

दिया जाता था, जो उनको गुजरात के बंदरगाह पर छोड़ देते थे, अब उनको वाघा बोर्डर ले जाकर वहां पर छोड़ दिया जाता है, जिससे साधनहीन होकर उनको अपने घर तक पहुंचने में काफी कठिनाई का सामना करना पड़ता है। इसके अलावा उनको अपना जीवन-यापन करने में बहुत कठिनाई होती है क्योंकि अधिकांश मछुआरे बैंक से ऋण लेकर नाव लेते हैं। एक नाव का मूल्य लगभग 20 से 25 लाख रुपए होता है।

मान्यवर, देश हित में, मछुआरों के हित में यह एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न है, जिस पर सरकार को शीघ्रातिशीघ्र गंभीरता से विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

प्रो० अलका क्षत्रिय (गुजरात): सर, मैं एसोसिएट करती हूँ।

श्री रुदनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): सर, मैं भी एसोसिएट करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet at 2:00 p.m.

*The House then adjourned for lunch at
forty-five minutes past twelve of the clock.*

*The House reassembled after lunch at one minute past two of the
clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, We start the Short Duration Discussion on the suicide by farmers in various parts of the country.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Suicide by farmers in various parts of the Country

SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise the issue of farmers' suicide in the country, with specific reference to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): No, no; farmers have committed suicide in the whole country, (*Interruptions*).

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Andhra Pradesh): Farmers have committed suicide in the whole country.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I agree, Sir. Andhra is also a part of our country.

Sir, we have a Minister who is committed to the cause of the farming community. We are aware of his administrative skills and his concern for the farming community. Sir, today, I am here to raise the issue of farmers, with specific reference to farmers' suicide in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and in other parts of our country. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh alone, in the past ten months, 2380 farmers have committed suicide. I have detailed data about the number of people who have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh. Through this book, we have also presented a detailed note on farmers' suicide in Andhra Pradesh to the hon. Minister. As of now, 2380 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh alone; there are about 253 starvation deaths in Andhra Pradesh, right from 14th May, 2004 till today. Sir, I am mentioning this thing because there was a change of Government in Andhra Pradesh. On 14th May, 2004, while taking oath—the oath-taking ceremony was held in a stadium—the new Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Y. Rajasekhara Reddy assured the people of Andhra Pradesh that from that day onwards there will not be any incident of farmers committing suicide under his regime. What has happened to his announcement of that day? Today, when we look at the figures, we find that farmers have committed suicides in all the districts of Andhra Pradesh. An alarming number of 2380 farmers have committed suicide.

Sir, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has come out with a Government Order No. 421. They have announced a package for the farmers. In that, they have said that there will be a help-line in order to help the people who are in distress. They have also said that the affected families will be given Rs. 1.5 lakhs. When a person will make a phone call to them, some officer will rush to the spot and help him in every respect. But, it has become a hopeless line for the people of Andhra Pradesh. Nothing has happened there. It is not only helpless but also hopeless in respect of the people who are really in distress.

Sir, when the TDP was in power in Andhra Pradesh, the then Opposition party, now in Government, made a hue and cry. They brought their President, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, to Anantapur district. She visited Anantapur district

and politicised the issue of suicides. Sir, they gave about Rs. 22,000 to about 20 people saying that the TDP Government failed to save the lives of farmers; and the TDP alone was responsible for that situation. Then, they gave Rs. 22,222 each, if I remember correctly. *(Interruptions)*

डा० अलादी पी० राजकुमार (आंध्र प्रदेश): जब आपकी टर्न आएगी, तब बोल लेना L.. (व्यवधान)..

SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): It was out of contributions.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I agree. You went to the streets. You don't give your own money. We were aware of it. You want to the streets and got the money from people and you paid that through your President. Sir, now, after ten months have passed, we are surprised to find that she is unable to find even two hours of her time to visit Andhra Pradesh to console the farmers. She came to Hyderabad last week....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why, do you talk about it? You address the Government. How is she concerned? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I respectfully submit, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: She is a part of the Government, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा (राजस्थान): सर, माननीस सदस्य फारमर्स की बात करें L..(व्यवधान)..

श्री उपसभापति: फारमर्स की बात करेंगे, लेकिन आप खामोश रहिए+ वे बोलेगें। (व्यवधान)
No, please sit down. He will touch the problem. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASMY: Sir, there should be no politics. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No assistance is required, please. He will speak on the subject. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I most respectfully submit that when they claimed that everything is done on her direction, they have to take this also in a sportive manner, in a positive manner. When she could come to Hyderabad to lay the foundation stone for an international

airport, is it not her responsibility to rise to the occasion and console the farmers? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are talking about somebody....
(Interruptions) Speak on farmers, please.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, this was a political issue. *(Interruptions)* Sir, this was the major election issue during 2004 elections. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Chair would regulate, why do you take the trouble? ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, during elections, it was made an election issue, elections are over now. Sir, what they promised during elections to the people and what happened now, मुझे एक शेर-याद आ रहा है।...*(व्यवधान)*..

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY (Gujarat): Sir, the hon. Member is entitled to express his views. Farmers are dying and he don't be disturbed in this manner. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We should observe certain decorum in the House. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रावुला चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी: ऐसा है, आंध्र प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट का...*(व्यवधान)*...

उपसभापति: आप पहले उन्हें सुन लीजिए।

श्री रावुला चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी: सर, आंध्र प्रदेश गवर्नमेंट की हालत ऐसी है, वहां के चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब ऐसा बोले -

“मेरा मकसद पूरा हो गया, अब मुझे कोई वायदे याद नहीं।

कोई मरे, कोई खुदकुशी करे, मुझे कोई गम नहीं, मुझे कोई फिकर नहीं।

यह हालत आंध्र प्रदेश की है। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

श्री वी० हनुमंत राव: यह किसका शेर है? क्या यह चरदबाबू नायडु का शेर है?...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, the reason I am mentioning the activities of the Andhra Pradesh Government is because they have miserably failed to protect the interests of farmers by virtue of

G.O. 421, which is not at all helpful to the people. It is only an eyewash. This is the simple reason which I am trying to mention. The hon. Prime Minister was kind enough to visit Andhra Pradesh. He visited twice. On July 1, 2004, he visited Andhra Pradesh and made tall promises. In that, Sir, he came to my own district, Mahboobnagar. There, few people were brought to the meeting and there he had said that through them he wanted to assure the entire State of Andhra Pradesh that everything would be done to the farming community and nobody should bother about the distress and failure of the monsoon. All these things he had said. After his visit, neither he has helped the farming community, nor has he boosted their morale.

It is another wastage of time and money on the part of the Government. The other occasion he chose to visit Andhra Pradesh was to launch the Food for work Programme. It was there earlier also during the NDA regime. It was implemented in all the districts with the help of the Government in Delhi. Sir, 55 lakh metric tons of rice was sent to Andhra Pradesh. It was implemented in all the districts. Now, the hon. Prime Minister chose to visit Andhra Pradesh to launch a new programme which confined only to eight districts, 91 Mandals and 278 villages. Sir, for such a small programme the Prime Minister chose to visit. After his second visit also we thought that something would happen for the farming community. Again we are rather disappointed by his visit. Sir, going by the Economic survey of 2004-05 of this Government, on page 67, they say that credit flow to the agriculture has come down. They say it is below the level envisaged in the Tenth Plan. This Economic Survey has been supplied by the Government. It is stated on page 67. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the amount given to the small and marginal farmers. What is the percentage given to the small and marginal farmers? Sir, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech stated that more than Rs. 1 lakh crores are being spent or are being given to the farming community. It is not reaching the common man. It is not reaching the small and marginal farmer. He is really in distress. He is unable to get credit from the banks. We are aware that recently more than Rs. 3 lakh crores were the NPAs and defaults on the part of a few individuals. When a farmer approaches a bank, he gets a negative reply. But the statistics show that they are giving more than Rs. 1 lakh crore. But, as a matter of fact, it is again going into the hands of big people, Those who can afford, and those who can manoeuvre at the banker

level or at the officer level. I would like to request the hon. Minister, for whom I have got tremendous respect for his commitment, to again convene a meeting and assist the farming community, more particularly the small and marginal farmers, dalits ..(*Time-bell*). Sir, I am initiating (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are initiating; but time constraint is there ...(*Interruptions*) ...Your party has seven minutes and I have already given you 12 minutes.

डा० अलादी पी० राजकुमार: अभी जो दो बजकर ग्यारह मिनट ही हुए हैं।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have just given the first bell so that he does not go into various other things...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I am not deviating. ...(*Interruptions*)...My friends wanted me to give more details, which I tried to give them, sir. I would like to mention here, Sir, that the Government now is more interested in stock market. If something happens to the stock market, everybody in the Government rushes to the stock market place and see that everything is set right. They are not interested in raising the issue of farmers' suicide. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that only a few people, five to six per cent people, are aware of what is happening in the stock market and what is happening to the Sensex. As a matter of fact, I am a layman, as far as stock market is concerned. More than 90 per cent people of our country are not aware of it. Neither are they concerned with the stock market nor are they aware of what is happening in the stock market. I request the Government to concentrate on agriculture, to concentrate on small and marginal farmers, to concentrate on providing Minimum Support Price, if not remunerative prices, to concentrate on post-harvest mechanisms, to concentrate on National Agriculture Insurance Scheme which is a failure because it is only on papers. It is a credit insurance scheme. As a matter of fact, it is not reaching the common man. It has become a credit insurance scheme and those who are taking loans from the banks or from the cooperative societies they are promptly deducting the insurance premium thereby paying for those banks of cooperative societies. I would like to request the hon. Minister to have a fresh look at the National Agriculture Insurance Scheme. If possible, the Government should bear the premium for the small and marginal farmers. With regard to Minimum support Price also, I would submit that the procedure adopted is not according to the situation.

It is not at all helpful to the farming community. It should be a remunerative price and farmers should be educated about the demand and supply also. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, during the TDP regime, the then Chief Minister tried his level best to help the farming community. But during elections, it was made the main election issue. Now, is it not the responsibility of the people who are sitting in the office, both at the State and Central levels to come to the rescue of farming community and help them in a big way?...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You carry on.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir,...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why do you give attention to them?

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: My good friends, Shri Jairam Ramesh, also represents Andhra Pradesh. He has a moral responsibility to the people who are in distress.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He will be speaking, you continue.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, whether it is formula-one or whatever it may be, your formula is to mislead the people and grab power. That is your formula. Our formula is to help the people. Sir, last time also I raised the issue of promises made during the election time. They have promised free power to the farming community. Now, what happened is, within five to six months, again they have gone back now. Now, they are saying that it will be reviewed and only eligible people will be given. On every promise they are going back. Even on help-line also. Now, more than one lakh applications have come. Nobody was given any helping hand. They say "your application will not fall within the purview of..."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have taken seventeen minutes.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): It is an Assembly of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, I was also in Andhra Assembly. I did not come directly to this House.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): You are representing Andhra Pradesh Assembly here.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: My friend directly has come to this House. I came from Panchayat, I was also in Andhra Pradesh Assembly. Sir, since we are depending only on rain God and vagaries of the monsoon, I would like to request the hon. Minister to implement the report submitted by Shri Chandra Babu Naidu. as the Chairman of the Task Force, he submitted a report on micro-irrigation. That is with the Government. The UPA Government has constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. I believe that he has submitted an Interim Report wherein he has made twelve recommendations. I would request the hon. Minister to enlighten us and what exactly...*(time-bell)*.. Sir, I will conclude with a few words.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Few words! Lot of few words.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: State Government has also constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Jayanthi Ghosh. Sir, what happened to the that report, I need not say. As far as the report of the Dr. M. S. Swaminathan's Committee is concerned, he has submitted an Interim Report wherein he has made twelve recommendations. I would like to request the hon. Minister to implement them *in toto* and finally, Sir; there are instances in our country when an industry is sick the Government or a bank gives the loan. There is a package. When the whole agriculture community in Andhra Pradesh is in distress, I would request the Government to come out with a package. The Government which is in Andhra Pradesh has miserably failed. They are not entitled to be in office even for a minute. They have totally failed in containing and controlling the suicides of farmers. Sir, I request the hon. Minister to extend a helping hand in three phases. Instant relief by way of waiving off all the loans taken by farmers in Andhra Pradesh. We have had instances. During Devi Lal's regime, he was kind enough to waive Rs. 10,000 loan taken by each farmer. Now the situation is more worse than that.

I request the Government to see that total loans of farmers are waived off, instead of rescheduling.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made this point. You go to your next point.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: it is a burden on the farmer. Rescheduling or restructuring are all technical words. They do not understand those words. These cosmetic changes will not help them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: The second one is, intermediate relief by way of providing money for irrigation projects, improving the standard of farming community and long-term measures, like giving employment to those who are depending on agriculture and allied industries. These should be encouraged.

Then, immediate relief has to be given to farmers. Since I am having confidence and respect for the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is known for his commitment, I request him to give a special package for Andhra Pradesh in order to help the farming community. Thank you.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, first, I seek the indulgence of the House. I don't want to talk on this as a sectional matter. It is too serious a subject and it has been creeping into the country for quite a while now. It is not a question of today, yesterday or the day before. And I have fair amount to do with this business in Punjab, in Delhi, in Africa or wherever. Yes. Of course, Andhra Pradesh recorded suicides. It has had suicides, I read it very closely. Andhra Pradesh is in a cruel situation, because it is a volcanic plateau with little water and is an impossible situation for an agriculturist. I have, some year ago—maybe, four or five years—seen on Television a mother saying that 'I am going to give away these children...' including seven or eight girls—'...because I simply cannot feed them and we cannot look after them.' I cannot get over with that image. But, there are also other States—Northern Karnataka, Maharashtra, etc. Sir, only yesterday or the day before, I read that the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, as directed by the High court, recounted the figures of suicides and pushed up the figure to 644, if I recall correctly. Probably, they are even more than that. We can never get the total anywhere.

Sir, in Rajasthan, since the period of Sultans *i.e.*, from 1300 till date, the women of Rajasthan are breaking stones for other peoples' houses and palaces. Will they go on for ever and ever?

I have travelled very widely in the State of Orissa. They poverty and the situation are very pitiable there. I remember, going with Shri Narasimha Rao, once to Kalahandi to see their homes. It shook me. I have never seen that kind of a situation. But, to imagine that Punjab does not have it is wrong. I read newspapers of Punjab. I think, Delhi rulers never read the

newspapers in vernacular—Tamil or Hindi or Punjabi. The real opinion of India and the real stories of India come out in these papers. This is *Ajit* of yesterday or the day before. It says about the story of one more farmer of a two-acre-*wala*. The moneylender wants to auction his land, take away his kitchen and his bullocks. This has started happening regularly. Every week I read it. Farmers luckily in Punjab still stand up and I hope they always will. They surrounded that home and village. They were 10,000 in number and the SDM and the police have to go away. But, for how long? They will have to come back because their demand is there. This is something which never happened in 30s. It was never allowed to happen because in 30s Chotu Ram and the British did not allow the farmers land and his basic tools of production to be taken away or auctioned. There were Debt Conciliation Boards. If you were a private moneylender and gave money to farmer and if farmer defaults, then you appear before the Board and board would decide, after examining you, not the farmer because he has hundred reasons to say as to why he has failed to repay, and then the Board would lay down what would be repaid, and over how long should the farmer take to repay without any compound interest. It is all gone. Today, in Punjab, people are asking to bring back Debt Conciliation Boards and they should also be brought in Andhra Pradesh and everywhere. How can you take away farmer's land, his home and kitchen? I don't believe that it can be done anywhere, or, should allow it to be done. It is all over in this country. There is a crisis. Why is there a crisis? Believe me, Sir, I am a two-acre-*wala*. Indeed, I am, If I have a piece of land in Shivpuri in Madhya Pradesh, which was jungle fifty years ago, I have cleared and so has my family and, it is also not giving me any return. I know it. Now, you have everywhere small holdings. India is really consisting of one, two or three acre-*walas*.

There are negative returns. The cost is going up. What he gets is going down. It is an obvious situation where he cannot simply face up to it. And, he has no solutions. There are no new technologies. We have too many agricultural universities in this country. Many States - I don not wish to name - have set up two or more, when they can't afford one, or, don't need one. They are doing no research for long because they have no funds. The Punjab Agriculture University is one of the finest universities in this country, accepted worldwide. Today, they only pay their salaries. And, one thing I would like to point out, I was disappointed with the Finance Minister that

for agricultural research we will put Rs. 50 crores for India, a sub-continent, - just Rs. 5/- each. On the other hand, he is fond of Cambridge. I am also fond of Cambridge. And, you want to create a Cambridge somewhere for Rs. 100 crores. What is the proportion! What is the proportion? I believe, we have a Budget of Rs. 300-400 thousand crores. Put Rs. 500 crores for research. Pick up twenty agricultural universities, carefully chosen, zone-wise, climate-wise, crop-wise. Then, give them money for research because States are not able to give for whatever reasons. But there is no research. And, frankly, they are just carrying on the hazards of nature. This month, in the North, last night there was a hailstorm where I live, where you live, And, farmers have lost their crops at some places. I have seen the pictures. That would happen in UP; that would happen in the hills; that would happen in Haryana; that would happen in Punjab. All the fruit buds would be mopped off. On average we lose 60-70-80 thousand acres of wheat. When the crop is ready, we lose it to the hailstorm till about 13th or 14th April. You also have floods and such other things all over India. On the other, you have the WTO. You see, India had protected their fragile farmers with a little bit of barriers over decades and decades. Those who had gone there, they say, "We had gone there, we could not prevent that". No Government could prevent that. I have been in the Government for long. I have seen it, how it went from stage-to-stage because जोर वाला कर जाता है, कोई चारा नहीं है। But with that, now, the Australian and Argentinian wheat is going to be here. A fellow has 10,000 hectares of farm, with three workers and machinery. How can the Punjab or the Haryana or the UP man compete? the same thing happens for Himachal also. It is coming from Australia. Same is the case with dairy. It is coming from Europe -- the butter mountain. And, even for Maharashtra the wine lake is ready to come, and is coming. Everybody drinks foreign wines here, now. So, how are these poor fellows to compete? And, we are unable to protect them. Therefore, they face a state of seize, what I would call a state of seize. What is being done? I look at the investment. It is interesting. Yesterday, in the Agricultural Consultative Committee Meeting, Minister's people gave us these figures. I was just looking at them. From 2001, Rs. 2900 crores, roughly, for agriculture, cooperative and animal husbandry -- all of them; next year, in 2002, again Rs. 2900; in 2003, Rs. 3200; in 2004, Rs. 3300; Last year it was Rs. 4002, and this year, it is about Rs. 6,000. Fine! It is a jump. I congratulate the hon. Minister for getting it, though he asked for Rs. 9,000 crores or

Rs. 10,000 crores; I know that from the figures given. But when I look at another parallel department, that is, the Department of Telecom, which is very important. I am a supporter of all that. So, it is not this versus that. But that was Rs. 20,000 crores in 2001; Rs. 20,000 crores next year; Rs. 20,000 crores next year -- I am giving the round figure. Even this year, it is Rs. 12,000 crores. A sub-continent's agriculture for 65-70 per cent of the people does not compare with this one technical thing, howsoever necessary it may be. parallel to it, the things which link with this, literacy, from less than Rs. 4,000 crores, it had, thank God, jumped to Rs. 6,000 crores last year, and to Rs. 12,000 crores this year. That is certainly because, ultimately, if they are illiterate, if they are not even minimum educated, they are not going to get anywhere in the technologies of agriculture. In the area of 'health', from Rs. 1300 crores; then, Rs. 1400 crores next year; then, Rs. 1500 crores next year; then, Rs. 1500 crores next year; then, Rs. 1600 crores next year, last year it was Rs. 1800 crores, and this year it was Rs. 2900 crores or 3000 crores. Good! For the health of a sub-continent. But the rural areas face the maximum adversity, they get none of it. This is not the money to be given. The focus is there, if an attempt is there, and the claim is there, but, I wish the Minister, and all this rural sector would get a little more strength to their arms to try and get more.

Sir, I now come to recoveries and credit. I have been reading about credit. From Rs. 85,000/- crores, it has been pushed up to Rs. 1,03,000/- crores. It will be Rs. 1,05,000 crores of Rs. 1,08,000 crores this year. But the question is how much goes to the small farmers because they are all 2-3-4-5 acre *wallahs*; not even five acre *wallahs* really. The figures are there. How much will go to them? And then the question is that they have defaulted; they are not eligible. So, this will go to somebody else, the bigger one or whoever it is. That has to be looked into.

There are 140 Cooperative Banks and six Central Banks. Central Bank means the whole State. They are not eligible. It is written somewhere in these reports given to me. Regarding cooperatives, I was shocked to find that even in respect of Punjab, where we had built up a powerful movement which fuelled the Green Revolution of the 70's, now, it is only about 30 per cent of the credit. A major share even in Punjab is again coming from the *Sahukar*, which we thought we had left behind in the last century. Those are the men who are going to the one acre *wallahs* and saying: "I want

your acre. Get off." This social tension that is going on will cost everybody very dearly. It will not settle this way in Punjab. People have to look into it, the State as well as the Central Government.

As I said earlier, you have to look at Debt Conciliation Boards or any other mechanism. For industry and other things, I keep reading off and on; I may not be accurate in my figures, but Rs. 1,50,000 crores are called as Non-Performing Assets in this country. Is it true? Here is an expert confirming this. That simply means the big boys in industry have run away with the money and they don't pay back and you neither say it is dead money nor do you say anything else. But Rs. 5,000-10,000-20,000 crores whether Andhra wants it or not, don't always ask for Andhra Pradesh; ask for the rest of us also. (*Interruptions*). Please, this is India's problem, not Andhra's alone. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: I said it for the entire country. (*Interruptions*)

DR. M.S. GILL: I am just joking with you. Please don't take me seriously. Why can't you write off these? Why can't you write off the interest? Why can't the Government say that Rs. 10,000 crores given to the poorest of the poor will be written off, or something like that. (*Interruptions*) It does not matter; I am just saying this. It is for other to do or not to do. It is Rs. 1,50,000 crores

Sir, I have another grouse. All the Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers are regularly photographed, one after another, with the Bank Chairmen, and they bring a huge cheque of dividend. It is no special credit of theirs, and the big photographs of 20 of them are taken. And my friend, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, has also been photographed, so are these people. So, well, let the bank Chairmen be photographed, with the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister of the day, if they have given a record amount of help to the farming of rural India, poor India. They give them the photographs. Otherwise, why should they come there? Let them send the cheque. I really can't understand this perpetual publicity of Chairmen. I have a list here given by the Ministry. There are 20 public sector banks -- I won't read them to you -- who have not done the 18 per cent. I have the list here. The Minister has given it to everybody, twenty of the private banks don't do it. I think something should be done against them. Sack a few Chairmen, and then the rest will start performing. This is a serious issue. And this cannot be just left if they

say, "Well, we will try and we will cut a little bit of interest." I have read all these things. That is not good enough. I think the Chairmen should know that your work would be seen on real India which is 70 per cent of these people. I have been the Industry Secretary for four years. All the sunrise industries -- I know that side, and they still treat me, -- I think, as a friend. But I do want to say that liberalisation cannot succeed unless this sector is lifted up. This is too heavy. It will drag everything unless something is done.

Sir, I now come to marketing. I will just give one example of Punjab. The Chief Minister and others are saying that Pakistan needs 10 lakh tonnes of wheat. Obviously, we are the ones giving 60 per cent of the surplus. It should go 20 miles across. But they are not able to get through Delhi on this. It will go *via* Mumbai or somewhere else. Why should it go like that? You just send it across. But that is what seems to be happening and it just stuck up somewhere.

I think, we have to deal with this problem. We often talk with Home Minister and others on the social problems. All that is happening, from Nepal downwards to the *ghats* of India, all the way to Karnataka now, they are tribal people. They are the poorest of the poor. We have discussed about them here. They have no nutrition of any kind. If you remember, in one last Session, we had a discussion on the children dying in one of the States...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: It was Maharashtra.

DR. M.S. GILL: I don't name any State. You have a good memory; I also have. These are 300-400 million people of India. Tribals are a big group and they are in most distress. Unless something is done, we are going to face this social problem again and again. It is not the law and order machinery which can deal with this. We have to deal with the distress. Sir, I don't want to go on and on, but I have done a lot of reading on this in my past to write a book on 'Credit and Cooperatives in Punjab' and other things. Sir, I would just like to say something on Malcom Darling. He was one of the founders of the cooperative movement in this country, in 30's 20's and all that. And, Nehru that was the one ICS Englishman, he brought him back and put him in the Planning Commission. He wrote a quote on the cooperative where he said, "at that time, the white ant of politics is eating into the cooperative movement." I remember that phrase. But, what

did he say about the peasant? He wrote a classic agriculture economic. He is founder of agriculture economics in India, he and Calvert, both happen to be Punjab ICS. What did he say? He said, the peasant is ruined by three people, the money lender, the shop-keeper and the lawyer. I am sorry. One encourages him to borrow, the second to spend and the third to litigate. And, all of this is compounded by an administration of urban-oriented men of the desk. And that was in 1928, Sir. Think, what you are doing now. Thank you.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a very important subject. In fact, the entire country is looking towards Parliament, particularly, the rural people of the country, for some sort of open relief. I don't know whether we will be able to do justice to them or not. It is not a question of this party or that party, this Government or that Government. This has been the sad story of the farmers over so many years. I am happy that there is a Minister who has got indepth understanding of the problems of farmers. He comes from agricultural community. He has got the required knowledge, and he has also worked in that field for many years. But it is not the question of one person's interest. Unless the system, the Government, and we, as a whole, Parliament, take up this issue every seriously, justice will not be done. Sir, with your permission, I am reading from this newspaper, and I would just quote one line on how the system is functioning. Our media friends also should understand this. I take this from '*The Hindu*', 'Poor media coverage of agrarian crisis, इसमें इन्होंने एक वाक्य लिखा, he said that, a young aspiring actress, Nafisa Joseph committed suicide. While it was very sad that a young life was snuffed out in one stroke, for the next twelve hours, the incident got more television coverage than the death of 30,000 farmers received over the past ten years. The suicide invaded every possible arena of television, but compared to that did the suicide by farmers get the kind of exposure that it needed. Similarly, while more than 400 reporters were accredited for the Lakme ... (*Interruptions*)... India Fashion Week, 2004, barely, six correspondents of the national dailies were deputed at the "height of the agrarian crisis." This is the reality, Sir. It is not the comparison of anybody. Some time back, in Delhi, unfortunately, one socialite had committed suicide. That was a sad occasion. That instance was made as a cover page of an important national daily. Sir, we don't have any grouse and complaint. Sir, you are also from that part of the country, Karnataka, Andhra

Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, parts of Punjab; we have this news, particularly, in the State of Andhra Pradesh everyday.

We have the news, particularly, from the State of Andhra Pradesh that every day, six people, seven people, eight people are committing suicide. It is happening every day. It happened yesterday, it happened day-before-yesterday also. It is not happening because of a particular Government. I am not on that issue. The Government also has a responsibility. But, at the same time, these continuous happenings have not got adequate attention of the policymakers, of the Parliamentarians, of the media and of the country also. This is really unfortunate, and even in this House also when we want to discuss this issue, you know where do we stand as on today, to discuss this issue and how much time we are able to give to this particular subject which is agitating the minds of the entire country. In every part of the country, the farmers are distressed today. Over the years, there is a neglect of agriculture, the neglect of the rural sector, the neglect of the infrastructure in the rural areas like बिजली, सड़क पानी और सिंचाई की व्यवस्था। All these things have been totally neglected, and the other side has been given more and more weightage. Sir, I have no grouse against the industry; I have no grouse against the urban area. It has been my conviction, and I have seen right from my student days and my young days that in our entire system, the urban bias is there. It is time now that we have to reverse this and then go in for a rural bias with a higher allocation to agriculture and, if possible, I would like to suggest that with Sharadji at the helm of affairs, we should now think in terms of having a separate Agriculture Budget like we have the Railway Budget and the General Budget. Sir, it may look a little odd as to why I am saying so because then every Department wants to have its own Budget. But Sir, seventy per cent of the people of India, even today, in spite of so much urbanisation and industrialisation, are still dependent on the agriculture, and the prices are not remunerative. The problem of menace of pesticides, spurious pesticides is there; the water levels are getting depleted; the power problem is getting acute day-by day; and they are not able to get adequate rural credit. Even today, seventy per cent of the rural people are getting credit from the cooperatives and private moneylenders, and not through the banking system. We also have been reviewing the functioning of the various banks. In spite of the mandatory provisions of eighteen per cent, many banks, even today, are not rising upto this expectation; they

are only reaching up to twelve per cent. Time and again, the Parliament has taken up this issue; various Committees have taken up this issue and various Governments as well have taken up this issue. But it is not happening. ...*(Interruptions)*... India was shining, is shining and will shine tomorrow as well. For the sake of politics, let us not degrade it. There are areas which are shining. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are areas. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Yesterday itself, he himself had admitted it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: वह अच्छा बोल रहे थे, अभी उन्हें बोलने दीजिए।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: It is shining in instalments. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Now, you are going to construct *Bharat, Bharat Nirman*. अभी तक नहीं हुआ। जवाहर लाल जी, इंदिरा जी, राजीव जी के जमाने में नहीं हुआ। अभी आप लोगो ने शुरू किया है, भारत निर्माण यह इश्यू नहीं है।

Don't unnecessarily try to get aside the main issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a very serious issue.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, after so many days, we have got this opportunity to focus our attention on this burning issue which is affecting a large number of the people of this country. Sir, I have some figures here. In Maharashtra, from where our Agriculture Minister comes, more than five hundred farmers have committed suicide in the last few years, and in Andhra Pradesh that figure is somewhere around 2500 to 2800. There is a dispute about the number because some weavers are also included in that, and there are some other starvation-related deaths also. Sir, these 2500 suicide deaths are not in the five years, but in the last ten months. See, what is happening, but, even then, still, there is no seriousness. No attention is being paid to that. Then, in Karnataka, Sir from the State from where you and I are elected, more than 612 farmers have committed suicide in the last two years. It is with regard to Karnataka. Even from the State of Kerala, particularly, from the Vayanad district and that area, more than eighty farmers -- they have confirmed it -- have so far committed suicide. Even from prosperous States like Punjab, there are suicide reports from the farming community. So, all this is happening. This is a very serious

issue to which the entire House and the political parties, all of us, should really pay attention and then see to it that certain remedial measures are taken. One of the reasons of it, Sir, is that agriculture is not becoming remunerative. Day-by-day, the input prices are going up and the production cost is going up, whereas our agricultural commodities are not getting the adequate price.

