

The Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund has been created at the Orissa State Cooperative Bank level to meet the demands for conversion of S.T. loans into M.T. loans by those farmer-members whose crop losses are due to natural calamities.

The State of Orissa is frequently affected by rainfall and other calamities. The majority of the affected farmers belongs to the category of small, and marginal farmers, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

The funds released by the Government of India to the State under various cooperatives schemes, are found to be inadequate. Hence, the co-operative institutions which are the main credit disbursing agencies to the farming community in the State, have become very weak and are unable to meet in full the credit needs of the farmers. It will not be out of place of mention here that due to heavy rain, floods and cyclone this year. . . (Time bell rings)

One minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Yes.

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:...the crops raised by the farmers have been washed away. As they have exhausted the paddy seeds, they cannot sow once more as their financial condition is bad. The co-operative societies cannot help them at this juncture due to inadequacy of funds.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government specially the Ministry of Agriculture, to release adequate funds to the Registrar. Co-operative Societies of the State of Orissa, and the NAB-ARD should revitalise the co-operative credit structure by providing adequate share capital out of L.T.O. funds to poor farmers of the categories mentioned above.

Thank you.

Harassment of Fishermen belonging to Rameswaram by Sri Lanka Navy

SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPF (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I want to raise an important issue regarding the problems of the fishermen belonging to Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu. The fishermen from Rameswaram are going into the sea for fishing, and they are being harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Repeated requests have been made by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi, Thalaivi to find a permanent solution to this recurring problem. However, there seems to be no real effort on the part of the Government of India to solve the problem of harassment of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu in the hands of Sri Lankan Navy.

Recently, on the 4th of August, "THE HINDU" daily has reported that 20 fishermen from Rameswaram along with their half a dozen mechanised boats were taken into custody by the Sri Lankan Navy on the plea that they had crossed our territorial waters for fishing. This matter has not been reported by the Sri Lankan Navy to the Government of India and the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The fishermen were fishing within the territorial waters. The representation from the fishing community is that their traditional fishing rights have been denied and that they have been regularly harassed by the Sri Lankan Navy. Their nets and boats have been seized. The fishermen community as a whole is agitated over this recent issue.

Despite increased surveillance by the Indian Navy and the Coast Guards, the Sri Lankan Navy is indulging in abduction of Indian fishermen on the plea that they have crossed the territorial waters. This is utterly false. On the other hand, the Sri Lankan Navy violates the Indian territorial waters and abducts Indian fishermen from our waters to take away the mechanised boats and fishing nets from the Indian fishermen.

£Shri V. Rajan CheliappaJ men. This has been happening over a number of years, and despite intervention at high levels, the incidents have not stopped. The Indian Government should again take up with Colombo the high-handedness of the Sri Lankan Navy and take steps to immediately bring these incidents to an end. Otherwise, the issue has the potential, of turning into a diplomatic problem between the two countries. I urge upon the Prime Minister to immediately instruct the Indian High Commission in Colombo to take up the issue with the Sri Lankan Government.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Gopalasamy, one minute.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I sought a specific permission from the Chair.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): That is why I called you. Association time is one minute.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, on this I wish to state that the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are being subjected to intolerable, murderous assaults and attacks and humiliation by the Sri Lankan Navy. Umpteen times this has happened. More than 160 times the Sri Lankan Navy has entered into our territorial waters and attacked our fishermen, destroyed their boats and killed many of our fishermen and mortally wounded more than 100 fishermen of Tamil Nadu. In the month of March this year, on 16th, one fishing boat from Vedaranyam by name K. K. Tamil, DJC-302, was taken by the Sri Lankan Navy. Fishermen were shot dead and thrown into the sea and the destroyed portions of the boat reached the shore. This was complained. Telegrams were sent both to the Central Government and to the State Government. Four or five months have passed. There has been no statement or response from the Government. On 2nd August, when I went to Vedaranyam,

bereaved members of those families met me and I gave them a representation. Seven persons, whose names are in the attachment were: Aiasaiocannu, .tsaiaya, .faiaruya nay, Ananmavei, Suoramanian...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Don't give these details here..

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Kuttia and Ramachandran.

