

Sir, on behalf of my fishermen brethren, I appeal to the Government of India to expeditiously review the National Marine Fishing Policy of 2004, so as to address the traditional fishermen's sensitivities and to incorporate measures for their welfare. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DATTA MEGHE): Shri K. Rama Mohana Rao. Absent. Shri R. Kamaraj.

Demand for setting up Navodaya schools in Tamil Nadu

SHRI R. KAMARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the need to modify the policy on Navodaya schools so that Tamil Nadu also gets its due share. There are 509 Navodaya schools in the country. These schools have over 1.58 lakh students on rolls. Navodaya schools are fully residential and co-educational covering classes VI to XII. About 32,000 students are admitted every year. It is proposed to cover 568 districts during the Tenth Plan. Education in the schools is free for all enrolled students including lodging, boarding, textbooks, uniforms, etc. More than Rs.500 crores are spent by the Government every year on these schools. The expenditure on these schools during the current year is expected to cross Rs.638 crores. But, unfortunately, no Navodaya school has been set up in Tamil Nadu so far. This is because Tamil Nadu Government has asked the Centre to set up Navodaya schools under two-language formula. But the Centre has refused this idea and wanted Tamil Nadu also to follow three-language formula with compulsory Hindi.

As Tamil Nadu has a rightful share in the Budget allocation for the Navodaya schools, I appeal to the Government to review the policy and open Navodaya schools in Tamil Nadu without Hindi as compulsory subject to undo the injustice being done to the students of Tamil Nadu. If this is not possible for any reason, Tamil Nadu should be given its share of fund from the allocation for Navodaya schools. Thank you, Sir.

Need to constitute farmers' Welfare Fund

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, today is the farmers' day, and I would like to raise the issue relating to farmers. Sir, my Special Mention is regarding a request for the constitution of Farmers

Welfare Fund. Farmers in many parts of the country have faced distress, and there has been no helping hand. Agriculture must receive the priority attention it deserves. The Indian farmer has also suffered from too many controls and restrictions.

Recently, the nation was shocked by the news pouring in almost on daily basis, reporting farmers affected by the drought conditions, committing suicides because they could not repay their loans and could not fulfil other obligations. Sir, droughts are occurring frequently in one part of the country or the other. It has become a perpetual phenomena in many parts of the country like Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Bihar and Orissa.

Sir, the crops are damaged by all the national calamities, and the helpless farmers who are unable to bear the pressure, may be forced to take the extreme step of committing suicide. In a Welfare State like ours, it is the duty of the State to protect the life and liberty of farmers. The farmers who grow food for the whole nation should be saved in time by providing adequate compensation.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to constitute a Farmers Welfare Fund at the national level. All public and private organizations and its staff should contribute for the Fund. The major industries and other voluntary organizations should be involved for this noble cause. I am also of the opinion that even income tax exemption can be given to those industries who contribute to this noble cause.

DR. FAGUNI RAM (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shrimati Vanga Geetha.

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shrimati Vanga Geetha.

SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with this Special mention.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दत्ता मेघे) : अगर सदन की अनुमति हो तो मैं तसलीमुद्दीन साहब को आज की कार्यवलि में शरद पवार जी के नाम लिखे वक्तव्य को सदन के पटल पर रखने की अनुमति दे दूँ।

श्री कलराज मिश्र : दे दी जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री दत्ता मेघे) : ठीक है, बोलिए।

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Third, Fourth and Sixth Reports of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution

कृषि मंत्रालय मे राज्य मंत्री तथा उपभोक्ता मामले, खाद्य और सार्वजनिक मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री तसलीमुद्दीन) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी अनुमति से विभाग संबंधित खाद्य, उपभोक्ता मामले और सार्वजनिक वितरण संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति (चौदहवीं लोक सभा) के तीसरे, चौथे और छठे प्रतिवेदनों में शामिल सिफारिशों के कार्यान्वयन की स्थिति के संबंध में वक्तव्य सदन के पटल पर रखता हूँ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI DATTA MEGHE): Now, I adjourn the House till 2.00 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at fifty-three minutes past one of the clock

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

MOTIONS REGARDING THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

DR. KARAN SINGH (NCT of Delhi): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

"That the Seventh Report of the Committee on Ethics presented to the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd December, 2005 be taken into consideration.