

of their profession. A majority of them are below the poverty line and are most backward in the society.

In view of the above, I urge upon the Government, on behalf of Tamils and the AIADMK, to take immediate steps to include these two communities in the list of Scheduled Castes at the earliest.

**RE: CRISIS IN UNORGANISED SECTORS  
LIKE BEEDI INDUSTRY**

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I am a new Member and this is my maiden submission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): This is the maiden speech of the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY (Andhra Pradesh): It is only a Zero-Hour submission. How can it be a speech?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): But we call it maiden speech'.

DR. Y. RADHAKRISHNA MURTY: Sir, first of all, I would like to pay my respect to the Chair as well as the hon. Members in this august House. Basically, I am a medical man strayed into politics. Therefore, it is my humble request to you to bear with me this time as well as in the future.

Sir, the subject I want to raise is the plight of beedi workers in the beedi industry in the country in general and Andhra Pradesh in particular. It is a cottage industry employing about 60 lakhs of people. And 90 per cent of them are women. And it provides indirect employment to another 90 lakhs of people. About fifty lakhs out of them were tendu leaf collectors and another forty lakhs were beedi tobacco growers and the Government of India during the last few years has introduced a novel scheme of excise duty on cigarettes. Based on the length of the cigarettes it has reduced the excise duty on cigarettes less than 60 milli meter in length by about 50 per cent.

From Rs. 120/- per thousand, it has come down to Rs. 60/- per thousand. Now, the mini cigarette, as it is called is sold at 12 1/2 paise to 20 paise per cigarette. Therefore, it has made it more affordable, more popular though of course with a statutory warning that

"smoking is injurious to health" and it has been almost made an essential commodity though not distributed through PDS. The result is that the mini cigarette production went up from about 50 lakhs per month before this taxation system to 80 crores per month at present and the beedi production has come down by about 25 per cent and thus there is a danger of the workers in the beedi industry facing unemployment. On 8.10.1995, the Andhra Pradesh Assembly unanimously resolved to scrap this system of excise concession for the mini cigarettes. The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government also laid stress on it and I would like to quote a few lines from that Programme. "There are a number of domestic industries which are essentially home-based and village-based, requiring low skills in employment in large numbers and they will be given adequate protection." The hon. Prime Minister, stated at Calcutta on 14th July, 1996 that the Government is committed to promoting the interests of the unorganised sector because 93 per cent of them are in the unorganised sector and that they need social protection of the State because they lack the capacity to bargain collectively. The tobacco multinational company, as per my information is one of the most profit-making and low-employment-oriented industry. But the largest tax evaders and tax defaulters are the tobacco MNCs. Therefore, they do not need any sympathy, any encouragement or any protection. *The Times of India* on 15th July reported "In the context of the forthcoming elections in U.S.A., both the Democrats and the Republicans are accusing each other of being financed and controlled by the tobacco industry. They can afford this unethical luxury. But all of us who swear by Mahatama Gandhi and Jayaprakash

Narayan, would need to be more vigilant and more cautious about these things. My humble submission is, don't encourage mini cigarettes and pamper the MNCs. Don't aggravate the unemployment situation specially, in the unorganised, self-employed and the sub-employed sectors. Thank you.

SHRI MA. BABY (Kerala): Sir, the beedi workers in Kerala and a few other States are also facing the same problem. So, I think, Sir, you may direct the Government to take note of it. Even if they do not respond to it, at least, they should take note of the importance of the matter.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I cannot direct the Government. Shrimati Anandiben Jethabhai Patel.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Dr. Radhakrishna Murty.

**RE: NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL MARKETING AWARD, 1995**

**श्रीमती आनन्दीबेन जैठाभाई पटेल (गुजरात):** उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक महत्वपूर्ण विषय की ओर इस सदन का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ। महोदय, 26 जुलाई 1995 को हिंदुस्तान टाइम्स में एक एडवर्टीजमेंट गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया, डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ रूरल डेवलपमेंट, कृषि मंचन, नई दिल्ली की ओर से आया जिसमें लिखा था कि एग्रीकल्चरल मार्केटिंग में जिन लोगों ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से विशिष्ट कार्य किया है, उन्हें राष्ट्रीय कृषि विपणन पुरस्कार दिए जायेंगे। एग्रीकल्चर मार्केटिंग में जिन लोगों ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से विशिष्ट कार्य किया है उसके पास से नॉमिनेशन मांगा था और नॉमिनेशन भेजने की लास्ट डेट 16 अगस्त, 1995 थी। सर, पूरा एक साल हुआ, मैं जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस पुरस्कार का क्या हुआ? हमारे प्रधान मंत्री कहते हैं कि मैं किसान पुत्र हूँ। तो क्या वे किसान पुत्र होने के नाते किसानों को यह कृषि विपणन पुरस्कार क्यों देंगे? क्या वह फाइलें निकाल कर देखने की कृपा करेंगे? क्या यह सरकार जाहिरत करने वाली सरकार है या एक्शन लेने वाली भी सरकार है? हम किसान को जगत के तात के रूप में पहचानते हैं। 20-20 घंटे काम करके, मेहनत करके उत्पादन करते हैं

तो उसकी ही उपेक्षा क्यों होती है। हमारे माननीय राष्ट्रपति जी हर रोज कोई न कोई एवार्ड प्रदान करते हुए हम टी.वी. पर देखते हैं। किसी दिन श्रेष्ठ नैज्ञानिक को पुरस्कार मिलता है तो किसी दिन श्रेष्ठ टीचर को एवार्ड मिलता है। हर क्षेत्र में विविध प्रकार के एवार्ड होते हैं। लोगों को विविध क्षेत्रों में प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए एवार्ड देने का प्रावधान है। 50 साल तक किसान के लिए ऐसा कोई एवार्ड का प्रावधान न करने का क्या कारण है। किसान की ही क्यों उपेक्षा हुई है। क्या पढ़े-लिखे युवाओं को हम क्लर्क बनना चाहते हैं। एवार्ड देकर ऐसे युवा शक्ति को कृषि क्षेत्र में काम करने का प्रोत्साहन देना हमारा कर्तव्य है। युवाओं को भी लगेगा कि हम कृषि क्षेत्र में काम करके समाज का भला कर रहे हैं। मैं चाहूँगी कि हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी और हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी इस एवार्ड के बारे में जो प्रार्थना पत्र आए हैं, उसके देखेंगे और 15 अगस्त, 1996 में राष्ट्रीय विपणन पुरस्कार की जाहिरत करेंगे, घोषणा करेंगे। कृषि विपणन पुरस्कार के लिए कितने प्रार्थना पत्र देश भर से आए हैं, वह भी मैं जानना चाहती हूँ? इसके चयन के लिए क्या क्राइटेरिया रखा गया है? इसमें प्रमाणिकता से चयन करके आप कब इन पुरस्कार के नाम की घोषणा करेंगे?

**RE: ABDUCTION AND KILLING OF SIX TOURISTS IN SRINAGAR**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): Shri Triloki Nath Chaturvedi. There are five-six names. Other names are only for association Mr. Trivedi, you kindly make your speech I request the other hon. Members to only associate.

SHRI SATISH AGARWAL (Rajas then): Sir, I have given a separate notice for Zero Hour and the hon. Chairman has permitted. I have got the permission. So, it is not a question of only association. We will try to speak on this. ...[interruptions]...

SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL. (Rajas then): We also want to speak on this ...[interruptions]...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): No, no, no. According to the rules, ...[interruptions]... Would you please hear me? According to the rules, whoever gives his name first