Today, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister. I would be happy if he corrects me if I am wrong. The price of cotton, which went up to Rs. 2600-3000 last year, has now come down to Rs. 1700-1900. Secondly, onion, which was priced around Rs. 500 to 700 last year, has come down to Rs. 200. Onions are produced more in the State from where our hon. Minister hails. There is a crisis. Earlier, if I remember, Sir, on account of onion prices, one Government had gone ...*(interruptions)*... Look at the reaction of the urban people over the misery of the rural people. What is happening? And today, there is again going to be a crisis. There is an agitation coming up in the State of Maharashtra with regard to the prices of onion. With regard to हरी मिर्ची ...*(interruptions)*... हौं, ग्रीन से रेड होता है न ...*(interruptions)*... red chilli last year, the price was around Rs. 3000 to 3200 per quintal. Today, the price of chillies has come down to Rs. 2000.

We watch on our televisions, on our regional channels, that the farmers are setting fire to the 'mirchi' on the streets. They want to protest because there is no place to preserve them. There is no place to store them and the poor people are burning them as a mark of protest. In the case of soyabeans also prices are going down. The prices of groundnut are going down. As regards oil, the market price is going up, whereas the farmers are not getting adequate prices. We have seen in the recent past that the prices of sugar are vacillating between Rs. 18 and Rs. 20. I have never seen the price of sugar crossing Rs. 20 per kg. in my lifetime. The farmers, the sugarcane growers, are not getting adequate support for their produce. This is a serious situation. This is not healthy. How do we address this reality? That is the question before all of us.

The farmers are committing suicide on account of a variety of issues, as I have mentioned. But one of the major reasons for this is that he is borrowing money, he is investing the money, but not getting returns, and incurring losses. Year after year, he is losing hope, losing confidence, and then finally, committing suicide. This is what is happening.

This being the case, first of all, we have to take care of the credit part. The banks have to be told and they should be mandated. As one of the hon. Members was saying, banks show their balance sheets and say that they have earned this much profit. Why can't they share some of their profits? When we were in Government, Sir, during Shri Vajpayee's period, the interest rate was brought down to nine per cent. Now, the time has come when it needs to be brought down further. The Minister should use his influence to impress upon his colleagues to see that the interest rates are brought down further.

Secondly, as I said, rural credit goes through cooperatives. Now, the cooperatives are totally collapsing. What is the alternative system that we are evolving in the rural areas? I have the figures, Sir, and I don't want to go into details. The figures show that more and more rural branches are being closed. I have the figures with me, Sir, 2848 rural branches were closed and 7253 branches were opened in the urban areas. What is happening to this country?

Banking is a business activity. At the same time, they also have a social responsibility. The people's money is there, the Government money is there in the banks. I, for one, am not advocating free power. I have a conviction that free power means no power. It is not going to happen, because you have to produce the power; you have to generate power to distribute it. So, distribution losses have to be arrested, more and more generation needs to be done. What the farmers want today is not free power. They want full power, absolute power, for 10-12 hours a day.

SHRI N. JOTHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, we are doing both in Tamil Nadu. We are providing free as well as absolute power ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: When we speak, we would say what is going on in Tamil Nadu(*interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I don't wish to join issue. I have decided, at least, today, that I should not get provoked ...(*interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is a good decision that you have taken ...(*interruptions*)...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Nobody is an exception, it happens from all sides. Let us not try to score points on this.

Sir, my friend, Shri Jairam Ramesh, is there and he is going to speak from the other side. I thought that he would be speaking first and then, I would be responding. But now, it is an issue on which we have to put our minds together and then, work towards addressing these problems of rural credit, reducing the bank rate and making cheaper credit available to the farmers at their doorsteps. That is the first thing.

The second aspect is research. The so-called research that is happening in the universities has to reach farmers, and farmers have to diversify their crops. For that, a sustained campaign at the national level, State level, district level, and at the block level has to be carried out by the Agricultural Ministry in coordination with other Ministries to see as to what crops suit a particular area, climate-wise and market-wise. This is another important aspect to which the Government of India has to pay its attention and coordinate with States.

The third is regarding the World Bank and NCAR's Survey on Rural Access of Finance carried out last year. It indicated that 70 per cent of the rural people do not have bank account; 80 per cent have no access to credit from a formal source; 48 per cent of landless and marginal farmers borrow from private moneylenders. Some Governments are saying that they are going to write off all the private loans. But what has happened? Banks are not giving loans. You do not have alternative source of lending, and you are going to write off private loans, and then will come moratorium. The result is, you will lose on both counts. Write off has been announced; but it is not practical. I am not here to argue the case of anybody. Money is money. If you borrow the money, it has to be repaid, if not today, tomorrow. So, the alternative is to create money from the Government source which is there in banks and see to it that money reaches the people, the needy people, in an appropriate time. This is another aspect that has to be taken care of.

One more aspect is about information availability. The market always crashes after harvesting is over. Before that all sorts of stories appear in newspapers saying that there is going to be good price this year for tobacco, and for this and that. But when crops come to the market, they say that there are no export opportunities, etc. Now the entire information is available, but it has to reach the common man through market committees, Agriculture Department and extension network. This

information has to be made available to the rural people, and the Government should make arrangement to have rural godowns which were, side by side, settled by Shri Vajpayee *ji* in every Panchayat and cluster of Panchayats so that crop can be stored in godowns, and banks should be directed to give farmers 60 to 70 per cent loans against their crops till they get reasonable price in the market. He should not be allowed to go for a distress sale that is what is happening today. This is happening because they do not have storage capacity at their own house. This aspect has also to be taken care of.

Sir, one more problem is about spurious seeds. The seed is a major issue today that is still in the minds of people. The Bt. Cotton and other seeds are coming from outside. This is one aspect. The other aspect is concerned regarding seeds coming from within the country. There is no proper certified agency system to certify that only quality seeds reach farmers. This is a big menace to which both the States and the Centre need pay their attention and see to it that good seeds are made available at affordable prices to farmers.

Now, I come to another important aspect. The Government should pump in more and more money for irrigation. Without irrigation any amount of development you make in the country, the country cannot prosper because the country lives in villages and even now 70 per cent of the population depends upon agriculture. So, more and more money should go for irrigation. You see our Budget. What are we giving to irrigation? Access and Irrigation Benefit Programme started during Shri Deve Gowda *ji's* period. Money was doubled during Shri Atal *ji's* period. Now, there is also some marginal increase in it. But this is not sufficient. Let the Parliament develop a collective will to see that we have a major shift of focus, and provide adequate money even by putting some cess. I do not mind! The on-going medium irrigation projects in various States are consuming a lot of money but the results are not coming. So, we need to see that these projects are speeded up. Andhra Pradesh Government calculated that they need around Rs. 46,000 crores for the on-going projects. They are laying foundations; they are inaugurating projects. I am happy about it. But I am worried also. Where does the money come from? There is no adequate money for this purpose. We should mobilise money in such a way that these projects in different parts of the country, be it Andhra, Karnataka, Maharashtra, which are pending for years together need to be given additional support and

extra support. Added to this, I want to request my other friends also here that we should all prevail upon the Government to see that this rivers-linking project is expedited.

I have been hearing about that project since my childhood, and I started talking about it right from my college days. Dr. K.L. Raoji first came out with this suggestion of linking Ganga and Cauvery. Some work had been done earlier by the Task Force headed by Shri Suresh Prabhu. When Shri Suresh Prabhu made an in-depth study. I had a detailed discussion with him. Sir, the Scheme is really viable. Some people, in this country, ask, "How is it possible? How can we do it?" Many things have happened. See the revolution that has come in the IT sector; see the revolution that has come in the entertainment sector, even in television also, how the changes have come, and in bio-technology also. Sir, the real life, in this country, depends on water. So, that being the case, we have floods also. The other day, I was in Guwahati. I could not come out of the hotel because the entire hotel was surrounded by the Brahmaputra River water. Water entered into Guwahati city. We see frequent floods in Bihar. Ganga flows through 12 districts of Bihar. There is flood and there is drought also. With this, I do not know why this delay is there and why some people are making objection to this. This is in States' interest. The farmers' interests in each State can be protected through a proper agreement. Then, this River-linking Project has to be taken up on a priority basis. As our friend, Shri Chandra Sekar Reddy, was mentioning, you need to have a short-term policy relief and then, for the time being, rehabilitation. But, in the long term, if we are really interested in addressing this problem of farmer suicide, the only way is bringing water to every hand, bringing water to every land. This was the suggestion given by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, our ideological mentor. We must think on those lines. We must see to it that adequate money goes to this sector of irrigation. So far, we have not been able to provide the required amount. The Kisan Credit Card has become popular. Our Government introduced it. It has to reach every eligible person in every village. A campaign has to be taken up. Unfortunately, there is no mention of it in the Budget also. I do not know what has happened. Sir, I will just quote one line from the Economic Survey, "The United Progressive Alliance today confirmed that the Economy was in resilient mode in terms of growth, inflation and balance of payments and thus, this combination offered a large scope for consolidation of the growth

momentum." In that, the action they have suggested is, "Boosting agricultural growth through diversification and development of agro-processing." This is one of the suggestions made by the Economic Survey. But, in the Budget speech of the Finance Minister, I could not find any mention about the Kisan Credit Card. I could not find any worthwhile mention about the diversification of crops. It talks about food processing...*(Interruptions)*. See, I am not talking about the speech content of it; the real content lies in allocation. What is the allocation made to these sectors, that has to be really looked into and there is need to improve the allocation also. Sir, there is a study which has come out in the recent years. Every year, the farmers, who are growing oilseeds, are losing Rs. 25,000 crores; potato producers - Rs. 5,000 crores; sugarcane producers - Rs. 15,00 crores; wheat producers - Rs. 21,000 crores; rice producers - Rs. 27,000 crores; and, tea producers - Rs. 2,000 crores. Spice and plantation crops in Kerala alone - Rs. 100 crores lost per year. With all these facts, that means, farmers are losing more than a lakh of crore of rupees. Then, how do you expect them to sustain, and with this new pace of development that is taking place in other areas, naturally, Sir, the desire, the urge of everybody, even the son of a driver, a cook, an assistant or an attendant, even he wants to get admitted in a good school. This is the age of competition because he is seeing what other children are enjoying. And, if he is not able to have it, then naturally, there will be frustration. How is it happening in the rural areas of the country? The frustration levels are going up because they are losing heavily and nobody is coming to their rescue. The Crop Insurance Scheme has to be made comprehensive. Many people are giving up Crop Insurance Scheme in between. There is a study made with regard to Andhra Pradesh also. Good number of farmers have given it up after paying premium up to a particular level because the premium levels are very high. I do not want any write off. I want the Government of India to subsidise the premium and come to the rescue of the farmer.

Sir, write-off, free, all these things are very attractive things. I have no problem. If a particular State is able to find out money, there is no problem. There is no need to borrow from the World Bank and then abuse or accuse the World Bank afterwards. If they have surplus money, and they are giving something free, we will be very happy. It is an ideal situation. It is a socialistic State; whatever it is, I don't know, Mr. Jairam Ramesh will be able to explain it in a better manner.

3.00 P.M.

But the question is that you don't have the money to pay salaries. You are borrowing money left and right from different international institutions. You take money from them and afterwards उन्हें हम लोग गालियां भी देते हैं और पैसा भी देते हैं।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, did the earlier Government not borrow the money? ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the earlier Government also ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no please take your seat ...*(Interruptions)*... Mr. Narayanasamy, you can speak when your turn comes.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it is not good on the part of ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down ...*(Interruptions)*... आप बोलिये।

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, the punishment to be given is to induct him into the Cabinet ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI N. JOTHI: Sir, I will recommend ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: He is the Chief Whip of the ruling Party, and, I think he is doing his responsibility. I have no grouse on that count. But the question is that when a serious discussion is taking place ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (Maharashtra): Don't underestimate him ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am not underestimating him. I am not even trying to underestimate him because it is not my work ...*(Interruptions)*... He is my good friend; that is a different matter but I don't try to estimate others. Then they may complain against underestimating also.

Sir, my point is that one is comprehensive crop insurance and the other is cattle insurance, which is very much needed. If you want to keep the balance of economy in the rural sector, the sheep, the goat, the cow, the

oxen, the buffalo, all the cattle wealth, which really adds to the wealth of the country, has to be given importance. Sir, you yourself are aware that the cattle wealth is getting depleted day-by-day for various reasons like grazing lands are not available, water is not available, fodder is not available; all these things are required.

With this, the cattle wealth is getting depleted and we are now trying to depend on tractors and other mechanical methods. So, I think it is time that we go back to strengthen our cattle wealth in the country by providing even the cattle insurance at a reasonable premium, and, also, as I stated in the beginning, pumping more money in the irrigation sector, focussing more on the infrastructure in the rural areas, and, also constructing rural godowns, linking credit facilities with the rural godowns so that we can keep the crop there.

If all these things are taken up sincerely, something really good will happen to the farmers. As my friend was also telling, the Andhra Pradesh Congress Party had got benefit out of the campaign on the issue of suicides committed by the farmers. That was one major issue. Suicides committed by the farmers and the free power, these were the two major issues, which had benefited them. They got the benefit; it is fine, I have no problem. But, today, I would like to tell our friends on the other side that 2,500 farmers have lost their lives in 10 months, and, you have no clue whatsoever. The hon. Prime Minister visited there but the promises, which were made by the Prime Minister, are not being followed up. The irony of the situation is that as far as the announcements of one lakh ex-gratia, or, one-and-a-half lakh ex-gratia are concerned, I have the newspaper reports suggesting whether this is really helping the farmers, or, it is creating a psychological impact, on the minds of other people कि हम तो जा रहे हैं, कम से कम हमारे परिवार को तो कुछ मदद मिले।

This aspect also has to be studied. Is it the solution? You need to come to the rescue of those helpless people, but, at the same time, a permanent method of averting such suicides should be found. Really, our heart beats out when we read out everyday newspapers mentioning 5,6,7,8 farmers dying and the nation is not paying enough attention. Even, here also, in both the Houses, we are seeing that we are giving more time to other issues, to the political issues, to other controversies, and, we are not able to devote enough time to this major problem of the farming

community. That is why I told my colleague Shrimati Sushmaji to impress upon the Business Advisory Committee to see that atleast in this Session, this issue is discussed, and, the people also feel that their elected representatives are paying some attention to their problems, burning problems. People are dying and if there is no reference and no discussion in the House, then they will start losing faith in the system. Sir, this is another aspect, which has to be kept in mind. The Parliament, the political parties and our entire system need to really focus more and more attention on this. Sir, here, I quote one line from the Deccan Chronicle. The caption is, "Cure turn catalyst". It says, "The cure seems to be only aggravating the disease. The rehabilitation package, unveiled by the Congress Government for families of distressed farmers who committed suicide in the last six years, has prompted more and more hapless farmers to end their lives in the last few days."

"The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh", I am happy, "asserted that the Congress would not allow a single farmer to resort to the dire act under its rule." This was the statement of the hon. Chief Minister when he assumed office. "not even one farmer". But here, the numbers are 2500. I am not able to understand it. Why serious attention is not paid to the issue?

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Their arithmetic is different.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The Economic Times says, "A.P. suicides go on unabated." They have formed Governments in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Kerala and in Delhi also. They have active cooperation and there is an alliance also. So, there is no problem of any complaint that the Centre is discriminating against them. There was a complaint that the N.D.A. Government had given 55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Andhra Pradesh. I was the Minister for Rural Development at that time. There was complaint that partiality was shown with Andhra Pradesh. Foodgrains were given when there was distress in Andhra Pradesh. Today, I read in the newspapers that Andhra Pradesh Government had made a request for 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and only two lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been sanctioned. I am only giving one example. I am not trying to single out Andhra Pradesh. The crisis is very severe and serious, but the response is very nominal. It seems that the Government of the day is not concerned about the problems and miseries of the hapless people. I would like to know from the hon. Agriculture Minister what are the specific steps that this Government have taken upon assuming office. I

know that all the problems cannot be solved within nine months. My friends from the other side asked what had we done in the last six years. Then I asked them what had they done in the last 50 years. आप लोग 50 साल में जो नहीं कर पाये, उसको 5 साल में पूरा करना संभव नहीं है। यह तो आर्गुमेंट है, मैंने तर्क दिया है। 50 साल तक पूरे देश में पार्लियामेंट से लेकर पंचायत तक, म्युनिसिपैलिटी से लेकर मुख्यमंत्री तक पूरे अधिकार आपके हाथ में थे, एक ही परिवार के हाथ में लोगों ने अधिकार दिये, फिर भी समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं हो पाया। हमने 6 साल में बहुत कुछ करके दिखाया है, हम रूरल क्रेडिट का रेट 9 परसेंट तक लाये, हमने किसान क्रेडिट कार्ड इंट्रोड्यूस किया, हमने पूरे ग्रामीण इलाके में ग्रामीण गोदाम के निर्माण का काम शुरू किया। हमने (व्यवधान).....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Are you yielding?

श्री राजीव शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, इन्होंने कहा है कि 50 साल में कुछ नहीं किया है। क्या 1947 में यही देश था जो आपको मिला था? यही देश 1947 में मिला था...।

श्री उपसभापति: इन्होंने ही योल्ट किया है, मैंने नहीं कहा है।.... (व्यवधान)...

श्री राजीव शुक्ल: पूरे देश में इतनी तरक्की हुई है, क्या कुछ देश में हुआ ही नहीं है? क्या 1947 में जो मुल्क मिला था, क्या यह वही है?.... (व्यवधान)...

श्री एम० वेंकैया नायडु: सर, मैंने ऐसा कुछ नहीं कहा कि 50 साल में कुछ नहीं हुआ है। 50 साल पहले मेरी उम्र एक साल थी और अब मैं 50 से ऊपर हो गया हूँ। नेचुरली, 50 साल पहले इतने किसान आत्महत्या नहीं करते थे, उनकी संख्या बढ़ गई है। मैंने इतना ही कहा कि 50 साल में जितना करना चाहिए था, उतना नहीं किया। I did not say that nothing has been done. Am I such an innocent person to say that in the last fifty years nothing has been done? What was required, what could have been done was not done. This was my charge. But you are saying that whatever we did, we could have done better. You have that argument. But I also have an argument. Are we going to solve this problem by arguments and counter-arguments? Or are we going to seriously apply our mind, cutting across party lines, and come to a conclusion to see that there is a shift from the bias towards the rural people, towards the agriculture labour, towards the farmers and towards allied activities in the rural areas. This is the point that I am trying to pose. That is why, in the beginning itself, I said that I did not want to get provoked today, because provocation will be highlighted. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made a very good resolution, but why are you getting provoked? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: That is why I am saying, Sir, the provocation will become tomorrow's headline and my speech will be a 'dead' line tomorrow. I know that. This is the weakness in our system, of our Indian media also. I have decided to speak substantively on the issue concerning the people of the country. I seek the help of other Members of the House, particularly from the Treasury Benches to seriously address this problem and then think about the few suggestions that I have made.

Firstly, can we think of bringing 'agriculture' into the Concurrent List? Can we have consensus on this? Why should we leave it as a State subject? Secondly, Sir, can we sustain agriculture by making a huge allocation to irrigation? Can we think of raising additional resources from different means and make a massive allocation for irrigation? Can we think of having a separate Budget, if not a sub-Budget, for agriculture unlike the present one in which allocations are made to the States and the Agriculture Ministry, as such, has no major role? And then, can we also think of taking up the river-linking projects at the earliest? Can we muster political will and influence the State Governments to see that they all fall in line? Then, another thing is the public sector. It is a point which may be controversial. The public sector, Sir, wherein huge money is invested can be partially disinvested. And that disinvested money can be earmarked for the purpose of rural development, for the purpose of irrigation. Wherever you are getting profits in the public sector, part of it, part of it can be made available to agriculture. I am not saying public sector should be closed down fully. You cannot do so and you should not also. But can we think of that where you have so much money? We see how the share prices in the share market are going up and we have no problem with that. Can we think that part of this money can be made available to the rural sector, particularly to the cause of agriculture? Can we prepare a National Agriculture Index like the Wholesale Price Index? We can we think about it? Then, this vital data about agriculture, index on annual production, available stocks, status of buffer stocks, prevailing market rates, trends, advisory crops, etc. may be available so that the farmer could plan his roadmap for the economic production planning before taking up cultivation of any crop. It will enable farmers to face minimum risk of price fluctuation. Then, can we also think in terms of strengthening the Commodities Boards under the management

of farmers? Also, representatives of farmers should be there in the Boards. Now, only the bureaucrats or the politicians are there; representation of farmers is minimum. I don't say they are not there, they are there, but their words do not have adequate weightage. We are seeing what is happening to the Tobacco Board. In spite of the fact that elected Members are there, it is the bureaucracy which holds the sway and they don't allow the will of the representatives of farmers to prevail in the Tobacco Board. I had first hand experience while I served on it earlier. Along with this, poultry, aquaculture, sericulture, pisciculture and the other related activities need to be given special attention. Our entire Indian culture depends on agriculture. That is our main culture. That being the case, these allied activities also have to be given importance. I would like the House to seriously think on these lines and the Government to respond in a positive manner about the steps they are going to take and then rescue the farmers. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Penumalli Madhu.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, farmers' suicide is a very serious issue. The situation that is prevailing in the present context, for the last six or seven years, is that these suicides started from the State of Andhra Pradesh. Now, suicides have spread to eight States in the Indian Union. Sir, suicides started at the end of 90s; earlier to 90s, we had not seen suicides in 80s; suicides of farmers, we have not seen in 70s. After 1947, after the Independence, also in 1950s, we have not seen suicides. Suicides are very much prevalent in recent years. What is the reason? Not only that, if you see the data in respect of suicides, you will find that most of them have taken place in Andhra Pradesh, and some of them have taken place here and there. According to the statistics available with me, 7,800 people have died in the State of Andhra Pradesh because of suicides. The suicides first started in the year 1996. Why are the suicides taking place now only? Why were they not taking place in the earlier period? Why are these suicides taking place in such a large number only in Andhra Pradesh and why are they not taking place at the same rate elsewhere? Right now, the suicides are taking place in eight States. But they started only from Andhra Pradesh. Why? Why did they begin from Andhra Pradesh? Not only that, if we analyse the causes of suicides that are taking place in the State of Andhra Pradesh, we will come to know about the reality. A number of surveys have been conducted in this respect. Shri P.A. Chaudhary, one of our retired Judges of the Supreme Court, under his Chairmanship, a survey

has been conducted. Dr. M.S. Swaminathan made a study on this subject. Shri Jayanti Ghosh made a study about it. In all these reports, one important aspect which everybody mentioned was that the suicides started taking place in the areas where cultivation of commercial crops began; suicides started taking place in the areas where proper irrigation facilities were lacking; suicides started taking place in the families where power tariff was connected with the agriculture. So, suicides are very much connected with the power tariff, the irrigation facilities and the commercial crops. Sir, I do not want to derive any political mileage out of the whole thing. I am very much critical about the whole thing. I do not agree with some of the formulations that are presented here. Everybody wants to solve the problem of suicides. From that side of the House, they want to solve the problem of suicides. From this side, the Communist Party wants to address the problem of suicides. The BJP would like to attend to the problem of suicides, the NDA attended to the problem of suicides, the UPA is attending to the problem of suicides, but suicides are continuing. What is the logic behind it? Where does the mistake lie? People who are trying to derive political mileage out of these suicides, they are not able to see the real problem behind it. What is the real problem today? What are the main reasons for these suicides? I am having a Working Paper with me. This is a Working Paper which was presented by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the year 1999. In this Working Paper, entirely a new agricultural policy, which is totally different from the agricultural policy that we have been adopting since 1947, has been enunciated in this Paper. I would like to quote the core part of the New Agricultural Policy. "A Working Paper of the Department of Agriculture, Government of Andhra Pradesh, published in 1999 said that the Government could act only as a facilitator, and no public investment would be made in providing these services." It was supported by the NDA.

Mr. Venkaiah Naidu told us—he spoke and left the House—that he wanted disinvestment and to support the irrigation schemes. It is a very fantastic thing. As long as the NDA was in power, they neglected irrigation; they neglected agriculture.

I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the main reasons for these suicides. I don't remember about any suicides in the fifties. I never read about any suicides in any of the paper or Government reviews earlier. There were no suicides earlier. We have started seeing

these suicides from 1995 onwards. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, 7,800 suicides had taken place. In Karnataka, 500 suicides took place. In Maharashtra, 400 suicides took place. In Kerala, 18 suicides took place. In the case of Punjab also, there is a doubledigit figure. Why did so many suicides take place only in Andhra Pradesh? Why didn't so many suicides take place in Karnataka? Why didn't so many suicides take place in Maharashtra? Why didn't so many suicides take place in Kerala? Why did not so many suicides take place in Punjab? Why did it happen only in Andhra Pradesh? It all happened during this ten-year reform period from 1994 onwards. If you analyse the Government data, different statistics, you will be able to know the reasons behind these suicides.

SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Is your party in Government in Karnataka also?

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: I don't want to charge only the Telugu Desam Party.

SHRI RAVULACHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: In Karnataka, 800 farmers committed suicide.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: This is a White Paper presented by the Government. You see how bold they were to say this. I will read one paragraph. This is a White Paper presented by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in 1999. They reviewed the entire agriculture situation in Andhra Pradesh. They suggested that a paradigm shift was needed and emphasised it. It says, "To shift to new paradigm policy changes permitting lease of land for consolidation and expansion of the size of the units is essential. We should also encourage voluntary consolidation of fragmented lands with proper incentives like exemption from registration and stamp charges". All small holdings are clubbed into one big holding and contract and corporate farming is encouraged. In Kuppam... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: What is special about Kuppam? (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Kuppam is a constituency in Andhra Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJ KUMAR: This is Mr. Chandrababu Naidu's constituency. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: In Kuppam a model corporate farming has been started.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: It is absolutely wrong. He is not aware of it.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: I would like to bring this to your kind notice. If you are sincere—I am a new Member of Parliament; I don't want any house site in Banjara Hills at Hyderabad—I would like to tell the house, the MPs and the MLAs, this is the proper time to really attend to the agricultural crisis. The nature of the present agricultural crisis is entirely different. What are the specific features of it? If you review the agriculture situation properly all over India from 1947 onwards, you will find that this situation had come about in 2000. Previously there were two commercial crops in all the States throughout the year. We have seen earlier that there was one crop during one season and no remunerative price.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE) in the Chair]

We have seen earlier, two crops, one season and no remunerative price. next season, there is some remunerative price. In 2000, for all crops, throughout India, from Kanyakumari to Srinagar, no remunerative price. What a peculiar situation! What is this? How has it come about? (*Interruptions*). Sir, my humble submission to the House is this. This is a very peculiar problem which has come about not by spontaneity but by a particular policy that is being followed which is responsible for this type of situation. Now suicide by farmers is the most extreme sign of despair and the most blackened indicator of the extent of rural devastation. It is a very serious devastation that is taking place now. If we want to halt this devastation, we have to analyse the situation. In Andhra Pradesh, we had analysed the situation. We had analysed 3,800 suicides which had taken place. We had noted down the names of the farmers who had committed suicides, their land holdings, property, income, crops, and many other things. We had conducted this survey. It was found that the first suicide started not from the East Godavari and Guntur districts and the paddy area, but it started from the area where serious drought conditions were prevailing. These suicides have taken place in areas where cotton crops are grown. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has systematically

advocated in its White Paper one slogan. That slogan is 'shift from food crop to commercial crop'. I am having the figures. This shift has taken place in such a way that a large number of farmers were forced to undertake commercial crops in place of food crops.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE): You will have to conclude now because your time is over.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, I am a new member. This is the first time I am speaking. (*Interruptions*) Percentage of cropped area for joovar has come down from 20.8 to 6.1. There are substantial changes in the cropping pattern from cereals to cash crops. Percentage of cropped area for foodgrains also came down from 73.1 to 53.2.

The area covering food crops came down and the area of commercial crops went up. Sir, in 1996, the international prices for all crops crashed down, and the peasants incurred heavy debts. Once they go into debts, it becomes difficult for them to come out of their liabilities. They have to grow more and more cash crops for them to sustain. So, on the whole, this cash crop business is just like gambling. Sir, if we have to grow more cash crops, more and more investment in agriculture is needed. So, the farmers are required to take more and more credit. But, in the last decade, that is, between 1995-2005, we could see that the credit flow to the farmers has gone down enormously. Who is responsible for this? Even when we talk about suicide cases, we should know where we have gone wrong. Where is the mistake? My point here is, since 1991 onwards, agriculture has been very much neglected, and the net result is the cases of these suicides. Sir, we all know that the number of suicide cases has been more in Andhra Pradesh than in any other part of the country. Now here in the country has structural adjustment taken place in the entire State. The World Bank has given loans for various projects; but structural adjustment means, the entire State has been handed over to the World Bank...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: That is your belief.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: That is my point of view. I am saying that this is what happened. Structural adjustment is the main reason for this type of occurrence in the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is not that I am opposed to any political party or the Government of Andhra Pradesh. By

this, I am not going to win the hearts of my peasants; that is not my point. I don't deny that even today the situation is serious. But this has come about in the last one decade. The main reason is that we are more and more dependent on the World Bank....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE): I believe, the reasonable bonus of time also is over. So, please wind up.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: My submission is, we can have a proper study about all these things. There are very good studies which have been made.

Our friend was telling us that it should be entrusted to universities. There are many universities and many professors who have studied it. The Parliament should take up these studies and adopt certain positive measures in support of agriculture. We, as the Communist Party of India (Marxists), are very firm; we say, "No compromise, come what may, as far as the rural and agricultural development are concerned".

So, there are three aspects. One is the situation; the next one is the analysis; and the third one is, 'what to do'. I will come to 'what to do' within two minutes.

