

request and urge upon the hon. External Affairs Minister to look into the matter, order some inquiry and find some solution so that people get some relief.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay; thank you very much.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Sir, I have time.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You made your point.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: No, Sir. I have not made my point. Sir, two lakh passports have been received with delay and no compensation has been given. Thirty seven Passport Kendras point out that they have the capacity to process only 12 lakh applications. Sir, the capacity needs to be augmented and through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to do the same.

SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Ahamed Hassan. *...(Interruptions)...*

श्रीमती रूपा गांगुली (नाम-निर्देशित): सर, हमारे यहां भी कई लोग ऐसे ही झोला लेकर घूमते हैं। *...(व्यवधान)...* किसी को भी बहुत आराम से आधार कार्ड मिल जाता है। *...(व्यवधान)...*

**Assistance to West Bengal to fight against the wheat blast disease**

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Let me speak, Sir. *...(Interruptions)...* Only five minutes are remaining. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Ahamed Hassan. *...(Interruptions)...* I called Shri Ahamed Hassan only. He should speak. *...(Interruptions)...* Why are you not speaking? *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, how can I speak? She is disturbing. *...(Interruptions)...* Sir, I am raising an issue which is very important for the country's agriculture. *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You start. *...(Interruptions)...* Don't be disturbed by her. You speak. *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN: Sir, a deadly fungus for wheat crop is severely affecting the wheat cultivation in two districts of West Bengal, namely, Nadia and Murshidabad. Sir, at least, 1,000 hectares of wheat cultivation has already been burnt to stop this infection and dangerous disease called, Wheat Blast. Burning of the affected crop is the only way open for the Agriculture Department to prevent this fungus-related disease of wheat crop so that it doesn't spread to the other areas of the State and the country.

[Shri Ahamed Hassan]

Sir, once infected by Wheat Blast disease, there is no other way to cure the affected crops. The Agriculture experts are saying that this disease was first identified in 1985 in Brazil, and thereafter in Bolivia and Paraguay. Now, it has come to West Bengal, from Bangladesh.

The Government of West Bengal under the inspiring leadership of the hon. Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, is providing compensation to the affected farmers as far as possible.

Sir, I will request the Agriculture Ministry and other concerned Ministries of the Government of India to take up the issue seriously as it is an issue of the entire country. Sir, measures should be taken by the Central Government so that the Wheat Blast disease does not spread to other parts of the country. The Central Government should also provide adequate funds, in the national interest, to the affected farmers of West Bengal whose crops were burnt. Thank you.

SHRI VIVEK GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by my colleague.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by my hon. friend.

#### **Meager payment of salary to the teachers in Coal India Limited**

श्री अली अनवर अंसारी (बिहार): शुक्रिया महोदय। इस महंगाई के जमाने में कोल इंडिया लिमिटेड अपने करीब 4,000 टीचर्स को मासिक वेतन के रूप में केवल 5 हजार से 7 हजार रुपए ही प्रति माह देता है। उन्हें gratuity वगैरह कोई दूसरी सुविधाएं नहीं मिलती हैं। यह राशि, सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित न्यूनतम मजदूरी से भी कम है।

महोदय, 16वीं लोक सभा की स्थायी समिति का मैं भी Member हूं और जब यह सवाल उसके सामने आया, तो स्थायी समिति ने अगस्त, 2015 में recommend किया था कि संबंधित राज्य सरकारें जितना वेतन अपने अध्यापकों को देती हैं, कम से कम उतना वेतन इन शिक्षकों को मिलना चाहिए। इसी तरह से 14वीं और 15वीं लोक सभा की याचिका समिति ने भी कहा कि इन शिक्षकों को कम से कम skilled person मानकर, वेतन और भत्ता दिया जाना चाहिए।

महोदय, ये teachers, परसों कोयला मंत्री के आवास पर अपनी फरियाद लेकर गए थे। उनमें महिलाएं भी थीं, लेकिन वहां उनके ऊपर लाठीचार्ज हुआ, जिसमें कुछ शिक्षक घायल भी हुए और उन्हें दिन भर थाने में रखा गया तथा शाम को भगा दिया गया। ये शिक्षक वहां से मेरे यहां और दूसरी जगहों पर आए थे। उन्होंने मुझे बताया था कि उन्हें केवल 5,000 रुपए से 7,000 रुपए ही प्रति माह वेतन के रूप में मिलते हैं। इससे पहले तो केवल 2,000 रुपए ही वेतन मिलता था। ये भी तब हुआ, जब जॉर्ज फर्नांडीज साहब ने इस सवाल को पार्लियामेंट में उठाया। हमारे बिहार