

हो गए हैं, जो बाजार में बिकने योग्य नहीं हैं। इस क्षति के कारण गेहूँ के लाखों किसानों को भारी नुकसान हुआ है और बड़ी संख्या में देश के किसान उदास और निराश हैं।

इसी प्रकार अखबारों एवं इलेक्ट्रॉनिक मीडिया के समाचारों के अनुसार उत्तर प्रदेश एवं कर्णाटक सहित हजारों एकड़ गेहूँ की फसल आग लगने से स्वाहा हो गई है। लाखों गरीब किसानों की हजारों एकड़ जमीन में लहलहाती फसल के जल जाने के कारण गरीब किसानों के सामने परिवार को पालने की समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है। केन्द्र सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण किसानों को फसल का लाभकारी मूल्य न मिलने के कारण किसान आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर हैं। ऐसे कठिन दौर में आग और पानी से हुई क्षति जख्म पर नमक छिड़कने जैसा है। समाजवादी पार्टी के मुखिया ने किसानों के हर दुख-दर्द में उनका साथ दिया है। पूरा देश किसानों के इस कष्ट से बहुत चिंतित है। मैं सरकार से अनुरोध करता हूँ कि फसल की क्षति के पूरे आंकड़े देश के सभी प्रदेशों से मंगाकर किसानों को उचित मुआवजा देने की व्यवस्था की जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up the Statutory Resolution.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION

Approving continuance in force of the proclamation dated 20th November, 2007 in respect of Karnataka

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:—

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 20th November, 2007 in respect of Karnataka, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 20th May, 2008."

As the House is aware, the President issued a Proclamation imposing President's Rule under article 356 of the Constitution in the State of Karnataka on 20th November, 2007 keeping the Legislative Assembly under suspended animation. The Resolution seeking approval to the Proclamation was approved by the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 2007. Subsequently, when it became clear that no party or combination of parties was in a position to form a Government and the only option left was to seek fresh mandate of the people, the Legislative Assembly of the State was dissolved on 20th November, 2007. As the hon. Members are aware, under clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution, the Proclamation issued by the President and duly approved by the Parliament shall, unless revoked, cease to operate on the expiration of a period of six months from the date of issue of Proclamation unless the Resolution approving the continuance in force of such a Proclamation is passed by both the Houses in which case the Proclamation shall continue for a further period of six months. Accordingly, the Proclamation in relation to the State of Karnataka shall cease to operate on 19th May, 2008 unless we, in this House, decide to extend it for a further period of six months. We must, therefore, either have an elected Government in place by the 19th May, 2008 or extend the duration of the President's Rule. Here, I would like to clarify in terms of the first proviso of the clause (4) of article 356 of the Constitution, President's Rule in a State can be extended for a period of six months only, however the Proclamation can be revoked at any time before the expiration of the six months' period, if so required. The Election Commission of India has issued schedule for general election to the Legislative Assembly of Karnataka in three phases, that is, 10.05.2008 for 89 assembly constituencies, 16.05.2008 for 66 assembly constituencies and 22.05.2008 for 69 assembly constituencies. The counting of all places

will start on 25.05.2008 and the election shall be completed by 28.05.2008. It is evident from the above that it would be necessary to extend the President's Rule in Karnataka beyond 19th May, 2008 as the general election to constitute the new Legislative Assembly cannot be completed before 19th May, 2008.

In view of the above, it is proposed that the President's Rule in Karnataka may be extended for a further period of six months with effect from 20th May, 2008. I seek the approval of this august House to the Resolution moved by this House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Since there is no Member to speak on this Resolution, I shall put the Statutory Resolution to vote. The question is:—

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation dated the 20th November, 2007 in respect of Karnataka, issued under article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 20th May, 2008."

The Motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2.10 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch

at thirteen minutes past two of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

Discussion on the working of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, how should I begin? I don't see the Minister at all.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Two Cabinet Ministers are there. You can start...*(Interruptions)*...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Sir, the hon. Minister is on the way. He is coming. There is a delegation. There is a lunch for visiting delegation. Therefore, he will be delayed by two-three minutes. That's all.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): In any case, it is collective responsibility. So, you can start.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He had requested for ten minutes.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: I have no problem, Sir. But, I have to ask a lot of questions today from the hon. Minister of Commerce and I am sure my very good friend, Mr. Narayanasamy, a very hon. Council of Minister, will not be able to respond to those questions which I am going to ask. Therefore, I would have really appreciated had the MoS been here. There are two Ministers of State in that Department, Sir. I would have really appreciated if one of the Ministers of State is present to take down notes, at least, of the queries which I am going to raise today.