Sir, the basic aim of the banking system has to be changed. The basic aim of the banking system in the rural areas is to meet credit requirements of the farmers; all rural households should be covered and the emphasis should be on social banking rather than profit-based banking. I am afraid that the present UPA Government...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BALAPTE): You can enumerate; you may not elaborate.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: All right, Sir. I am very afraid, Sir. Our present Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, is not following this. That is my point. The emphasis should be on social banking. He is only for profit banking, not for social banking. I want that this policy should be changed. Immediate priority should be given to new irrigation schemes. Irrigation resources should be provided to the irrigation-deficit and low-rainfall areas which have been neglected. Thirdly, public sector research should be intensified. It is horrible in the State of Andhra Pradesh. When compared with Maharashtra, even 50 per cent of the people are not there

in the State of Andhra Pradesh in public sector research. So far as extension services are concerned, again, Karnataka and Maharashtra are far better than Andhra. So, this public sector research should be strengthened. The tenancy laws should be modified so as to ensure tenancy with adequate safeguards, because they are denied of any bank loans. Then, the fifth point is that the Chief Minister has written to the Central Government requesting that the import duty on cotton and palm oil should be increased in order to protect cotton and groundnut farmers. The Central Government will have to take note of the seriousness of the matter and they will have to respond. These were the four or five points that I wanted to make.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, when the hon. Member was talking about the banking system, he had in mind the strike of the public sector banks today. He had this in mind when he was trying to say that the Finance Minister must keep in mind the social banking and profit banking. Today, all the banks are on strike. That is why I wanted to stress it again.

SHRI SHARADANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, once again, I get up in this House to speak on the subject of farmers' suicides. After having devoted 25 years to the farmers movement, I came to this House, and I don't know how many times this subject has been discussed in this House. It was raised through Starred Questions, Unstarred Questions, Supplementaries, Special Mentions, Calling Attention and so on. Luckily, at least, this Short Duration Discussion happens in good day time when most of the Members are present. I remember last time when the subject was taken up, there was hardly any quorum in the House.

Last time, I started my speech by paying homage to the dead because I think it is very important that if this House passes a resolution or the House pays a homage to 250 people dying in an accident in Maharashtra, then, more than 11,000 farmers are dying in the country as a whole. This is a serious matter, not to be lightly taken for political or party polemics or jeering sort of things that I have heard in this forum on this issue. I hope that this is the last time that I would have to get up to talk about the farmers' suicide. This is hoping against hope. But, I do express my hope that I would not have to get up to speak on this subject once again.

My first question is this. How many farmers have actually committed suicide, nobody knows. I am quite sure about it. But, I find that Madhuji

said that in Karnataka, the number is very small. When Shri Rahman Khanji was in the Chair and Shri Venkaiah Naidu was speaking, they said that they come from Karnataka and they mentioned that the figure of Karnataka was something like 640. I would like to mention here that in the Standing Committee on Agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture has supplied a document which gives the figures of around 640 or 800 for Andhra Pradesh. In that document, it is mentioned that in Karnataka there were about 840 suicides. There was a footnote under it, which says that this figure has since been revised to 8700. So, the maximum number of suicides are actually from Karnataka. There are various reasons for that. I, as a farm organisation worker, have had to go right from 1994 in Andhra Pradesh to the latest cases of suicides in Punjab, and I have personally seen the practical situation in every State. What is important is to understand what the reasons are. I have merely made a clear analysis. Firstly, from all the data that I have gathered, the incidents of suicide belong to all kinds of castes. It is not correct to say that they belong only to lower castes or that they belong only to the higher castes. They are caste neutral. Secondly, they are age neutral. I find that farmers who have committed suicides belong to all age groups. It has nothing to do with the optimism of the youth or the pessimism of the age-old. Then, the land holding does not appear to affect suicides either. Even large farmers who hold as much as 50 acres of land have committed suicides; and farmers who hold 50 acres of land go for the stone-breaking job when it comes to the Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is in a way crop neutral, but not quite. Because the incidents, in the case of cotton, are pretty high, I will try to explain why it is higher in the case of cotton. It is not quite water neutral. But the incidents, in the case of areas where irrigation is high, are comparatively lower. We find there are two reasons for it. If there is water, of course, the risk to the crop is much less. If there is damage to the crop, all the risk of loss of crop is much less. Then, obviously, farmers are exposed to much less risk. But, the combination of two things is not that they are cash crops. There are a number of cash crops. For example, Madhuji, Maharashtra grows sugarcane, which is a cash crop. But, there has not been a single suicide in the case of sugarcane in Maharashtra. Cotton is a crop on its own, and the reason why cotton presents more cases of suicide is very simple.

If you have a look at statements submitted under the signature of Shri Pranab Mukherjee in 1986-87 and, again the same statement submitted, in 1996-97, you will find that the negative AMS, negative subsidy for cotton is the highest in case of India. There is no other crop where the negative subsidy is as high as in the case of cotton. It becomes particularly pernicious when you are having dry land cotton. Dry land combines two features. Number one, the risks that are involved in the physical production are higher, and when you produce cotton, then the governmental intervention makes the living of farmer even more difficult.

What has happened really is as the old saying goes. In the case of farmers, it is either *aasmani* or *sultani*. In the case of cotton farmer, what has happened is, either the weather Gods have failed the agriculture or the Government has failed them. I feel that this is a very serious matter. When I look back on my own life, I find that having spent twenty-five years in the service of farmers, farmers are still driven to suicide; it shows that there is something wrong; even I have failed the farmers. There is some mistake that I have made, and that is, I could not lead them in the correct direction.

Now, let us avoid all political controversies. Formally, I belong to the NDA for good reasons. But I am making it very clear that all successive Governments have failed the farmers. Congress has failed them, and every successive Prime Minister, except Lal Bahadur Shastri failed them. I would make one exception, Lal Bahadur Shastri, who brought in the Green Revolution and who brought in Agricultural Prices Commission, also. That is the only exception. At that time, C. Subramanyam was the Minister for Agriculture. This was the pair which had a true appreciation of farmers' problem. Except for them, all Governments, including the NDA Government, have failed the farmers, and there is absolutely no other exception. Let us not make it a political issue. Let us take it as seriously as the matter requires to be taken.

Agriculture, as C. Subramanyam said, is a losing proposition. That is something that is said as early as in 1961. Since then, I have taken years after years of statistics as Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee on the National Agricultural Policy, as Chairman of the Task Force on WTO Regulations. I have not seen a single year in which agriculture has not been a losing proposition. When you have successive losses and you go on accumulating, and you go on taking loans and debts, go on

accumulating, then there comes a point where you find that there is no way out, there is an impasse and you have to find some kind of a drastic solution. Even with this economic—a sort of—crunch, I don't think suicides would have happened. There are always compounding factors, because suicide always is a complex social and psychological phenomenon. The Government reports while analysing suicides of farmers have talked of illnesses, diseases, inability to finance treatment; they have talked of family disputes; and one of the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra even talked of despair in love affairs to explain some of the cases of farmers' suicide. All these things might be true, or partly true. I am not ruling them out. But then the incidents of all these things—people falling ill, people getting diseased more frequently—there is a greater likelihood of people being unwell if you are poor. There is a greater likelihood of family disputes coming up when the family itself is sinking and declining. There is a much greater chance of family disputes happening. And, therefore, all the other causes that have been mentioned in the Government report are concomitant or attendant upon the basic question that agriculture is a losing proposition and no amount of new credit that Mr. Chidambaram has promised, as so many others have promised, is going to improve the situation of farmers as long as credit can only help bridge a gap temporarily. Credit can always help a business which is in the long run paying. Agriculture has been a losing proposition for such a long time that credit by itself doesn't mean any kind of relief for the farmers.

Now, what is required to be done? For want of time, I would mention that there is, really, no need for a political dispute. Even though I don't belong to the UPA, I would point out that the National Common Minimum Programme, about which everybody talks here, contains only two paragraphs, which are quite enough to take care of the entire farmers' problems. Let us not go about the NDA. They have failed us, the UPA should not fail us, particularly because you are on sound lines having faced farmers for years together.

One question the National Common Minimum Programme mentions very specifically, "We will take measures to see to it that all policies that have the effect on depressing agricultural prices will be removed, for example, Essential Commodities Act will be scrapped and nothing will be done that would bring down the prices". I am sorry to say that the Minister of Agriculture has left, but I would like to point out that in this very House,

[22 March, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

he has said that for this year, at least, we are stopping, we are banning, all exports of foodgrains.

When we are actually trying to develop a new export market in foodgrains, for one year if you stop it, it means you lose the export market. Right now, as pointed out by Mr. Amrinder Singh, who is the Chief Minister of Punjab, the growing price of wheat in weaker markets of Pakistan is above Rs. 1200 a quintal. And we are now offering farmers just Rs. 630. If we could only send it across the Wagha Border to Pakistan, they could have it for Rs. 1000 and our farmers would be happy instead of coming to Delhi. Punjab farmers and Haryana farmers came in large numbers on 16th March in Delhi and they said 'just gives something more than Rs. 630' while in Pakistan the growing price is more than Rs. 1200. Number one—follow faithfully the National Common Minimum Programme item that you will not do anything that has the effect of the depressing agricultural prices.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) *in the Chair*]

Unlike the USA we are not asking you to help the farmers. We are just asking you to stop being a nuisance. That basically is the Gandhian philosophy. Everybody talks of helping the farmers, but nobody is prepared to get off his back. Then the second paragraph in the National Common Minimum Programme is that we will try to lighten the burden of debts and burden of interest from the farmers. Supply of additional credit does not mean that you are lightening the burden. What is required to be done, as the Chairman of the Task Force on Agriculture, I had specifically recommended to the previous Government that as long as the USA continues to give billions of dollars to its farmers, what we can do at the minimum is to stop coercive recovery. I am not saying write-off the loans. I have fought for it. I am not saying it under the new post-1991, post-Dr. Manmohan Singh era, not asking for a waiver of loans. What I am saying is that stop coercive recovery. This, I think, as Mr. Gill pointed out, we have a good precedent. Sir Chhotu Ram under the Unionist Party Government passed a Land Alienation Act. This was approved in Punjab, which has been in effect for quite sometime, and that stops effectively. Even the Criminal Procedure Code in India does not permit the seizing of farmer's land, seizing farmer's household, seizing of farmer's bullock cart. That has to be made applicable in general to all the farmers. You can recover loans...(*Time-bell*) If the farmer has not agricultural sources of income, but otherwise, you cannot make any coercive recovery from

farmers. If only these two programmes are followed: do not do anything to depress the agricultural prices and stop coercive recovery from farmers. I am quite sure the number of suicides and the incidence of suicides would come down and I would not have to hold, I would not have to get up once again in this House to talk about farmers' suicide.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am pained that farmers who are the backbone of our country and who provide food for millions of people are forced to commit suicide in various parts of the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh and Northern Karnataka. Sir, a spate of suicide has been witnessed more in the last one year. This is a direct fallout of a series of drought which this area suffered for four years. Sir, Andhra Pradesh and Northern Karnataka have faced drought for the past four years. Both the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, are busy in showcasing their information technology potential. Both the Chief Ministers are vying with each other to promote information technology only. So, these Governments were catering to the interests of certain section of people. Hyderabad becomes Cyberabad and Bangalore city was developed with a vengeance. But both these Governments turned a blind eye to the plight of farmers who could not cultivate their crops for four successive years.

The Central Government was only busy in giving rice which never reached the poor people. The nationalised banks, which were in the vanguard of providing cheap credit to the farmers, were also told by the Central Government to turn away from the rural sector. Sir, South India has very few perennial rivers and it is known to everyone here. The drought witnessed in the first four years and the mass suicide by farmers should force the political establishment to take steps to link peninsular rivers. Sir, unless the Ganges is linked with Kaveri, there cannot be genuine national integration. Lip service to nationalism will not take the country forward. Sir, so far as the farmers are concerned, when they are burdened by loans which they could not repay due to drought and other reasons, they should be given moratorium at least for five years. Sir, this will give great relief to the farmers in times of crisis. Sir, in the regime of our late Leader Puratchi Thaliaivar MGR we gave moratorium to farmers which helped the farmers a lot. Even now, under the regime of our dynamic Leader Puratchi Thalaivi, we have abolished this *kanthuvatti* i.e., usurious interest to facilitate the farmers to get the loans at lesser rate of interest. Sir, farmers have been

4.00 P.M.

provided with free food and free supply of rice is given to the farmers of Kaveri Delta Basin when they face acute drought there. Sir, in Tamil Nadu, farmers have been provided free power with uninterrupted, continuous power, without power cut. Sir, this type of measures should be undertaken in Andhra Pradesh to alleviate the suffering of poor farmers. The Party in power in the present Andhra Pradesh Government headed by* came to power certainly one year back by misleading the people of Andhra Pradesh by saying that Telgu Desam Government did not care for the poor farmers. *also charged the TDP Government with promoting Information Technology in and around Hyderabad city and never bothered about the toiling masses. But curiously, the number of farmers committing suicide due to poverty has increased manifold ever since Congress came to power in Andhra Pradesh. Hundreds of farmers specially in the Telengana and Rayalaseema regions have ended their lives by committing suicide. I, therefore, demand from* who made farmers' issue his main plank in his own campaign, that he should own moral responsibility for the spate of suicides in that State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Narayanan, you should not mention the name of the Chief Minister in this House.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: No, no, but moral responsibility...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): But you can't mention the name. You can say 'Chief Minister'. This is not allowed. I am only talking about the rule. It is better to avoid names. (*Interruptions*) Please sit down. I am protecting you, why are you bothered? Please go ahead.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: There should be owing of moral responsibility and tender apology for the injustices done to the farmers for the past one year. Thank you.

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सबसे पहले तो मैं अपनी प्रसन्नता प्रकट करना चाहता हूँ कि पहली बार इस बहुत ही खास मुद्दे पर बहस हो रही है, लेकिन बहुत ही विनम्रता के साथ मैं यह भी कहना चाहूंगा कि जब किसानों की समस्याओं के निदान की बात चल रही है, अब तक सदन में किसानों की भाषा में बात नहीं की गई है, इसलिए मैं आपसे अनुमति चाहता हूँ कि मैं किसानों की भाषा में ही बात करूँ। कभी-कभी ऐसा भी होता है। सबसे पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि यह महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है कि किस राज्य में और कहां पर किसानों के

*Not recorded.

द्वारा कितनी आत्महत्याएं हुई और वहां पर कौन सी सरकार थी, महत्वपूर्ण यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान एक कृषि प्रधान देश है, जिसमें 70 से 80 प्रतिशत लोग प्रत्यक्ष अथवा परोक्ष रूप से खेती पर आधारित हैं और हम बहुत ही फख्र के साथ कहते हैं कि हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है किन्तु, उस कृषि प्रधान देश में जब इस प्रकार की दुखद घटनाएं होती हैं कि किसान आत्महत्याएं करते हैं, तब हमें सचेत होना चाहिए। हम उस गहराई में नहीं जाते, न ही हम उसके मनोवैज्ञानिक कारणों पर जाएंगे और न ही बैंक के कारणों पर जाएंगे। मैं ज़मीन से जुड़ा हुआ आदमी हूँ। खेती मेरे अपने घर में ही होती है, इसलिए मैं उन दुखों की चर्चा करूंगा जो स्वयं मेरे अनुभव में हैं। मैंने किसी किताबी ज्ञान से अथवा ड्राइंगरूम में बैठ कर, किसानों की समस्या पर ध्यान नहीं दिया है और न ही उसका विश्लेषण किया है। सबसे बड़ी बात जो है, वह यह है कि आज़ादी के पश्चात जिस मात्रा में पूंजी बढ़ी है, उसका लाभांश इस कृषि प्रधान देश में किसानों को सबसे कम मिला है। मैं ज्यादा तो कुछ नहीं कहना चाहूंगा, किन्तु किसी ज़माने में जब मैं बहुत छोटा था तो हमारी संस्कृति "Twinkle Twinkle little star" वाली नहीं थी, हमने तो हिन्दी में जो चार पंक्तियां पढ़ी थीं और यह कहा था,

“बच्चों सुनो मिठाई वाला, आया है मटरूमल लाला।

लिए हाथ में एक थाली, इसकी धोती कितनी काली।

इसकी डंडी में है फेर, 'आने' की देता 'दो सेर'।”

आदरणीय उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक आने की दो सेर मिठाई होती थी। आज यदि हम दो सेर मिठाई लेने के लिए बाज़ार में जाएं तो कितने रुपये की मिलेगी? कम से कम तीन सौ रुपये की। किसान जब मिठाई खरीदता था, उस समय गेहूँ की कीमत क्या थी? जिस समय मैंने यह कविता पढ़ी थी, उस समय गेहूँ की कीमत थी, एक रुपये की तीन सेर। इसका अर्थ यह है कि यदि हम तीन सेर गेहूँ बाज़ार में लेकर जाते थे, तो हम दो किलो मिठाई लेकर आते थे। आज आप जरा मिठाई लेकर आइए, दो किलो मिठाई लाने के लिए, उस ज़माने के मुकाबले में, आज तीन सौ गुनी कीमत अधिक देनी होगी। लेकिन गेहूँ की कीमत कितनी बढ़ी है? गेहूँ उस ज़माने में एक रुपये का तीन किलो था, किन्तु अब छः रुपये का एक किलो है। इस प्रकार गेहूँ की कीमत केवल 15 या 18 गुनी बढ़ी है किन्तु मिठाई की कीमत तीन सौ गुनी अधिक हो गई है। यह केवल मिठाई की बात नहीं हो रही है, आप किसी भी चीज़ को ले लें। सीमेंट की बोरी जो एक रुपये की आती थी और जो तीन सेर गेहूँ के बदले में मिला करती थी, आज वह दो सौ रुपये की मिलती है। उसे प्राप्त करने के लिए हमें एक क्विंटल गेहूँ देना होगा। सात रुपये की एक हजार ईंटें मिला करती थीं, वह भी घर पहुँचा कर, किन्तु आज, अन्य स्थानों के बारे में तो मुझे नहीं मालूम, किन्तु उत्तर प्रदेश में उन ईंटों की कीमत 1800 और 2000 रुपये के बीच है। इसके लिए कितना गेहूँ देना होगा, एक सीमेंट की बोरी और एक हजार ईंट के लिए अब कम से कम चार क्विंटल गेहूँ चाहिए,

जबकि पहले 24 सेर गेहूं में इतनी चीजें आ जाया करती थी। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि किसान जो चीजें पैदा करता है, उसका उत्पादन पिछले पचास वर्ष में नौ गुना बढ़ा है, लेकिन सबसे बड़ा हिन्दुस्तान का उपभोक्ता, जो कि किसान है, वह जो वस्तुएं खरीदता है, उनके दाम 200 गुना, 300 गुना और 400 गुना तक भी बढ़े हैं। किसान गरीब होता जा रहा है, किन्तु हमारी पुस्तकें यह बताती हैं कि उसके पास पहले एक कमीज़ हुआ करती थी, अब उसके पास दो हैं, पहले उसके पास कच्चा मकान हुआ करता था, आज उसके पास पक्का मकान है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बैंक कितना लोन देता है, या नहीं देता है, इन सब बातों में जाने के बजाए हमें इसके मूल कारण में जाना चाहिए। हमारी जो अर्थव्यवस्था है, वह किसान को बीच में रख कर नहीं बनाई जाती है। जब तक हिन्दुस्तान का बजट और हिन्दुस्तान की अर्थव्यवस्था किसान को मध्य में रख कर नहीं बनाए जाएंगे, इस प्रकार की दुर्घटनाएं होती रहेंगी और बहुत ही दुःखद होती रहेंगी।

मैंने कभी एक कविता लिखी थी, मुझे क्षमा कीजिएगा, मैंने उसमें लिखा था—

“वतन के मेहनतकश मजदूर,
खेत की माटी के सिंदूर,
उठो, मैं अपने गीतों में,
तुम्हें आवाज़ लगाता हूँ।
खेत में मेहनत तुमने की,
तुम्हीं को तंगी का डर हो!
तुम्हारे घर में दीया जले,
रोशनी और कहीं पर हो!”

यह कविता मैंने लिखी थी। इसमें मैं जो कहना चाहता हूँ, हमारे मित्र मनोज भट्टाचार्य और मैं, दोनों एक ज़माने में साथ-साथ काम करते रहे थे और पार्टी के हिसाब से हम दोनों की विचारधारा भी एक थी। सर्वहारा का जो concept है, हिंदुस्तान में या दुनिया में, जो कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी का चिंतन है, उसमें सर्वहारा का concept यह है कि जिसके पास न तो हल हो और न जिसके पास बैल हो, यानी किसान उसमें नहीं आता, लेकिन मैं एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिंदुस्तान में मजदूर और किसान की हालत एक जैसी है और मैं उनमें भेद नहीं करना चाहता। बहुत से किसान मजदूर हो जाते हैं, जब उनके पास खेती नहीं रहती, छोटे-छोटे खेत बंटते चले जाते हैं। जो बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ, वह यह है कि आपने कभी नहीं सुना होगा कि हिंदुस्तान में किसी मजदूर ने आत्महत्या की हो, क्योंकि उसे उम्मीद बनी रहती है आज नहीं तो कल, मुझे मजदूरी मिलेगी और खाना मिलेगा, लेकिन किसान? किसान की सारी की सारी आशाएं अपनी फसल पर टिकी होती हैं, वह पानी का इंतजाम करता है, बीज का इंतजाम करता है, वह मेहनत करता है। अगर किसान की रोज़ की मजदूरी भी लगा ली जाए, तो 365 दिन की मजदूरी, पचास

रुपए रोज़ के हिसाब से, पंद्रह हजार रुपए बनती है। बता दीजिए कि किस किसान को इतना मिलता है? मैं कहता हूँ कि मजदूर की हालत किसान से फिर भी अच्छी है। हिंदुस्तान के इतिहास में हमने कभी नहीं सुना कि किसी मजदूर ने आर्थिक कारणों से आत्महत्या की हो, क्योंकि उसे पता है कि आज नहीं तो कल रोटी मिलेगी, लेकिन किसान उम्मीद बनाए रखता है कि हमारी लड़की की शादी होगी, हम अपने बच्चों को पढ़ाएंगे। जब उसकी फसल मारी जाती है, तो उसके सामने समस्या यह नहीं होती कि बेटी की शादी कैसे करेंगे या बच्चे कैसे पढ़ाएंगे, उसके सामने समस्या यह होती है कि हमने जो ऋण लिया था, उसको चुकाएंगे कैसे, और तब वह आत्महत्या करता है। इन बातों को हमें बहुत ध्यान से समझना चाहिए।

महोदय, हम लोग समाजवादी आंदोलन से जुड़े रहे, हमने “दाम बांधो” आंदोलन की बात की। महोदय, घिरोड़ में एक बहुत बड़ी मंडी है लहसुन की। कभी लहसुन के दाम तीन सौ रूपए क्विंटल हो जाता है और कभी तीन हजार हो जाता है। जब ज्यादा हो जाता है तो आपके यहां ऐसे-ऐसे मौके आए हैं कि हिंदुस्तान के कृषि मंत्री ने कहा कि हमारी इस चांद पर और गन्ना उपजा लो—यह कहा गया है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब गन्ना ज्यादा होता है, जैसा अभी इशारा किया गया था, तब उसके मूल्य घट जाते हैं। इसके और भी कारण हो सकते हैं, पर मैं विनम्रता के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि यू पी० में भगवान की कृपा से, अभी तक किसी भी किसान द्वारा आत्महत्या की घटना की खबर नहीं मिली है, हालांकि वहां पर किसानों ने संघर्ष करते हुए अपने प्राण दिए—गन्ना किसानों ने। मेरे पास तो आंकड़े भी हैं। 1990 में और 1992 में राम कोला में जो किसान मारे गए, तब समाजवादी पार्टी के आंदोलन में, हमारे इस सदन में आदरणीय ईश दत्त जी नेता हुआ करते थे, हम और ईश दत्त जी गए थे, मुलायम सिंह यादव और जनेश्वर मिश्र के साथ, दस विधायकों ने गिरफ्तारी दी थी, राम कोला में। महोदय मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब-जब हमारी समाजवादी पार्टी आई है, हम लोगों ने गन्ना किसानों को जो सबसे बड़ा वहां पर बाजार का सौदा है, गन्ना है, उसकी कीमत बढ़ाई है। हमने उसको 66 तक किया है। आज की तारीख में गन्ना किसानों की अगर सबसे ज्यादा चिंता की जा रही है, तो वह उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार द्वारा की जा रही है और हिंदुस्तान के किसी भी प्रदेश से सबसे ज्यादा मूल्य दिए जा रहे हैं। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहां पर हमारी सोच रही है और हमने “दाम बांधो” आंदोलन की बात की थी।...(समय की घंटी)...

आदरणीय महोदय, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा। मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ। यह जो वैश्वीकरण है, इसके बारे में जो भी कुछ बोलना चाहता हूँ। पहली बात तो यह है कि मैं इसका नाम वैश्वीकरण स्वीकार नहीं करता, इसको वेस्टर्नाइजेशन कहिए या अमेरिकनाइजेशन कहिए, वे अपनी मर्जी आप पर थोपते रहते हैं। कुछ हमारे हित की बात भी अगर वे सोचें, तो उसका नाम वैश्वीकरण हो सकता है। वे जो कहें, वह हम करने लगें और उसका नाम हम वैश्वीकरण कहें, यह ठीक नहीं है। इसे अमेरिकनाइजेशन कह सकते हैं, इसको वेस्टर्नाइजेशन कह सकते हैं।

इसलिए मैं कहता हूँ कि जैसे चीन ने किया है, अगर हम भी इसको करें, तो अपनी शर्तों पर करें और अपनी आंखों पर पट्टी बांधकर न करें। हम यहां किसी सरकार का नाम नहीं लेना चाहते हैं, जो वस्तुएं किसान पैदा करता है, उन तीन हजार वस्तुओं के लिए, पिछली सरकारों ने हिन्दुस्तान में आने के लिए दरवाजे खोल दिए हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि हिन्दुस्तान में खेती मेहनत से होती है, शरीर से होती है, बैलों से होती है और हल से होती है। उसकी कॉस्ट ऑफ प्रोडक्शन, हमेशा मशीन से की गई खेती से ज्यादा आएगी। विश्व के बाजार में... (समय की घंटी) ... भारत का किसान कभी भी मजबूती के साथ नहीं खड़ा हो सकता, इसलिए वह आत्महत्या करता है। आदरणीय महोदय, अगर मैं अक्ल की बात कर रहा हूँ तो हमें थोड़ा वक्त और दे दो।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप अक्ल की बात तो बहुत कर रहे हैं, लेकिन समय बहुत कम है। आप इसका ध्यान रखिए।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: आदरणीय महोदय, मैं बहुत जल्दी अपनी बात समाप्त करना चाहता हूँ। मैं सिर्फ कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। हमारी जमीन छोट्टी हो रही है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपको जो भी बोलना हो, बस एक मिनट में बोल दीजिए।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: अगर गांव में रोजगार के और साधन न बढ़ाए गए और सुख-सुविधाएं नहीं दी गईं...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप सुझाव दे रहे हैं तो सुझाव ही दीजिए।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: मान्यवर, सबसे बड़ा सुझाव यह है कि गांव में रोजगार की ज्यादा व्यवस्था की जाए। इसके साथ ही किसान की धरती के ऊपर जो बोझ है, उसको कम किया जाए। किसान के उत्पादन की जो कॉस्ट महंगी हो रही है, उसका कारण यह है किसान के अनाज की कीमत का निर्धारण जो सरकारें करती हैं, जबकि अन्य चीजों में कीमत निर्धारण, उसका उत्पादक ही करता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप केवल सुझाव दीजिए।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि कोई एक ऐसा मैकेनिज्म बनाया जाए ताकि जो किसान की मेहनत है, लागत है, उसको जोड़कर उसके अनाज की कीमत का निर्धारण किया जाए। हमारी जमीन के पानी का स्तर नीचे जा रहा है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप एक्सप्लेन मत करिए, प्लीज।

श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह: तो हमें सिंचाई पर ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिए। इसके साथ ही मैं एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब तक हम बिजली का उत्पादन नहीं बढ़ाएंगे, जब तक गांवों में, ज्यादा बिजली नहीं देंगे, तब तक लाभ होने वाला नहीं है। उत्तर प्रदेश में हमारी सरकार इसका एक्सपेरिमेंट कर रही है, लेकिन जब तक यह बड़े पैमाने पर नहीं किया जाएगा, किसानों की समस्याओं का हल नहीं होने वाला है। महोदय, मैं अंत में यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बंजर भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाने के लिए भूमि सेना का गठन जिस पैमाने पर किया जाता है, वह बहुत जरूरी है। हिन्दुस्तान में इतनी बंजर भूमि पड़ी हुई है कि जिसको रिकलेम किया जा सकता है और उससे हिन्दुस्तान की समस्या हमेशा के लिए सुधर सकती है। महोदय, कहने को तो बहुत सी बातें हैं, लेकिन आपने मुझे इतना समय दिया, इसके लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, लेकिन अपनी बात समाप्त करने से पहले, मैं एक कविता सुनाना चाहता हूँ:

अभी समय है सुधार कर लो, यह आना-कानी नहीं चलेगी,
समय की नकली मुहर लगाकर, गलत कहानी नहीं चलेगी,
पुरानी दुनिया के बादशाहो, बदलते मौसम की नब्ज देखो,
महज तुम्हारे इशारे पर, अब हवा सुहानी नहीं चलेगी,
किसी की धरती, किसी की खेती, किसी की मेहनत फसल किसी की,
जो बाबा आदम से चल रही है, वह बेईमानी नहीं चलेगी।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Shri Motiur Rahman. You have seven minutes.

श्री मोतिउर रहमान (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, आज बड़े महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर चर्चा हो रही है और दोनों तरफ के सदस्यों ने अपनी-अपनी राय दी है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि जब से मैं संसद का सदस्य रहा हूँ, तब से मैं किसानों की समस्याओं के बारे में बराबर सुनता रहा हूँ। पहले की सरकारों को, किसानों की समस्याओं की ओर जितना ध्यान देना चाहिए था, उतना ध्यान नहीं दिया गया। एन०डी०ए० की सरकार तो सेठ-साहूकारों के बारे में सोचती रही, पैसे कमाने के बारे में सोचती रही और नियम कानून बनाती रही, लेकिन किसान की तरफ ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया। परन्तु आज जो डा० मनमोहन सिंह की सरकार है, यू०पी०ए० की सरकार है, उसके कृषि मंत्री बहुत बुद्धिमान हैं, ईमानदारी के साथ किसानों के बारे में सोचने की इच्छाशक्ति रखते हैं। मैं यह उम्मीद करता हूँ कि चाहे आन्ध्र प्रदेश के किसान आत्महत्या करते हों, कर्नाटक के किसान आत्महत्या करते हों या बिहार के किसान भुखमरी के कगार पर हों, सभी विषयों पर ईमानदारी के साथ विचार होना चाहिए। मैं सदन में बोलता हूँ कि यहां से बाहर जाने के बाद कोई भी माननीय सदस्य हो या सरकार में बैठे हुए लोग हों,...

