[श्री सूरज प्रसाद]

और देश के अन्दर जो मजदूर हैं उनके पास परचेजिंग कंपेसिटी नहीं है । विभिन्न तरह के टैक्स लगाकर सरकार ने उनकी परचेजिंग कंपेसिटी को खत्म कर दिया है । खासकर किसानों को उन्होंने उपज को लाभप्रद कीमत नहीं दी । गत साल ईख की कीमत घटा दी। जो काटन उत्पादक हैं उनको भी लाभप्रद कीमत नहीं दी । विदेश से काटन मंगाकर उनके दामों में गिरावट पैदा कर दी । गत साल किसानों को कीमत के रूप में एक अर्थ-शास्त्री ने अध्ययन किया कि उनको 50 रुपये कम मिले । इसलिए मैं सरकार से जानना चाहता हूं कि जो देश के अन्दर विभिन्न उद्योगों में कपड़े में, खाद में, चीनी में, लोहे में बहुत सी चीजें जमा हो गयी हैं उनकी खपत हो इस दृष्टि से किसान जो देश का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादक है उसको लाभप्रद कीमत देने की दिशा में क्या सरकार कदम उठाएगी ?

श्री उपसभापति: एक ही प्रश्न है बाकी सब छोड़िए ।

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी: जो खाद के इस्तेमाल के बारे में सम्माननीय सदस्य ने आंकड़े दिए जो मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं वे उससे भिन्न हैं । सन 1980-81 में 55 लाख टन खाद का उपयोग हुआ था और 1981-82 में यह बढ़कर 61 लाख टन हो गया । तो खाद का प्रयोग कम हो रहा है या यह नहीं खरीदा जा रहा है ऐसी बात नहीं है खाद का इस्तेमाल बढ़ रहा है और उत्पादन भी हो रहा है । मेरे पास आंकड़े हैं कि अप्रेल-मई 1982 में नाई ट्रोजन फर्टिलाईजर का उत्पादन 5.9 प्रतिशत, अप्रेल-मई 81 की तुलना में बढ़ा और फास्फेटिक फर्टिलाईजर 18.8 प्रतिशत बढा । तो फास्फेटिक और नाई-ट्रोजिस फर्टिलाईजर दोनों का अप्रेल-मई में उत्पादन बढ़ा है, फिर भी यह बात रिसेशन के संबंध में कही जा रही है ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up Special Mentions.

Yes, Mrs. Ila Bhattacharya.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED INCREASE IN THE INCIDENTS OF DOWRY DEATH

SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA (Tripura): Sir, the increasing atrocities on women and murders of young brides for dowry have assumed serious proportions throughout the country. Young married women are burnt alive, maimed physically and mantally tortturned by their husbands and in-laws. Day in and out, newspapers are revealing such gruesome atrocities committed on newly married women. In the very heart of Delhi itself and the number of dowry deaths has shown a big spurt in recent months. Not only innocent housewives, but also working women, were also victims of such atrocities. In Delhi itself, three cases involving two working women, a college lecturer and an employee of the Reserve Bank, have been reported and the laws have failed to check this inhuman atrocities on women. Apathy and indifference shown by the police officials and the local administration have emboldened the greedy in-laws to perpetuate such crimes. The existing laws have failed to check these inhuman crimes. Various women's organisations in the country have focused attention on this serious problem and have repeatedly drawn the Government's attention, but without any result. The Report of the Joint Committee of Parliament to examine the Dowry Prohibition Act is yet to come. The existing laws should be amended with a view to give stringent punishment to those indulging in such crimes.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN DR. (SHRIMATI NAJMA HEPTULLAH) IN THE CHAIR.

In order to protest against such crimes and draw the attention of the Government to the need for taking steps to stop such crimes, 'the Dahej Virodhi Chetna, Manch' has organised a protest march to Parliament today. I would urge upon the Government to look into this burning problem and take immediate to steps to stop this menace and save the women from being burnt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA): There is a message from the Lok Sabha. But the Secretary-General is not here. So, we shall take up the next item, that is, the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill, 1982.

THE SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1982

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, according to Section 8A of the Salary, Allowances and pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954 a person who has served for a minimum period of 5 years as a Member of Parliament is eligible to the grant of pension. In 1981, the Act was amended to provide pension even to person whose qualifying period for a period of five years fell short of not more than 60 days.

Sub-section (3) of Section 8A of the Act puts a restriction on the grant of maximum amount of pension to a Member of Parliament if he is also entitled to any other pension from the Central Government or any State Government, etc Where the amount of pension to which he is entitled under such law or otherwise is equal to or in excess of that to which he is otherwise entitled, such person is not entitled to any other pension.

If the amount of pension is less than that to which he is entitled as ex-MP, he is entitled to pension under that sub-section only of an amount which falls short of the amount of pension to which he is otherwise entitled.

The Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme provides for the grant of pension to freedom fighters in recognition of their service and sacrifice for the cause of the country's freedom. Most of the Members and ex-Members are qualified to receive this Samman pension. However, in view of the restriction placed in sub-section (3) of section 8A of the Act, many of the ex-MPs are deprived of this benefit. A demand has been made on the floor of the House as well as outside that the ex-MPs should be granted both these pensions, that is, as ex-Members of Parliament and as freedom fighters. In order to remove this difficulty, the proposal was examined as to whether the change in nomenclature of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme could help them to draw both the pensions. The Law Ministry opined that any change in the nomenclature in the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension. would not change its nature and it would continue to be a pension. It was suggested by the Law Ministry to consider the feasibility of amending the Act. Hence this Bill.

Although the exact number of beneficiaries is not known. It is hoped that about 200 to 250 ex-MPs who are freedom fighters are likely to be benefited by this amending Bill. It is estimated that this provision would involve an expenditure of Rs. 7.50 lakhs per annum.

The Government feel that the pension payable to ex-MPs who are freedom fighters under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, is really for the purpose of honouring those who participated in the freedom struggle.

I feel and hope that the provisions of this Bill would receive unanimous support from all sections of the House. With these few words, I commend the Bill for consideration of the House.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA): Mr. Shahedullah.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Madam, I have to attend some committee