

[3 May, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: You know that in fixing up the identity of the BPL, there is a *modus operandi*. What is that? Somebody has referred that the criteria fixed up for identifying the Below Poverty Line are all outdated. There is nothing, but humiliation of the poor. हिन्दी में कहावत है, बाबा आदम के जमाने की बात कर रहे हैं, उसको बदलने की आवश्यकता है।

Those criteria are now outdated. Madam, the other problem is that the poor people in the villages who belong to the BPL category are feeling hatred towards the APL families, and saying that 'those who are not eligible to have the concessions are getting the concessions'. That is the conflict. So, I will request the hon. Agriculture Minister to kindly look into this aspect he has also agreed with me, in a number of private discussions, that there is a need to change the criteria, how to fix up the mechanism to deal with this problem and fix up the criteria for identifying the people living below the poverty line. ...*(Time-bell)*.., I will sum up, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI): Still, you have to sum up!

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Madam, I will finish within one minute.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI): Kindly bear with us.

SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Madam, forget about the public distribution system. Whatever schemes related to the welfare of poor people like Antyodaya, etc., the pre-requisite is that he must have a BPL card, and the real thing is that the BPL cards are not given to the BPL people. On the contrary, they are being made available to the APL people. Unless and until we find out a mechanism to identify the people living below poverty line, thousands of crores of rupees that we are spending on various schemes meant for the poor people will be a waste. Thank you, Madam.

MESSAGES FROM LOK SABHA

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी): सैक्रेटरी जनरल साहब, लोक सभा से आए हुए संदेश को पढ़कर सुनाएंगे।

(i) **The Finance Bill, 2005.**

(ii) **The Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2005.**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha:

(I)

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Finance Bill, 2005, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd May, 2005.

The Speaker has certified that this Bill is a Money Bill within the meaning of article 110 of the Constitution of India.

(II)

In accordance with the provisions of rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I am directed to enclose the Government of Union Territories and the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2005, as passed by Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd May, 2005.

Sir I lay a copy each of the Bills on the Table.

**DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION-Contd.**

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Thank you Madam Vice-Chairman for giving me an opportunity.

Madam, I am not here to make a speech. I am making only a few suggestions. Various dimensions of the issue on discussion have already been covered by hon. Members. Madam, the most important issue that is to be addressed, nowadays by the Ministry, I believe is with regard to the Public Distribution Scheme. Now, the Ministry is under the leadership of a veteran leader, a very competent Minister, Sharad Pawarji. So, Madam, we, as a nation, have great expectations from the hon. Minister in that there must be certain very strict measures, instead of promises and ideas, and we hope that the hon. Minister would be coming forward with certain very strict and immediate steps to curb the situation that poses a challenge to the well-being of the nation, with regard to its food and civil supplies.

Madam, I shall now come to the Public Distribution System, which has already been mentioned here. Public Distribution System was a very well established system. It is one of the great merits of our democracy. That was the condition that existed in the country previously. But, the last Government as we all know, spoiled the system; they completely ruined