

been affected by this devastating flood which has occurred due to a breach in the Matmora dyke. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to come forward with a special package of assistance to the people of the State of Assam and to provide all possible help to the flood-hit people for their rehabilitation and for the protection of their properties as well as the livestock. The Government should also institute a high level inquiry into the process of sanction and the approval of the construction of the Matmora dyke with the geo-textile tube.

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

SHRI BISWAJIT DAIMARY (Assam): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

**Derogatory remarks made against Mahatma Gandhi by Chief Minister of
Uttar Pradesh**

श्री वृजभूषण तिवारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, उत्तर प्रदेश की मुख्यमंत्री द्वारा राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी के विरुद्ध अभद्र एवं अपमानजनक टिप्पणी की गई है, जो देश भर के समाचार पत्रों में प्रकाशित है और सभी समाचार चैनलों पर भी दिखाया गया है। जिसके कारण देश के करोड़ों लोगों की भावना आहत हुई है। महात्मा गांधी को राष्ट्रपिता माना गया है और वे राष्ट्रीय एकता, सत्य, अहिंसा, सार्वजनिक जीवन में शुचिता और अपरिग्रह के प्रतीक रहे हैं। उनका अपमान राष्ट्र का अपमान है। यह अति दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि सभी सांप्रदायिक, जातिवादी, विघटनकारी तथा भ्रष्टाचारी शक्तियां लगातार गांधी को छोटा और अपमानित करने में लगी हैं। यह वृत्ति बहुत ही घातक है और इसे रोकना जरूरी है। इसलिए मैं सदन से यह अपील करूंगा कि उनकी निंदा करे और इस प्रकार की प्रवृत्ति को रोकने की तरफ कदम उठाए।

श्री राम नारायण साहू (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री नन्द किशोर यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

श्री कमाल अख्तर (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करता हूं।

DR. K. KESHAHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with it.

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I also associate myself with it.

High sugar prices and shortage of sugar in the country

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problem of heavy shortage of sugar and high prices of sugar prevailing in the country. Sir, as far as sugar production is concerned, it is a matter of great concern to the people of India as the production of sugar is going down sharply. It is a known fact that sugar is a very important commodity for everyone. It is important for us to know as to how the production of sugar is going down year after year. In the year 2007-08, the total production of sugar was about 28 million tonnes. In the year 2008-09, the production of sugar had fallen down to 16 million tonnes. It shows that in one year the production of sugar had gone down almost by 50

per cent. In the current year *i.e.* 2009-10, with weak monsoon and other related factors, the production of sugar is expected to go down sharply. So, we are very much concerned about the rising prices of sugar and shortage of sugar in the country. Of course, we have seen the newspaper reports that in order to tide over shortage of sugar and curb the rising prices of sugar, the Government is planning to import sugar. The Union Cabinet has already taken a decision to import two million tonnes of sugar. The world prices of sugar are also very high. Even after importing sugar, the prices of sugar are not going to come down. Then, what is the alternative before the Government? We must know as to why this problem has arisen. The main reason for shortage of sugar is this. In the last one-and-a-half years, the farmers who were producing sugarcane have diverted to various other crops like wheat in Uttar Pradesh. In the States of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, the sugarcane farmers have diverted to paddy and other crops. The other reasons for shortage of sugar are like shortage of labour, shortage of fertilizer and lack of coordination between sugar factory owners and sugarcane growers. Then, how can this problem be solved? The first and the foremost step in this direction would be that we must increase production of sugarcane in States like Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. How should we do it? The Government should take such steps which would encourage farmers to produce more sugarcane. No doubt, recently, the Cabinet has increased the prices of sugarcane to some extent. But, this mere increase in the prices of sugarcane is not sufficient. First of all, we must solve the problems of sugarcane farmers and try to find out as to why they have diverted to other crops and why not they again come back to sugarcane production. We must know about the problems being faced by them. They are facing the problem of shortage of fertilisers. The Government should import these things without any duty. We should introduce harvesting mechanism and also import harvesting equipment which will assure the farmers that in case of shortage of labour they would be able to produce sugarcane with the new harvesting equipment. So, various new methods should be introduced in this area. Sir, a lot of sugar factories have been closed down in Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra because there is not enough production of sugarcane in these States. As a result, there is shortage of sugar in the country. We should ensure that these factories are not closed down at any cost. If the sugar factories are closed down due to lack of sugarcane production, then, we will have shortage of sugar in the country and the prices of sugar will be very high.

Therefore, the Government should concentrate and come out with...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The mike went off, please sit down.

Poor condition of government hospitals in Uttar Pradesh

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उपसभापति जी, उत्तर प्रदेश में सरकारी अस्पतालों में जिस तरीके से मरीजों की हालत पैदा हो गई है, या तो दवा और चिकित्सक के अभाव में वे दम तोड़ रहे हैं या वे अस्पताल से भागकर बाहर जा रहे हैं। वहां जूनियर डॉक्टरों की तरफ से हड़ताल की गई है और हड़ताल इसलिए की गई है