

श्री राम कुमार कश्यप (हरियाणा): महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

† محترمہ کہکشاں پروین (بہار) : مہودے، می بھی خود کو معزز ممبر کے درجے اٹھانے کے موضوع کے ساتھ سمبڈھ کرتی ہوں۔

श्रीमती रूपा गांगुली (नाम निर्देशित): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री चुनीभाई कानजीभाई गोहेल (गुजरात): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is Shri K.K. Ragesh, not present. Now, the next speaker is Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth.

Need to start production of defence clothing in Avadi, Chennai

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): With the permission of hon. Chairman, I would like to raise apprehensions regarding the privatisation of Salem Steel Plant which is a Maharatna company.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, this is not the subject. Please come to your point.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I am coming to that point. I want to raise a point regarding the revival of the BSNL.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is also not the subject.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I am just coming and particularly I want to talk about the Ordnance Factory in Avadi. Sir, the factory was started in the year 1961 by the then Defence Minister Shri. V.K. Krishna Menon and by the efforts of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Perunthalaivar K. Kamaraj. Sir, they are producing world-class uniforms for defence personnels which could withstand various climatic conditions for the past fifty-eight years. There are four similar kind of clothing units in the State of Uttar Pradesh also. These uniforms have also got the patent rights. Sir, these uniforms are handed over to the Army after passing through fourteen quality control tests. Now, it is heard that 650 defence equipments are manufactured by these

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.

Ordnance Factories and 250 items have been declared as non-core items. Sir, uniform has been listed as a non-core item, using less technology. The Government is making a move to procure this non-core item from the private market. This is the greatest grief.

On 16.11.2017, the Government passed an order to stop all the manufacturing of uniform for the Army personnel, and, instead they will be given ₹ 10,000 as uniform allowance. Recruitment of all staff in all categories has been banned since then. Due to the Central Government's decision, there is uncertainty on the fate of all Ordnance clothing units all over the country. On Friday, Ms. Dola Sen also referred to this issue. Recruitment of all the employees has been stopped and there is a great question mark on the future of employees working there. In Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi, production has been stopped and it is going towards closure, which will directly affect the future of 2,000 employees who are working there, and, it will also affect many others who are indirectly employed through the sister concerns depending on the Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi. When they will buy their own uniform, there will be no uniformity. Colours and quality may differ which will defame our Army's image. So, I urge upon the Government to ensure that the Ordnance Clothing Factory, Avadi should not be closed down at any cost and all the Ordnance Units...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Time is over.

SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VANDANA CHAVAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI MANISH GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI A.K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI ELAMARAM KAREEM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MANAS RANJAN BHUNIA (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGO VAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

श्रीमती कहकशां परवीन (बिहार): महोदय, मैं भी स्वयं को माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करती हूँ।

† محترمہ کہکشاں پروین (بہار): مہودے، می بھی خود کو معزز ممبر کے نرے اٹھائے گئے موضوع کے ساتھ سمبڈھ کرئی ہوں۔

SHRI BINOY VISWAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Need for settlement of pending subsidy claims of FCI

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Sir, the FCI was established as a premier agency to procure foodgrains directly from the farmers at the MSP declared by the Central Government. It has got the responsibility to implement the public distribution system and also maintain buffer stock. Sir, the primary responsibility of ensuring food security and implementing the National Food Security Act lies with the Central Government. The difference between the FCI's overall cost of operations and its earnings are being reimbursed by the Centre in the form of subsidy. Sir, unfortunately, during the last few years, the Centre is not releasing the subsidy as per the bills submitted by the FCI, which is putting the FCI in deep crisis.

During the last fiscal alone, 69,394 crores of rupees have remained unpaid. The CAG Report itself had pointed out this issue, wherein it was stated that as per the subsidy bill, no subsidy reimbursement has taken place. In the year 2018-19, forty-one per cent of the Budget Estimates remained unpaid, and, during the last five years on an average, 65 per cent of the claimed subsidy has not been released.

Sir, as a result of it, the Food Corporation of India is compelled to seek finance from the external sources such as cash credits, short-term loans and bonds and the

†Transliteration in Urdu Script.