

किसानों को इस त्रासदी से बचाने के लिए किसानों को लंबी और आसान किरतों में ऋण उपलब्ध कराने के साथ बैंकों द्वारा किसानों से वसूली जा रही ब्याज-दर में कमी करके इसे न्यूनतम बनाए जाने पर सरकार को प्राथमिकता से विचार करना चाहिए तथा देश के किसानों के व्यापक हित में एक राष्ट्रीय स्तर के किसान कल्याण आयोग का भी मठम किया जाना चाहिए, जो कि निरंतर देश के किसानों के हितों और कल्याण की दिशा में कार्यरत रहे। राष्ट्रीय प्राकृतिक आपदा कोष के तहत राज्यों को दी जाने वाली राशि का उपयोग भी किसी बड़ी प्राकृतिक आपदा त्रासदी के नहीं होने की स्थिति में राज्य के जरूरतमंद किसानों को राहत देने के लिए किया जाये, ऐसी राष्ट्रीय नीति भी बनाये जाने पर सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए। धन्यवाद।

Concern over non-allocation of funds towards achieving 'Zero Manual Scavenging' status in the country

SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY (Karnataka): Sir, by inserting the word "socialist" in the preamble of the Constitution, the State stands committed to eliminate inequalities in income, status and standards of life. But it has done little to translate this solemn pledge into action. The sense of liberation that Dalits enjoy today has not been brought about by any Governmental edict or statute. Shri Rammohan Roy, Periyar Ramaswamy Naicker, Mahatma Phule and Dr. Ambedkar had set ablaze this process, which, cumulatively, has jolted the dalits out of bondage which they have been suffering for over generations.

Safai Karamcharis, in urban/suburban areas, are still subjected to most inhuman and atrocious treatment by both the State and the society by forcing them to carry human excreta. The Centre's directives to enforce this pledge to States in a time-bound manner are still to be implemented. Though a paltry sum of Rs.30 crores was allocated for the Centrally sponsored low Cost Sanitation Scheme for 2005-06, not a single project has been cleared so far.

I urge upon the Government to initiate action on its pledge to Dalits, especially to attain a 'Zero manual scavenging' status for the entire nation within a definite time-frame.

Request to release the people arrested while staging demonstration to improve passenger amenities; and increase frequency of trains in Mumbai Suburbs

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, there has been a long-standing demand to improve passenger amenities in Mumbai suburbs which includes a demand to increase the frequency of trains. According to the railway authorities, in a peak hour, there will be 17 passengers in a

space of one square metre. This shows the need to increase the frequency of trains. DYFI organised a Right to Travel Convention demanding increase in the frequency of trains. On the International Human Rights Day, on December 10, the youth and the students of Mumbai staged a *dharna*, and they were supported by more than 60 social organisations and political parties. Thousands gathered in support of the agitation. Passengers participated voluntarily in the agitation. People's anger grew out of proportion due to the apathy of the authorities. They sought permission to sit on *satyagraha*. Instead of permitting them, the Railway Police indiscriminately lathicharged the gathering. And they also booked the organisers of the mass demonstration under unwarranted sections of the Cr.P.C. and the Railway Act, and sent them to jail. I want to bring to the kind notice of the House that though not even a single train was damaged and there was no threat to the security of passengers, the Police officials booked the organisers under sections 151 and 152 of the Railway Act. These sections facilitate the authorities to imprison the accused for even ten years.

Hence, I request the Government to initiate suitable action to release the innocent people from the police custody and to take steps to ensure that the passengers' demands are met.

Request for financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh State Financial Corporation

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the Andhra Pradesh State Financial Corporation, along with 20 other SFCs, was set up by an Act of Parliament. But, now, only four -- Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Kerala and Delhi -- SFCs are working in a better position. The remaining 18 are either closed down or they are on the verge of closure. APSFC is one of the important lending institutions in A.P. and is taking money from other financial institutions/banks and disbursing loans after taking into account its expenditure and margin money. The Act prevents APSFC from accepting deposits, term deposits, or, operate Savings and Current Accounts. As a result, it is on the verge of closure. The other drawback for its backwardness is the Government of India's failure to pay its share of equity for the last twenty years. Now, APSFC is intending to become a commercial bank so that it can not only survive but can also extend loans to people more effectively. So, looking at the track-record of APSFC and the commitment it has towards the people of A.P., I request the Finance Minister for immediately giving a financial package, for