

Tamil Nadu Vision 2023, I appeal to the Government to issue necessary directions to Niti Aayog to consider funding such special projects of Tamil Nadu from out of their special allocation.

**Demand to bring a legislation to acquire property of criminals involved
in anti-national activities by the State**

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Punjab): The recent auction of property belonging to a criminal who is living in some other country and perpetrating war on our nation through funding terror acts in the country besides getting involved in other nefarious activities which are harming the country has raised a vital concern. In the past, these properties could not be auctioned due to the threat received and even now not many would like to risk their lives. As a welfare State, it is imperative for India to formulate a law whereby these kinds of properties can become the State property which can be used as offices/cooperative or Governmental shops/schools, etc. After all, the money received from the auction also goes to the Government treasury.

Therefore, I request the Government to bring a legislation as soon as possible so that procedure of the auction may be done away with so that no one has to risk his life by participating in the auction. However, the property should become the State property and can be used for public good.

Urgent need to curb juvenile delinquency by lowering the legal age of adulthood

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, we are witnessing an unprecedented surge in criminal offences especially rape and sexual advances against women and girls involving juveniles across all strata of society. Blaring media exposures of such cases have made the juvenile generation aware that they enjoy immunity from severe punishment under the criminal laws that are handed down to adult offenders.

The ever-changing social equations, life style and inter-personal relationships among sexes have accentuated the process of a juvenile attaining adulthood much earlier than the age prescribed in the law. The proliferation of communication channels like mobile internet and social media have together brought forth severe damage and deterioration to ancient values and ethical social conduct.

The infamous 16 December, 2012 (Nirbhaya) rape incident in Delhi had shaken the conscience of the nation and prompted the authorities to revisit the juvenile justice dispensation system. The hon. Supreme Court has also observed that the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000 needs to be reviewed in this backdrop, to act as a deterrent to juveniles beyond the age of 16 engaging in criminal acts and also instill in them a sense of restraint and socially acceptable conduct in intersexual relationships. The now familiar rantings of the child rights activists against this sensible move should not be taken seriously as they are still left with many other issues in their agenda for self-survival.

[Shrimati Wansuk Syiem]

I urge the Government to proceed anyhow with the passage of the bill in Parliament for early enactment of law.

Concern over neglecting the plight of agricultural labourers in the country

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): A closer look at the National Crime Records Bureau data shows that the number of farmer suicides in the country has not dropped to nearly half of 2013, as initially reported. The fall in these numbers comes not from an actual decrease in farmer suicides, but because the NCRB has chosen to not include suicides by agricultural labourers in its data on farmer suicides.

This telling exclusion, artificially, halves the number of farmer suicides in our country, ignoring those who work in agriculture but do not own land. In 2014, the official number of "farmer suicides" was 5,650. However, the number of suicides by those "engaged in agriculture" was 12,376. Suicides by more than 6700 agricultural labourers have not been counted in the NCRB's farmer suicide data. This glaring omission hides the fact that suicides by farmers have risen by more than 5 per cent this year even though the total number of suicides in the country has fallen.

The Government must start taking suicides by farmers, including labourers who don't own land, much more seriously, starting by collecting and releasing accurate data. Renaming the Ministry of Agriculture to 'Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry' will mean nothing if landless labourers in need of support are not even recognised as farmers by the Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Derek O'Brien - not present. ...*(Interruptions)*...
Shri D. Bandyopadhyay. Please say that you are laying it on the Table of the House.
...*(Interruptions)*...

Demand to include Cooch Behar and other districts of the country with more than 50 per cent SC/ST population under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) scheme

SHRI D. BANDYOPADHYAY (West Bengal): Sir, Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) Scheme covers 250 districts in 27 States. It is a unique Central Fund as it puts the panchayats and municipalities at the forefront of planning and implementation, and gives them free rein to use the funds, as long as it fills a development gap and the identification of the work is decided with people's participation. In rural areas, 56 per cent Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, 40 per cent OBCs are beneficiaries of this scheme.

One of the parameters of identifying a district as 'backward' is based on the number of SC/ST population. The district of Cooch Behar in West Bengal has a population of which 50.11 per cent comprise of people from Scheduled Castes. However, Cooch Behar has not been identified as a Backward District. The district is basically agrarian, but modern agricultural techniques have not been adopted on a large scale. Hence, this