

[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

sphere needs special attention. Agricultural marketing also needs to be improved with proper development of rail, road, cold storage, markets, etc. Also, credit facilities are not smoothly available to the MSE sector. A fifteen per cent tax rebate on setting up of new industries, which Backward Districts are entitled to, would greatly help in the development of the area and raise the standard of lives of the people.

I would urge upon the Government to include Cooch Behar, and other districts in the country, which have more than 50 per cent SC/ST population, in the BRGF Scheme for all-round development of the district and to improve the lives of the people. I would also like to bring the attention to the worrying fact that West Bengal is still owed 40 per cent Central funds for BRGF over the last five years.

Demand to give reservation to fishermen in employment in Central and the provincial police forces in the country

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, पूरे देश में प्रति वर्ष अधिक वर्षा के कारण नदियों में भयंकर बाढ़ आ रही है, जिससे हजारों करोड़ का नुकसान उठाना पड़ता है। बाढ़ के कारण लोगों की जानें चली जाती हैं, क्योंकि देश में बाढ़ प्रभावित लोगों को बचाने हेतु पुलिस फोर्स नहीं है और न ही राज्यों में केन्द्रीय पुलिस बल है, जिन्हें बाढ़ में फंसे लोगों को बचाने का तकनीकी ज्ञान हो। इसलिए जन्मजात फिशरमैन जो समुद्र या नदी में ज्यादातर मछली के शिकार हेतु सैकड़ों किलोमीटर समुद्र में चले जाते हैं तथा नदियों में बाढ़ के समय काम करते हैं, उन्हें सेना तथा राज्य पुलिस में आरक्षण दिया जाना चाहिए, जिससे दैवी आपदा बाढ़ के समय, देश की जन हानि को बचाने में काम कर सकें।

अतः मैं केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय पुलिस बल व प्रांतीय पुलिस बल में 50 प्रतिशत का आरक्षण पेशेवर जन्मजात फिशरमैन बेरोजगारों को देकर बाढ़ से बचाने हेतु अलग से पुलिस बल की स्थापना की जाए।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Avinash Pande. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Avinash Pande - not present. ...*(Interruptions)*... Chaudhary Munvvar Saleem. ...*(Interruptions)*...

**Demand for early sanctioning of funds for cleaning the river
Ganga in Uttar Pradesh**

चौधरी मुनव्वर सलीम (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से एक बार फिर उस गंगा की पाकीजगी का सवाल लेकर खड़ा हुआ हूँ, जो महान भारत का इतिहास, संस्कृति और धर्म मानी जाती है। अपने प्रदूषण को लेकर कराहती हुई गंगा, केन्द्र सरकार से उम्मीद कर रही है कि सरकार की ओर से इस संदर्भ में कोई बुनियादी कदम उठाए जाएंगे। मैंने आज से लगभग तीन वर्ष पूर्व दिनांक 11 मार्च, 2013 को गंगा तथा अन्य नदियों को जहरीला बनाने वालों के विरुद्ध संविधान संशोधन के माध्यम से सख्त कानूनी कार्यवाही की भी बात कही थी।

महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार को बताना चाहता हूँ कि महाकुंभ के दौरान नगर विकास मंत्री, उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने कुंभ के मुस्लिम व्यवस्थापक के रूप में स्वच्छ पानी में श्रद्धालुओं को स्नान करा कर यह सिद्ध कर दिया है कि यदि सरकार भरपूर सहयोग दे तो असंभव को भी संभव बनाया जा सकता है।