

महोदय, सदन के माध्यम से मेरी मांग है कि भिलाई के सेल प्लांट के प्रबंधन को 340वीं बैठक में लिए गए निर्णय को अविलम्ब लागू करने हेतु समस्त उचित कदम उठाने का निर्देश दिया जाए, जिससे कर्मचारियों के हितों की रक्षा हो सके।

***Demand to enlarge the scope of fields to be considered for Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha to include SCs/STs**

SHRI DILIP KUMAR TIRKEY (Odisha): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very pertinent issue concerning the welfare of SC/ST communities, which constitute almost one-fourth of our country's total population. The architects of our Constitution, and particularly Dr. Ambedkar, had ensured that the SC/ST communities are adequately represented in the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies by providing them reservation. This political representation has gone a long way in improving the plight of the SC/ST communities over the years and given some voice to them. However, the situation is still far from satisfactory. Moreover, the Upper House, that is, Rajya Sabha still remains insufficiently represented as far as the SCs/STs are concerned. Proper representation of *dalits* and *adivasis* in Rajya Sabha becomes particularly important because the Rajya Sabha is considered as the conscience keeper of our political democracy. The unique character of Rajya Sabha is marked by serious debates and deeper reflection on various issues. Therefore, it is extremely important that Rajya Sabha is fairly represented by all the sections of the society. For this purpose, I demand from the Government to enlarge the scope of fields to be considered for Nominated Members of Rajya Sabha and include eligible SCs/STs also in the category. Of late, unprecedented spurt has been witnessed in the atrocities and heinous crimes against SCs/STs in the country. At this critical juncture, this move by the Government will give a very positive signal to the aggrieved SC/ST communities and heal their wounds to some extent.

***Demand to address the claims regarding forest rights of people evicted from the tribal areas of Godavari Districts in Andhra Pradesh**

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, there is an urgency to help thousands of evicted Scheduled Tribe people in tribal areas of Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh, who have been evicted without settlement of their forest rights. The Forest Rights Act, 2006, empowers tribals with rights over forest lands. The Government had admitted it and had received detailed representations from Dr. P. Pullarao on claims of tribals of Polavaram, Chegondapalli, Devaragondhi, Mamidigondhi and Anguluru on deprivation of tribals' forest rights.

* Laid on the Table.

[Shri V. Vijayasai Reddy]

The Government responded that onus of implementation of the Forest Rights Act falls on the State Governments and that it merely sends them the complaints. The Forest Rights Act has now become a law which will be interpreted by the State Governments, and the Central Government has no role.

This new doctrine of the Government has led to eviction of thousands of tribals in Godavari Districts in Andhra Pradesh and led to a tragic situation where time is a weapon to tire out the tribals and their leaders to drop claims on forest rights.

The Forest Rights Act was passed by the Parliament giving it precedence over all other policies concerning tribals. The Government has adopted a new role of being a passive spectator on the forest rights, thereby depriving tribals their right to life under the Constitution, and has made the Forest Rights Act a meaningless law.

I urge upon the Government to ensure that the petitions on forest rights at Polavaram get justice within a time-limit. Otherwise, the Government of India has ample powers to prevent atrocities being committed on tribals. The Government is not a Post Office to post the grievances of tribals to the State Governments.

***Demand to take effective measures for road safety in the country**

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Telangana): Sir, as per the Government data, 400 people were killed in road accidents every day in 2015, which is an increase of five per cent over the figures of 2014. Unfortunately, there is no comprehensive legislation on road safety in spite of the Standing Committee's Report.

To achieve road safety, we have to first achieve lane safety. To achieve lane safety, we have to educate our citizens to start driving in their respective lanes. Secondly, one should understand speed parameters of different lanes and know at which speed one has to drive in designated lanes. So, speed parameters are required to be put in place. If a road is six-lane, instead of putting signage on corners or dividers, speed indicators should be mentioned on the lane itself. For example, extreme right lane is meant for speeding or overtaking vehicles, and, so, signage on road should indicate at which speed vehicles can move. Next lane should be meant for trucks or slowmoving vehicles, and extreme left lane should be for two-wheelers or very slow moving vehicles. For these lanes also, speed limits should be indicated on the roads itself.

The State Governments and the Central Government have to create awareness amongst people on the lines of highly successful campaign, namely, '*Jago Grahak*

* Laid on the Table.