किसानों के बारे में नहीं सोचते हैं। जिस देश में सत्तर प्रतिशत किसान हों, परंतु किसानों के बारे में सही आंकड़ा न लगाने की बात हो, वहां यह बहुत अफसोस की बात है। जिस तरह रेल का बजट अलग होता है, उसी तरह किसानों के लिए कृषि का बजट भी अलग होना चाहिए। अगर इस देश का विकास करना है, अगर देश के लोगों का सम्मान और मर्यादा बढ़ानी है तो कृषि पर ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। जब तक कृषि की समस्याओं का समाधान नहीं होगा, जब तक उसमें लगने वाली चीजों का ध्यान नहीं होगा, आप किसानों को बैंक से जो ऋण देते हैं, उस किसान को उसकी उपज का, बैंक ऋण अदा करने का कोई तरीका आप नहीं सुझाएंगे, तब तक उसका विकास नहीं होगा। इस देश में कई बार आपदा आई है। यहां बड़े-बड़े तूफान आते हैं जिससे किसानों की फसल बर्बाद हो जाती है। उसके सामने बाल-बच्चों के खाने का प्रश्न उठता है, ऋण देने का सवाल उठता है, जवान लड़कियों की शादी का सवाल होता है। इसके लिए कहां से पैसा आएगा? सरकार कभी इस पर ध्यान नहीं देती है। कहते हैं कि हम इनका इश्योरेंस करेंगे, फसल बीमा करेंगे, लेकिन फसल बीमा आज तक कामयाब नहीं हुआ है। क्या कारण है? मैं समझता हूँ कि यहां बैठे हुए अधिकतर माननीय सदस्य किसान हैं और उन्हें किसानों के बारे में सोचना चाहिए। सबसे जरूरी यह है कि किसानों की जमीन का सर्वे होना चाहिए। पंजाब में, दूसरे प्रदेशों में किसानों के खेत की प्लॉटिंग हुई है, उसके लिए सिंचाई सुनिश्चित होनी चाहिए। जिस प्रकार से भी हो आज देश के प्रदेशों में सिंचाई की बहुत कम व्यवस्था है। जो व्यवस्थाएं हैं, उनमें भी किसानों के खेत तक पानी सही ढंग से नहीं जाता है। उसके पैसे अवश्य लिए जाते हैं, लेकिन सिंचाई की जितनी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, उतनी नहीं कर पाते हैं। आखिर कारण क्या है? इसके लिए सिंचाई की, मिट्टी की जांच का प्रावधान होना चाहिए। जिस प्रकार से किसान खेती तो करते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें मिट्टी की जांच की जानकारी नहीं है, मिट्टी की जांच के लिए औजार हैं, लेकिन उनका इस्तेमाल नहीं होता है। अतः मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का इस ओर ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि इस देश के हर कोने-कोने में, प्रधान मुख्यालय में मिट्टी की जांच की मशीन होनी चाहिए, आपका आपदा अधिकारी होना चाहिए, जिससे किसान अपनी मिट्टी की जांच कराकर उसके मुताबिक खेती कर सके... (समय की घंटी)... सर, अभी तो दो मिनट हुए हैं, पहली बार बोल रहा हूँ, आप क्यों नाराज हो गए हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपको ऐसा लगता है, लेकिन घड़ी तो अलग तरह से चलती है, वह आपके हिसाब से नहीं चलती है।

डा० कुमकुम राय (बिहार): सर, इनकी मेडन स्पीच है।

श्री मोतिउर रहमान (बिहार): बिहार में लाखों लाख एकड़ जमीन प्रति वर्ष बाढ़ से बर्बाद होती है। वहां के किसानों की जो हालत है, उसे कोई पूछने वाला नहीं है। यह बार-बार होता है। हर साल जब बाढ़ आती है तो केन्द्र में चाहे किसी की भी सरकार हो, वह बिहार के बारे में अवश्य

बोलती है कि मैं इसका निराकरण करूंगा, लेकिन किसी सरकार ने चाहे वह एन०डी०ए० की सरकार हो या कोई सरकार हो, आज तक नेपाल सरकार से बात नहीं की। मैं मनमोहन सिंह जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ, जिन्होंने इस बार नेपाल सरकार से बात करके सर्वे कराने का काम किया है ... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपको एक मिनट में खत्म करना पड़ेगा।

श्री मोतिउर रहमान (बिहार): आप अभी कहेंगे तो अभी खत्म कर देंगे, लेकिन मैं पहली बार बोल रहा हूँ।

प्रो० राम देव भंडारी (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, हमारे यहां बहुत बाढ़ आती है, बहुत इम्पोर्टेन्ट इश्यू है, दो मिनट बोलने दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): ठीक है, दो मिनट बोल लीजिए। अब आपके नेता ने बोल दिया है दो मिनट। बाइ द वे कुमकुम जी, यह इनकी मेडन स्पीच नहीं है। आप बोलिए। सबकी मेडन स्पीच होती है।

श्री मोतिउर रहमान : मैं मनमोहन सिंह जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने इस बाढ़ से निजात दिलाने के लिए नेपाल सरकार से बात की है। सर्वे हो रहा है, लेकिन इस पर तत्परता होनी चाहिए। वहां के लाखों लाख किसान आज बेघर हैं।

आज उनके पास खाने के लिए कुछ नहीं है, आज उनके पास अपने बाल-बच्चों के पढ़ाने के लिए पैसा नहीं है। उनकी लड़कियां जवान हो चुकी हैं, लेकिन उनकी शादी के लिए उनके पास पैसा नहीं है। बिहार की स्थिति काफी भयावह है, उस पर सिंचाई और कृषि मंत्री को अधिक ध्यान देना चाहिए। भारत सरकार को इसके लिए विशेष तौर पर जांच दल बनाकर वहां भेजना चाहिए और उनकी सहायता करनी चाहिए। वहां लाखों लोग बेघर हो गए, उनके लिए गेहूं का बंटवारा हुआ, लेकिन बहुत सारे किसानों को गेहूं नहीं मिला। मैं आपसे आग्रह करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से बिहार बर्हाली के कगार पर है, जिस तरह से कहीं सुखाड़ है, कहीं बाढ़ है, उससे निपटने के लिए जहां सुखाड़ है, वहां सिंचाई की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए और वहां के किसानों को कम दामों पर ऋण मिलना चाहिए ताकि वे खेती करने के लिए औजार खरीद सकें।

महोदय, मैं आखिरी बात यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर इस मुल्क में किसानों की हालत नहीं सुधारी गई, तो देश कंगाल हो जाएगा, देश में विकास की जो गति होनी चाहिए, वह विकास नहीं होगा। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): श्री गांधी आजाद जी, आप बोलिए, आपकी पार्टी का समय 4 मिनट का है।

श्री गांधी आजाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत एक कृषि प्रधान देश है, लेकिन इस कृषि प्रधान देश का किसान आत्महत्या करे, यह इस देश के लिए एक कलंक की बात है। इस देश में खाद्यान्न का भंडार होते हुए भी, देश का नागरिक भूख से मरे, यह इस देश के कृषिप्रबंधन का द्योतक है। मेरा निवेदन है कि इस देश की जनसंख्या की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी कृषि में लगी है। मेरी अपनी राय है कि इस देश में चार तरह के, चार श्रेणियों के किसान हैं - पहली श्रेणी में वे किसान हैं, जो सैकड़ों से हजारों एकड़ जमीन के मालिक हैं, लेकिन वे स्वयं काम नहीं करते हैं, वे दूसरों से काम लेते हैं। दूसरी श्रेणी में वे किसान हैं जो 25 से 50 एकड़ के मालिक हैं, वे खुद खेती का काम करते हैं और कभी-कभी दूसरों से भी काम लेते हैं। तीसरी श्रेणी में वे किसान हैं, जो 5 से 25 एकड़ के मालिक होते हैं। वे कभी-कभी खुद काम करते हैं और कभी-कभी दूसरों के खेतों में भी काम करते हैं। चौथी श्रेणी में 30 प्रतिशत ऐसे किसान हैं, जो परिवार सहित खेती में काम करते हैं, लेकिन उनके पास एक इंच भी भूमि नहीं है, वे पहली और दूसरी श्रेणी के किसानों के यहां खेती का काम करते हैं। इनकी दशा सबसे दयनीय है। इस विषमता का शिकार होने के कारण, ये चौथी श्रेणी के किसान ही ज्यादातर आत्महत्या के शिकार होते हैं। इसलिए मेरा माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि इस विषमता को दूर करने के लिए कोई न कोई कारगर उपाय किया जाए और भूमि सुधार या ऊसर पड़ती बंजर भूमि को इस चौथी श्रेणी के किसानों में वितरित किया जाए, ताकि इन आत्महत्याओं पर अंकुश लगाया जा सके।

महोदय, इस देश में बैंकों द्वारा जो ऋण व्यवस्था है, हमारा मानना है कि किसान अनपढ़ होता है और बैंकों में भी इस्पैक्टर राज होने के कारण उसको इतनी आसानी से ऋण नहीं मिल पाता है और वह पूंजीपतियों और सूदखोरों का शिकार हो जाता है। इसके अलावा ऋण वसूली की जो व्यवस्था है, उसमें भी विषमता है। महोदय, 500 रुपए से लेकर 5,000 रुपए की राशि वसूल करने के लिए किसानों को बंदूक के कुंदों से मारकर, हवालात में बंद करके कर्ज की राशि को वसूला जाता है, लेकिन 5 लाख रुपए से लेकर 50 लाख रुपयों के बकायेदारों को सलाम किया जाता है, उनके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही नहीं होती है। इसलिए मेरा अनुरोध है कि इस व्यवस्था में सुधार की जरूरत है। मेरा एक निवेदन और है कि किसानों के पास बकाया कम होता है, लेकिन उद्योगपतियों के पास ज्यादा बकाया होता है..... और बट्टे खातों में भी किसानों का ऋण नहीं डाला जाता है, उद्योगपतियों का ऋण डाला जाता है। उद्योगपतियों का एनपीए ज्यादा होता है, जबकि किसानों के पास यह बहुत कम होता है। इस विषमता को भी दूर करने पर विचार करना चाहिए। हमारा माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि इसका तुलनात्मक अध्ययन कर इसे दूर करने का प्रयास करना चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अब खत्म कीजिए।

श्री गांधी आजाद: इसके अलावा प्राकृतिक आपदा के कारण भी हमारे किसान आत्महत्या करते हैं। इस देश में दहेज दानव भी हैं, जिसके कारण किसान कृषि कार्य के लिए ऋण लेता है, लेकिन अपनी बिटिया की शादी कर देता है। उसे नहीं चुका पाने के कारण भी वह आत्महत्या करता है। उसे उत्पादन लागत नहीं मिल पाती है, इसलिए भी वह आत्महत्या करता है। हमारा सरकार से निवेदन है कि इन मामलों का पता लगाकर इसका निवारण किया जाए, तभी आत्महत्याएँ कम हो सकती हैं। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं आपका धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. I will certainly abide by your ruling. I will try. Sir, I am quite anxious to say—you will certainly appreciate, you are a very senior Member in this House—that since the last five years, every year, I find that whenever there is not other business—Government Business or other businesses—the slot is filled in by this sort of a discussion. Perhaps this is the fifth time that I have stood on my legs to discuss about farmers' suicide. Sir, why I say so? Of course, I must express my gratitude to the hon. Members, around 15 per cent of the Members are present in this House. I am very much gratified that they are kindly listening to the very important discussion which concerns the nation, which concerns all the Legislatures that the farmers are committing suicide in numbers due to pauperisation, continuous pauperisation. Sir, from this, I must say there are two sorts of treatment. One is called palliative treatment in which mostly doctors who do not understand the exact root of the disease, they will go for palliative treatment and, Sir, good doctors will go for curative treatment. They will not treat the symptoms, they will treat the root cause of the disease. And, Sir, unfortunately, we talk about palliative treatment only. We don't talk about curative treatment. We don't recognise that even after discussing on this sort of an important topic. It's a shame, I must say. Sir, in the 21st century, it is a shame that in a civilised country like ours which boasts of civilisation, the history of civilisation with pride that we have a civilisation of thousands of years, but unfortunately, in our country people die out of sheer frustration because of pauperisation. Sir, I am sure that my erudit colleagues who are economists by vocation or by profession, they will appreciate that we are in a transition. I find it extremely difficult in which slot India should be put, whether it is a developed nation or it is a developing nation or yet to be developed nation or under-developed nation, I really find it very difficult because looking at the upper strata or the creamy layer of the society, creamy layer of the country, I find it is a

highly developed country. From where has this richness come? It has come by robbing the poor people, by using the money of the poor people, by NPAs. My friend, Mr. Jairam Ramesh, while discussing the Budget, raised this question. And who holds these NPAs in thousands or in hundreds of crores, if not in lakhs, are recognised in this society. I would like to know from the hon. Minister—he is also a very, very veteran Member and a very, very respected parliamentarian—kindly tell me that how many of such persons who are holding NPAs, Non-Performing Assets, for years together, how many of them have been put behind bars? Sir, the peasants, everybody knows, constitute 70 per cent of the population. Peasants for taking a loan of Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000 are threatened with dire consequences and many of them are put behind bars whereas the persons who were holding NPAs, the big corporate houses, the renowned corporate houses, sometimes I really feel anguished that some of them are ornamented by giving Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan. So, Sir, we are living in a very poor state of affairs.

I do not know whether we have the right to discuss this very important problem and whether we can save the lives of the people. Sir, when I was referring to the transition economy, I was trying to get the opinion or the nod of my friend, Shri Jairam Ramesh. The absolute poverty has increased in this transition economy. Mr. Jairam Ramesh is nodding his head. I just refer to the World Bank's estimates. The World Bank will be a very favourite name to them. According to the estimate of the World Bank, the number of absolute poor in the transition economy has grown by seven-fold, from 2.2 million in 1987 to 14.5 million or 3.5 per cent of the population in 1993. Sir, I am referring to the year 1993. From 1993 onwards, in between 1998 to 2004, there were horrifying years in this country of ours, when the dispensation of globalisation, neo-liberalization and privatization were very vigorously implemented, and because of that policy, the worse sufferers were the peasants. They have been robbed of their land, they have been robbed of their capital, capital means, the capital of bullocks or the capital of ordinary appliances, and complete pauperization has taken place among the peasantry, and it is but natural why thousands and thousands of peasants are committing suicides. We have created such a situation in the name of globalization, in the name of neo-liberalization, and I would implore upon the hon. Minister that he must look at the root cause of this problem. The root cause is the neo-

liberal economy, what is being pursued even by this Government, even though we expect that this Government will not follow the path of neo-liberalism so blindly, so vigorously, as was done by the earlier Government. But they will follow it with some prudence. So, what I want to say is that even today, the mechanism of loan disbursement is not in proper shape in the rural areas, in the villages. Even now, the private money lenders are playing a havoc. In fact, they are not money lenders, they are money launderers, who are playing a havoc in the villages, and this is a serious problem that we have to take care of.

Secondly, my friend, Shri Penumalli Madhu, has made a mention about the problem of cultivating commercial crops. This shift from the paddy or wheat or food crop to commercial crops has been a very serious problem, because the peasants have been lured by these commercial crops. I was in Mahboobnagar in Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, it is a perennial problem. In Mahboobnagar, I was observing that some such fruit have been grown, which require excessive water. In Israel, they stopped producing certain fruits because they said, when you produce one orange, you do not produce and export only one orange, you are also exporting minimum 15 litres of water. Water is a very scarce commodity. But in Mahboobnagar, I have seen that they are not producing paddy, they are not producing wheat, rather, they are producing something which consumes so much of water as a result of which the water level goes down, and there is every chance that we will fail. For that, we require loan. Who is giving the loan? The loan is given by the money lenders or the money launderers. It is a vicious circle. Unless we address the root cause of the problem, we will not be able to do any service to the people of this country. (*Time-bell*) Since the time constraint is there, I shall not extend my speech on this subject. But personally, I shall implore upon you that there should be an exhaustive discussion, not a Short Duration Discussion, the entire day should be devoted for this purpose, excepting the Question Hour, and we must resolve amongst ourselves that we must address this problem very, very seriously so that our fellow countrymen, whether they are peasants or workers or poor people, who are at the receiving end of this economy, are not forced to commit suicides or they do not die of starvation. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I stand to speak on this problem of suicides of farmers in the country with a great sadness,

and this is a country where the farmers should have been given a place of pride. If we look at the way they have been able to improve our food production, we are very proud of our farmers. But it is an unfortunate occasion that this House has to deliberate on this serious issue with sadness. I have been listening to my senior colleagues for the past two-and-a-half hours. I agree with the suggestions, the analyses and the remedial measures suggested. Sir, I would also like to add a few points.

Sir, this process of suicide is more of a psychological process. It is also a sociological process and it is an economical process. This is a combination of all these processes. It is not an event occurring at one place, in one village or in one State. There are a series of unfortunate suicide deaths. It is a process which has started, as pointed out rightly by my colleague and my close friend, Mr. Madhu, Sir, in the last decade. For the last ten years we have been experiencing this problem, but it has touched the nerves of this country's policy-makers only after it crosses the figure of 10,000. It is very unfortunate. Sir, I am sorry to say this, at least we are able to come to a point and we are now deciding and deliberating on how to stop this unfortunate process. Sir, I would like to also say that it is not the farmers alone who are the sufferers, but those who are dependent on the farmers are also the worst sufferers, the agricultural labourers. If the farmers is happy, the people dependent on him, the agricultural labourers, who also constitute a majority in the rural villages, are happy too. Most of them are poor. Most of the poor depend on the farmers because that is how their harmonious life goes on in the villages. Once the farmer is in a state of despair, the whole chain of events will affect the others also. In that way, we should take it much more seriously because it has ramifications in the other fields of activity. Sir, you know, it is an accepted fact, not only in our country but the world over, that agriculture is not economically viable because if you look 30 years back, even in the developed countries, 60-70 per cent of them used to do agriculture. But later on, this shift has come, 6-7 per cent; world over we find this shift from agriculture to the industrial business etc. Similarly, Sir, here also, we know that it is not economical, but 70 per cent of our population lives in the villages. We do not have any other alternative. We are forced to stick on to agriculture. Sir, the farmers, as you know,—I am talking about the average farmer with 2-3 acres or one acre or one-and-a-half acres of land who is a very simple person works very hard. Not only he but the entire

family, his wife children and other family members also go to the field and work. They like to live a life of self-respect, and they are self-contented, Sir. They are not greedy. This country has seen the farming community a self-contented lot. Sir, what has happened? Why have they been driven to this particular state of affairs, a psychological reductionism, a process which drives oneself to commit suicide? It is an extreme state of deprivation, depression; it is an extreme state of devastation, and, then leading to psychological reductionism. And this process is being ignited.

As rightly pointed out by one of the hon. Members, we used to be very proud of Andhra Pradesh because it is called "the food bowl of India". But, unfortunately, this process has started in the State of Andhra Pradesh and it witnessed a large number of suicide cases. Apart from Andhra Pradesh, we have seen suicides in Karnataka also. My senior colleague, Venkaiah Naiduji, has explained in detail the basic reasons why this has happened. He has very clearly given the remedial measures and how we should go about it. We are not talking about politics here. I am a newcomer in this field. As a student, as a social activist, I have my moorings in rural India. I have the fortune of working closely with the farmers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. I have been watching their problems for the last 30 years. Andhra Pradesh did not, at least, for the last 20 years, invest any money in a crucial sector called irrigation. The seeds are sown not now. The seeds were planted 20 years ago. I am not casting any aspersions on anybody. I am not here to review anybody's forethought. They are all visionaries. I am not finding fault with them. But the fact of the matter is that you have failed to spend money on irrigation which is the lifeline of the farming community. Nobody can deny this truth. It is unfortunate that the people who swear by the name of farmers could not give them things like this.

I appreciate a lot the Governments of Karnataka, whoever were at the helm of affairs. They invested more money or irrigation, on the development of basic infrastructure facilities. I have been a witness to it. I had worked in the State of Karnataka. But that did not happen in Andhra Pradesh. You may say so many things. But the fact remains that we have neglected this vital area of providing water which is the basic input. When the people started asking for water, because the people loved you, you told them, "This wet irrigation is useless; the food crops are useless. You kindly go to commercial crops." Well, that is fine. I believe you and I vote for you

because I have expectations. I believe your words I think you are a great liberator of this country's farming community. That is why, as a mere voter, as a poor farmer, as a simple innocent illiterate farmer, I believe whatever you say, as my leader. But, unfortunately, I was driven to a corner; unfortunately, I was misled; unfortunately, I was misguided that I would get a lot of money, if I shifted from food crops to commercial crops. Yes, I went to the bankers because growing food crops is very, very costly. It needs a lot of money. They gave me money. It is not that the bankers did not give me money. I am talking about the bankers ten years ago. I have seen the bankers, at the behest of the then Government, going and giving... (*Time-bell*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Go ahead.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The bankers are not giving money and your are not giving him time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): I don't mind, if you are ready to sit till 8 o' clock.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I am more familiar with the Andhra Pradesh situation. When a farmer starts growing crops, what does he require? He requires inputs like water, money and other things like seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc., and, at the end, some price for his costs. The costs have also increased. In Andhra Pradesh, for the last ten years, the pesticides supplied are *nakli*, the fertilizers supplied are *nakli* and the seeds supplied are also *nakli*. We had seen in various newspapers various stories on how the middlemen, with the connivance of the Government, were making money and how they were caught. These are all there on the record. It is a manifestation of all these evils put together, which led to the process of farmers committing suicide.

Added to this was, unfortunately, the Government, at that time, could not control the natural calamities. Andhra Pradesh was struck by floods, droughts and it was exposed to cyclones. When the crop is ready to be harvested, the farmer would not mind one-time loss or one-season loss. But it happened serially; it happened thrice. First time, he could withstand and second time also he could withstand. But, third time, he could not withstand the fury of this pressure. First time, the bankers lent money to farmers. But after that they stopped lending money. Then the private lending

came into being. When the farmers could not pay the loan, *goondas* were sent to collect the money. This has increased the social tension and psychological stress because the farmer lives in a village. He cannot tolerate somebody coming and auctioning his utensils and clothes. These are the events which led to this process in Andhra Pradesh. But nobody can stop it suddenly. It takes time. I agree with the remedial measures suggested by the hon. Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): How much time will you take?

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I would finish in three minutes.

There are three types of prices. One is the Minimum Support Price, which the Government offers. But the farmers is not interested in the Minimum Support Price. He wants the Remunerative Price. The Remunerative Price would cover his expenses on education and marriage of his children. If he gets it, he is the most happiest person. The Government has to take a comprehensive view of his problems. Hon. Shri Venkaiah Naidu suggested that there should be a comprehensive insurance scheme for farmers. We want that the insurance scheme should be on the pattern of any industrial house, like individual. Earlier, they were talking about district as a unit. Then it came down to block as a unit. Now we are talking about village as a unit. This would also be unfair. It should be an individual farmer. When you can insure one industrial unit, why can't you do the same thing with the farmer? You treat him as an entrepreneur. You treat him as if it is a separate unit. Like what they have done in Gujarat, it could be done here but with sufficient modifications. Fifteen days before the crop-cutting seasons begins, it could be done.

There may be some misinterpretation or misrepresentation. That happens in any field of insurance. If there are proper checks and balances, you can verify the veracity of the scheme. There should be a comprehensive insurance scheme, compulsory insurance, in place of the existing insurance scheme. Shri Venkaiah Naidu has talked about comprehensive land and crop pattern scheme. As Shri Venkaiah Naidu said, you must guide the farmers as to what sort of crop he should grow on what sort of soil and in what climate. Some kind of a research should also be done because our productivity is low and the cost is high. It is reverse as compared to the West and the developed countries. Both these factors are reverse here.

Productivity is low and the yield per acre is also low. To improve both the things, we should have hybrid varieties which suit the local climate because ICRISAT does not give research results suitable to Andhra and Karnataka regions. That is why we should have a proper technology with proper applicability. Then the Food Corporation of India also adds to the misery of the farmers. They say that we will not purchase the long staple variety. But if you look at it very closely there may be some stay and basing on that you completely refuse them. The farmer grows it with an expectation that he can send it to the FCI. But it does not happen. There is need for a proper intervention. I would like to cite a small example. Two years back, the Andhra Pradesh Government came out with a third price. One is the Minimum Support Price and the second is the Remunerative Price and the third is the Distress Price. Two years back, the farmers sold paddy at the Distress Price of Rs. 200 per 75 kg., whereas the Minimum Support Price was Rs. 400/-

So, the Government, at one point of time, purchased it at Rs. 200-250, at a distress price. They were stored in the FCI godowns, the Government godowns, for two years. When the present Government came to power, they sold these stocks, lakhs of tonnes of rice, at Rs. 625 a quintal, through the Civil Supplies Corporation. This showed the sheer indifferent attitude of that Government towards the farmers and their produce. You can also see that it is a fact. I am not concocting stories; I am not trying to mesmerise anybody. I am only telling the factual things. Recently, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sold all these stocks, these lakhs of tonnes of rice, at Rs. 650 a quintal or so. This kind of proper intervention of the Government would go a long way in ameliorating the conditions of farmers and thus help them. Thirdly, I would like to submit...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Are you finishing now? Your excess minutes are over.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Yes, Sir; this is my last point. Credit is the most important requirement now. We have been voicing our concern that the bankers' behaviour is a little more than that of *baniyawallas*. They come, seize their stocks and leave. What message are you sending? Whom are you standing for? Some of the boys from the rural areas complained to me that in the little employment that they have, even for

committing a small mistake, say, to the extent of Rs. 500 or so, in tallying, they are asked to compulsorily retire. This is the attitude that is prevailing. We don't want any great philosophy. We do have the various schemes. What is needed is the change in attitude. When a person goes to a bank with a proposal saying, "He is going to start a 500 MW project, and I need a crore of rupees", he is immediately given the money. Your relations start there. But when you are dealing with the farmers, the farmers keep going to the bank for three months or so. And, once the loan is disbursed, the relationship ends there. And, the bankers' attitude becomes negative, indifferent and they turn against the farming community. Now, if you look at the percentage of lending, only 15 per cent of lending is given to 70 per cent of the deserving people. Is it justified enough? This should be reversed. Our aim should be to have social banking; the stress should be on rural banking. If need be, we should have a re-look at it. This House, I am sure, will have a consensus that these 70 per cent of the farmers should be given 70 per cent of loan. Where there is money, there is respect. But the farmers are not given proper loan facility. They are swindled and harassed by the private money lenders. With these words, Mr. Minister I would request the indulgence of your good office on this issue. You should take all these suggestions into account and come out with comprehensive recommendations. We are indeed grateful that the Ministry of Agriculture has started the process of relieving the pain of the farming community.

Here, I would mention about the farmers of Uttar Pradesh. In respect of the farmers there, especially, the sugarcane farmers, the Supreme Court has given a judgement recently. I would request the Minister to use his good offices and see to it that the sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh get their due share. The same holds good for Andhra Pradesh too. We should not handle the situation with that tendency in mind. I do agree that the Government does not have a magic wand. It is not even that this Government has come and taken a lot of stops; so, suicides would stop immediately. No doubt, the Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving a lot of emphasis on proper irrigation facilities, etc. Nobody can say that this will produce results immediately. The people of the farming community are in distress. They need to be counselled. We have not taken into account the situation at the ground level. Maybe, some people are still in distress. We need to have counselling centres. We have to go personally and talk to them. I am sorry to say that most of the low level functionaries in the

Agriculture Department, who are supposed to visit the farmers and spend time with them, are not taking enough care. I have this complaint. Sir, the hon. Minister of Agriculture has conveyed this to the Chief Ministers of the concerned States and the Agriculture Departments. We cannot blame the farmers for our faults.

Of course, there may be one per cent truth. But you cannot say this. I don't know how far this is true; I read it in some newspaper. * said that farmers were dying for the sake of claiming one lakh rupees. There may be one per cent truth but you cannot generalise like this, Sir. *(Interruptions)* And this is also after the tragedy! On the one hand, I am dying and, on the other, you are accusing me of... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You should not name somebody who is not a Member of this House.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I wish it were not true.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No, no. Don't name anybody.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: All right. I say, the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Sir, let me say that he did not make this statement anywhere.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, I withdraw my reference to the name. *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Well, finish your speech now.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I have finished, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Nirmala Deshpandeji, you have only seven minutes.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE (Nominated): Well, that is the fate of a Nominated Member, to speak at the fag end. Anyway, I am grateful that you have given me time. And today, I am very happy that on a very important issue, a serious discussion is taking place, for a change, in this House. Unfortunately, what has happened not only in the media but, I think, in the

*Not recorded

5.00 P.M.

whole social life, is that issues have become non-issues and non-issues have become issues. So, today, we are all having a discussion on a real issue. It is a very hearty occasion. I have listened to all my friends and gained a lot of information and knowledge. I would just like to share some basic insights from not only the farmers, but from the latest researches and from those who are doing some experiments. Well, it is not only the farmer who is dying, but it is the earth that is dying. Lady Belford of United Kingdom has written a wonderful book, *The Living Soil*. She says that we have neglected the soil all over the world and the soil, the Mother Earth, is dying. So, what needs to be done is to change the whole concept, technology, strategy and everything about agriculture; and, in common parlance, I can say that what we need is to shift to organic farming. We have named it as non-violent farming. Unless we do that, it would be very difficult to save this dying earth. So, you will find in many of the European countries, certain products, say, apples, vegetables, etc. grown organically on the one side and those grown with the present-day fertilisers, insecticides, pesticides and so on, on the other side. Of course, those grown with fertilisers are cheaper; organically-grown products are costlier. But people who know the value of organically-grown products prefer those products. So, we have to first start with saving the soil, the Mother Earth, and that needs the organic fertilisers. A researcher from New Zealand, Mr. Peter Proctor, has developed cowhorn manure and when an Indian agricultural scientist asked him what that cowhorn manure was, he replied, "Excuse me, I have learnt this from *Atharvaveda*; perhaps, you did not care to look at it". It is a kind of a new technology. By 'new', I mean an old technology adapted to the present situation. With that little manure you can take care of a lot more land. Then, you have the vermi-compost. My friend, the Agriculture Minister, knows, that in Pune there was a scientist who used to be a nuclear physicist. He saw the plight of the farmers there. And then he went through *Atharvaveda* and other books and developed this concept of vermi-compost. Those worms which enrich the soil are very selective. They want cow dung to eat. Somebody asked, 'Why cow dung, why not a buffalo's dung? Again, the same problem is there. When these worms get the manure made of cow dung, as their food, then they develop

well, and, when that compost is given to the land, you get wonderful results. These experiments are going on everywhere in India, in small, small places. But, the results are very encouraging. So, I would like to request, through you, Sir, the Agriculture Minister to kindly give more attention to saving the soil. If you do that, then, all these expenses on fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides will come down and farmers will be self-sufficient and self-reliant.

