

**RE: NEED FOR THE CCL TO
HONOUR EXPORT ORDER FOR
COTTON**

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, though the problem of cotton growers in the country has been repeatedly raised and discussed in this House, the matters did not improve. I rise to bring to the notice of the Government a very recent issue concerning the cotton growers. The Cotton Advisory Board had originally estimated that this year's production would be 156 lakh bales. But after getting information from various States, they have declared at a meeting held recently that the present estimated production would be to the extent of 160 lakh bales. That means, after meeting the domestic requirements, we will have about 24 lakh bales for export and this excess can be exported. But as far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the Andhra Pradesh Marketing Federation has got a handsome export order to the tune of about one lakh bales. But the capacity of the Marketing Federation is very limited. It has so far purchased only 25,000 bales. It has not got the financial support; it has not got the staff; it has not got the godowns; nor has it the ginning mills. The State Government, as you all know, is faced with a series of natural calamities and financial constraints. It is unable to help the Andhra Pradesh marketing Federation. Therefore, I request the Central Government now to come to the rescue of the Marketing Federation to purchase cotton from the farmers directly. Otherwise, there will be a crash in the prices and the peasants will be ruined. It is well known that during the last few years, the A.P. cotton growers have faced many hardships. They are unable to clear the debts incurred. Unable to bear the humiliation, they have resorted to even suicide. Therefore, my request to the Central Government is that it should come to their rescue and order the Cotton Corporation of India to

purchase cotton in the market. In the last 2-3 days, it has come to the market. But the Cotton Corporation of India is not purchasing directly from the peasants and it is only purchasing from the middlemen and traders. So the Government should instruct the Cotton Corporation of India to stop these corrupt practices and purchase directly from the peasants.

Secondly, the Government should also advise the financing agencies to help the Marketing Federation so that it can purchase directly from the peasants. Otherwise, a golden opportunity will be lost for our exports. We are already facing sluggish exports. The peasants will also be ruined. As a long-term measure, firstly, I may suggest that the prices of cotton and other commercial crops be fixed before the sowing season itself so that the peasants can plan.....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Please conclude.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: Secondly, the Government should provide an insurance cover to both the food crops as well as the commercial crops, taking the village as the unit and not the mandal as the unit. And, lastly, there should be plans for increasing the capacities of the godowns so that when an emergency situation like this comes, agriculturists can have their crops stored in the godown. Thank you, Sir.

**RE. PRESS REPORTS ABOUT
DECLINE IN FOOD PRODUCTION
AND SCANDALOUS SALE OF WHEAT
BY F.C.I.**

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA (Punjab): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I would like to draw the kind attention of this House, and, through this House, of the countrymen, the steep decline in the production of foodgrains in our country. It is a very serious matter that neither the Budget nor the policy-makers nor the Ministry of Agriculture have attended to this issue so far. If I have to quote an economic survey where production

figures have been given, "Last year, when the targeted figure of foodgrains production was 192 million, the actual production was 185 million tonnes." Even in 1996-97, the target figure of 193.5 million tonnes is not likely to be achieved. The apprehension is this, Sir. The decline in foodgrains production has been surely reflected in the lower procurements. And, an import of two million tonnes of wheat has been ordered only recently. My point is, there are two major States like Punjab and Haryana, which are the frontline States, giving food to the countrymen.

There are even reports with both the States that the food production is likely to decline due to intensive cultivation of land, particularly for two crops, that is, sugarcane and paddy, which consume a lot of fertilizer and water and the whole land is going to dry up, and maybe, you will find a desert in the years to come. That is my main worry. Not only is the food production declining but also the agricultural sector as a whole is getting affected. There are a variety of reasons for this. One major reason is that capital formation.(Interruptions).... Sir, I have yet to start.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Mr. Singla, you cannot make a very, very long speech.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, if there are food riots tomorrow, then you will discuss the same thing in this House.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Mr. Singla, you will have to be very brief. You cannot make a speech on this.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Let me say that there are three major reasons for this decline. Firstly, the Government investment in the agricultural sector is declining over a period of time. Even in the Budget for 1997-98, there is a small component of irrigation. Apart from irrigation, there is nothing. The fertilizer subsidy is really

going to the industry and is not helping in reducing the prices of fertilizer. If you study the Budget in its entirety, you will find that the Central Government is making no investment to promote agriculture. Similarly, even the private investment in the agricultural sector is declining. The point I am trying to make is that the policy followed by the Government of India is lopsided. Why am I saying so? They think that with the liberalisation of economy, there is a chance to import foodgrains. As great scientists have been saying it is a dangerous course to follow. The country must have self-sufficiency in food, particularly those countries which are having low income, and which are developing. One does not know what kind of political pressure is being exerted....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Please conclude now.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I have just started, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Mr. Singla, you cannot make a Zero Hour submission like this. There are so many speakers. This is not a discussion.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: I know, Sir. But this is such a serious matter. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): You have made your point.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: No, Sir, I would suggest to the Government that just like the Railway Budget, the Government should have a separate Budget for Agriculture. 65 per cent of the population in this country depends on agriculture. Agriculture is the mainstay of India's economy. Why can't we foresee a Budget for agriculture which will take care of not only agriculture but also the foodgrains security aspect?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI): Thank you. Smt. Anandiben Jethabhai Patel.

