

[Shri P. Bhattachary]

writers in Bengal how the *zamindars* used to capture the land from farmers. Again, we are trying to introduce, not *zamindars*, but in a transformation, a different character, *i.e.*, these corporate people. They are giving them power so that they can get the land from farmers. So, all these things are there. Sir, had you gone through the President's Address, you would have seen that there is not a single word as to how the farmers' land will be protected. Sir, I would like to mention another two-three things.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): You please conclude it. You have already taken sufficient time.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Sir, give me just one more minute. Sir, I would like to say something about tea garden areas in Bengal and Assam and other plantation workers. The time has come that the Government should give serious attention to these areas because vacancies are there. No new plantation arrangements are being made. The economic crisis precipitated; the farmers are not getting proper price for their produce. The labour is not getting wages. Sir, it is in a very critical situation. So, something has to be done in this regard.

Sir, the jute industry in Bengal is also in a very critical stage. I had a great hope that at least one line on jute industry will be included in the President's Address. But, unfortunately, we could not find it there. So, with all these things, I feel that the Government should recast the President's Address...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Please conclude.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: ...and to incorporate all these points in the President's Address to give the benefit to the people of our country. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Now, the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will further continue tomorrow. And, now, I would take up the admitted Special Mentions for today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya. Not present. Shri K. R. Arjunan.

**Demand to increase subsidy allocation for
micro irrigation programmes in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K.R. ARJUNAN (Tamil Nadu): Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of our revered leader Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is a forerunner in efficient water use in agriculture and has already initiated action to increase the cropping intensity through increased water use efficiency by implementing many projects including the TN IAMWARM, massive promotion of Micro Irrigation, and harvesting of rainwater through construction of 70,000 farm ponds across the State. Crop-specific technologies that ensure judicious use of water like System of Rice Intensification (SRI), System of Pulse Intensification (SPI), Sustainable Sugarcane Initiative (SSI), Precision Farming, Drip Irrigation in Rice, Poly sheet mulching, using pipelines to carry irrigation water have all been promoted in Tamil Nadu. These programmes require further scaling up.

To motivate the farmers to take up micro irrigation in a massive way, for the first time in India, our Government under the able guideship of our hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is providing Micro Irrigation System with 100% subsidy for small and marginal farmers and 75% subsidy for other farmers since 2011-12. I request the Government of India to consider revisiting the uniform subsidy pattern for installation of Micro Irrigation in the State without any disparity for non-DPAP blocks. Water starved States like Tamil Nadu need to be provided with increased subsidy rate and increased allocation for Micro Irrigation Systems. A special financial assistance package for crop diversification programmes especially for growing less water consuming crops like pulses and millets also ensures nutritional security of the nation should also be considered.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN): Shri Motilal Vora. Not present. Shrimati Kahkashan Perween.

**Demand for beautification of places of historical and
religious importance on banks of river Ganga**

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, भारतीय संस्कृति में गंगा का विशेष महत्व है। इसका बहता पानी जाति-धर्म से परे भारत की गौरवशाली परम्परा का वाहक है। बिहार के छपरा जिले के दिघवारा प्रखंड में एक प्रसिद्ध स्थान है, "आमी"। यहां गंगा धनुषाकार है। दुर्गा सप्तशती के 13वें अध्याय में इसका उल्लेख है कि राजा सुरथ ने यहां पूजा की थी। यहां राजा दक्ष का किला था। मिथकीय विश्वास यह है कि यहां सती भस्म हुई थी। यहां अंबिका भवानी का मंदिर भी है, जहां दूर-दूर से श्रद्धालु आते हैं। बिहार में ही सुल्तानगंज में गंगा उत्तरवाहिनी बहती है। सावन के महीने में लाखों श्रद्धालु यहां से जल लेकर देवघर जाते हैं। लेकिन गर्मी के दिनों में गंगा की यह धारा सूख जाती है। यही गंगा भागलपुर से होकर बहती है। भागलपुर का ऐतिहासिक, पौराणिक और धार्मिक महत्व है। ज्ञातव्य है कि भागलपुर के ही चंपानगरी में राजा कर्ण का किला है।