Sir, Dr. Harvard was sent by the then British Government to teach agriculture to the Indian farmers. When he came here — he was stationed at Indore — he found that he could not teach the Indian farmers because they knew so much. He said that he had to learn from them. Then, he sent a message to his Government, "I am resigning. I am going to learn from farmers." He wrote books. In a 10 acre farm, only organic manure was given. In the other farm, chemical fertiliser was given. What is the difference? The crops that were given organic manure became very healthy. So, pests did not bother to go there. So, pesticides and insecticides were not needed. When the crop was ready, the people who ate that crop, they became healthier. These experiments were done in U.K. And the only community that suffered was that of doctors, because those who ate organically produced food did not get diseases. So, the doctors became unemployed. These experiments have been done all over the world, and it has been provided scientifically that unless we switch over to organic farming or what we call non-violent method of agriculture, we cannot save the soil. It is not that only the farmers are in danger. We all are in danger because the mother Earth is in danger. So, I request the hon. Minister to give a thought to this basic concept of switching over to organic farming.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) Shri Bal Apte, you have six minutes please.

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BALAPTE (Maharashtra): Sir, insofar as the limit on my time is concerned, I have a good precedent, and, I will probably follow that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): What precedent?

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BALAPTE: The precedent in making the speech. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, may I express, probably, the gratefulness of this House to Nirmalaji for providing a philosophy of agriculture, which is very necessary for this country's development in agriculture? That philosophy will be a guide for our immediate purposes and for the long-term purposes. Insofar as the immediate purposes are concerned and the plight of the farmers, particularly in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Punjab and Maharashtra are concerned, we have heard the plights of the Andhra farmers. And, there I would only note, maybe a paradox of fate, that 2004 which was declared to be the International Year of Rice saw the maximum number of rice growers taking their own lives. The statistics are there both of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, the Government continues to deny that, and maintains that things are not leading to the worst. First day, they denied deaths and later on said it was because of malnutrition amongst tribals. Then they denied deaths of farmers because of their plight. We are, these days, discussing limits on the power of courts in various matters. But, unfortunately, it is only after their intervention that the truth comes out and it happened in the case of Maharashtra also.

A public interest litigation was filed by the All India Biodynamic and Organic Farming Association. The Government was called upon to respond. The Government said, "Yes, 294 farmers have committed suicide and we have paid some compensation to a hundred of them." Sir, the High Court was not satisfied with this answer. Therefore, they appointed a well-known institution in Mumbai, the Tata Institute of Social Sciences. The professional social workers visited places and farms. Between March, 2001 and January, 2005, 648 farmers had committed suicide and during a short span of October, 2004 to January, 2005, 78 farmers had committed suicide. A claim was made that a hundred people were given compensation. As a matter of sample, the social workers visited about twenty families in half a dozen taluks and found that none of them had received the compensation.

Sir, I have a list of 200 farmers who committed suicide between May and August, 2004, from almost all districts of Vidarbha and certain districts of Marathwada. Sir, we find that there are about 12,000 villages which are facing acute famine conditions and instead of amelioration, they are facing difficulties created by the Government. Sir, there were various *imams* which were abolished and lands were granted with certain restrictions on their

tenures. Those restrictions included a restriction on the transfer without the permission of the revenue authorities. Now, it is the law in Maharashtra that after paying a certain amount as *najarana* to the Government, your tenure is changed and you can transfer your land. But taking a cue from this, instead of permitting those transfers, people are facing huge amounts of fines and even resumption of the land, particularly in the district of Sangli.

Sir, in Maharashtra, cotton is produced. This year, we find that about 207 lakh quintals of cotton is produced. The farmers have given it to the Government. The Government is required to pay about Rs. 1,600 crores to the farmers, but only Rs. 690 crores is paid. About a thousand crores of rupees is not paid to the farmers yet. For the purpose of meeting the situation in Maharashtra, the Maharashtra Government is telling its people that they are seeking from the Central Government an amount of Rs. 1,000 crores. I believe, if the Central Government gives this amount to Maharashtra, at least, the cotton farmers will be paid for their produce and, to that an extent, their position will be ameliorated.

Sir, there is one more social problem involved in this. When living in his own village becomes unviable and an agriculturist migrates, in that migration, the girl-child is a victim. A large number of girl children are sold. They are sent compulsorily to prostitution. Today, the Government does not have any statistical data or information about this. I would request the hon. Minister that this social aspect must be looked into. Let us get the details of what is happening insofar as girl children are concerned. Let us provide relief to them, rescue that and rehabilitate them. Sir, the perennial problems of farmers..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Are you finishing now?

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: I have only two or three points which are necessary to make. After that I will stop. I would repeat a word, and I would not repeat a point.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Quickly, please. Take two minutes and finish, please.

SHRI BALAVANT *alias* BAL APTE: Sir, the perennial problems are because of the scarcity of both credit and water. Insofar as the credit is

concerned, the Finance Minister this year told us that there is an increased flow of institutional credit to the rural areas. But in the same breath we are told that, however, this flow does not reach the small and marginal farmers -- this is number one -- and there is a paucity of medium and long-term lending. A question will arise as to where this flow goes, because if it is not helping the small and marginal farmers, and if there is a paucity of medium and long-term lending, the flow of institutional credit becomes naturally meaningless. Sir, I find that the main reason for this is that there is a decrease in the role of the cooperative banks. That decrease is reflected in the figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05. If the cooperative banks could dispense Rs. 26,000 crores in 2003-04, in 2004-05 they did it only with Rs. 24,000 crores. This paucity, this limiting of the role of the cooperative societies, is really hurting the rural credit. Unfortunately, the Reserve Bank of India and the Central Government are not appreciating this.

SHRI LALIT BHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Sir, I just want to supplement one figure. The target for the Tenth Five Year Plan ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Has he finished? ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not think you need to give any figures. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can send them to the Minister.

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: He has yielded. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): But he has no time. ...*(Interruptions)*... I cannot give him extra time.

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: वह कुछ फिगर्स दे रहे हैं।

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA: I will not take more than half a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Please do not interrupt.*(Interruptions)*... Already he has taken extra time. ...*(Interruptions)*... You cannot give figures like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... Many figures are available. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please send it in writing to the Minister. We cannot allow like this. ...*(Interruptions)*... You can give it to him and he can only give it to the House. ...*(Interruptions)*... आपने बहुत समय ले लिया है, कृपया एक-दो मिनट में आप खत्म करिए।

SHRI BALAVANT alias BAL APTE: Sir, the Reserve Bank of India's policies reflect a grudge against the cooperative sector and that grudge is

reflected even in one aspect, namely, the norms for the NPAs. If they apply these norms to commercial banks, every commercial bank will be declared to be sick. But the same norms are so strictly applied to the cooperative banks that good cooperative banks are also made sick. Sir, if the cooperative banks are the real source of credit to the small and marginal farmers, it is necessary to strengthen, to empower this sector. The Finance Minister has promised us in words. Let that promise be translated into deeds, namely, there shall be special assistance to cooperative banks and there will be unified regulatory structure so that they would not have to comply with various other things.

Sir, there is one more aspect to this credit part and it is part of the micro-finance necessity. Sir, 2005 is declared to be the International Year of Micro-credit. Let the Government give substantial amounts for this micro-credit which will result in better situation for the farmers instead of asking the commercial banks to go into this on a large scale which are not benefiting the farmers. In fact, it is a curious thing that the Micro-finance Development and Equity Fund, which is proposed, will have representatives' of commercial banks. They do not understand the problems of the farmers. Get the cooperative bankers on this Fund so that they will know what the farmer needs and they will try to assist farmers. That is one part of the scarcity and the other part of scarcity is that of water. From that point of view I have two specific suggestions. One is, revive the river linking projects, don't give it a political consideration and go-by. That project is very necessary for this country's irrigation, so revive that. Secondly, in so far as micro-irrigation is concerned, please follow the pattern of Gujarat, where 20,000 small micro-irrigation projects have eradicated famine in areas where the farmer was afflicted annually, perennially, because of the scarcity of water. Sir, I will only mention the points which I mentioned earlier that give one thousand crores of rupees to Maharashtra. The migration and sale of girl children should be looked into. Get the correct data, rescue them and rehabilitate them, strengthen the cooperative banks, give them special financial assistance, revive the river linking and go into micro-irrigation on the Gujarat pattern. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपके पास पाँच मिनट हैं।

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह (बिहार): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज जिस सवाल पर हम लोग बहस कर रहे हैं, यद्यपि इसका शीर्षक किसानों की आत्महत्या का दिया गया है, लेकिन यदि

आत्महत्या के कारणों की समीक्षा की जाए और इसका निदान तत्काल हो जाए, तो यह तत्काल सम्भव भी नहीं लगता, लेकिन यह एक गम्भीर सवाल है, इस पर कोई मतभेद नहीं है, क्योंकि टोटल एग्रीकल्चरल पॉलिसी और टोटल गवर्नमेंट की पॉलिसी पर यह निर्भर करता है कि भविष्य में किसान आत्महत्या नहीं करेगा। इस देश में अभी जो कृषि मंत्री हैं, वे एक सफल किसान हैं। अब तक जो कृषि मंत्री रहे हैं, उनके टर्म्स में और इनके टर्म्स में भी आत्महत्याओं का दौर चला है, इसलिए यह कुछ बढ़ा है। इसलिए कृषि के क्षेत्र में इनको कुछ प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा।

महोदय, कई एरियाज़ में, जहाँ किसानों ने आत्महत्या की है, वहाँ हमें संसदीय समिति के सदस्य के रूप में जाने का मौका मिला है। यदि मैं उन कारणों को गिनाने लगूँ, जो साथियों ने भी गिनाए हैं, तो उपयुक्त नहीं होगा। सब लोगों ने सूदखोरी को कारण बताया है, कर्ज को कारण बताया है, फसल के नुकसान होने को कारण बताया है। ये कारण हैं, लेकिन हमें लगता है कि इसका बेसिक कारण यह है कि उनके आमदनी के स्रोत बढ़ाने के लिए अब तक जो उपाय किए गए हैं, वे पर्याप्त साबित नहीं हुए हैं। उनकी आय के स्रोत नहीं बढ़े हैं। कृषि का आधुनिक स्वरूप आज तक पैदा नहीं हो पाया है और दामों की सीमा भी अभी तक नहीं बँधी है। अब तो एक और खतरा आ गया है। इस ग्लोबलाइजेशन के बाद उनके सामानों पर विदेशी सामानों की जो मार पड़ेगी, उसका मुकाबला कृषि मंत्री किस रूप में कर पाएँगे, क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे, यह एक चुनौती का सवाल है।

इसलिए यह सवाल तो वित्त विभाग से भी संबंधित है और पूरी सरकार से संबंधित है कि अपनी पॉलिसी का फॉर्मूलेशन सरकार को इस रूप में करना चाहिए कि गांवों की तरफ से शहर में जो पैसा आ रहा है, वह शहर में न आए। महोदय, मैं यह जरूर चाहूँगा कि जब माननीय मंत्री जी जवाब दें तो कम-से-कम दो-चार बिंदुओं पर इस सदन को जरूर अवगत कराने की कोशिश करें कि क्या यह सच्चाई नहीं है कि ग्रामीण बैंक की शाखाएं गांवों में और खुलनी बंद हुई हैं? क्या यह सच्चाई नहीं है कि "नाबार्ड" से कम प्रतिशत यानी 5 से 7 या 8 प्रतिशत ब्याज की दर से लोन लेकर कॉमर्शियल बैंकों ने गांवों के किसानों को 12 से 15 प्रतिशत के बीच में लोन दिया है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आपका समय समाप्त हो रहा है।

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह : महोदय, मैं बिंदुवार अपनी बात कहकर समाप्त कर दूंगा। एक तो मंत्री जी जैसे कि मैंने संस्थाओं के विषय में पूछा कि ग्रामीण बैंक्स कितने बंद हुए हैं? दूसरा मेरा कहना है कि कॉमर्शियल बैंक्स का attitude गांवों के बारे में बदल रहा है तो वे आरबीआई की गाइडलाइंस के हिसाब से 18 परसेंट की सीमा कैसे पूरी करेंगे? इसलिए आप इसे पूरा करने के संबंध में उन बैंकों को जरूर हिदायत दें। महोदय, मैं एक बात और रखना चाहता हूँ क्योंकि मैं भी एक किसान परिवार से आता हूँ। आज देश में बड़े पैमाने पर उत्पादन करने की प्रक्रिया चली है। तो मंत्री जी देश में हरेक जिले के स्तर पर एक प्रयोग कराने की व्यवस्था करें कि एक एकड़ जमीन

या एक एकड़ से कम जमीन में एक किसान अपने परिवार का गुजारा पूरे साल भर कैसे कर सकता है? जहां सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो उसी जिले में प्रयोग के तौर पर, एक केन्द्र के रूप में या जहां dry land हो, उसकी खेती करके उन खेतों से एक परिवार एक एकड़ में साल भर कैसे गुजारा कर सकता है, इसके ऊपर एक प्रयोग करने की कोशिश करें।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : अब आप समाप्त करें।

श्री बशिष्ठ नारायण सिंह : अंत में मंत्री जी से एक आग्रह करूंगा कि कृषि विभाग को एक नया orientation देकर, एक नए ढंग से मोड़ने की तरफ मंत्री जी बढ़ें तभी देश के किसान की रक्षा की जा सकती है, नहीं तो विदेशी मार से भारतीय किसान नहीं बच सकते हैं। इसके लिए नई तकनीक, नई drive और नई initiative मंत्री जी को लेनी पड़ेगी और इस कार्य में समाज और सरकार सभी को involve करना पड़ेगा। मुझे इतना ही कहना था। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : श्री तारिक अनवर। आपके पास 5 मिनट हैं।

श्री तारिक अनवर : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में हम लोग एक बहुत ही गंभीर विषय पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। हम हमेशा कहते हैं कि हमारा देश कृषि प्रधान देश है और हमारे देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था की रीढ़ की हड्डी कृषि है। हमारे देश की 70 प्रतिशत आबादी या तो किसान है या खेतिहर मजदूर है यानी वह कृषि पर आधारित है। हमारे देश में हरित क्रांति आए भी कई दशक हो गए हैं। हमारा देश अनाज के मामले में स्वावलंबी है और स्वावलंबी ही नहीं आज हम दूसरे देशों को भी अनाज मुहैया करते हैं। लेकिन जो किसान अपनी मेहनत और खून-पसीने की कमाई से सारे देश का पेट भर रहा है, वही किसान आज आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर है। मान्यवर, यह विषय बहुत ही गंभीर है। आखिर आजादी के 56-57 साल के बाद भी आज हमारे देश के किसानों की हालत इतनी खराब क्यों है कि उनको मजबूर होकर आत्महत्या करनी पड़ती है?

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इसके लिए हमको इसके मूल कारणों में जाना पड़ेगा कि आखिर यह स्थिति क्यों उत्पन्न हुई है। मैं यह भी मानता हूँ कि यह कोई राजनीतिक मुद्दा नहीं है। हम लोगों को दलगत राजनीति से ऊपर उठ कर इस पर विचार करना पड़ेगा। यह एक राष्ट्रीय मुद्दा है। अगर किसान आत्महत्या कर रहा है, चाहे वह आंध्र का हो, चाहे वह महाराष्ट्र का हो, चाहे वह कर्नाटक का हो या पंजाब का या भारत के किसी भी राज्य में अगर वह आत्महत्या कर रहा है, तो यह हम सब के लिए एक चिन्ता का विषय है और पूरे सदन को इस विषय पर गम्भीरता से चिन्तन करना पड़ेगा मैं एक अखबार का सम्पादकीय पढ़ रहा था, जिसका हेड लाईन था "The Green revolution turns red", यानी जो हमारे देश में हरित क्रांति आई, उन किसानों की वजह से, आज उनकी क्या दशा है? उस पर हम सब लोगों को सोचने की जरूरत है। आज जिन लोगों ने सुझाव दिया है, मैं समझता हूँ कि वे बहुत ही अच्छे सुझाव हैं। कृषि मंत्री जी उस पर जरूर विचार करेंगे, खास तौर पर

आज जो हमारे देश का किसान है, वह मानसून पर निर्भर करता है और अभी तक हम देश में, जो अधिकतर हमारी खेती होती है, उसको सिंचाई की सुविधा हम मुहैया नहीं कर पाए हैं और कैसे उसको आगे बढ़ाया जाय, कैसे उसका विस्तार किया जाये? चूँकि जब तक हम सिंचाई की सुविधा नहीं देंगे, तब तक किसानों की स्थिति नहीं सुधरेगी। वे जब तक मानसून पर निर्भर करेंगे, उनकी स्थिति नहीं बदल सकती है।

दूसरा है, खास तौर पर, कर्ज का बोझ। आत्महत्या की जो घटनाएँ घटी हैं, हम लोगों ने अखबार में उसकी जो भी रिपोर्ट पढ़ी है और लोगों से, अपने साधियों से जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है, उसमें जो मूल कारण है उस में एक तो कर्ज का बोझ है। अनाज का सही मूल्य नहीं मिलता है। जो बिचौलिए होते हैं, वे उसके मुनाफा का फायदा उठाते हैं और इस तरह से पूरी मेहनत के बावजूद भी किसान को उसका फल नहीं मिल पाता है। इसमें हमारा यह सुझाव होगा कि सरकार को अनाज का मूल्य पहले निर्धारित करना चाहिए, क्योंकि अक्सर यह होता है कि अनाज के लग जाने के बाद या खेती के बाद उसका मूल्य निर्धारित होता है और तब किसान के सामने कोई विकल्प नहीं रहता है। इसलिए अगर सरकार पहले मूल्य निर्धारित करे तो हम समझते हैं कि किसानों के सामने एक विकल्प रहेगा कि वे उस खेती में जाएँ या नहीं जाएँ। वे किस तरह की चीज का इस्तेमाल करें, यह इस पर निर्भर करता है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, राष्ट्रीय बैंकों के रवैये पर भी बहुत चर्चा हो चुकी है, बहुत तरह की बातें कही जा चुकी हैं, मैं उनके विस्तार में जाना नहीं चाहता क्योंकि समय का अभाव है, लेकिन यह बात भी सही है कि मजबूरी में किसान प्राइवेट मनी लेंडर के पास जाता है, उस पर निर्भर करता है और वह मनी लेंडर उसकी मजबूरी का फायदा उठाते हैं और उससे लगभग 60 प्रतिशत तक इंटरेस्ट रेट लिया जाता है। तो इससे किसानों पर एक सामाजिक दबाव पड़ता है और जिस तरह की पीड़ा उनको झेलनी पड़ती है, यह भी एक मुख्य कारण है कि वे समय पर कर्ज नहीं लौट पाते हैं और जिसकी वजह से वे मजबूर होकर या तनाव की परिस्थिति में आत्महत्या करने पर मजबूर हो जाते हैं। ... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : आपको खत्म करना होगा।

श्री तारिक अनवर : बस, खत्म ही कर रहा हूँ। मैं जानता हूँ कि आप बहुत स्ट्रिक्ट हैं ... (व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : नहीं, मैं स्ट्रिक्ट नहीं हूँ। आपके लिए जो समय दिया हुआ है, उससे आपको सिर्फ आगाह कर रहा हूँ।

श्री तारिक अनवर : मेरा एक सुझाव है। बस सुझाव के बाद खत्म कर रहा हूँ कि अभी किसानों को 9 प्रतिशत के इंटरेस्ट रेट पर लोन दिया जाता है। मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि जो स्थिति है, जो परिस्थिति है, उसका मूल्यांकन करने के बाद यह बात स्पष्ट हो जाती है कि किसानों की स्थिति

बहुत ही गम्भीर है। और जब तक सरकार उन पर विशेष ध्यान नहीं देगी, तब तक उनकी स्थिति नहीं बदल सकती। इसलिए यह रेट ऑफ़ इंटेरेस्ट उनके लिए 9 परसेंट से घुटकर 6 परसेंट किया जाए। मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे भी उनको काफी मदद मिल सकती है। यहां पर कोऑपरेटिव बैंक को स्ट्रेन्थन करने की बात की गई है, मैं उस सुझाव का समर्थन करता हूँ और यह भी चाहता हूँ कि उनको आसान शर्तों पर लोन दिया जाए क्योंकि जिस तरह की शर्तें बैंकों की होती हैं, वे कठिन होती हैं और उनको किसान पूरा नहीं कर पाते हैं, जिससे उनको परेशानी झेलनी पड़ती है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, पिछले 6 महीने में, खासतौर पर डीजल की कीमत, फर्टिलाइजर की कीमत, पेस्टीसाइड्स की कीमत और जो भी फार्मिंग इनपुट्स हैं, उनकी कीमत लगभग 30 से 40 परसेंट तक बढ़ी है, लेकिन दूसरी तरफ अनाज की कीमत उस हिसाब से उतनी न बढ़ने से किसानों पर आर्थिक बोझ बढ़ता चला जा रहा है। इसके साथ ही किसानों को समय-समय पर प्राकृतिक प्रकोप भी झेलना पड़ता है, कभी सूखा है, तो कभी बाढ़ है। इस प्राकृतिक प्रकोप से रिलीफ के लिए जबसे आदरणीय शरद पवार जी कृषि मंत्री बने हैं, उन्होंने इस कैलेमिटी रिलीफ फंड में स्माल फार्मर्स को कंपेंसेशन देने के लिए इसे एक हजार से बढ़ाकर दो हजार किया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इसको और अधिक बढ़ाने की जरूरत है क्योंकि अक्सर किसान जब अनाज बुवाई करते हैं, तो उससे उनको उम्मीद रहती है कि आगे उन्हें उसकी अच्छी कीमत मिलेगी, लेकिन वह उम्मीद प्राकृतिक प्रकोप के कारण, सूखे या बाढ़ के कारण, धूमिल हो जाती है और उनको नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है। उस नुकसान की पूर्ति के लिए मैं समझता हूँ कि क्रोप इंशोरेन्स के जरिए भी कोशिश होनी चाहिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यहां आधुनिक खेती की बात कही गई, जो बहुत जरूरी है। जो हमारे स्माल फार्मर्स हैं, उनके पास जमीन बहुत कम होती है। अब अगर आधुनिक खेती को बढ़ावा दिया जाता है, तो उससे उनका पालन-पोषण हो सकता है, उनके परिवार का पालन-पोषण हो सकता है। इसके लिए मैं समझता हूँ कि सरकार की ओर से यह कोशिश होनी चाहिए। इसके साथ ही जो किसान की पैदावार होती है, उसको एक्सपोज करने के लिए भी सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए। मैंने देखा है, कृषि मंत्री जी ने एक बयान दिया था, जो न्यू पोलिसी फोर एग्रीकल्चर एक्सपोर्ट पर था कि इसको बढ़ाए जाने पर विचार हो रहा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर ये सारी चीजें होगी तो इन सारी चीजों से, जो आज परिस्थिति पैदा हुई है, शायद भविष्य में वह कम हो। यह सही है कि इसमें बहुत समय और मेहनत की आवश्यकता है। हम भी इसमें बहुत जल्दबाजी में उम्मीद नहीं करते हैं, लेकिन अगर हम कोई ऐसी पोलिसी, कोई ऐसी नीति निर्धारित करेंगे तो आगे आने वाले दिनों में इस समस्या का समाधान निकाल सकते हैं और किसानों को भी राहत दे सकते हैं। धन्यवाद।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : धन्यवाद। आपने डबल समय लिया और फिर भी आप बोलते हैं कि मैं कड़ा हूँ। इतनी ज्यादा तो आप न करें। चलिए, वी० नारायणसामी जी, आपके 15 मिनट हैं। ... (व्यवधान) ... रिकॉर्ड यहां पड़ा हुआ है, आप यहां आकर देख लें। इनके पास 27 मिनट हैं, मैं तो 15 ही बोल रहा हूँ।

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Thank you, Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. Sir, I would like to thank the hon. Member, Shri Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy, who brought the subject for discussion. Sir, it was to be taken up in the last Session itself, but with very great difficulty we are able to start it and we are discussing the issue of farmers, suicide in this House today.

Sir, the hon. Agriculture Minister knows the problems of farmers. He knows how to address the issues of the farmers and he has been visiting various States. We have great confidence and faith in him that he will be able to help the farming community. In spite of this, many Members have given their suggestions. Sir, initially, I thought that we would be discussing the subject without any partisan attitude and without any political angle in it. But I found that when it started, it started with a political note by the hon. Member who initiated the discussion, and also from other Members of this House. Sir, we have to see this problem as a national issue. The farmers' problem is a national issue. Suicides by farmers are taking place not only in Andhra Pradesh, but in Karnataka, Maharashtra and in various other States also. It is not just there in the TDP-ruled States, or it is not only there in the Congress-ruled States, the problems of farmers is a general problem.

The hon. Member, Shri Penumalli Madhu, stated why this problem arose. I appreciate his argument for the simple reason that when the farmers have been asked to switch over from their regular crops to commercial crops, and, when there is a monsoon failure, they borrow money from various banking institutions and private money lenders, they are burdened with the loan. Because of their crops having failed, they are not able to repay their loan,— the farming community, though they live in village, they live with pride—they are left with no other alternative, so they go in for suicide. This is the problem of the farming community. Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned several times in this House that crop failure, drought situation, ailment of the farmers, addiction to liquor, and the family disputes

are the various factors which compel the farmers to commit suicide. What is the solution? How should we address this issue? The farmers have to be supported. In what way can we support them? First of all, we will have to give them the facilities for irrigation, because it is the main thing for any farmer to start cultivation. If it is the rain-fed area, the Government should give support to them. The Central Government should assist them. The primary concern of the State Government should be to give irrigation facilities to the farming community. Then, I come to drip irrigation. The farming community have to be educated in this regard. The farming community has to adopt it. Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka or even in Tamil Nadu, the farmers were not at all accustomed to drip irrigation. There were failures even in those days. When the monsoon was good, they were very well off. When monsoon failed, they did not know how to go in for cultivation. That was the situation. We have to address that area. The Government is giving a number of incentives, but that has to be enhanced. That is number one. Number two, as far as the commercial banks are concerned, still, getting credit from the banks is very difficult for the farmers. Even, we, the Members of Parliament have complained to the bankers that they have not served the farming community. But the cooperative institutions alone are coming to the help of the farmers, because the hon. Finance Minister has mentioned that they earmark the money. Several times, I have asked this question. There is a monitoring agency. When you earmark Rs. 1,08,000 crores for the farming community to get the loans from the banks, the Minister says, "I will supervise it." It is very good that the Minister is doing it. But, in spite of that, there should be a monitoring agency to see that the farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers, I am not talking about the big farmers in this country should get the credit facility, either from the cooperative institutions or from the banks liberally, and with a lower rate of interest. I support the views expressed by the hon. Members that it should be at a lower rate of interest. Sir, let us compare India with other countries, the western countries. They are giving subsidy at every stage. There is only one per cent. interest for the farmers. They give various subsidies to them. They give seed subsidy, they give fertilizer subsidy, they also do marketing. But in India, I am pained to see, when we go to villages, in one family, the farmer, with two acres of land, after the marriage, they have three or four children, they have to be educated, they have to perform the marriage, and they live in below poverty condition. In spite of it, they are educating their children in the village. This is happening. This is because

they are helping the farmers. At ground level, the farming community has to be given a lot of support by the Government

Sir, now, I come to water dispute. Take any State. Tamil Nadu-Karnataka, Andhra-Karnataka, then, Maharashtra-Karnataka, Gujarat and the other adjoining States like Madhya Pradesh. In every State, there are water disputes. As regards the water disputes, the matter has to be referred to the court. It is pending in the Supreme Court. No State is getting any remedy. Now, it is high time the hon. Minister call the Chief Ministers, all the political leaders, and try to see that it comes in the Concurrent List—it is already in the State List—because of the various disputes, which have arisen. The NDA Government has done a very good thing. I do appreciate that. They started the scheme of inter-linking of rivers. It is a good scheme which was started during Pandit Nehruji's period... *(Interruptions)*.

