

Highways Authority of India. This project is envisaged as the Port Connectivity Programme under NHDP. This project is proposed for free movement of commercial traffic from Chennai Port to outside Chennai. This elevated express way starts at Chennai Port near War memorial and ends at Maduravayal NH4. This project runs along the banks of river Cooum for the entire length. I would like to point out that on the vast stretch of land along the Cooum river, there are 2,500 shops and small commercial establishments such as lathe machine shops, spare-parts, iron scrap shops, etc., are available for a length of 2,400 metres at Chindadripet and Pudupet. Sir, these shop vendors have been there for more than four decades doing petty business. No solution was found during the negotiation between the committee of the State Government officials and the affected business people. The State Government is prepared to offer a small compensation on the basis of the structural value of the shop which is not accepted by the shop owners. The shops are the only source of their bread. They demand that the Government to provide alternative place to continue their business. There is an apprehension among the 2,400 small business people that they may be left stranded by the authorities. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to come to the rescue of the poor shop owners and save them from the present crisis.

Demand to give the benefits of Debt Waiver Scheme to all farmers

SHRI P.R. RAJAN (Kerala): Sir, the relief of Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme, 2008 envisaged by the Government is available only to those farmers whose loans were outstanding on 29.02.08. There are several farmers in Kerala who have repaid the dues before this date and the scheme obviously discriminates them *vis-a-vis* farmers who got the waiver. The Kerala Government has already taken up this case with the Union Government to include the farmers who have settled their dues before 29.02.08 within the purview of the scheme.

As per the scheme, the loans issued by lending institutions from 1.04.97 to 31.03.07, and overdue as on 31.12.07 which remained unpaid as on 29.02.08 is the eligible amount for relief. Before the announcement of the scheme in February 2008, the Kerala Government had ordered to implement a special collection drive programme. The farmers, in spite of their financial difficulties, responded to the call and settled their dues during the period. The poor farmers who have settled their dues during the special drive period are eligible for the benefits of the Debt Waiver Scheme announced and being implemented by the Government of India for the reasons that they settled the dues inbetween 1.02.08 and 29.02.08.

I, therefore, request the Government for sympathetic consideration of the matter and early orders. Thank you.

Demand to commemorate Bicentenary of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur

SARDAR TARLOCHAN SINGH (Haryana): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, India has a great tradition of honouring the national heroes and is always proud of paying homage to their memory especially on