

**Implementation of Public Distribution System in agency/hilly areas of
Andhra Pradesh**

SHRIMATI T. RATNA BAI (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to draw the kind attention of the august House to the underweight stock supplied, under the Public Distribution System, to the tribals living in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh. Secondly, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is supplying rice to 113.05 lakh families up to a maximum of 20 kgs. per family. Thirdly, 21 per cent of food grains from Fair Price Shops is not reaching the target group, *i.e.* 270 kgs. of foodgrains earmarked for each household, per annum, did not reach.

Sir, in the agency areas, there is not only underweight ration available at the PDS counters, but even because of bad condition of roads and lack of storage facilities, some quantity of rice which is not reaching the targeted people is also being diverted. When the less allocation is made, the tribal area is targeted for cutting the quantity, without considering their acute poverty.

Lack of transport subsidy for PDS items in Hilly tracts of tribal areas, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, is the reason for diverting the stocks. Despite huge amounts being spent by the Government on PDS, considerable share of stock is not reaching the target group. Sir, I, therefore, request the concerned Ministers to take data on this for looking into the matter, besides taking all measures to check the malpractices mentioned above.

Request to release crop insurance claims by the farmers

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the crop insurance claims in respect of Kharif 2008 season were approved by Agriculture Insurance Company of India, New Delhi, for an amount of Rs. 801,20,47,277 to be paid to 7.57 lakh affected farmers.

As per the provisions of the Scheme, Agriculture Insurance Company, the State Government and the Central Government would contribute for settlement of claims. The Agriculture Insurance Company is ready with their share of contribution of Rs. 88.05 crores and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already issued orders for releasing the State's share of contribution *i.e.*, Rs. 361.44 crores. The disbursements of insurance claims are pending for want of Central share of claims for Rs. 356.58 crores.

The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter in this regard to the hon. Minister of Agriculture and requested him to release the amount early so that affected farmers are compensated. In addition, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has suggested certain measures like:

- (1) Calculating average yield instead of taking moving average of 3 to 5 past years.
- (2) At present, there are indemnity levels of 60 per cent, 80 per cent and 90 per cent for insured crops. There should be only one level of indemnity at 90 per cent.

- (3) Post harvest losses on account of cyclone heavy rains should also be covered for a period of 2 weeks from harvesting date.
- (4) Premium subsidy to small and marginal farmers which was 50 per cent earlier is being phased out on sunset basis. This should be restored.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary measures in releasing the amount for the benefit of farmers. Thank you.

**Demand to exempt Co-operative Banks from operation of Section 80P of
Income Tax Act on their profit**

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): महोदय, वित्त मंत्री महोदय ने वर्ष 2006 में आयकर कानून में संशोधन करके सहकारी बैंकों के लाभ को भी कर दायरे में ले लिया। उस समय भी इसका विरोध किया गया था किन्तु उसे दरकिनार कर दिया गया। सहकारी बैंक तब से ही उन्हें कर दायरे से मुक्त करने की माँग करते रहे हैं।

सहकारी बैंकों का ढाँचा अन्य बैंकों से अलग होता है। इन बैंकों की हिस्सा पूँजी-धारक ग्राम सहकारी समितियाँ होती हैं, जिन समितियों के अंशधारक किसान होते हैं। जिला सहकारी बैंकों का लाभ मूलतः पूँजी के संवर्द्धन और रिजर्व फण्ड सृजित करने के काम आता है। इससे कृषि साख और सेवाओं को बल मिलता है और ये ग्रामीण विकास की अपनी भूमिका निभाते हैं। यदि कभी लाभांश वितरित किया जाता है, तो उसका उपयोग ग्राम स्तरीय समितियों के दृढ़ीकरण में होता है। ये समितियाँ खाद, बीज, कीटनाशक, छोटे कृषि उपकरणों आदि के लिए ऋण देकर ग्रामीण अर्थव्यवस्था में उन छोटे और सीमान्त कृषकों को अपने पैरों पर खड़ा होने में सहयोग करते हैं जिन्हें अन्य बैंक ऋण नहीं देते। इस सारी व्यवस्था में कोई व्यक्ति विशेष लाभान्वित नहीं होता।

सहकारी बैंकों के लाभ पर करारोपण से इस सारी प्रक्रिया में व्यवधान उत्पन्न हो गया है। जहाँ सरकार सहकारी आन्दोलन को जीवन का आधार बनाने की बात करती है वहाँ यह प्रतिगामी कदम इसके पूर्णतः विपरीत है। अतः मेरी माँग है कि सहकारी बैंकों को आयकर अधिनियम की धारा 80 पी के ऑपरेशन से तत्काल मुक्त किया जाए।

**Demand to take suitable measures to check the incidents of accidents
during the flights of Sukhoi fighter aircraft**

SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT (Maharashtra): Sir, it was a sigh of relief to know that the Indian Air Force has resumed to fly Sukhoi fighter aircraft and soon all Sukhois, India's frontline fighter jets, will be back into operation. However, the fact is India witnessed two accidents involving Sukhoi within last eight months. The first accident happened in April and the second on 30th November when the jet crashed at Jaisalmer. This resulted in IAF's decision to ground the entire fleet for thorough check.

Considering that the IAF depends a lot on the Sukhoi, it is not a good sign that the jet has started developing fatal snags. Apart from creating an atmosphere of uncertainty in the minds of the IAF personnel, such accidents also result in loss of human life. The Sukhoi jets were inducted into the IAF in 1996. The IAF has 100-odd such fighter jets and according to plans the total strength is envisaged at 280 in the next few years. In this situation, the Defence Ministry should ensure that all aircraft give trouble free service.