During Pandit Nehruji's period, it was there.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: It is not a fact. ... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Wait; wait; wait; views will differ. Let him have his own views. ... *(Interruptions)*... Let him have his own views. Please continue.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the idea was envisaged during the Congress regime. The NDA has appointed Mr. Suresh Prabhu as the Chairman of that Committee, though it was on paper. The inter-linking of rivers is a vital thing for connecting the Northern and Southern rivers. Mr. Narayanan, the hon. Member from the AiADMK Party, has also his grievance when he said that initially you wanted to start it from North India, whereas the Southern parts of the country are reeling under drought consecutively for three years. Sir, the inter-linking of rivers should be done simultaneously. This is a commitment. This is a commitment to the people of all the States. Let us do it. The farming community can be helped by linking of rivers because more than seventy per cent of the water goes into the sea. It is not being utilised. Mr. Apte was mentioning about micro-irrigation. That has to be started in a big way. Gujarat has been doing it in a better way. Therefore, Sir, there are various issues which need to be addressed. Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about the minimum support price. He was referring to the minimum support price. The farmers should be given the price which is prevailing in the market. The minimum support

price is not going to satisfy the farmers. Today, every farmer is running into losses, whether it is sugarcane, whether it is cotton or even paddy. At the time of harvesting, they have to sell it at a distress price. The farmers are selling it at a distress price. Therefore, the amount of investment is hundred per cent, but the yield is only seventy per cent. They are losing about 25-30 per cent. Therefore, the Government has to address this issue. It is a major problem. When I was discussing this issue with the hon. Member, Shri Jairam Ramesh, he said that a group of Members of Parliament should sit together and go into the question of suicides by farmers. Let us come to a solution. In this House, let us give our suggestions how to improve the system. The hon. Minister can also write to the Standing Committee if they want the Standing Committee to look into the matter. It can be done. With the help of that, we will be able to address the issues of the farmers. Therefore, Sir, I would like to say that we don't want to see this issue as a partisan issue. It is a national issue. Every Member of Parliament in this House is concerned about the farmers' suicide, and we have to see that the problems of the farmers are resolved, whether they are small farmers or marginal farmers. There are various areas where the hon. Minister has to help the State Governments. Most of the State Governments are starved of the funds. Sir, though the Central Government is making a substantial allocation for the farming community, but it is not properly reaching them. That angle has to be seen. With these words, I would like to request the hon. Minister to support the farming community. You are also from the farming community. I am sure, you will support it. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Shri Ekanath K. Thakur; you have five minutes.

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR (Maharashtra): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. There are two bodies of the United Nations. I just want to refer to them. One of them is that GATT, the former: now, it is the W.T.O. Earlier, it was GATT, General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs. The other body is the UNCTAD, 'United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.' Sir, these two bodies were debating societies. And, when someone asked me what is the full form of GATT, I used to say it is a 'General Agreement on Talks and Talks'; and if someone asked me what is the full form of UNCTAD, I used to say, the full form is , 'Under No Circumstances Take Any Decision'. Sir, so far as agriculture policy is

concerned, we are in this trap of GATT and UNCTAD, 'General Agreement on Trade and Trade' and 'Under No Circumstances Take Any Decision'. Otherwise, why should it take us fifty-seven years to deal with this issue? Sir, the farmers' suicides are a blot on our polity; it is a blot on our democracy; it is a stigma on the functioning of this supreme institution of the country.

Even then, this issue has not been addressed by successive Governments till today with all the seriousness that it deserves. We have now seen suicides in Andhra Pradesh, in Maharashtra, in Karnataka, in Kerala and in a few other States. When the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister came, at his installation, he said that there would be no more suicides. But in the first 200 days, there was 1900 suicides, that is, a rate of almost ten suicides per day. I do not blame him for that, but that kind of situation is a devastating situation for the nation, where a small and marginal farmer has nowhere to go to. This has accentuated the agrarian crisis in our economy.

There are very many reasons. I would not dwell on that. The whole of this House and the Lok Sabha have debated this issue and there are so many reasons which are responsible for the disaster. First is the debt trap, second is the drought, third is the desertification to which Kumari Nirmala Deshpande has referred, fourth is the double talk of support price, which does not give support, fifth is the double-edged laws like the Agricultural Marketing Laws, sixth is the disasters like natural disasters, floods and famines; seventh is, of course, the 'dalals' in the market who take away all the profits. These are the reasons.

When the farmer actually goes into the suicide mode, there are certain triggers. The trigger is his daughter's marriage and demand for dowry; the trigger is division of his family. When it becomes a nuclear family, the family support system breaks down and there is Durkheim's Theory at play there; there is an inverse relation between the family size and the support. Smaller the family, lesser the support.

→ The third trigger is dispute for land. There is a trigger of disease, his personal disease and the disease of the crop. Then there is a trigger of dishonour and disloyalty in the family. I do not wish to go into all these. (Time-bell) Sir, I have just begun.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): How much more time do you want?

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Sir, of all these causes, in my opinion, it is the debt trap that is responsible for 75 per cent of suicides. I, for one, do not take them as suicides. They are homicides, and since they are done on a mass basis, they are genocides. Because of this situation, मैं तो आपसे यह कहना चाह रहा था, आप माने या न मानें, इनकी आत्महत्याओं के लिए आप और हम जिम्मेदार हैं, आज तक की सभी भारत सरकारें जिम्मेदार हैं। ये सुसाइड नहीं कर रहे हैं, हमारी जो नीतियां हैं, इन नीतियों की वजह से यह सब होता रहा है। इस पर मेरे कुछ सुझाव हैं, इनको मैं एक, दो, तीन, चार करके दे रहा हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप बोलिए, बोलिए।

श्री एकनाथ के० ठाकुर: पहला तो, we have to come out of the 'we and them' mentality. When we talk of farmers, we refer to them as 'they'. Each one of us is a farmer, my father was a farmer, or, somebody else's grandfather might have been a farmer. We are all the progeny of farmers. So, we have to consider farmers' issues as our issues.

The second thing is that the agricultural sector contributes 25 per cent to our GDP. Therefore, the public investment in agriculture has to go up substantially. It is one-and-a-half per cent. If you take both the Centre and the States, it is two per cent. The third thing is, you have to repeal the various laws about which I mentioned. The fourth is, we have to bring in crop insurance. In the United States of America, there is a crop insurance which, protects the yields, insures the yields, and also the price. There is a group crop insurance and individual crop insurance on which the US Government spends forty billion dollars, that is, two lakh crores of rupees. In the Budget Speech, the hon. Finance Minister has said that this year, there would be no new change in crop insurance. The fifth thing is that there have to be reforms in the agricultural sector. As it is, we are lagging behind.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अब आप खत्म कीजिए।

श्री एकनाथ के० ठाकुर: सर, मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ, दो-तीन चीजें हैं। The sixth, in my suggestion, is about agricultural credit.

There is terrible mess in this sector. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru appointed the Rural Credit Survey Committee in 1952, and even after 52 years now, agricultural credit is totally in shambles. Even today, through the Government claims that it has disbursed Rs. 1,08,000 crores...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): अब एक्सप्लेन मत करिए। आप suggestions देने वाले थे, suggestions दे दीजिए क्योंकि हमें अब इसे खत्म भी करना है।

SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Okay, Sir. मैं आपको यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि agricultural credit is in such a shame that we, Shiv Sena Party, tried to organise a *morcha* on certain moneylenders. People came in thousands and told us not to try to organise a *morcha* against moneylenders; they are our saviours, and they give us loans...*(Interruptions)*... The next point is that agricultural credit system has to revamp, and the Government has to put its foot down. Lastly, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is a very wise leader of this nation and I would request him to look at the governance of NABARD. NABARD is the National Bank of Agriculture. My suggestion, through you, to the hon. Minister is that NABARD must come under the governance of the Ministry of Agriculture, and not under the Ministry of Finance. Then only, we will be able to have better results.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Thank you. I won't take more than five minutes, Sir. We have had a very exhaustive discussion that has left us exhausted. I am taking an example from Mr. Venkaiah Naidu's book. There are two issue here—one is the issue of public investment in agriculture, and the other issue is the suicides by farmers. These are the two separate issues on which we have had a long discussion. I thought the immediate provocation for this discussion was the continued suicide of farmers, and I think, we need to separate these two issues. A lot of what Mr. Venkaiah Naidu and all the others have spoken have to do with increasing public investment in agriculture, increasing public investment in irrigation, increasing public investment in research, increasing public investment in agricultural marketing, providing better minimum support price, providing better procurement and so on and so forth. Those are issues of agricultural investment and agricultural policy which, I am sure, the Minister of Agriculture will respond to. Sir, as far as the immediate provocation for this debate is concerned, it is the continued distress and suicides by farmers. Sir, for the last six or seven years, I have been bewildered—frankly,

this is not a party debate; this is a genuine debate that we are having--why Andhra Pradesh? There are States poorer than Andhra Pradesh. Orissa is poorer than Andhra Pradesh. Why are there no suicides of the same intensity in Orissa as in Andhra? Jharkhand is poorer; Bihar is poorer; parts of Maharashtra are poorer; and parts of northern Karnataka are poorer. What is there in the ecology in Andhra Pradesh that has led to this massive number of suicides that have taken place? Sir, I disagree with my friend, Mr. Madhu, although we are colleagues and we are part of the same coalition. However, there is much of what he said with which I agree. But to ascribe all the suicides to structural adjustment policies, in my view, is wrong. There are other States where there are structural adjustments. Karnataka has structural adjustments; Maharashtra also has structural adjustments. Tamil Nadu has been undergoing structural adjustments. There may be differences in the degree of structural adjustments, but to ascribe everything to structural adjustments, in my view, is not accurate or fair. Sir, I have tried to understand the pathology of suicides in Andhra Pradesh for the last six years and, I am afraid, till today I have not been able to come at a satisfactory answer as to why is this problem persisting in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, for long, I believed--again Mr. Venkaiah Naidu influences me so much--pesticides lead to suicides. For long, I believed that the distress of cotton farmers is causing this mass suicide phenomenon in Andhra Pradesh. But, subsequently, we have seen that this has not been the case of cotton farmers, but other farmers, also have resorted to this extreme step. For long, I believe that it was the problem of drought-prone areas that resulted in suicides. But, suicides have taken place even in perennially-irrigated areas. And, in any case, there are worse drought-prone areas of Rajasthan where suicides are not taking place, but there are drought-prone areas of Andhra Pradesh where suicides are taking place. Shri Sharad Joshi is not here. He is right. If you start looking at this problem and if you ascribe everything to dry-land agriculture, it is clearly a limited explanation. If you say it is related only to cotton, clearly, that explanation also is not true. So, Sir, frankly, I must say I am still ignorant as to why Andhra Pradesh, why parts of Karnataka, why parts of Maharashtra, particularly the western part of Maharashtra, the Vidharba region; why this particular region. Obviously, Sir, there is an extreme sense of helplessness in these areas. Obviously, three consecutive years of monsoon failure has taken its toll on the psychological morale of the farming community. And, therefore, I think the explanation, to me, lies not so much in Economics as it lies in psychology. I think, people, communities,

families have had their morale battered, psychology battered. Three consecutive years, four consecutive years in some areas, of a deficient monsoon has led to an increasing cycle of rural indebtedness resulting in suicides. Therefore, I would like to support what my colleague, Mr. Narayanasamy, has mentioned, but we need to understand this phenomenon of suicides a little better and--my suggestion would be that a group of MPs, whether it is through a Standing Committee or otherwise--let us understand this phenomenon of suicides; the problems of public investment in agriculture, irrigation, credit, all that will go on. All that is well understood in my view. But, what is less understood is this extreme psychological step that people are taking to suicides and I would request that a concrete result of this four hours of discussion, that we have, should be that we arrive at some next steps on what we should on this problem of suicides, as opposed to the problem of investment. I will just take two minutes. Sir, I have looked at it; I have tried to understand this phenomenon of suicide in some detail, in some depth. Sir, I have found that whether it is Andhra or whether it is Karnataka, this point was mentioned conjunctionally by some of the speakers that rural indebtedness, if you really look at what is causing rural indebtedness today, the single most important non-agricultural cause of rural indebtedness is health expenditure. Now, the health system has completely collapsed in large parts of India. Sir, increasingly, we are finding that it is expenditure on health that is causing the indebtedness incidence to increase. It is true that for small and marginal farmers, the coverage of institutional credit is still very low; it is true that dependence on money-lenders is still very high. All that is well taken, but if you were to remove those factors for the time being, I have found that expenditure on health and the absence of a good, effective, reliable health insurance system, the absence of a good, effective working, reliable rural health infrastructure is a very serious impediment in bringing forth the positive psychological forces that are required in these times of distress. So, Sir, I would say that when we talk of agriculture, we usually talk of irrigation, finance, and so on. We normally don't talk about health. So, the need is for a comprehensive approach to this problem. And, my second suggestion is that--first was the whole issue of suicides--let us look at this problem of rural health as it impacts on rural indebtedness which then impacts on this behaviour or suicides that we are witnessing, in a much more systematic manner. I know this is

6.00 PM

beyond the scope and jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture. I think we need a mechanism in Government that looks at problems of rural communities not from the perspective of Ministries. The Finance Minister looks at credit; the Agriculture Minister looks at agriculture; the Water Resource Minister looks at irrigation; but who is looking at the problem of rural livelihood, rural welfare in its entirety? And, if you start looking in that way, Sir, I think some of these missing pieces of the puzzle will begin to fit in. To summarise, Sir, I would just say this.

I am in substantial agreement with many of the points that Mr. Venkaiah Naidu and my colleagues from the TDP have raised on the need for increasing agricultural credit, on the need for increasing investment in irrigation, particularly the need for increasing investment in dry land farming. Today India has utilised only 40 per cent of its irrigation potential. If by some miracle, in the next ten years, we were to utilise all our irrigation potential—major, minor, and ground water -- 40 percent of India would still be rain fed. Sir, I have said this before in the past; let us not get carried away by 'Indai Shining', or '7 per cent rate of growth', or '8 per cent rate of growth', whether it is your Government or our Government, this economy depends substantially heavily on the monsoons still. Problems of rain-fed agriculture, problems of dry land agriculture, dry land areas are going to remain with us. Therefore, Sir, we need to look at those issues of drought-prone area which are strewn across the country. There are about 170 districts in India which are classified as perennially drought-prone areas. I think they will require a treatment completely different from that we have been accustomed to in the past. Thank you, Sir.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि। आप दो मिनट से ज्यादा मत बोलिए और जबर्दस्ती मत कीजिए। आपका कोई समय नहीं बचा है, फिर भी आप दो मिनट बोलिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा) : सर, यह अत्यंत गंभीर विषय है। जैसे अभी हर रोज किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या हो रही है, पिछले 22-24 साल पहले न्यूज पेपर में हैडिंग होती थी, "No killing in Punjab today". जब 22-24 साल पहले पंजाब दुर्भाग्य से, उग्रवाद से ग्रस्त था, तब हैडिंग होती थी, "No killing in Punjab today". उसी प्रकार से, अब कोई भी ऐसा दिन नहीं है कि न्यूज पेपर में यह हैडिंग नहीं हो कि, "No suicide in the State". किसानों द्वारा आत्महत्या

एक गंभीर विषय है। जय राम जी ने बोला है, अगर ये नायडु जी के बाद बोलते तो शायद ये ऐसी शुरुआत करके कि हम वही राजनीति नहीं करेंगे, अपने भाषण के विषय को राजनीति की तरफ नहीं ले जाते। नायडु जी ने जिस विषय को शुरू किया है अगर उसके बाद में जय राम जी बोलते, तो ऐसा नहीं होता। महोदय, यह मुख्य विषय है और ये जो आत्महत्याएं हो रही हैं, चाहे सख्य सरकार की तरफ से या केन्द्र सरकार की तरफ से, तुरंत बंद करने के लिए कदम उठाए जाने चाहिए। मैंने पिछले दिनों एक प्रश्न के माध्यम से भी कहा था कि मुझे मेरी पार्टी की ओर से आन्ध्र प्रदेश भेजा गया था। कॉटन कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया, सी.सी.आई. के सामने कपास उगाने वाले किसान, ट्रक तथा ट्रैक्टरों में अपनी कपास लेकर खड़े थे। वे इसी प्रकार एक-दो महीने तक वहां खड़े रहे....
...(समय की घंटी)... मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि कपास उगाने वाले किसानों की कपास को, सी.सी.आई. खरीदे। जो बीच में दलाल होते हैं, ऐजेंट होते हैं
...(व्यवधान)...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : बस, वे खरीदें, इतनी बात कहकर खत्म करिए।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : जो सी.सी.आई. के कर्मकार हैं, अधिकारी हैं, वे किसानों से कहते हैं कि तुम्हारा कपास पूरक क्वालिटी का है। वे उनसे कपास नहीं खरीदते हैं। बाद में जब किसान परेशान हो जाते हैं(व्यवधान)....इसको कहते हैं ...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : अच्छा, अब रहने दीजिए, हो गया।

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि : उसको बिचौलिया कम रेट में खरीद लेते हैं और बाद में सी.सी.आई. को बेचा जाता है। कम से कम एक कारण का निराकरण करके, हम कुछ किसानों की जान बचा सकते हैं, कपास उगाने वाले किसानों की जान बचा सकते हैं तो कम से कम आपके लिए यह उचित होगा। दूसरा जो...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया) : No, no अब नहीं प्लीज। देखिए, पाणि जी, मैंने आपको पहले ही कहा था कि आप जिद्द करेंगे जबर्दस्ती करेंगे। आपने प्रोमिज किया था कि हम नहीं करेंगे। अब बैठ जाइए। श्री ललितभाई मेहता।

[MR. CHAIRMAN, in the Chair]

श्री ललितभाई मेहता : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, धन्यवाद, आपने मौका दिया। I am putting direct questions. Whether nearly 1,50,000 hectares of agricultural land has been converted into non-agricultural land for other purposes in the last ten years; whether the 3.8 crore acres of land can be brought under cultivation which is not being cultivated till today; what steps the

Government proposes to take to overcome ill-effects of chemical fertilisers, pesticides and insecticides on fertility of agricultural land and on quality of grains, fruits, vegetables and thereby adversely affecting human health by chronic diseases like cancer, heart failures? What steps are taken to propagate the use of bio-fertilisers and go in for organic farming on a bigger scale? What steps are taken to utilise cattle wealth which is nearly 28 crores and can earn a substantial amount for our economy? About two-thirds of our land water flows into the sea and if one million cubic water gives us an agricultural produce to the tune of ten lakhs of rupees, are we not losing agricultural produce to the tune of Rs. 4,50,000 crores every year? I would also like to know whether it is more important for an agriculturist that he does not get the remunerative price than that of getting the credit facilities made available by the financial institutions. Thank you, Sir.

श्री सभापति : एक मिनट, मैं बोलना चाहूंगा। मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों के प्रति आभार प्रकट करता हूँ कि आज उन्होंने एक ऐसे गंभीर विषय पर, जिस पर चर्चा होनी बहुत आवश्यक थी, बहुत ही सारगर्भित भाषण दिए हैं। राजनीति में रहते हुए भी राजनीति से दूर रहकर इस समस्या का समाधान कैसे हो सकता है, इस संबंध में व्यावहारिक सुझाव भी दिए हैं। मेरा इस प्रकार का विश्वास आज दृढ़ हुआ है कि अगर हम राज्य सभा में बैठकर इस प्रकार के गंभीर मसलों पर चर्चा करें तो उसका निश्चित रूप से परिणाम निकलेगा। अभी माननीय मंत्री महोदय बोलेंगे, मेरी इच्छा है कि मैंने जैसे मैम्बर्स को धन्यवाद दिया है, उसी प्रकार से उनको भी धन्यवाद दूँ, वे उसी तरह से बोलें।

कृषि मंत्री तथा उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक वितरण मंत्री (श्री शरद पवार): सभापति महोदय, एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर पिछले कई घंटों से सदन में बड़ी गंभीरता से चर्चा चल रही है। मुझे एक बात का संतोष है कि बाय एण्ड लार्ज इस डिस्कशन का लेवल देश के किसानों और देश के राज्यों के इंटरस्ट के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए होता है। जो कुछ सुझाव आए हैं, उनमें से कई सुझाव ऐसे हैं कि जो नीति तैयार करती है, जो कुछ निर्णय लेने की आवश्यकता है, उसमें बहुत मदद करने वाले सुझाव व सूचना मान्यवर सदस्यों के माध्यम से यहां आई हैं। जो डिस्कशन का विषय है, वह किसानों की आत्महत्या से संबंधित हैं एक अजीब सी परिस्थिति से हम गुजर रहे हैं। एक परिस्थिति ऐसी है कि एक जमाने में इसी देश में अनाज की कमी थी।

सभापति महोदय, 1947 में हमें जब आजादी मिली, उस समय इस देश की आबादी 35 करोड़ थी और उनके लिए दो समय के खाने का प्रबंध होने की परिस्थिति हमारे देश में नहीं थी। मुझे याद है कि मैं यूथ कांग्रेस में काम करता था। जब पूना में ऑल इंडिया कांग्रेस कमेटी की मीटिंग हुई,

उसमें देश के कृषि मंत्री श्री एस.के. पाटिल की स्पीच हमने वहां सुनी। पाटिल साहब ने एक बात कही थी कि उन्होंने बहुत अच्छा काम किया कि अमरीका के साथ PL-480 का ऐग्रीमेंट किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इसके बाद इस देश में कोई भूखा नहीं रहेगा, क्योंकि उतना अनाज हमें अमरीका से, आस्ट्रेलिया से, कनाडा से मिलने का प्रबंध हो गया है। मुझे याद है कि तब बहुत से लोगों ने खुशी भी जाहिर की थी। यह जमाना था इस देश में।

एक दूसरी परिस्थिति मुझे याद आती है कि जब 1972 में राज्य सरकार में मेरे पास मिनिस्टर ऑफ स्टेट फॉर होम का पोर्टफोलियो था, तब बहुत बड़ा सूखा पड़ा और अनाज की कमी सामने आई। बहुत बड़े पैमाने पर लोग आंदोलन करने के लिए सड़क पर उतर आए थे। तब राज्य के मुख्यमंत्री ने मुझे बुलाकर कहा कि आपको होम मिनिस्ट्री के साथ-साथ फूड ऐंड सिविल सप्लाईज मिनिस्ट्री की जिम्मेदारी भी लेनी पड़ेगी। यह जिम्मेदारी मैंने ले ली और दो दिन बाद मेरे सामने यह बात आई कि मेरा काम यह था कि मैं मुंबई पोर्ट में जाकर, बाहर विदेशों से जो गेहूं आता है, उसे जल्दी से जल्दी अनलोड करवाऊं और रात के समय राशन की दुकानों में पहुंचाने का बंदोबस्त करूं। यह परिस्थिति थी 1972 में। आज कृषि मंत्रालय के साथ-साथ मेरे ऊपर अन्य मंत्रालयों की जिम्मेदारी भी है। सबसे बड़ी समस्या यह है कि इतने बड़े पैमाने पर जो स्टॉक है, उसे कैसे हम जल्दी से जल्दी डिस्पोज कर सकते हैं। पिछले 3 सालों से यही समस्या थी और तीन साल पहले एक दिन ऐसी परिस्थिति आई थी कि नया सीज़न शुरू होने वाला था, सभी गोडाउन भरे थे, तब तत्कालीन प्रधानमंत्री जी ने निर्णय ले लिया कि पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम में उस समय हम जो 18 या 20 किलो अनाज देते थे, उसके बदले उन्होंने 35 किलो अनाज देने की घोषणा की और आज पब्लिक डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन सिस्टम के माध्यम से हर फैमिली को 35 किलो अनाज देने का प्रबंध पूरे देश में हो चुका है। इसके साथ-साथ कई ऐसी स्कीमें हैं, चाहे 150 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में Food for Work की स्कीम हो, चाहे काम के बदले रोजगार योजना हो, चाहे समाज के छोटे वर्गों के हितों की रक्षा करने के लिए उनको अनाज देने की व्यवस्था हो, स्कूल में पढ़ने वाले बच्चों को Mid Day Meal देने का प्रबंध हो, इतनी अलग-अलग स्कीमें हैं और यहां अनाज की कमी नहीं है।

सभापति महोदय, श्री चन्द्रशेखर रेड्डी साहब ने यहां जो बात कही, मैं इनकी सिर्फ एक बात से सहमत हूँ, बाकी बातों से सहमत नहीं हूँ कि जो आत्महत्याएं हुईं, इनमें से starvation death's कितनी हैं। मैं आत्महत्या पर जाऊंगा, मगर इस देश में starvation deaths की परिस्थिति नहीं रही है। कुछ ऐरियाज में कभी न कभी ऐसी बातें सुनने के लिए मिलती हैं। अब starvation खत्म हो गया, ऐसी स्टेटमेंट भी मैं यहां नहीं देना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन by and large वैसी परिस्थिति इस देश में नहीं रही है। वर्ष 1947 में हमारे देश की आबादी 35 करोड़ थी, उस समय हम इनको पूरी तरह से अनाज के बारे में सहयोग देने की परिस्थिति में नहीं थे, आज यह जनसंख्या 100 करोड़ हो गई है, आबादी इतनी बढ़ गई है, लेकिन खेती के लिए जो जमीन है, वह जमीन दिन-ब-दिन कम हो रही है।

नगर बढ़ रहे हैं, विलेज पंचायतों का एरिया बढ़ रहा है, इंडस्ट्रियल प्लेस डेवलप कर रहे हैं, इरिगेशन के प्रोजेक्ट बना रहे हैं, स्कूल-कॉलेज की बिल्डिंग्स बना रहे हैं और इन सबके लिए हम खेती की जमीन ले रहे हैं। खेती पर डिपेंडेंस बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन खेती की जमीन कम हो गई है। देश में जो पानी है, इस पानी के ऊपर भी अरबनाइजेशन का प्रेशर आना शुरू हुआ और खेती के लिए पानी कम है। ऐसी परिस्थिति में भी आज हम 212 मिलियन टन के आसपास उत्पादन करने में कामयाब हुए हैं। यह सब चमत्कार खेती में मेहनत करने वाले, खून-पसीना देने वाले इस देश के किसानों और इसी खेती के क्षेत्र में जो साइंटिफिक कम्युनिटी है, उन्होंने मेहनत करके जो नए सीड्स, नई तकनीक, देश के किसानों के सामने रखी, उससे सम्भव हुआ है। इन्हें हम लोगों को धन्यवाद देना होगा। आज इस परिस्थिति में हम पहुंचे, इसमें किसानों की मेहनत है और इसलिए आज देश में ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा हुई। आपको आश्चर्य होगा कि हिन्दुस्तान आज दुनिया में व्हीट का प्रोडक्शन करने वाला नंबर दो देश है, हिन्दुस्तान आज दुनिया में राइस का उत्पादन करने वाला नंबर दो देश है, सब्जी के क्षेत्र में, फल-बागवानी के क्षेत्र में दुनिया में हिन्दुस्तान का नंबर दूसरा है। दूध के उत्पादन में दुनिया में हिन्दुस्तान का नंबर पहला है, केले के उत्पादन में दुनिया में हिन्दुस्तान का नंबर पहला है, आम के उत्पादन में दुनिया में पहला नंबर हिन्दुस्तान का है। कई क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं, जहां हिन्दुस्तान आज दुनिया में पहले, दूसरे, तीसरे नंबर पर आ पहुंचा है। एक तरफ देश में हम यह परिस्थिति देख रहे हैं और दूसरी तरफ किसानों की आत्महत्या की परिस्थिति है। इस देश में एक बहुत बड़ा विरोधाभास है। इसलिए हम लोगों को इसमें बड़ी गम्भीरता से जाना होगा। यह परिस्थिति क्यों है, कैसी है, मैं ज्यादा आंकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता हूं। आन्ध्र प्रदेश से इसकी शुरुआत हो गई। एक बात मुझे साफ करनी है कि मैं जो फिगर्स दे रहा हूं, वे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने दी हैं। एग्रीकल्चर स्टेट का सब्जैक्ट है और इसलिए स्टेट के ऊपर इसमें ज्यादा जिम्मेदारी होती है। भारत सरकार को राज्यों के माध्यम से जो इंफार्मेशन आती है, वही इंफार्मेशन मैं सदन के सामने रख रहा हूं। आन्ध्र में 2001-2002 में सुसाइड के 233 केसेज थे, 2002-2003 में 280 थे, 2003-2004 में 258 थे और 2004-2005 में up to 31st of December, 2004, the figure which has been communicated to me by the Government of Andhra Pradesh is 758.(Interruptions)... This is the figure which has been communicated to me. I must say that I got a letter from the Telugu Desam Parliamentary Party, which was signed by many hon. Members of this House, and also of Lok Sabha, and they have communicated to me the figure. It is 2,233, or something near to that. It is practically in 200 days. तो इसमें कोई अन्तर है, फिगर्स-फिगर्स में अन्तर हो सकता है। मैंने राज्य सरकारों के पास से भी इंफार्मेशन लेने का प्रयास किया। उन्होंने कहा कि इनमें से कुछ लोग बुनकर हैं, कुछ लोग लैंडलेस लेबरर्स हैं, विलेज में रहने वाली बात है, यह बात सच है और इसलिए सभी की, सभी किसानों की जो आत्महत्या है, जिस वजह से होती है, यह परिस्थिति इन सभी केसेज में नहीं है। मगर

हम इसके डिटेल्स में जाना चाहते हैं। जैसे आन्ध्र प्रदेश की स्थिति है, तो आन्ध्र प्रदेश में ऐसी परिस्थिति होने के बाद राज्य सरकार ने सख्ती से कुछ कदम उठाए, जो यहां बतलाया गया कि डा. राजशेखर रेड्डी साहब ने ओथ लेने के बाद पहले दिन अपने भाषण में कहा कि अब अपने राज्य में आत्महत्या की समस्या नहीं होगी। मैं डिटेल्स नहीं जानता हूं, मगर मैं यह जरूर जानता हूं कि राज्य चलाने की जिम्मेदारी लेने के बाद डा. रेड्डी साहब ने सख्ती से कई कदम उठाए हैं। और भी फायनेंसियल सपोर्ट दिया होगा। जो deceased हैं, उनके फैमिली मेंबर को पैसे दिए, उन किसानों के ऊपर सोसायटीज या बैंक्स की जो फायनेंसियल लायबिलिटी 50 हजार तक की थी, वह खत्म करने और फायनेंसियल सपोर्ट करने का decision उन्होंने लिया। इस बारे में भी उन्होंने अमल किया। साथ-ही-साथ कई immediate steps like admission to the children in social welfare schools and hostels, allotment of houses under Indira Awas Yojana, economic support under the Government schemes, provision of safe employment to, at least, one member of each family, pension, etc. ऐसे कुछ शॉर्ट टर्म और लांग टर्म कदम उन्होंने उठाए। उन्होंने cloud seeding के बारे में भी कुछ कदम उठाए। जहां पानी कम है, ऐसे एरिया में jatropha और drought resistance character जिसमें है, ऐसे seeds किसानों को देकर उस एरिया में एक crop में परिवर्तन करने के लिए उन्होंने कोशिश की। ऐसे कुछ-न-कुछ कदम आंध्र प्रदेश की सरकार ने उठाए।

