injustice? The injustice was that the allocation made by the Gas Authority of India Limited was cancelled. Why was it cancelled? (Interruptions)... What for was it cancelled? It was only to take revenge on me. On 21.12.2003, I resigned on the advice of my leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, and the DMK as also on principles, and got freed from the clutches of the BJP. I was a Member of the NDA Council of Ministers. I resigned and then the country was to go to the polls. They wanted to take revenge on me. On 21.12.2003, I resigned. Within 25 days, on 14.1.2004, it was cancelled. Why was it cancelled? (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): Mr. Siva, please.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: They had cancelled not only the 10,000 cubic metre of gas allocated and also the 4.5 lakhs cubic metre of gas intended for producing power. Both these things were cancelled. Here lies the problem, Sir. My old friend has taken revenge on me. I was at the helm of affairs of both the companies. Thousands of shareholders are on the one side and hundreds of labourers are on the other. To avoid the closure of the company, at the request of the employees, I put as world to my friend the Petroleum Minister to render justice. That is what happened. What is wrong in that? I have not discussed anything. (Interruptions)... I stick to the fact that I have not discussed anything. (Interruptions)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: A confusing statement has been made by the Minister (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J.KURIEN): No. (Interruptions)... No, please. (Interruptions)...

SHRI T.R. BAALU: They have taken revenge on me. The BJP has taken revenge on me. (*Interruptions*)... I wanted to have justice rendered to that company. (*Interruptions*)... What is wrong in that? (*Interruptions*)...

DR. V. MAITREYAN: The matter has gone to the Prime Minister. (Interruptions)... I want a reply from the Prime Minister. (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Okey. Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari. (Interruptions)... Please. Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record except what Shri Brij Bhushan Tiwari says. (Interruptions)... Nothing will go on record, except Brij Bhushan Tiwari. (Interruptions)...

SHRIS.S. AHLUWALIA: *

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): No. (Interruptions)... You believe or you don't believe, please sit down. (Interruptions)... No. (Interruptions)... That is up to you. (Interruptions)...

Concern over use of Genetically Modified Seeds

श्री बृजभ्षण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं जीन संशोधित खेती जैसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय को शून्य प्रहर में उठाने की अनुमति चाहता हूं। भारत सरकार द्वारा निगमित, संविदा और जीन संशोधित खेती शुरू करने की नीति देश की खेती को बर्बाद करने और खाद्य सुरक्षा को संकट में डालने का प्रयास है। इस संबंध में बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों और जैविक उद्योग के समर्थन से केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा जीन संशोधित खेती की अनुमित दी जा रही है, जब्दुक दुनिया के कई देशों में इस पर रोक लगी है और वे क्षेत्र ''जीएम मुक्त'' घोषित किए गए हैं। इस दिशा में केरल सहित कई राज्य सरकारों ने जैविक इंजीनियंरिंग, तकनीक पर समग्र एवं व्यापक दूरगामी दृष्टि अपनायी है और खेती, जैविक विविधता पर्यावरण, जन-स्वास्थ्य, खाद्य-सुरक्षा, राजनैतिक, आर्थिक और सामाजिक दुष्प्रभावों के विभिन्न पहलुओं को सराहा है। परन्तु केन्द्र की सरकार उनके इस निश्चयात्मक प्रयास को भी निष्फल करने जा रही है।

भारत सहित दुनिया के कृषि वैज्ञानिकों, पर्यावरणविदों और विशेषज्ञों ने जीन संशोधित खाद्य फसल बी॰टी॰ ब्रिंजल और सब्जी प्रजाति बी॰टी॰ जीन के प्रयोग के विरुद्ध चैतावनी दी है।

हमारी सरकार से मांग है कि इस पर रोक लगायी जानी चाहिए। इसी संबंध में केरल में जीएम क्रॉप्स एंड फूडस पर एक सेमिनार भी हुआ था और उस सेमिनार में यह संकल्प पारित हुआ, "Release of GM crop into the environment and the GM foods into the market should be banned to protect heath, agriculture and biodiversity of the nation". मान्यवर, यह अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है और इसने देश के तमाम बुद्धिजीवियां, वैज्ञानिकों और एक्टिविट्स को चिंतित कर रखा है और इसी प्रश्न को लेकर 6 मई को उन्होंने दिल्ली में एक प्रदर्शन करने की योजना बना रखी है। इसीलिए मेरी सरकार से पुन: मांग है कि अगर देश की खेती को बचाना है, किसानों को बचाना है और खाद्य-सुरक्षा को संकट में नहीं डालना है, तो इस प्रकार के बहुराष्ट्रीय कम्पनियों के प्रयास को निष्कल किया जाना चाहिए। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

श्री लिलत किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री स्द्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) उपसभाध्यक्ष महोंदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्रीमती जया बच्चन (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करती हं।

श्री शाहिद सिद्दिकी (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय उठाया है, मैं उससे अपने आपको सम्बद्ध करता हं।

آسری شاہد صدیقی (اتر پردیش): آپ سبھا ادیمیکش، ماتئے سدسنے نے جو وشے اللہ ایا ہے، میں اس سے اپنے آپ کو سمبد هم کرتا ہوں کے

^{*}Not recorded.

^{†[]} Transliteration in Urdu Script