

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't get agitated. *(Interruptions)* Just one second. *(Interruptions)* Mr. Muthu Mani, please. *(Interruptions)* I would disclose it before this House. I would see to it that matters relating to Tamil Nadu come last because you don't abide by the rules of the House. I am giving adequate protection to you also. If he says so, I am there to take care of it. *(Interruptions)* Just one second. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.K. KUMAR: But if he is misleading the, House, he should be taken to task. *(Interruptions)*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just one second. I have my own information. *(Interruptions)* Please. I just want to tell you that I have information because the State Government sent me some papers. I got them last week after I made that observation in the House when the matter was raised on the floor that Ms. Jayalalitha was not getting proper facilities and security. I have received some information. Still, Mr. Muthu Mani met me and told me that he had visited the jail and he felt that as far as security is concerned, it was not adequate. She is the leader of a political party and their political party. We have lost lives of leaders in this country at the hands of terrorists. Why should you object to this and why should...*(Interruptions)* Just one second. Why should you speak on behalf of the State Government when there is an elected State Government which is in communication with the Central Government?

It is not your responsibility to unnecessarily defend something. You are not the one who has to decide the security aspect of it. You are no authority to say how much security anybody should have. You cannot give an expert opinion; even I cannot say what security should be given. So, please don't confuse the subject.

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: No, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whatever security is necessary for her life

should be given. Why do you dispute it? ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: I am not disputing it. I am referring to the Chairperson's directions the other day.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, I have given my directions.

SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: And the State Government has given adequate security. ...*(Interruptions)*... The State Government has magnanimously extended 'A' class facility to her in jail.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen. Please sit down. The adequacy of security aspect is neither your responsibility nor mine. We are not the experts to decide how much security should be provided. There is a specialised Cell in the Central Government and in the State Government which decides who should be Z, Z-Plus, XY or whatever it is. Now, let us not get involved in these petty matters. All of us should be united 'on the issue that her life is in danger; it should be taken care of; if it is not being properly done; it should be done. That matter is closed. Okay? Thank you very much. Dr. Y. Radhakrishna Murty.

RE. PLIGHT OF COTTON GROWERS IN ANDHRA PRADESH AND NEED FOR EXPORT OF COTTON

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you. Madam. In the last few years, quite a good number of suicides have been reported from Andhra Pradesh, especially from Guntur and Prakasam districts, from the cotton-growers.' This tragedy is due to sudden and steep fall in the prices of cotton at the time of harvesting. Due to the much defied market-forces or market-frauds or whatever if maybe, thousands of fanners have been totally ruined and have become bankrupt. They owe huge debts to banks and pesticides dealers .and because of their self-respect, they are resorting to suicides.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Kamla Sinha) *In the chair*]

Even today, the fanner is forced to sell away his product at a paltry price of Rs. 1,700 to Rs. 1,800 per quintal. The production expense itself comes to, excluding family labour, roughly Rs. 2,500 per quintal. India is one of the largest producers of cotton along with Pakistan, Uzbekistan and USA, with about 80 lakh acres of land under cotton cultivation. India's total cotton production, in 1995-96, was 156 lakh bales and the expected production of cotton this year, 1996-97, would be 165 lakh bales. Since last year we already have stocks of 36 lakh bales. At present, cotton production far exceeds the internal consumption; therefore, the prices fall. Because of the, gap between supply and demand, traders are utilising this situation and they are quoting rock bottom prices. The Cotton Corporation of India which should have come to the rescue of farmers is not coming to their rescue and leaving them to their fate.

Now, we have a very good opportunity in the international market. As per reports cotton production of Pakistan, Uzbekistan and USA has considerably come down and Taiwan, South Korea and Indonesia are importing very heavily. This is the best opportunity for India to export its cotton. Cotton prices in the international market are also going up and Indian cotton is quoted about 85 cents per pound in international market.

Last year, there was a scope for export of 14 lakh bales—but we lost that opportunity — we could not export — and we could export only nine lakh bales. A part of its was due to court litigations, but the major reason is that the millers' lobby is prevailing upon the Government not to allow exports for obvious reasons. I request the Government not to succumb to the machinations of the millers' lobby and to expedite arrangements to see that cotton is purchased at a reasonable price by the Cotton Corporation of India. I also request the Government to utilise

this golden opportunity to export excess cotton which we, have. We will get sufficient amount of foreign exchange. There is an urgency in this matter and this decision should be taken during January to March. Only then the prices will come to the rescue of farmers. Therefore, there is an urgent need for the Government to fix prices and make arrangements to purchase cotton from farmers directly through the CCI.

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, I associate myself with Dr. Murty.

SHRI SOM PAL (Uttar Pradesh): I want to associate myself with this very important issue. It has been agitating the minds of the farmers for a long time. The non-price recommendations made by CACP need to be given due consideration by the Government which unfortunately has not been done for along time. For several years they have been making recommendations which are known as non-price recommendations to improve the environment for good prices which can be given to farmers that export and import may be made free. These have been recommended many a time by many committees including the Standing Committees relating to the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Commerce. These must be taken note of. This year the plight of farmers is really horrible. I have been visiting Ganganagar and other places. Recently I went to Surat also. I agree with what Mr. Radhalkrishna Murthy has said. The Government must take immediate note of this and the non-price recommendation of the Commission on Agricultural Costs and Prices must be given due weightage in making exports and imports free so that the international prices are made available to the cotton-growers of India. Thank you. Madam