जहां तक कर्नाटक की बात है वहां की latest information मेरे पास है। वहां वर्ष 2003-04 में 25 दिसंबर, 2004 तक टोटल 708 suicide cases हुए। पिछले साल वहां सुसाइड के 165 केसेज हुए थे। वहां की सरकार ने भी कुछ सख्ती से कदम उठाए। इन में इंटरैस्ट की बात थी जिसके लिए 40 करोड़ रुपए की राशि सरकार ने खर्च की। साथ-ही-साथ जहां किसानों ने well से पानी निकालने का प्रोग्राम लिया था और जब वे well fail हो गए तो उसकी 22 करोड़ तक की outstanding responsibility कर्नाटक की सरकार ने अपने ऊपर ले ली। इस तरह किसानों ने उस कर्ज से छुटकारा दिलाया। इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड को जो outstanding 331 करोड़ के आसपास थे, उसे पूरा माफ करने का decision वहां की सरकार ने लिया। साथ-ही-साथ मार्जिनल और स्मॉल फार्मर्स के लिए 50 प्रतिशत सब्सिडी पर सीड देने का कार्यक्रम वहां की सरकार ने अपने हाथ में लिया। इसके लिए 50 करोड़ से ज्यादा की रकम उन्होंने provide की। ऐसे कई कदम वहां की सरकार ने भी लिए।

जहां तक महाराष्ट्र की बात है, इस बारे में यहां बात की गयी। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने जो इनफॉर्मेशन दी है, उसके मुताबिक इस साल 512 केसेज सुसाइड के हुए। उन परिवारों को exgratia

payment देने का काम किया। इसके अलावा जिन लोगों पर कोऑपरेटिव सोसायटीज का कर्ज था, उनको सुविधा देने, इंटेरेस्ट माफ करने, इंस्टालमेंट देने और मृतक के परिवार के एक सदस्य को गवर्नमेंट सर्विस में नौकरी देने की कोशिश - ऐसे कई कदम महाराष्ट्र सरकार के द्वारा उठाए गए।

ऐसे काम केरल की सरकार ने भी किए। जहां 122 के आसपास ऐसे केसेज हुए, वहां की सरकार ने उन परिवारों की मदद की। साथ-ही-साथ नेशनल कैलामिटी कंटेंजेंसी फंड से पैसा लेकर जिन डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ वहां की परिस्थिति को सुधारने और वहां के किसानों को मदद देने के लिए केरल की सरकार ने कई कदम वहां भी उठाए।

महोदय, इससे एक बात साफ होती है कि वहां की सरकारों ने कुछ-न-कुछ करने की कोशिश की है। मगर जो समस्या कई साथियों ने feel की और खास तौर पर जय राम रमेश जी ने कुछ बातें की, ये बातें कई दिनों से मेरे मन में भी आ रही थीं। खास तौर पर आंध्र प्रदेश की स्थिति की स्टडी अधिक गंभीरता से करने की आवश्यकता है, ऐसा मुझे लगा था। महोदय, भारत सरकार की एक इंस्टीट्यूट हैदराबाद में है जिसका नाम "मैनेज" है। इस इंस्टीट्यूट को farmers suicide in Andhra को देखने की जिम्मेदारी हमने दी है। यह ड्राफ्ट रिपोर्ट है। इसकी फाइनल रिपोर्ट एक हफ्ते बाद मुझे मिलने वाली है। उनको हमने कुछ ऑब्जेक्टिव्स दिए थे? इसमें ऑब्जेक्टिव्स क्या थे? The overall objective of the study is to analyse and understand the exact causes of suicidal deaths of the farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh. स्पेसिफिक ऑब्जेक्टिव्स जो हमने उनको दिए थे to analyse the socio-economic profile of the farmers who committed suicide; to assess the nature and the extent of investment made by such farmers on farm development with special reference to irrigation infrastructure and the nature and extent of losses, if any, incurred by them; to analyse the farm business activities undertaken by the victim farmers and the nature and extent of losses in the past; to analyse the extent of borrowing by sources, the costs incurred in getting credit repayments and the overdues outstanding if any, at the time of committing suicide; to evaluate both the inputs and product markets failure framework including behaviours if any; to investigate critically the exact nature and extent of compelling circumstances that forced them towards committing suicides. Like that हमने उनको 10-12 इश्यूज दिए थे। जो कोई सर्वे उन्होंने किया और इसमें जो मेथोडोलॉजी ली गई थी, उन्होंने तीन एरियाज़ लिए थे। कोस्टल एरिया प्रकाशम डिस्ट्रिक्ट वहां पर 14th of May, 2004 to 17th of October, 2004, इस पीरियड में इस डिस्ट्रिक्ट में जो केसेज हुए, उनका अनैलिसिस किया था। डिस्ट्रिक्ट का नाम प्रकाशम है। वहां 76 केसेज तब हुए थे, इससे ज्यादा बाद में हुए, मगर मैं उस पीरियड की बात कर रहा हूँ Rayalaseema 46 cases, Telangana, Medak District 41 cases, 110 families

का डिटेल सर्वे यहां किया गया। मेजर फाईंडिंग्स क्या रहे? इसमें एक है कि मेजर फाईंडिंग्स में majority of the sample victims was the male folk; more than 50 per cent of the sample belonged to forward communities, 28 per cent belonged to backward communities, 15.5 per cent belonged to Scheduled Castes and 5.5 per cent belonged to Scheduled Tribes. This seems to be the outcome. More than 60 per cent of the victims was in the active age group of 32—50 years. About 57 per cent victims were illiterates. I would like to tell Shri Jairam Ramesh that this is also one of the important issues that 57 per cent victims were illiterates. The average family size of the victims was four members, comprising one male 1-2 females and 1-2 children. The average family size was 4.2 in Rayalaseema, 4 in coastal and 3.44 members in Telangana. All 110 victims had agriculture as their main occupation. In addition, 64 per cent were also agriculture labourers, 24 per cent were not only agriculture labourers but also looking after dairying. This is important. About 78 per cent of the sample victims were small and marginal farmers. Majority of the victims was owner cultivators in Medak and Anantapur districts, while owner-cum-tenants were in Prakasam district.

Seventy nine per cent of the victims possessed rainfed land. They were not the farmers who got assured water. Those who were cultivating rainfed agriculture, their percentage was 79 per cent. This is one of the reasons. We have to go into details. The conclusion seems to be 79 per cent. जहां जिस परिवार के किसानों ने आत्महत्या की, वहां पानी की समस्या है। इनके खेती को एश्योर पानी नहीं है।

उनकी खेती को एश्योर्ड पानी नहीं है और इसीलिए बार-बार सूखा पड़ने के बाद जो नुकसान होता है, उसकी जबर्दस्त कीमत उस परिवार को देनी पड़ती है। और इसलिए इतना बड़ा परसेंटेज आज इस रास्ते पर जा रहा है, यह बात साफ हो रही है। only 10 per cent on irrigated land. Both rain-fed and irrigated lands were possessed by 11 per cent of the farmers' households. इसमें एक और बात है, We tried to collect the details. यह कोस्टल डिस्ट्रिक्ट में उनके पास जो जमीन थी, एवरेज इसकी कीमत थी 1,33,942/- रुपए, जमीन में बोरवेल जो उन्होंने की थी, उस बोरवेल का खर्चा था 12,692/- रुपए, उनका खुद का मकान था, उसकी कीमत थी 26,000/- रुपए और जो खेती में जानवर थे, उसकी कीमत थी 8000/- रुपए। वहीं आप रायलसीमा में जाइए, जो जिस जमीन की कीमत थी एक लाख तैतीस हजार रुपए, उसकी यहां जमीन की कीमत थी 2,31,000/- रुपए, बोरवेल का खर्चा रायलसीमा में 29,070/- रुपए। इससे एक बात साबित होती है कि आवश्यक वाटर-लेवल वहां ज्यादा डीप हो गई है।

तेलंगाना में तो बोरवेल का एक्सपेंडीचर था, 17,195/- रुपए। and the number of borewells was much more in Telengana, और जिस परिवार में आत्महत्या हुई, ऐसे परिवार में बोरवेल होने का प्रमाण, खासतौर पर तेलंगाना में है। यह भी एक इंपोटेंट रीजन इसमें दिखाई दे रहा है। इसमें एक बात यह भी साबित होती है कि Water seems to be the most important issue. इस पानी के लिए उन्होंने कहां से पैसा लिया? यह प्राइवेट लैंडर्स से पैसा लेकर बड़े पैमाने पर बोर से पानी लेने के लिए उन्होंने कोशिश की है और इसमें सफलता नहीं मिली, तो ऐसे परिवार में हमें आत्महत्या के केस यहां दिखाई दे रहे हैं।

चेयरमैन साहब, इसमें एक बड़ा फैक्ट यह सामने आ रहा है कि आंध्र प्रदेश के बारे में, खासतौर से तेलंगाना के बारे में, रायलसीमा के बारे में ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता दिखाई दे रही है। वहां हमेशा जो मेजर क्रॉप्स लेते हैं, The area under all major crops has declined by 5 per cent. The average yield of the major crops decreased drastically, and this is very surprising. सीरीअल के उत्पादन में 65 परसेंट ड्राप है, कॉमर्शियल क्रॉप में 77 परसेंट ड्रॉप है, हार्टिकल्चर क्रॉप में 48 परसेंट ड्राप है, यानी ओवरऑल सिचुएशन को देखें तो एक गंभीर स्थिति दिखाई दे रही है। इसमें एक तो पानी की समस्या है, दूसरे प्रति हैक्टेयर यील्ड दिन-व-दिन वहां ड्रॉप हो रही है। इसकी डिटेल् में जाने की आवश्यकता है कि ऐसी परिस्थिति क्यों हो गई है? तीसरी एक बात और सामने आ रही है कि जो किसान के परिवार की दस साल की जो टोटल इन्कम है और जो टोटल एक्सपेंडीचर है, इसमें सरप्लस अगर देखें, तो जहां सरप्लस नहीं, वहीं कोई डेफिसिट है। तो जिन परिवार में आत्महत्या हुई, इसमें कोस्टल एरिया के जितने परिवार हैं, उनका टोटल एक्सपेंडीचर और टोटल इन्कम, इसमें 36,897/- का डिफरेंस है। that means, there is a deficit of Rs. 36,897/- per year. Secondly, in Rayalaseema, that deficit is something about Rs. 34,000. In Telangana, that deficit is something about Rs. 7000. So, the average is Rs. 26,364. यह जो डिफरेंस है इनकम और एक्सपेंडीचर का, यह डिफरेंस किसी कॉमर्शियल बैंक ने उनको दिया नहीं। किसी कोऑपरेटिव बैंक ने दिया है। For each and every paisa he has borrowed from the money lender, the rate of interest is between 24 to 36 per cent. This seems to be one of the major and important reasons and this is a very revealing fact. सर, ओवरऑल सारी सिचुएशन देखने के बाद यह बात साफ हो रही है कि प्रति हैक्टेयर यील्ड कम हो रही है। then, one of the reasons for the lowering of the per hectare yield might be that, किसानों में सीड बदलने का जो परसैंटेज है, किसानों को नया सीड हमेशा बदलना चाहिए, इस तरह की मानसिकता पूरे देश में नहीं है। पंजाब में है, हरियाणा में है, आंध्र में वह कम है और भी कई राज्यों में कम है और वहीं सीड बदलने का रेट 16-18 परसेंट के आसपास है, जबकि यही, सीड बदलने का, नया सीड लाकर बुआई करने का रेट पंजाब या

हरियाणा में 82-86 परसेंट है। तो बार-बार उसी सीड का इस्तेमाल करना, इससे भी उत्पादन पर इफेक्ट पड़ता है और वह आंध्र में हुआ है, यह बात साबित भी हो रही है। तो वहां किसान नया सीड क्यों नहीं ला रहे हैं, पैसे की कमी है। The spending capacity seems to be the main problem. That is why he is not in a position to buy.

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: The Seed Development Corporation has closed down in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Might be. But it is true that he is not capable of purchasing quality seed. The capacity is not there. Maybe, availability also.

एक समस्या यह यहां दिखाई देती है कि अच्छा सीड खरीदने की उनकी ताकत नहीं है, और जमीन के लिए जिस फर्टिलाइज़र की आवश्यकता है, उसे खरीदने की उनकी ताकत नहीं है, इसका ओवरऑल परिणाम प्रति हैक्टेयर यील्ड पर बुरा हो रहा है और साथ ही साथ कर्ज का बोझ बढ़ रहा है और इन सबके परिणामस्वरूप आखिर में पैदा हुई एक निराशा शायद उसे अलग रास्ते पर जाने को मजबूर कर देती है, यही इससे साबित हो रहा है। अगर यह स्थिति है तो हमें सभी क्षेत्रों में बहुत कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है। In fact, it is a very good suggestion that Shri Jairam Ramesh has made. Let those Members who are interested in this subject, irrespective of their party affiliations, sit together. I will supply all the information and I will also participate, because this is a very serious stigma on all of us, especially for those who are responsible for the food security of this country, with such a huge population. If you are not in a position to protect their interests and if, ultimately, they take to the path of suicide. It is shameful for all of us. That is why I am really happy that in today's discussion nobody has brought any political angle to the discussion. Everybody was quite serious and everybody was eager to go to the roots of this problem. इसलिए हमें बहुत कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है। हमारे माननीय साथियों ने यहां सब बातें कहीं। एक बात, जो श्री वैकेया नायडु जी ने कही थी कि इस देश में इन सभी समस्याओं के बारे में देखने की जो स्थिति है, वह बड़ी गंभीर है। उन्होंने एक उदाहरण भी दिया कि किसी एक सोशलिस्ट की आत्महत्या हो गई, तो टेलीविजन ने कितनी पब्लिसिटी दी थी, मीडिया ने भी कितनी पब्लिसिटी दी थी और जब ऐसी कोई परिस्थिति पैदा होती है, तो एक-दो कोई छोटी न्यूज़ इधर-उधर से आती हैं, लेकिन कोई सीरियसली इसके बारे में नहीं सोचता। इस सदन में हो या देश में हो, हम कई बार छोटी-छोटी चीजों के बारे में बड़ा सीरियसली डिस्क्शन करते हैं और वह करनी भी चाहिए, मगर जिस देश में 70 परसेंट से ज्यादा पापुलेशन एग्रीकल्चर पर निर्भर करती हो, उस एग्रीकल्चर की भलाई के लिए हम टोटल प्रोविजन कितना करते हैं, यह भी देखने की

बात है। किसी की भी सरकार हो, मैं इसमें पॉलिटिक्स नहीं लाना चाहता हूँ, मैंने देखने की कोशिश की तो 1999-2000 में टोटल प्लान साइड में 1.87 परसेंट प्रोविजन एग्रीकल्चर के लिए किया गया था। 2000-01, 1.66 प्रतिशत, 2001-02, 1.51 प्रतिशत, 2002-03, 1.50 प्रतिशत, 2003-04, 1.47 प्रतिशत एवं 2004-05 1.62 प्रतिशत और इस वर्ष 2,207 से 4,180 करोड़ अर्थात्, 40 प्रतिशत अतिरिक्त प्रोविजन इस बार इसमें हुआ है। लेकिन मुझे यह भी पर्याप्त नहीं लगता है। हम सभी लोगों को गंभीरता से इस स्थिति को देखने की आवश्यकता है। इसका उदाहरण माननीय श्री गिल साहब ने यहां दिया था, यह बात सत्य है कि टेलीकम्यूनिकेशन के लिए 18 यौ 20 हजार करोड़ रुपए की राशि का प्रावधान किया जाता है, किन्तु खेती के लिए हम केवल 2,600 करोड़ रुपया ही रखते हैं। हैल्थ, फर्टिलाइजर, रूरल डेवलपमेंट या एलीमेंटरी एजुकेशन के लिए हम अधिक रुपयों का प्रावधान करते हैं, इसमें कुछ गलत नहीं है, इसकी आवश्यकता भी है, लेकिन दूसरी बात यह है कि इन सभी आत्महत्या की घटनाओं को देखने के बाद, हमारे सामने एक बात जो सामने आई that is, water seems to be one of the important issues. What is the overall situation of the irrigation projects through the country? Unfortunately, the situation is pathetic. I was trying to find out what exactly the amount of money that has been provided by the Government of India, in the last five years, for irrigation projects. In 1999-2000, the total provision for the irrigation projects was 0.36% of the entire plan, which is not even one per cent, it is 0.36 per cent और पूरे देश के लिए 370 करोड़ रुपए का प्रावधान किया गया। पिछले वर्ष में 0.40 प्रतिशत का प्रावधान था, 2001-02 में 0.38 प्रतिशत था, 2002-03 में 0.38 प्रतिशत था, 2003-04 में 0.37 प्रतिशत प्रावधान था। कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि आधा प्रतिशत प्रावधान भी इरीगेशन के लिए हमने कभी नहीं किया, किन्तु अब इस परिस्थिति में, इस बजट में, थोड़ा सुधार हुआ है, पिछले वर्ष 1000 करोड़ रुपये...

श्री छनारायण पाणि: महोदय, 2004-05 में।

श्री सभापति: आप सुनिए तो सही।

श्री शरद पवार: जी हां, मैं बता रहा हूँ। वह पहले था, किन्तु इस वर्ष 1000 करोड़ रुपये की जगह 4000 करोड़ रुपये का प्रावधान किया गया है। इस 4000 करोड़ से भी मैं संतुष्ट नहीं हूँ। That is also not sufficient for a country like us and to be frank, प्रत्येक सदस्य, सभी राज्यों की राजनीति में और वहां की परिस्थिति में बहुत दिलचस्पी लेने वाले हैं और उन सभी को यह मालूम है। मैं सिर्फ आपसे ही पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आप जिस किसी भी राज्य से आते हैं, उस राज्य का एक वर्ष का जो बजट होता है, उस बजट में एग्रीकल्चर, इरीगेशन और

इससे सम्बन्धित अन्य विषयों के लिए हम कुल कितना प्रावधान करते हैं। यह बात हमें माननी पड़ेगी कि दुर्भाग्यवश कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए जितना अधिक प्रावधान करने की आवश्यकता है, उतना प्रावधान आज तक किसी भी राज्य में नहीं हो रहा है और इसका सीधा असर किसानों की जीवन शैली पर पड़ रहा है, इसका असर कुल उत्पादन पर हो रहा है। इसका असर ओवर ऑल इनडेस्ट्रीज जो बढ़ रहा है, उस पर भी पड़ रहा है। इसलिए हम सभी साथियों को इस विषय पर बहुत गंभीरता से ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। नई सरकार के आने के पश्चात् कृषि क्षेत्र को प्राथमिकता देने की तैयारी हमने मुख्य रूप से की है। किस प्रकार से इसमें हम मदद कर सकते हैं, इस पर बहुत ही व्यापक चर्चा हुई। मिनिमम कॉमन प्रोग्राम के संबंध में सभी साथियों के साथ जो चर्चा हुई, उसमें भी यह सुझाव आया कि कृषि क्षेत्र के बारे में आपको और अधिक कुछ करने की आवश्यकता है और पूर्ण कृषि क्षेत्र में हमें यदि कुछ फेर-बदल करना हो, तो उसमें क्या-क्या किया जा सकता है, जब इस पर बहस हुई तो सबसे पहले क्रेडिट के संबंध में विस्तृत चर्चा हुई और उस चर्चा के उपरांत, इसमें कुछ करने की संभावना बताई गई है। मैं बार-बार इसके बारे में फिगरस नहीं देना चाहता हूँ, लेकिन इस साल सदन के सामने फिगरस आ गई हैं। Previous year, the total money which was disbursed was Rs. 86,000 crores. And, last year, we have succeeded to reach Rs. 1,04,000 crores. This was, practically a 30 per cent. hike and that was one of the major steps which was taken by this Government. But, still, there is a tremendous scope और एक लाख चार हजार करोड़ का क्रेडिट देने के बाद भी हमें यह साफ दिखाई दे रहा है कि अबाऊट 56 परसेंट फार्मर्स क्रेडिट लिमिट में नहीं आ रहे हैं, इतने बड़े पैमाने पर पैसे की सुविधा देने के बावजूद 56 परसेंट किसानों को हम क्रेडिट लिमिट के आसपास नहीं ला पा रहे हैं, यह बहुत बड़ी चुनौती हमारे सामने है। कमर्शियल बैंकों ने इसमें जवाबदारी ली है, लेकिन रिजर्व बैंक ने कमर्शियल बैंकों को डायरेक्शन्स दी हैं कि उनको 18 परसेंट डिसबर्समेंट एग्रीकल्चर के लिए करना ही चाहिए। अगर वे ऐसा नहीं करेंगे, तो उनका अमाउंट नाबार्ड को रूरल डेवलपमेंट के लिए ट्रांसफर कर दिया जायेगा; बहुत से कामर्शियल बैंकों की यह नीति है कि वह नाबार्ड को पैसा ट्रांसफर करने में खुश हैं। अब ऐसा समय आ गया है कि जो गाइड-लाइन्स किसानों को पैसा देने के लिए सरकार ने तय की हैं, अगर इस पर किसी बैंक में अमल नहीं होता है, तो इसकी जिम्मेदारी उसके महानिदेशक के ऊपर डाल दी जायेगी और इसको सख्ती से लागू करना होगा।

जहां तक कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट का सवाल है, एक जमाने में कोआपरेटिव मूवमेंट सक्षम था। आज सहकारी संस्थाओं की परिस्थिति बड़ी दुबली हो गई है। भारत सरकार ने मिनीमम कॉमन प्रोग्राम में भी कोआपरेटिव सैक्टर को रिवाइव करने की बात कही थी, इसीलिए वैद्यनाथन की अध्यक्षता में एक ग्रुप आपाइंट किया था और उसकी रिपोर्ट आ गई है और उस रिपोर्ट पर अमल करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है।(व्यवधान).... Vaidyanathan

Committee for credit and Swaminathan Committee for agriculture. There are two committees. We just want to find out how to strengthen the cooperative network. (Interruptions) It has just been submitted, some 3-4 weeks back. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: Can you circulate it among the Members?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I have to check it up. I have no objection to circulate it amongst hon. Members. उन्होंने कुछ एक डिटेल्ड प्रोग्राम दिये हैं। हम किस तरह से कोऑपरेटिव सैक्टर को रिवाइव कर सकते हैं, इसके बारे में डिटेल्ड प्रोग्राम दिये हैं। इसके लिए कुछ कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है और उसके लिए तैयारी कर ली है। मगर एक बात है जिसके बारे में एक सदस्य ने यहां भी कहा, इसके लिए ओवरआल रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट क्या रखें? मैं भी जब राज्यों में जाता हूँ, मुझे भी किसानों से मिलने का मौका मिलता है, तो वे मुझ से भी पूछते हैं कि साहब किसी को मुम्बई शहर में प्लैट लेना हो तो, उनको 8 परसेंट रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट पर लोन एवेलेबल है, मारुति कार खरीदनी हो, तो 8 परसेंट रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट पर लोन एवेलेबल है, हम लोगों ने क्या गलती की है कि हमें 12 परसेंट, 13 परसेंट रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट पर लोन मिलता है। श्री पी. चिदम्बरम साहब, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर से मैंने इसके बारे में खुद बात की और सभी बैंकों की इस बारे में बैठक भी बुलाई थी। We have gone in details. The previous Government has taken one decision to reduce the rate of interest to 8-9 per cent. इसका पूरा एक्सिक्यूशन नहीं हुआ था, लेकिन इस साल से इसका पूरा एक्सिक्यूशन होगा। इसके साथ ही साथ नेक्स्ट ईयर के लिए उन्होंने हमको कमिटमेंट दी है कि नेक्स्ट ईयर में हम रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट 8 परसेंट के आसपास लेकर आयेंगे। मुझे एक बात और बतानी है। कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों ने अभी तक सहयोग देने की तैयारी नहीं दिखाई है। उनकी दूसरी समस्या है, कोऑपरेटिव बैंकों ने जो डिपॉजिट लिये हैं, वे 12 परसेंट रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट पर लिये हैं और ये डिपॉजिट जब तक मेच्योर नहीं होते हैं तब तक उनको यह 12 परसेंट देने की जिम्मेदारी डिपॉजिटर्स को है और इसीलिए वहां पर समस्या है। मगर कोऑपरेटिव बैंक्स ने तीन साल में रेट आफ इंटरेस्ट को 9 परसेंट के आसपास लाने की तैयारी करने के बारे में लिखकर दिया है।

डिपॉजिट मैच्योर होने के बाद यह परिस्थिति खत्म हो जाएगी। एक साल बीत चुका है। In the next two years. I am confident that the cooperative banks and credit cooperative societies will also provide this agricultural credit somewhat near 8.5 per cent to 9 per cent. क्रेडिट एक बड़ा इम्पोर्टेंट इश्यू है। इरीगेशन के बारे में मैंने कहा, वह बड़ा इम्पोर्टेंट इश्यू है लेकिन जिस तरह से इरीगेशन के लिए ज्यादा प्रावधान करने की आवश्यकता है, ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है, इसी तरह से पानी भी बड़ी समस्या है। किस तरह से पानी का इस्तेमाल हम ठीक तरह से कर सकते हैं, इस पर ध्यान देने के लिए चन्द्रबाबू नायडु की

अध्यक्षता में एक ग्रुप इससे पहले भारत सरकार ने गठित किया था, जिसकी रिपोर्ट आ गयी है। इस रिपोर्ट में ड्रिप इरीगेशन, स्प्रींकल इरीगेशन और माइक्रो इरीगेशन का पूरा इस्तेमाल करके लिमिटेड पानी का ज्यादा से ज्यादा क्षेत्र में इस्तेमाल करने का रास्ता उन्होंने दिखाया है। इनमें से माइक्रो इरीगेशन एवं ड्रिप इरीगेशन का जो सर्वेक्षण चन्द्रबाबू नायडु की कमेटी ने किया, इसको भारत सरकार ने स्वीकार किया है और मुझे खुशी है कि जो बजट देश के सामने प्रेजेंट हुआ, उससे पहले 70 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट माइक्रो इरीगेशन और ड्रिप इरीगेशन के लिए था, इस साल इसके लिए 400 करोड़ का प्रोजेक्ट इसमें किया गया है और मैं सदन को विश्वास दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि अगर राज्य सरकारें इसका फायदा उठाकर अपने अपने राज्य में, खास तौर पर जहाँ पानी की कमी है, ऐसे जिलों में ड्रिप इरीगेशन का इस्तेमाल करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाएंगी तो आज 400 करोड़ का जो प्रोजेक्ट है, इसमें 300 प्रतिशत वृद्धि करने की तैयारी प्लानिंग कमीशन ने और फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने की है क्योंकि आज पानी देने के लिए इस टेक्नोलॉजी का इस्तेमाल हम जितना ज्यादा करेंगे, उतने ज्यादा क्षेत्र में हम इरीगेशन को ला सकते हैं। इसलिए इस सुझाव को टोटली एक्सेप्ट करके इसमें हमने आगे जाने की तैयारी की है।... (व्यवधान)... Droughtprone areas too दूसरा, रेनफैड ऐग्रीकल्चर में ड्राई लैंड फार्मिंग की बात जो जय राम रमेश जी ने यहां कही है, यह सच है कि 40 प्रतिशत के आस-पास जमीन इरैटिक मानसून पर डिपेंड करने वाली रहेगी और इसलिए हमें ड्राई लैंड फार्मिंग की जो टेक्नोलॉजी है, इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। इसीलिए बजट में भी इसके लिए ज्यादा धन का प्रावधान करने का काम किया गया है और इसे हम ज्यादा प्रायोरिटी देकर इस पर अधिक से अधिक कंसन्ट्रेट करने का काम जरूर करेंगे। इसके साथ-साथ इस देश की खेती की जो क्रॉप सिचुएशन है, इसमें भी कई सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है प्रोक्योरमेंट करने की भी आवश्यकता है। तारिक अनवर साहब और कई साथियों ने एम्प्लेसपी के बारे में कहा। एक बात मैं साफ करना चाहता हूँ और इस सदन के माध्यम से इस देश के किसानों को यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि सोइंग आपरेशन से पहले हर आइटम की कीमत क्या मिलेगी, इसका निर्णय भारत सरकार से पक्का हो जाएगा। अगला खरीफ सिजन शुरू होने वाला है अगले 15 दिन में खरीफ की कीमत उनको कितनी मिलेगी, इस बारे में सरकार की नीति देश के किसानों के सामने रहेगी। हम सोइंग के बाद कीमत का ईश्यू कभी नहीं रखेंगे, इससे पहले ही यह बात किसानों के सामने साफ-साफ करेंगे। इसके साथ ही प्रोक्योरमेंट की आवश्यकता ज्यादा है। हम 25 से ज्यादा कृषि उत्पादों के कीमत तय करते हैं लेकिन जब प्राइसिस नीचे जाती हैं तो उनको हम खरीदते नहीं हैं, इसे खरीदने की जिम्मेदारी स्टेट और भारत सरकार की कई क्षेत्रों में है। भारत सरकार खास तौर पर चावल, कोर्स ग्रेन और व्हीट, इसकी पूरी जिम्मेदारी लेती है। इसके अतिरिक्त यहां पर लाल मिर्च की बात कही गयी या प्याज की बात कही गयी या राजस्थान में ग्वार की बात यहां पर कही गयी, ऐसी जगहों पर राज्य सरकार और भारत सरकार पचास-पचास प्रतिशत नुकसान की जिम्मेदारी लेकर खरीदने के लिए उतरती हैं। जहां तक

आंध्र प्रदेश की बात है कि आंध्र सरकार का सुझाव पिछले साल लाल मिर्च के लिए आया था, उसमें पचास प्रतिशत नुकसान की जिम्मेदारी लेकर हमने आंध्र सरकार को पूरी तरह से सहयोग दिया।