These were the seven persons who had been killed by the Sri Lankan Navy in our own territorial waters. Last year, on 25th November, during the Question Hour, when I brought specific clarifications from the Minister, Shri Faleiro, on what action the Government of India was going to take to stop these murderous assaults and attacks by the Sri Lankan Navy against our fishermen in our own territory, he replied on the floor of the House that he would send a note to the Sri Lankan Government to take a humanitarian approach to this problem. At that time I had interrupted him to say if he was making a request to them not to come into our territorial waters. For centuries these fishermen have been enjoying these rights. Apart from that they are losing their right to earn the livelihood. Their lives have been put in danger. I would like to know what action the Government has taken. What for are the Indian Navy and naval vessels standing there? These assaults took place right in the presence of the Indian Navy. They stood there as mute spectators. Therefore, with all the sincerity I make a charge that the Indian Navy with motive is abetting and encouraging the Sri Lankan Navy to scare the fishermen of Tamil Nadu. This is my charge.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Gopalasamy,...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: They are doing this to strike terror and panic the minds of the Tamil Nadu fishermen, who are living on the sea-shore.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): This is very un-fortune.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: With an ulterior motive the Indian Navy is encouraging the Sri Lankan Navy. Then what for is the Indian Navy stationed there? (*Interruptions*) This is happening for the last seven months. Not once or twice...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Gopal-samy, this is not the way to associate.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There is no protection to the citizens of India. They are being killed by the Sri Lankan Navy in our own territorial waters. What is the use of the Indian Navy being stationed there? It is staying there like a lame duck.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You cannot go on like this. Please sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is a serious charge. I make a charge against the Central Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You do not go on repeating the charge. You please sit down.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: He cannot attack the Chair and say something...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am not attacking the Chair. Through the Chair, I am... (*Interruptions*) These seven persons were shot dead and there has been no statement from the Government. There has not been a single statement from the Government. When you show serious concern about our people getting killed in the border areas... (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You don't even listen to the bell. What is this? Please sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I have not completed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please sit down. You were given time and you have taken six minutes.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: The Government of India should come with a statement about what happened to these fishermen all these seven months. How many attacks have taken place? How many fishermen have been killed and what action has been Government of India taken to protect the life of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu? The Government should come with a statement. This is my demand, Sir.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN- Cutting across party lines, all those of us who come from the State, and no doubt all the Members of the House, would have shared with Mr. Rajan Chellappa's concern. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, actually all of us cutting across party lines, all of us who come from the State and no doubt all the Members of the House would have shared with Mr. Rajan Chellappa's concern. I have got that to say in one minute. Before starting that, I place on record my strong objection to Mr. Gopal-samy's politicising the issue. Unfortunately, it has become a habit... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I am not politicising the issue.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Gopal-samy, I am sorry. This is not the way. Don't force me to stop the recording of the proceedings. Please sit down. You have been heard by the House. Why are you getting up again? You had your say.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Unfortunately it has become a habit of Mr. Gopal-samy...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); Don't name him.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN; Okay. It has become a habit for the hon. Member all the time to cast aspersions against the Armed Forces of India. It is a shameful allegation that he made against our own Navy. I place my strong objection to this.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); You are not expected to answer. Please sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Army is not your personal ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: How did you permit her?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); I permitted you also.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY; I humbly ask you: How did you permit her to cast aspersions against me?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); Don't argue with me. Sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: I did not say anything against Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); She is also not saying anything against you. Please sit down.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: She is casting aspersions against me... (*Interruptions*) ... Army is not your personal... (*Interruptions*)... I will criticise them.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Sir, I want to associate myself with what Mr. Rajan Chellappa has raised and not with what Mr. Gopalsamy has said.

The problem of the Indian fishermen, Tamil fishermen... (*Interruptions*) ... Kindly let me speak. It is a

very important issue. Sir, time and again Members from both sides of the House have raised this very important question. Our fishermen of the Southern Coast on the peninsula, particularly from Rameshwaram, are constantly being taken away by the Sri Lankan Navy. They are being harassed. Their things are being taken away. Their earnings are being taken away. Their boats are being taken away. Their boats are being taken raised this issue before this House and brought it before the Government of India but no action has ever been taken against them. Though they keep on saying that they will send a note to the Sri Lankan Government, they don't seem to be taking this seriously at all.

Secondly, the only things that We demanded right from that time and till now is the review of the agreement between India and Sri Lanka on the Kachchathivu Island. The whole point turned around Kachchathivu. Our fishermen had a traditional right to halt at the Kachchathivu Island. By virtue of an agreement that right was given away to Sri Lanka. Government has time and again promised to review that agreement so that our fishermen can go over there and use Kachchathivu Island for fishing.

Apart from that, whatever allegations Mr. Gopalsamy has made against the Navy are shameful and should be struck off from the record. They are totally unsubstantiated.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA); Mr. Syed Sibtey Razi... (*Interruptions*) ... No, Mr. Narayanasamy. We are unanimous on that point. Please sit down. Government should take note of it and act. We are all unanimous on that. I have given the floor to Mr. Syed Sibtey Razi.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I seek your permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Narayanasamy, I said no.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I your permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I have given the floor to Mr. Syed Sibtey Razi.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: By this time, I would have completed my submission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please don't argue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: In one sentence, I will complete.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I am not permitting you.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I seek your permission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please cooperate with the Chair.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is a matter with which we are all concerned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I added from the Chair that this is a matter which the Government should take note of.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am requesting you to permit me only for half-a-minute.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal) : Sir, let us move to the other subject... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): If the hon. Members do not cooperate with the

Chair what can I do? I also become a party to wasting the time of the House. .. *(Interruptions)* .. It is a moot question. Mr. Sen, when Members rise from this side, sometimes you feel that it is a waste of time. When some Members rise from that side also... *(Interruptions)*.. This is a question which every Member should think of. What can the Chair do when Members do not cooperate? It is a waste of time. The Chair also becomes a party to wasting the time of the House... *(Interruptions)* ...Mr. Narayanasamy, please... *(Interruptions)* .. It is agreed... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Our Indian fishermen are not only taken away by the Sri Lankan Navy but by the LTTE men also. Therefore, I would like to know from the Government whether they are going to keep a vigilance on the coastal area to prevent the LTTE people from coming and taking away our fishermen.

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Nothing will go on record. It is very unfortunate. Hon. Members are not cooperating with the Chair in conducting the House.

SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan): Due time should be given to the respective parties without giving more weightage to the ruling party. If that is adopted, perhaps all Members would like to cooperate.

*Not recorded.

