

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we all associate with the issue raised by the hon. Member. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Santiuse Kujur. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Discontinuation of supply of subsidised food grains by F.C.I. to tea garden plantation workers in Assam

SHRI SANTIUSE KUJUR (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise the ...*(Interruptions)*... issue of discontinuation of supply of subsidised foodgrains to tea garden workers in Assam.

Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the subsidised foodgrain distribution scheme has been in operation in tea estates of Assam since Independence. The allocation is made by the Central Government and State Government through Food Corporation of India. The tea garden workers and their dependants have been benefiting for more than 65 years and the tea garden managements have been successfully implementing the scheme.

The scheme is being implemented uniformly regardless of transport connectivity of tea gardens particularly in the remote areas and recurring flood-affected areas. There are almost 1000 tea gardens across the State of Assam. It requires approximately 12,700 metric tonnes of foodgrains per month for supply to the tea estate workers. About 25 lakh tea garden population is benefited from this scheme.

Now I have come to know that the foodgrain supply would be discontinued from January 2015. As a result, there is uncertainty and unrest in the minds of tea workers. Protests and agitation are going on in the tea gardens demanding distribution of foodgrain amongst the tea workers through the present system.

[Shri Santiuse Kujur]

Therefore, Sir, I request the present NDA Government, through you, to continue the present system of supply of foodgrains at a reasonable price for the welfare of the poor tea garden workers of Assam.

Government must not go ahead with any anti-tea garden workers policy by suppressing the existing ration benefit, which actually is part of the tea garden worker's wage.

SHRI P. RAJEEVE (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI (Telangana): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI PANKAJ BORA (Assam): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

डा. संजय सिंह (असम) : सर, मैं इनके उल्लेख से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

श्री वी. हनुमंत राव (तेलंगाना) : सर, मैं भी इनके उल्लेख से स्वयं को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

Recent arrest of Tamil Nadu fishermen

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising the same issue for the second time within 15 days. In the month of November, ...(*Interruptions*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not the same issue, but another incident.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: It is the second stage of the same issue, an unending episode. Sir, on 21st of November, 14 fishermen from Tamil Nadu and three of their boats were captured by Sri Lankan Government. And with that, 78 boats have been berthed in precarious conditions in Sri Lanka and 38 of our fishermen are languishing in the prison. Sir, we raised the issue in the House. Our leader wrote letters to the Government to take necessary steps to release the prisoners. We also thanked the Prime Minister for his timely intervention to save the life of five fishermen who were on death row in Sri Lanka. But this episode is continuing. The day before yesterday, 43 fishermen from Karaikal and