और यही नीति इस देश की सभी सरकारों के लिए सही है। मगर, एक बात मुझे इस सदन के सामने कहनी है कि जो टोटल प्रोक्योरमेंट है, पूरे देश का जो प्रोक्योरमेंट आपने देखा है, तो गेहूं और चावल का-फूड सिक्योरिटी में जिनका बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है-आज देश में गेहूं और चावल का जो टोटल प्रोक्योरमेंट होता है, उसमें 96 परसेंट प्रोक्योरमेंट पंजाब, हरियाणा और वेस्टर्न यूपी से होता है। थोड़े बहुत राइस का प्रोक्योरमेंट आंध्र से होता है, थोड़े बहुत राइस का प्रोक्योरमेंट पिछले साल से बिहार से हुआ और कुछ दो-चार राज्यों से भी होता है। हम लोगों ने इस पर conscious डिसीजन लिया है। हम डीसेंट्रलाइज्ड तरीके से, विकेंद्रित रूप में प्रोक्योरमेंट करना चाहते हैं और मुझे खुशी है कि देश के सभी अन्य मंत्रियों की मीटिंग बुलाने के बाद, 18 राज्यों ने इस साल से प्रोक्योरमेंट करने की तैयारी की है। इस प्रोक्योरमेंट करने के लिए जो राशि लगेगी, उसकी सौ प्रतिशत राशि, भारत सरकार के माध्यम से इन राज्य सरकारों को दी जाएगी। इस समय परिस्थिति ऐसी है कि जब मैं पंजाब या हरियाणा में चावल प्रोक्योर करता हूँ और अगर एक क्विंटल चावल पंजाब या हरियाणा से झुझी तमिलनाडु भेजना हो, तो 150 रुपए ट्रांसपोर्ट कॉस्ट उसमें आती है। 150 रुपए केवल ट्रांसपोर्ट कॉस्ट आती है, इस प्रकार बहुत बड़ा प्रेशर entire रेक सिस्टम पर होता है। मुझे हर दिन पंजाब और हरियाणा से सदन इंडिया में तीस रेक भेजने पड़ते हैं। एक रेक में 40 कंपार्टमेंट होते हैं तो 40 X 30, इतने कंपार्टमेंट हर दिन नार्थ से साउथ भेजने पड़ते हैं, इतना बड़ा प्रेशर टोटल ट्रांसपोर्ट सिस्टम पर आता है, अर्थात् हर रेक पर 150 रुपए ज्यादा देने पड़ते हैं। इसलिए हम सोच रहे हैं कि 150 रुपए यहां से तमिलनाडु के लोगों को चावल देने पर खर्च करने के बजाय वहां के किसान को ही 100 रुपए ज्यादा दे दें। Let him encourage. उसको ज्यादा पैसे दे दें और ज्यादा उपज पैदा करने के लिए उसकी मदद करें। वहां प्रोक्योरमेंट का बंदोबस्त करने के बाद, शायद लोगों में भी अपने-अपने क्षेत्र का टेस्ट डेवलप होगा और अगर ऐसा अनाज उनको मिलेगा, तो इसका फायदा उस क्षेत्र को भी होगा और वहां के किसानों को भी ज्यादा पैसा मिलेगा। इस तरह से डीसेंट्रलाइज्ड मैनर में प्रोक्योरमेंट करने के लिए इस साल से हमने शुरूआत की और पंजाब, हरियाणा या वेस्टर्न यूपी में जो प्रोक्योरमेंट होता है, इस पर कोई असर नहीं होगा। वहां टोटल प्रोक्योरमेंट करके, उसके माल को दुनिया के बाजार में ले जाने के लिए हम उपयोग करेंगे।

शरद जोशी साहब ने यहां कहा कि हमने एक्सपोर्ट करने के लिए बैन लगाया है। मैं स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि अनाज के एक्सपोर्ट के लिए हमने बैन नहीं लगाया है। सिर्फ फूड कारपोरेशन ऑफ इंडिया ने, जो बिलों पॉवर्टी लाइन के लोगों को हम अनाज देते हैं, सबसिडाइज्ड फूड देते हैं, उसी कीमत पर इससे पहले हम कुछ व्यापारियों को माल देते थे,

7.00 P.M.

वह एक्सपोर्ट करते थे-यह हमने बंद किया है। हम सबसिडी देंगे, मगर इस देश के गरीब लोगों को देंगे, बिलो पॉवर्टी लाइन के लोगों को देंगे, अंत्योदय में आने वाले लोगों को देंगे, मगर जो एक्सपोर्ट का बिजनेस करने वाले लोग हैं, उनको हम सबसिडी नहीं देंगे। उनको एक्सपोर्ट करने की इजाजत है, मगर ओपन मार्केट में किसानों को पैसे देकर वे परचेज़ कर सकते हैं। वहां सरप्लस है और उस सरप्लस को वे एक्सपोर्ट कर सकते हैं। एक्सपोर्ट के लिए बैंक बिलकुल नहीं किया गया है।

मगर, दूसरी एक बात है कि ओवरऑल परिस्थिति बदली हो...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: प्रोक्वोरमेंट के बारे में आपने व्यवस्था का जिक्र किया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद, लेकिन प्रॉब्लम यह आती है कि जिस समय फसल पकती है, उस समय प्रोक्वोरमेंट शुरू नहीं होता है और उस समय किसानों को बैंक लोन्स के कारण और मनी लैंडर्स के कारण डिस्ट्रेस सेल में जाना पड़ता है। आज गवर्नमेंट ने व्यवस्था कर रखी है कि सब जगह वेयर हाउसिंग कारपोरेशन खुले हुए हैं। हर स्टेट के वेयर हाउसिंग कारपोरेशन ऐक्ट में यह प्रोविज़न है कि किसान अगर डिस्ट्रेस सेल करता हो, जो वह अपना अनाज वेयर हाउसिंग कारपोरेशन में जमा करा दे और जितना वह जमा कराए, उसका 70 परसेंट पैसा उसे मिलेगा और जब भी किसान चाहे, जब प्राइसेज़ ठीक हो जाएं, जो बाज़ार में जाकर वह बेच सकेगा, इसको भी ज़रा दिखवा लें।

श्री शरद पवार: महोदय, मैं आपका आभारी हूँ कि आपने बहुत कंस्ट्रिक्टिव सजेसन्स दिए हैं, जिन पर हम लोगों ने कुछ सोचा है। एक बात यह है कि यह सच है कि इस देश में बहुत जगहों पर भंडारों की उपलब्धता है, मगर उन भंडारों और गोदमों में बहुत से रेकनाइज़्ड और सर्टिफाइड नहीं हैं, उनको सर्टिफाइड करने की आवश्यकता है जो भी एक्स्क्वाइज़ेड ग्रंथ में गोदाम हैं, तो उनमें अपनी उपज रखने के बाद, मुझे 70 परसेंट पैसे देने की, उनकी ताकत होनी चाहिए, उनकी तैयारी होनी चाहिए और बाद में रिकार्ड के मुताबिक उसको ठीक करना चाहिए इसके लिए उन्हें गोड्डाउन्स सर्टिफाइड करने की आवश्यकता है और नेगाशिएबल इन्स्ट्रुमेंट्स ऐक्ट में परिवर्तन करके, किसानों को उनका प्रोडक्शन होने के बाद, स्पोज़ मार्किट नीचे आ गई है, तब बीच के समय के लिए, माल रखने का प्रबन्ध करना चाहिए। हम इस पर सदन के सामने, कानून में परिवर्तन करने, सुधार के लिए, एक नया प्रस्ताव ला रहे हैं मुझे विश्वास है...(व्यवधान)...

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: आपने अभी एक्सपोर्ट के बारे में कहा है, यदि आप इस पर थोड़ा और स्पष्टीकरण दें तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा कारण यह है कि जब हम मंत्रिमंडल में थे, उस समय...(व्यवधान)...

श्री शरद पवार: वह जो गलत किया था।

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: मैं तो कोई आलोचना भी नहीं कर रहा हूँ और कंट्राडिक्ट भी नहीं कर रहा हूँ, एक्सपोर्ट करते समय, आफिसर्स ने हमको बताया कि जो इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में प्राइज है, उस प्राइज से हमारा प्रक्योरमेंट प्राइज ज्यादा है, इसलिए एक्सपोर्ट करना है तो कोई एक्सपोर्ट नहीं होगा। यदि देश में रखना है तो गोदाम में रखने का चार्ज, जैसे, फूड कॉरपोरेशन में बहुत ज्यादा हो रहे हैं। क्या-क्या उपाय हो सकता है? आपने अच्छा किया, ठीक है, आपने कहा कि कोई पाबंदी नहीं रहेगी, मगर इसको इस रेट में कौन खरीदेगा, इसके बारे में भी कुछ सोचा है?

श्री शरद पवार: जो दो साल की एक्सपोर्ट करने की बात है, जहां सब्सिडी देकर एक्सपोर्ट किया है, यह तब की परिस्थिति थी। हम तब एक्सपोर्ट नहीं करते थे तो हमारा ज्यादा नुकसान होता था। इससे स्टोरेज चार्ज ज्यादा बढ़ता था, उससे इनका बर्दन ज्यादा बढ़ता था और माल भी ज्यादा खराब होता था।

श्री सभापति: डैमेज ज्यादा होता था।

श्री शरद पवार: डैमेज ज्यादा होता था, इसजिए तब एक्सपोर्ट करने की आवश्यकता थी इसलिए तब कुछ सुविधाएं दे दी थीं, आज वह परिस्थिति नहीं है। आज इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में भी सुधार हुआ जब सुधार हुआ है तब इससे ज्यादा सुविधाएं देने की आवश्यकता नहीं है और अपनी प्रायोरिटी, फूड सिक्योरिटी इंटरनल और फूड सिक्योरिटी कुछ ज्यादा है, इसलिए इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान दिया गया है। तो मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि साथ ही साथ आज पैडी और राइस का उत्पादन देश की रिक्वायरमेंट से ज्यादा है, लेकिन कल वह परिस्थिति नहीं रहेगी। जब मेजर सैक्शन की 30 परसेंट पॉपुलेशन अभी तक बिलो पावर्टी लाइन हैं, जब उनकी परसेंटेज बढ़ेगी, पावर बढ़ेगी, ये परिस्थितियां कल हो सकती हैं। तब शायद अनाज की कमी हो सकती हैं। इस पर हम अलग से सोचेंगे। मगर आज की परिस्थिति में थोड़ी बहुत डॉयवर्सन करने की आवश्यकता है, जब डॉयवर्सन करने की आवश्यकता है, तो कौन से क्षेत्र में डॉयवर्सन कर सकते हैं, इस बारे में बड़ी स्टडी हुई है।

श्री सभापति: आपने अपने क्षेत्र में कर रखा है, वही पूरे देश में कर दीजिए।

श्री शरद पवार: यह डॉयवर्सन हॉर्टिकल्चर के क्षेत्र में करने की आवश्यकता है। यह सोचकर मुझे खुशी है कि इस बजट में हॉर्टिकल्चर सैक्टर के लिए 640 करोड़ करने का प्रोविजन किया है और अगले पांच सालों में देश में 15 हजार करोड़ करने का प्रोविजन है, हम हॉर्टिकल्चर डेवलपमेंट में करने जा रहे हैं। भारत एक ऐसा देश है, जहां पर हर स्टेट में अलग-अलग तरह के फल यहां पैदा होते हैं। दुनिया के कई भागों में, पूरे यूरोप में विंटर सीजन में एक भी फ्रूट पैदा नहीं होता है। मगर हिन्दुस्तान में कोई भी सीजन लीजिए, किसी न किसी राज्य में कुछ न कुछ अवश्य पैदा होता

है। इसलिए ट्रोपिकल कंट्री में जो बागवानी का उत्पादन बढ़ाने की सुविधा है, इसका पूरे का लाभ होने की आवश्यकता है। जितना हम हार्टिकल्चर को बढ़ाएंगे इससे कई हाथों को रोजगार मिलेगा। इस पर हम प्रोसेस करेंगे जो इससे ज्यादा रूरल इंडस्ट्री भी बढ़ेगी और इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में भी हमें फायदा होगा। इस पर भी हमने ज्यादा ध्यान दिया है। ऐसे कुछ क्षेत्र हैं जिनमें कुछ ज्यादा ध्यान देकर जो पहले अभी तक हमारी नीति है इसमें सुधार करना चाहिए यह बात है कि आज की परिस्थिति में किसानों को क्रेडिट के क्षेत्र में मदद करेंगे, इरिगेशन के क्षेत्र में मदद करेंगे, इरिगेशन के क्षेत्र में वेटेज देना है, माइक्रो इरिगेशन के लिए वेटेज देना है और डाई फार्मिंग के लिए मदद करेंगे, हार्टिकल्चर के लिए मदद करेंगे, एग्रो प्रोसेस के लिए मदद करेंगे और इसके साथ-साथ और एक सख्त कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है, that is regarding amendment and improvement in the Agriculture Produce Market Act. आज की परिस्थिति में जो एपीएमसी का कानून है कि इस कानून की मदद से हिन्दुस्तान का किसान, अपने क्षेत्र की मंडी में ही अपनी उपज बेच सकता है। उनको दूसरी जगह पर माल बेचने का अधिकार नहीं है इसका परिणाम यह हुआ है कि कई जगह पर मार्किट ठीक तरह से, मंडी ठीक तरह से तैयार हुई है। एक जमाने में इससे मदद थी, फायदा था, वहां कोई लूट नहीं थी क्योंकि एपीएमसी एक्ट के माध्यम से इस ओर ध्यान था, लेकिन आज परिस्थिति बदल गई है। आज हम ज्यादा उत्पादन करने लगे हैं। आज जहां दो पैसे ज्यादा मिलेंगे, वहां किसानों को अपनी उपज बेचने का अधिकार होना चाहिए। इसके लिए हम एग्रीकल्चर प्रोड्यूस मार्किटिंग एक्ट में सुधार करना चाहते हैं। हमने पिछले नवंबर में देश के सभी मार्किटिंग मिनिस्टर्स की बंगलौर में मीटिंग बुलाकर इस पर एग्रीमेंट किया है। मुझे खुशी है कि सोलह राज्यों ने इस अप्रैल से पहले एपीएमसी एक्ट में परिवर्तन करने की तैयारी दिखाई है, उन्होंने कुछ कदम उठाए हैं। इससे दो-तीन फायदे हो जाएंगे। एक तो इस एपीएमसी से मार्किटिंग सैक्टर में प्राइवेट सैक्टर को इनवेस्ट करने की इजाजत मिलेगी। मंडी गांव में एपीएमसी की मंडी होगी, प्राइवेट सैक्टर की भी मंडी होगी, जहां किसान को ज्यादा पैसा मिलेगा, वहां वह अपना बूथ लेकर बेचेगा। वह मंडी चलेगी। इसमें जो आज तक कं रेस्ट्रिक्शन्स थे, हमने वे रेस्ट्रिक्शन इसमें से निकाले हैं।

इसके साथ-साथ हमने कांटेक्ट फार्मिंग की भी इजाजत दी है। कांटेक्ट फार्मिंग में जमीन का मालिक किसान ही रहेगा, मगर यदि किसी को एग्रो प्रोसेसिंग इंडस्ट्री निकालनी हो तो उसे एश्योर रॉ मैटीरियल देने की आवश्यकता है। इसका एग्रीमेंट वह किसानों के साथ करेगा अगर वह इसकी कीमत देने के लिए कमिट करेगा तो किसान भी अपना माल देने के लिए कमिट कर सकता है। यह सिस्टम आज के कानून में नहीं है, इसलिए एपीएमसी एक्ट के कानून में यह सुधार करके कांटेक्ट फार्मिंग के लिए एक प्रोत्साहन देने की नीति हम आज से इंट्रोड्यूस कर रहे हैं। इससे एग्रो इंडस्ट्री बेस देश के

हर रूरल एरिया में बढ़ेगा। इसमें खास तौर से पोस्ट हार्वेस्टिंग लॉसेस, जो हर साल पचास हजार करोड़ तक होते हैं। इससे भी कुछ हद तक बचने की एक संभावना पैदा हो सकती है।

तीसरी बात यह है कि हम इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में कैसे जा सकते हैं। एक जमाने में इंटरनेशनल मार्किट का हिंदुस्तान से कोई संबंध नहीं था। इसी साल, इस सदन में, आज के डिस्कशन में बार-बार कपास की बात आ गई। कपास की परिस्थिति क्यों ऐसी हो गई? पिछले साल कपास को 2100 रुपए कीमत मिली थी, इस साल 88 के आसपास कपास की कीमत है। आपने कहा 1700 रुपए, 1800 रुपए, यह बिल्कुल बराबर है। यह स्थिति आज हो गई है। इसका कारण एक ही है कि इस साल देश में तीस प्रतिशत ज्यादा कपास का उत्पादन हुआ है। जरूरत से ज्यादा उत्पादन होने के बाद कीमतें नीचे आती हैं। आज हमें इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में उतरना होगा। इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में उतरने के लिए हमने सी०सी०आई० को इंस्ट्रक्शन्स दे दिए हैं कि अगर नुकसान हुआ तो 200 करोड़ रुपए के नुकसान की भरपाई करने की तैयारी रखिए, लेकिन सी०सी०आई० इंटरनेशनल मार्किट में कामयाब नहीं हो रही है। हमने जांच की कि कामयाब क्यों नहीं हो रही है तो रिस्क यह है कि जिस भाव पर हम कपास बेचना चाहते हैं, उससे 40% कम भाव पर आज चाइना वहां कपास बेचने के लिए तैयार है। हमने इसकी भी डिटेल जांच की कि क्या परिस्थिति है, तो बड़ी सिम्पल बात है कि हमारा पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड 7 बिंक्टल है और चाइना का पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड 38 बिंक्टल है। इसमें 90 प्रतिशत अपना क्षेत्र, ट्रांसजेनिक क्रॉप पर लेने के लिए चाइना तैयार हुआ है। हमारा यहां झगड़ा चल रहा है कि बी०टी० कॉटन लगाओ या नहीं लगाओ, और करो आदि। आज मेरे पास प्रो० बादल का फोन आया था कि पंजाब में आपने हमें इजाजत नहीं दी, मगर हमने पूरा बी०टी० कॉटन कर लिया है पंजाब का किसान होशियार है, वह किसी गवर्नमेंट के ऑल्टरनेटिव से देखने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। उन्होंने मुझे फोन करके कहा कि हमने लाखों हेक्टेयर पर बी०टी० कॉटन कर लिया है, हमने कानून भंग किया है, अब पुलिस छोड़ो और हम लोगों को अरेस्ट करो। उन्हें मालूम है कि न तो हम अरेस्ट करना चाहते हैं और न ही कर सकते हैं, इसलिए आज जिससे पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड बढ़ सकती है और इस यील्ड की कीमत कम हो सकती है, ऐसी नई टेक्नोलॉजी को स्वीकार करने की आवश्यकता है। इस पर ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

निर्मला जी ने यहां जो ऑर्गेनिक फार्मिंग की बात कही, वह बात सच है कि ऑर्गेनिक फार्मिंग का फायदा है, लेकिन समस्या यह है कि आज हमारे सामने सिक्वोरिटी का सवाल है। हमें पर हेक्टेयर यील्ड बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है। हम सिर्फ ऑर्गेनिक फार्मिंग पर इस रास्ते से नहीं जा सकते हैं। हम उस रास्ते पर भी जाएंगे, लेकिन साथ-साथ यह भी करेंगे। इस दुनिया में, जिन्होंने पहले गेहूँ के क्षेत्र में परिवर्तन किया है, वे एक बड़े साइंटिस्ट हैं। उन्हें नोबल पुरस्कार मिला है, उनका

नाम है डॉ॰ नोरमेन बोलॉग। वे कई साल हिन्दुस्तान आते रहे, चार दिन पहले भी हिन्दुस्तान में थे, आज भी हिन्दुस्तान में हैं और कई जगहों पर घूम रहे हैं।

पिछले 30 सालों से हर स्टेट के रिसर्च सेंटर में वे खुद गए हैं, हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों के बारे में उनके मन में हमदर्दी है। उनकी स्पीच मैंने पढ़ी, उन्होंने यह कहा कि अभी भी यहां अगर per hectare yield बढ़ानी हो, तो कैमिकल फर्टिलाइजर का इस्तेमाल ज्यादा करना होगा, इसको जब तक हम इंप्रूव नहीं करते, तब तक हमारी यील्ड नहीं बढ़ेगी, नयी वैरायटी का इस्तेमाल हम जब तक नहीं करेंगे, तब तक हिन्दुस्तान कंपीट नहीं कर पाएगा। इसलिए इन दोनों सैक्टर्स में ज्यादा ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है। जिनको नोबल पुरस्कार मिला, ऐसे साइंटिस्ट का हमारी खेती के बारे में यह कहना है अगर फूड सिक्योरिटी की समस्या से निपटना हो और इंटरनेशनल मार्केट में जाकर यहां कंपीट करने की परिस्थिति तैयार करनी हो तो हमें प्रति हैक्टेयर यील्ड बढ़ानी होगी और उसके साथ-साथ कल्टीवेशन भी कम करना होगा। यह बात हम नज़रअंदाज़ नहीं कर सकते कि आज कंज्यूमर का ज़माना है, Ultimately, the consumer is going to dictate and he is going to decide. Suppose, the Indian sugar mill is going to produce sugar at Rs. 75 and if sugar is coming from Brazil at Rs. 18 — I am a sugarcane farmer — and if my brother stays in Mumbai, he will purchase Brazil sugar because it is cheaper. That is why if we have to protect the interest of the consumer, we have to see how we will be able to reduce the cost of cultivation and how ultimately, produce will be also competitive in the domestic and international market. अगर यह करना हो तो नयी टेक्नोलॉजी को स्वीकार करना होगा। ICAR के बारे में खास तौर से डा॰ गिल साहेब ने कहा, हमने उसके लिए 50 करोड़ रुपए का एक अलग फंड रखा है, इसलिए कि कोई नयी कल्पना किसी ने की, तो उसको ऐनकरेज किया जा सके। पिछले साल ICAR में रिसर्च के लिए हमने 700 करोड़ रुपए का प्रोविजन किया था, इस साल हमने 1,000 करोड़ रुपए का प्रोविजन किया है, इसमें सुधार करने की आवश्यकता है। इस देश में कई क्षेत्रों में जो सुधार हुए परिवर्तन हुए, उसमें ICAR का बड़ा योगदान है, इस देश के साइंटिस्टों का इसमें बड़ा योगदान है, इनके हितों की रक्षा करना और इनको सभी सुविधाएं देना हमारा फर्ज है।

इसके साथ-साथ एक बात हमारे सामने आ गई है। मेरे राज्य में आत्महत्या हुई, जैसा कि आपटे साहेब ने कहा था, विदर्भ रीजन में आत्महत्या हुई, लेकिन वैस्टर्न महाराष्ट्र में नहीं हुई, जब कि पिछले 3 सालों से वहां सूखा था, वहां एक भी आत्महत्या का केस नहीं हुआ। जब हमने डिटेल्ड स्टडी की तो पता लगा कि विदर्भ के लोग एक फसल लेते थे और वैस्टर्न महाराष्ट्र में 2 फसलें लेते थे, मगर वहां सूखा था, इसलिए एक भी फसल नहीं मिली, लेकिन हर किसान के घर में गाय थी या भैंस थी और इन लोगों को दूध की वजह से सप्लीमेंटरी इनकम थी जिस किसान के पास खेती

के साथ-साथ सप्लीमेंटरी इनकम है, वह कभी आत्महत्या के रास्ते पर नहीं जा सकता। इसलिए हमें किसानों का सप्लीमेंटरी इनकम देने की आवश्यकता है। हम उनको दूध की इनकम दे सकते हैं। अगर दूध की इनकम बढ़ानी हो तो इन पशुओं की जो ब्रीड है, इसको जेनेटिकली इंप्रूव करने की जरूरत है। इसके लिए एक बड़ा कार्यक्रम इस साल से हमने 7 राज्यों में शुरू किया है और बाकी राज्यों को भी हम इसमें शामिल करना चाहते हैं, जिससे किसानों को राहत मिल सकती है इस आत्महत्या की परिस्थिति से इन किसानों को बाहर निकालने के लिए हमें कई क्षेत्रों पर ध्यान देना होगा, राजनीति से ऊपर उठकर हमें इस पर ध्यान देना होगा। इसके साथ-साथ राज्यों में भी एग्रीकल्चर के बारे में ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: There is the issue of moneylenders. That is one of the issues. Of course, you have covered everything. ... (interruptions) ... This is also a social part. Who are these moneylenders? Some study must be made on how they are charging. After all, people are committing suicides; they must be in the same village. Some study can be made as to who are these moneylenders and how they are doing this business. Some social ostracisation can be done at the Panchayati level. Let us know whether the money lenders issue can be surveyed; whether we can socially stop it; who are at the back of it; who are behind this; whether they are the same people who are talking about starvation deaths and money lending also and whether such cases are also there.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: In fact, we are also trying to collect the information because when we read, especially, about the Andhra Pradesh issue, it was proved beyond doubt that the moneylender has also some role in it and the rate of interest between 24 per cent to 36 per cent is also one of the reasons why the gentlemen had gone, ultimately, to the path of suicide. इसलिए हमने इस पर ध्यान दिया है। जब श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी, प्रधानमंत्री थीं, तो उन्होंने मनीलेंडर्स को कंट्रोल करने के लिए कुछ कदम उठाए थे और उसमें कुछ सुधार भी किया था। और पिछले 5-7 सालों में इसमें कुछ सुधार भी किया था। इसे ठीक करने की आवश्यकता है। इसे हम थोड़ा-सा कम करें, मगर मनीलेंडर्स को कंट्रोल करने के लिए फाइनांस मिनिस्ट्री को विश्वास में लेकर हम कुछ कदम उठाएंगे, और इसमें क्या करना है, वह सदन के सामने बताएंगे मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि परिस्थिति एक साल में या दो साल में दुरुस्त होगी, ऐसा नहीं है, मगर हमारा रास्ता साफ है। इस रास्ते से जाने कि लिए हमने तैयारी रखी और एग्रीकल्चर सेक्टर नेगलेक्ट नहीं करने की नीति हम सब लोगों ने रखी तो मुझे विश्वास है कि आज जो समस्या हम सभी के सामने आयी है और एक समय हमें नीचे देखने की परिस्थिति पैदा हुई, इससे छुटकारा होगा और देश की

भूख की समस्या खत्म करने वाले लोगों को हम ठीक तरह से जीने की परिस्थिति पैदा कर सकते हैं, इस पर हम मिल कर ध्यान रखेंगे। इतना ही कह कर मैं आपको धन्यवाद करता हूँ।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am happy that the Agriculture Minister has comprehensively covered many of the points raised from different sides. He spoke about long-term plan also, but two issues still remain to be answered. One is the present situation. The international appraisals are there, but what you are going to do with regard to the cotton-procurement specifically. कॉटन प्रोक्योरमेंट के बारे में आप क्या करने वाले हैं? महाराष्ट्र में, कर्नाटक में, आंध्र प्रदेश में जो स्थिति है, वह बहुत दयनीय स्थिति है। इसलिए इसके बारे में आज इस सरकार की इस साल की नीति क्या है? दूसरी बात मैंने ओनियन किसानों के बारे में कही। आपको खुद मुझसे ज्यादा जानकारी है। आज ओनियन का दाम बहुत कम हो गया, 600 रूपए से 200 रूपए तक आ गया। इसके लिए क्या सरकार कुछ कदम उठा रही है? तीसरी बात जैसा मैंने महाराष्ट्र के बारे में कहा रेड मिरची The situation is horrible in Andhra Pradesh. इन तीनों कॉमोडिटीज के बारे में what is the plan of action of the Government for this year? Secondly, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that the figures given by Andhra Pradesh Government...

श्री सभापति: फिगर्स को जाने दीजिए।

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: नहीं, सर यह तो रेकार्ड पर आना चाहिए We will give date wise, name-wise, village-wise. ये डिटेल्स भी उत्रके पास होनी चाहिए, इसके बारे में जो स्टडी हो रहा है...

श्री सभापति: नहीं, इनके पास फिगर्स हैं।

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: उसके साथ ही साथ उसका भी स्टडी होना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: सारे फिगर्स इनके पास हैं।

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: सबके पास है, मगर सरकार के पास नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: नहीं, सरकार के पास फिगर्स हैं।

श्री एम् वेंकैया नायडु: सबके पास है, मगर सरकार के पास नहीं है।

श्री सभापति: सरकार के पास किताब है। यह किताब इनके पास है। एक मिनट, मैं आपसे यह

कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने सब बातें कही। किसान की जमीन कुर्क नहीं हो, चाहे बैंक का कर्ज हो, चाहे मनी लेंडर का कर्ज हो इस बात को कैसे रोका जाए, इसके बारे में भी आप विचार करें।

श्री शरद पवार: सर, आज के डिसकसन में इसके बारे में सुझाव आया था और फाइनांस मिनिस्ट्री और रिजर्व बैंक से बात करने की आवश्यकता है।

श्री सभापति: आप बात कीजिए।

श्री शरद पवार: Means of income, land, चूंकि इसके ऊपर कर्ज का बोझ है, इसके लिए बाकी दूसरी चीजें ले सकते हैं, मगर उसकी जमीन ही लेकर उसके हर दिन का उत्पादन करने का अधिकार ही खत्म कर देना और उसे बिल्कुल सड़क पर ले आना, इसे दुरुस्त करने की आवश्यकता है Definitely I will consult with my colleague, the Finance Minister, and take some action. As regards the two items, onion and chilli, I had received a proposal from Andhra Pradesh Government, and I have communicated to the Government. The Government of India is ready to bear the financial burden up to 50 per cent, and is ready to support the Market Intervention Scheme, for red chilli. We have not received any proposal from Rajasthan, Gujarat and Maharashtra about onion yet, but we are expecting proposals. We have made enough provision for that. And thirdly about cotton. जहां तक महाराष्ट्र की बात है, महाराष्ट्र में कॉटन प्रोक्वोरमेंट स्कीम के माध्यम से उन्हें मदद करने की कोशिश की जा रही है। जो बात यहां कही गई कि उन्हें एक हजार करोड़ रुपए देने की बात थी, यह बात सच है, मगर यह पैसा लास्ट वीक में रिलीज हो गया, इसका पेमेंट शुरू हो गया है। जहां तक आन्ध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश, कर्नाटक और पंजाब, चार राज्यों में कॉटन प्रोक्वोरमेंट के लिए सीसीआई को इंस्ट्रक्शन दिया गया है और राशि का प्रबन्ध भी किया गया है और वहां इसके सेंटर्स बढ़ाने की आवश्यकता है, यह बात उन्हें कही गई है।

श्री सभापति: आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। आपको स्टेटमेंट देना है।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of Implementation of Recommendations contained in the First Report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food,