SHRI M.A. BABY (Kerala): Sir, with regard to the suggestion about separate budget for agriculture, I would say, that is something which we may have to discuss separately in detail. But so far as the question of food production coming down is concerned, it is a very serious matter and I request you to direct the Government to come forward with a statement as to what the real position is.

श्री नरेश यादव (बिहार): महोदय, यह साल निराला जी की जन्म शताब्दी का है।... (व्यवधान) गरीबों की आवाज़ का नाम सूर्यकान्त त्रिपाठी "निराला" जी है। उनकी जन्म शताब्दी है। सरकार की तरफ से बयान आना चाहिये और शताब्दी मनाई जानी चाहिये।... (व्यवधान)

डा० वाई लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: महोदय... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी) : अभी आप बैठिए... (व्यवधान) वह अवसर मिलेगा। अभी आप बैठिए

श्री नरेश यादव: यह एक अहम सवाल है। गरीबों की आवाज़ लगाने वाले... (व्यवधान) अकेले कवि निराला जी थे।... (व्यवधान) और उनकी शताब्दी हो रही है।... (व्यवधान) यह शताब्दी मनाई जाए। यह बहुत आवश्यक है और गरीबों के बारे में सोचने वाले राष्ट्र कवि... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी) : अगर आप बिना अनुमति के बोलेंगे तो रेकार्ड में कुछ भी नहीं जाएगा।... (व्यवधान)

डा० वाई लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: आप अनुमति दीजिए।... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी) : आपको बाद में अनुमति मिलेगी।

डा० वाई लक्ष्मी प्रसाद: थैंक यू सर।
... (व्यवधान)

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: इस विषय में मुझे भी अनुमति दी जाएगी?... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी) : बैठिए अभी।
Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel, not present. Shri Parag Chaliha.
... (Interruptions)... Shri Parag Chaliha.

He has just come. Mr. Chaliha, you have to speak on "Rising tide of crime against women in Delhi".

RE: RISING TIDE OF CRIME AGAINST WOMEN IN DELHI

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Assam): Sir, as is well known, crime against women in Delhi is going on almost every day. Through this mention I would like to request the hon. Home Minister to take adequate steps so that this crime is at least reduced, if not totally eradicated. This is the crux of my mention. Thank you.

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली): महोदय, मैंने आपसे रेकवेस्ट की थी?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी): हां, आप एसेसिएट करें।

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह महिलाओं के विरुद्ध जो अपराध दिल्ली में बढ़ते जा रहे हैं बसों के अंदर, दिल्ली यूनिवर्सिटी में जो आंकड़े आए हैं उसके मुताबिक दिल्ली के अंदर महिलाओं के विरुद्ध इतने भीषण अपराध हुए हैं... (व्यवधान)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, there is 28 per cent rise in rapes in Delhi?

प्रो० विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा: और ये बलात्कार के कांड बसों में छेड़छाड़ के, चेन झपटने के और छोटी बच्चियों पर जो अत्याचार हो रहे हैं और उनका शोषण हो रहा है, इन सब के बारे में ऐसा लगता है कि सरकार उनकी तरफ से बिल्कुल मुंह मोड़े बैठी है और इनके बारे में कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जा रही है। यह इसलिए भी हो रहा है कि केन्द्र के पास दिल्ली पुलिस के लिए कोई टाईम नहीं है कि वह दिल्ली पुलिस के काम को देख सके और उसके बारे में न कोई मीटिंग होती है, न कोई एडवाइज़री कमेटी है और खास कर महिलाओं के ऊपर होने वाले अत्याचार और दिल्ली के अन्दर अपराधों का बढ़ता जाना बहुत ही गंभीर समस्या है। इसके बारे में सरकार को सख्त कदम उठाने चाहिये।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री अजीत जोगी): आपने अब अपने आपकी सम्बद्ध कर लिया है।... (व्यवधान) श्री कोहली भी इससे सम्बद्ध किए जाते हैं।... (व्यवधान) श्री गुरुदास दास गुप्त भी सम्बद्ध