

trade. The Government should also issue suitable directives to the State Governments for strict enforcement of the law and to show no leniency and laxity in dealing with the rackets involved. The question of setting up an independent authority to conduct a thorough probe into the unholy flesh-trade, besides involving the social organisations in checking their activities, should also be examined by the Government. Thank you

श्रीमती सुशमा स्वराज (हरियाणा)
सर, मेरा एसोसिएशन इसमें रिकार्ड किया जाए ।

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): I wish to associate myself with what he spoke.

श्री शांति त्यागी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपमहाधक्ष जी, मेरा यह विशेष उल्लेख उत्तर प्रदेश में गन्ना यानी सुगरकेन के मूल्य में वृद्धि किए जाने के बारे में है। आपने मुझे मौका दिया, मैं उत्तर प्रदेश गन्ना उत्पादक किसानों की ओर धन्यवाद देता हूँ।

मान्यवर, गन्ने की फसल किसानों के खन-पसीने की कमाई होती है। प्रदेश के किसानों की यही एकमात्र कृषि काप है। आज जैसाकि आप जानते हैं फर्टिलाइजर के दाम बढ़ गए हैं, लैबर के दाम बढ़ गए हैं, बिजली-पानी के दाम बढ़ गए हैं, डीजल के दाम बढ़ गए हैं, पर मान्यवर इन तमाम चीजों के दाम बढ़ने से गन्ने की पैदावार का खर्चा भी बढ़ गया है। क्वॉस्ट ऑफ प्रोडक्शन ईन्क्रीज की, गन्ने की, सुगरकेन की प्रति एकड़ बढ़ गयी है, लेकिन गन्ने का रेट नहीं बढ़ाया गया है। मित्र-मालिकान, चाहे वह सरकारी हो, चाहे कोऑपरेटिव मिलें हों और चाहे प्राइवेट मिलें, प्रलाभ की दाय पर किसानों की गन्ने की फसल का लट रहे हैं और मुनाफा कमा रहे हैं। आज उत्तर प्रदेश में 44-45 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल गन्ना मिल-मालिकान खरीद रहे हैं। इस तरह वहाँ किसानों की लूट हो रही है

श्रीमन्, उत्तर प्रदेश की भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार जोकि अभी चंद रोज पहले भंग की गयी है, उसने किसानों से बहुत धोखा किया है। उसने किसानों से वायदा किया था कि गन्ने का रेट बढ़ाएंगे, मगर नहीं बढ़ाया। वह मिल-मालिकों से मिल गयी और सिर्फ अयोध्या में लगी रही। किसानों को भूल गयी और उनका शोषण किया। उसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि आज उत्तर प्रदेश के किसानों में बहुत बड़ा एंजीटेशन है गन्ने के रेट को बढ़वाने के बारे में।

अंत में श्रीमन् मेरा आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध है, प्रार्थना है, निवेदन है अभी इस सीजन की गन्ने की पिराट हो रही है, मिलें चालू हैं... (अध्यक्ष) ...माननीय सदस्य जो इस समय सदन में हैं वह सुनें, गन्ने का रेट उत्तर प्रदेश में कम-से-कम 50 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल केन्द्रीय सरकार को घोषित करना चाहिए। उपाध्यक्ष जी, इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी मांग करूंगा कि कृपा कर के केन्द्रीय सरकार उत्तर प्रदेश की चीनी मिलों पर किसानों का पिछले सीजन का जो करोड़ों रुपये बर्तक एक अरब रुपये बाकी है, उस बारे में भी घोषणा करे कि उसका अविलम्ब पेमेंट किया जाएगा।

मायबर, गन्ने की पिछले सीजन की बकाया का अविलम्ब पेमेंट और उत्तर प्रदेश के गन्ना उत्पादकों को 50 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल का गन्ने का रेट—ये दो अनुरोध मैं करना चाहता हूँ और मुझे आशा है कि जो माननीय सदस्य सदन में उपस्थित हैं, वह भी मेरे इन प्रस्तावों का समर्थन करेंगे और केन्द्रीय सरकार उनको स्वीकार करेगी। धन्यवाद।

Setting up of more passport office in Tamil Nadu for Insurance of passports without inordinate delay

SHRI J. S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I bring to the notice of the Government a serious problem being faced by the passport office at Trichinopoly in Tamil Nadu because of which the people of 12 Southern districts of the State have to suffer undue hardship in getting passports,

With a view to ease the workload of Madras Passport Office and to render quick service to the people, the passport office was set up at Trichy on 28th March, 1983. But contrary to the expectations of the 22 passport offices throughout the country, Trichy passport office happens to be the fourth largest office, having to cater to over three and a half crores of people of the districts of Trichy, Tan-jore, Quaid-E-Milleth, Puthukkot, Pasum, pon, Ramnad, Kanyakumari, Kamarajan, Madurai, Thindukkal, Nellai and Chidambaram. And a vast majority of passport seekers in Tamil Nadu hail from Trichy, Tanjore, Quaid-E-Mhleh, Ramnad and Kanyakumari districts and all these districts come under the jurisdiction of Trichy passport office. Because of ever-increasing rush at the office, there is pandemonium and hue and cry amongst passport seekers at the office and the employees have to spend most of their time in maintaining peace in the office. While the office has a sanctioned strength of 126 permanent employees there are only 28 of them currently working. Unable to cope up with the workload, they employ people on casual basis who make howlers at times while processing applications due to lack of experience and as a result, issue of passport is further delayed.

