

[Shri Balwinder Singh Bhunder]

a great mismatch between foodgrains production and storage facility. India's foodgrains production is expected to touch record level of 252 million tonnes with rice alone accounting for around 103 million tonnes. In view of the lack of storage space, huge quantity of foodgrains is to be kept in open which is exposed to damage by various ways. To reduce this crisis, the Government had allowed export of rice in 2011-12, which was expected to around seven million tonnes. Even after this, the country will have rice stock of about 33 million tonnes against the buffer norms or 14 million tonnes. This is a temporary measure to overcome the shortage of storage facility.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Dr. E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan)  
in the Chair]

The most affected States of this shortage is Punjab, and, to a large extent, Haryana, as they have procured paddy in the month of October, but the previous stock of wheat has not been cleared from *mandis* across the two States. The storage houses and Government godowns are packed with previous year's produce leaving no space for the fresh produce in the country. It is estimated that around more than 50 per cent of the wheat and paddy in Punjab godowns is lying in the open which is subject to damage. This is ironical that the country, which is marred with malnutrition and where people die of hunger, is facing such a situation where tons of foodgrains is subjected to damage. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to focus their attention on this important issue and take concrete steps to enhance the storage facility in the country and save the precious foodgrains.

**Demand for inclusion of people belonging to Mairia community of  
Jharkhand in Central list of 'Other Backward' Category**

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR (Jharkhand): Sir, I intend to draw the attention of the House to the plight of Mairia community of Jharkhand. The community which is spread out in Jharkhand is extremely poor and backward with almost a non-existent representation in the Government jobs, in the Assembly of erstwhile Bihar and Jharkhand. In recognition of their economic and social backwardness and plight of the community, the Government of Jharkhand on 26.6.2004 included the Mairia community in the Backward Caste Annexure-II list. They were, thereafter, through a Government of Jharkhand notification dated September 2009 included in

Annexure-I list of Backward Castes. The Maira community has, however, not been included among the Backward Castes in the Central List in spite of living in such an indigent condition over the past decades. I understand that the proposal of their inclusion in the List of 'Backward Castes' is pending before National Commission for Backward Classes. It is further gathered that a detailed investigation is needed. The Commission has taken a view that the Maira community should be included in the category of 'Other Backward Castes' in the Centre. A Notification from the Government including them in the List of 'Other Backward Castes' would go a long way in addressing their plight and ameliorating their condition.

**Need for taking action against culprits involved in sexual harassment  
and criminal intimidation of a woman theatre artiste and  
playright in Karnataka**

SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA (Tripura): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the outrageous and shocking incident of sexual harassment and criminal intimidation of a theatre artiste and playwright from the State of Karnataka on December 5th, 2012 by traffic police and a crowd of men, which has exposed how unsafe the city is for women from a crowd of men. It has exposed how police are complicit in such crimes, thereby encouraging mob violence.

Sir, on the evening of 5th December, the car being driven by the artiste was rear ended by motorcyclist, damaging the bumper. When she got down to see what damage had been caused, the motorcyclist abused her, using sexist and vulgar language. A group of bystanders also joined the heckling, making her fear of her safety. She tried to take help of a police constable standing nearby. However, the constable physically assaulted her twice and allowed the motorist to leave. A group of men surrounded her and started passing lewd comments and disturbing gestures. The police constable denied her request to sit inside the car for safety when the crowd became uncontrollable. An FIR has been filed against the mob and the motorcyclist at the local police station. There has been no action against the traffic constable for both, the dereliction of duty and complicity in the crime. Already a week elapsed since the assault. I request the Government to intervene urgently in this serious case of violence against a woman, and ensure that justice is done.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Avinash Pande. Not present. Shri Piyush Goyal.