

Concern Over the Plight of Farmers of Punjab

Dr. M.S. GILL (PUNJAB): Sir, I wish to make a Special Mention on the plight of Punjab farmers. Major newspapers, the *Tribune* and *Ajit*, on 11th August referred to more than 1136 suicides in just two blocks of Sangrur district. It is estimated that more than ten thousand farmers have committed suicides in the State. The problem is very grave....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री कलराज मिश्र): जो लिखा है, आप वही पढ़िये।

डा. एम. एस. गिल: सर, मैं वही पढ़ रहा हूँ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष: स्पेशल मेंशन में जो लिखा है, उसी को पढ़ना पड़ता है।... (व्यवधान)... आप पूरा लिखकर लाइये और उसी को पढ़िये।

DR. M.S. GILL: Sir, small holdings, reduced cooperative credit and heavy pressure from money-lenders are some of the causes. Will the Government order an immediate study and remedial action?

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Dr. M.S. Gill.

Concern Over Cruelty Against Animals by Municipal Authorities in the Country

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to mention about cruelty against animals by the Municipal authorities. I rise to commend the attention of this House to recent reports of cruelty against cattle and animals in cities by the Municipal authorities. The reports and pictures on treatment of animals in Delhi and the Keoladeo Sanctuary, as appeared in media, are outrageous for any civilized society, more particularly, for a society where *ahimsa* and compassion towards fellow creatures have been integral elements of cultural and philosophical ethos. Such incidents of cruelty violate not only against the human sensitivity, but also against the spirit of Article 48 and 48A of the Constitution that expect the State to organize animal husbandry and safeguard wildlife. Such incidents contradict Article 51-A that expects 'compassion for living creatures' as the fundamental duty of citizens. Considering that there is an urgent need to redress that grave problems created by the stray animals and cattle in cities, it is also imperative that appropriate steps are taken to discount any cruelty against the animal. One can wonder the gruesome