

चका गया? क्या वास्तव में गेहूँ के मार्च पर कोई संकट है या फिर गेहूँ आयात का खेल ? घरेलू मंडियों में बड़ी मात्रा में गेहूँ खरीदने वाले निजी क्षेत्र ने अब शुल्कमुक्त आयात की इजाजत के लिए सत्ता के गालियारों में लार्बिंग शुरू कर दी है, जो चिन्ता की बात है। सरकार को उक्त मामले की गंभीरता को देखते हुए सुविचारित कृषि नीति पर विचार करना चाहिए। मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से अनुरोध है कि कृपया वह स्थिति स्पष्ट करने की कृपा करे।

Need for National Consensus on the Issue of Reservation

SHRI M.P. ABDUSSAMAD SAMADANI (Kerala): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the august House to the need for bringing a national consensus on the reservation issue, instead of making it a controversy. Basically, the Constitution of the nation has underlined the scope for reservation considering the social and historical background of the minorities and the Backward Classes of our society. In some of the States, it is being implemented on various levels and with different criteria. In such States, it has produced good results by way of social and educational progress in respect of such sections of our people to whom reservation is meant. Various Commissions of Inquiry have brought forward the pathetic condition of the socially sidelined sections of our society. In the educational institutions as well as in the Government service, their representation is very poor. It is our duty to do our maximum effort to lead them from utter backwardness to the national mainstream of social and political lives. The differences of opinion in this regard have to be solved on the basis of a discussion culminating in a consensus, and we should be able to view the entire issue with a national and humanistic perspective. Our Executive and the Judiciary have a mutually complementing role to play in this venture. I request the Government and the political parties to endeavour to march towards this goal.

Need to Formulate Action Plan to Help Senior Citizens

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR (Orissa): Sir, as per the Census 2001, there were 7,66,22,321 senior citizens in our country. Their population is expected to grow, and by the year 2016, their population will be more than 10 per cent of the total population of our country.

Sir, with this fragmentation of land-holdings in the rural areas and disintegration of the family system, majority of our senior citizens are

unable to take care of themselves and do not have means to live a decent and happy life. They are being ignored by their kith and kin and near and dear ones who have left them to fend for themselves and compelled them to lead a lonely and disappointed life. Though section 125 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, provides for maintenance allowance that the senior citizens can claim, but in actual practice, majority of them are not aware of these provisions.

Sir, nowadays, another alarming trend which is emerging is that lonely or coupled senior citizens are being murdered either for their property or for other reasons and are also being robbed of their valuables. They have become an easy target of criminals. It has become very necessary to provide them security and protection from every angle, both by the respective State Governments and the Central Government.

Sir, for this purpose, the Government should evolve the following action plan to help the senior citizens to lead an honourable existence: Establish senior citizen homes; Provide financial assistance to the needy persons; Provide free legal assistance in deserving cases; Provide free medical and other related facilities to the needy; and frame stringent measures to make their own wards to contribute for the welfare of their parents.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS—Contd.

**Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the
Sixth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Coal and Steel**

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा इस्पात मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान) : महोदय, मैं विभाग-संबंधित कोयला और इस्पात संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के छठे प्रतिवेदन में अंतर्विष्ट सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में वक्तव्य सभा पटल पर रखता हूँ।

**Status of Implementation of Recommendations
contained in the Twelfth Report of the
Department-related Parliamentary Standing
Committee on Urban Development
And**