Till the year 1990, the situation was better because around 94 thousand people only applied for passports and that number could be handled by the just 28 efficient employees and passports were promptly issued. But from 1991 onwards, the number of applications increased to a staggering number of two lakh and four thousand. The acute unemployment pro-Mem in the country has driven many disgusted youth to look for green pastures abroad resulting in ever-increasing demand for passports. It takes some five months to ten months now for getting a passport at Trichy while in most offices in the country, the passport is issued within a month. Yet the Trichy Passport Officer, Mr. John Britto, is optimistic of bringing down this period to just four months if things do not get worse. But unfortunately, the passport office not only lacks the required strength of staff

but also modern equipments to meet the modern-day requirements. While computers could be found in rail and bus ticket counters, there is no computer provided in the passport office. For example, just to make sure that a second passport is not issued to the same person, the employees have to sit over a heap of files and spend hours to see them. It is a matter of regret that a passport office has remained neglected this way. Because of such neglect, forgery of passports and even corrupt practices by the agents take place, putting the common man to difficulties.

In an age where many nations issue passports to all its citizens just as ration card for identity, it is saddening that people have to run from pillar to post to get a passport in Tamil Nadu. While there is just one passport office at Trichy for three and a half crores of people, there are three passport offices at Koochi, Ko-zhikode and Trivandrum in Kerala which has only three crore population. I have nothing against Kerala having three offices. What I say is, there should be a limit to the magnitude of neglect to the people of a region. Your Operation Blackboard and Navodaya Schools, have remained only on paper at least in case of Tamil Nadu. The oft-spoken Jawahar Rozgar Yojna has only increased the number of unemployed and your economic reforms have broken the backbone of the poor. The disgusted youth have no option but to get a passport in order to save him and his family from poverty. So I ask, can't you let him have this passport at least ? A grave injustice has been done to Tamil Nadu. Therefore, the Centre should not waste any time in meeting the public demand. If you can set up three passport offices for three crore people, you can very well set up five passport offices for the five-and-a-half crore people of Tamil Nadu. In addition to Madras and Trichy, three more passport offices should be set up at Madurai, Coimbatore and Villupuram, to cater to the needs of the people, of adjoining districts. Then alone, the people of Tamil Nadu would be able to get their passport within a short time, like in other States. This would not involve any re-

currence expenditure because of the revenue collected by way of fees, etc. Further, passport to more persons would help us in reducing the bulk of unemployed. This would also help us in earning precious foreign exchange, in the form of remittances. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to set up passport offices at Madurai, Coimbatore and Villupuram, without further delay.

SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Mr. Raju.

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu) : Sir, I also associate myself with it.

Need for Liberal Financial Assistance to Tamil Nadu for speedy implementation of land reforms

SHRI S. MUTHU MANI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the Government, through this House, towards the need to give liberal financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for effective and speedy implementation of land reforms.

Right from 1961, when the Tamil Nadu Land Reforms Act came into force, till February, 1992, 1,80,760 acres of land were notified as surplus by the State, and distributed to 1,19,912 landless poor. Unless the distributed lands are reclaimed and brought under cultivation, the very purpose of land reforms cannot be achieved. Unfortunately, the beneficiaries are so poor that they are not in a position to turn the fallow or dry or barren lands into fertile ones, for want of money. Currently, Rs. 1,000 per acre is given by both the Central and State Governments, on a 50 : 50 basis, for reclamation. But this amount is too meagre. As such, the request of the State Government to enhance it to at least Rs. 10,000 should be accepted by the Centre.

It is the avowed policy of the All-India Anna DMK Government that the poor agriculturists, who cultivate about 75 per cent of the total 135 lakh acres

of cultivable land in Tamil Nadu, either as tenants or as agricultural labourers, are made the owners of the land. The cost of implementing this scheme is estimated at around Rs. 5,000 crores. The village house-site survey and settlement scheme is underway in Tamil Nadu, meant to give title deeds of residential sites to over 50 lakh families. Proposed to be completed during the Eighth Five-Year Plan, it would cost about Rs. 40 crores. Therefore, the State has sought Central assistance, at least, on 50 : 50 basis. Other schemes of land reforms, like town survey, hill survey, land records and computerisation, title deed pass-book system, publication of land maps, aerial photography and preservation of land records, require about Rs. 60 crores. But the State Government, unfortunately, suffers from paucity of funds*.

The Tamil Nadu Government is working on a special plan to raise resources* through financial institutions, such as the Land Development Bank. But the NABARD would have to relax its pre-set policy and come out in a big way, under some directions from the Government of India, to allow the Land Development Bank and other financial institutions to release this amount to the tiller of the soil to enable him to get the title of the land. The Government of India should stand surety for this amount, as the State Government does not have the required stamina to withstand such a huge financial burden.

In spite of the great financial constraint, the Tamil Nadu Government is serious in implementing the land reforms policy, making the tiller the owner of the land, assigning waste lands to the landless poor, particularly, the Scheduled Castes and (Scheduled Tribes, assigning house-site title deeds, abolition of benami holdings and invalidating benami transactions that took place between 1958 and 1960. These matters were elaborately explained by the Tamil Nadu Government at the Re. venue Ministers' Conference held on 14th March, 1992 in New Delhi.