

[Shri B.K. Hariprasad]

Sir, the present situation is: Rural workers are being discouraged from registering themselves with the scheme, are being denied work even when they register themselves for work and are also facing long delays in getting payment of wages.

It has been reported in several journals, researches and activists have also reported that the employment under this scheme was 32 per cent lower than the work demand generated. Workers are also facing long delays in payment of wages for weeks and months.

With reference to Karnataka, during the year 2015-16 and 2016-17, due to acute shortage of funds, the Government of Karnataka has intervened by providing advance release of funds to the scheme over and above the State's share with the condition of recoupment by subsequent Government of India releases. This amounts to ₹ 1,227.70 crores. After adjustment of advances carried out in 2017-18 and 2018-19, an amount of ₹ 856.14 crores is still outstanding to be reimbursed by the Government of India.

Therefore, I request the Government of India to release ₹ 2,573.45 crores to meet the demands and a detailed proposal for the same has already been sent to the concerned Ministry for its consideration.

Hence, the Government of India is requested to do the needful so that workers and their family members can earn to run their livelihood. Thank you.

SHRI RAJMANI PATEL (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri B.K. Hariprasad. Thank you.

Issues related to closure of schools due to the SATH-E programme

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA (Bihar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for having allowed me to raise this important concern. The NITI Aayog launched SATH-E in 2018, a programme for providing 'Sustainable Action for transforming Human Capital' with the State Governments. One of its core visions is to initiate transformation in the education sector. For this, the NITI Aayog is working in close collaboration with the State Governments to designing a robust roadmap, setting up monitoring and tracking mechanisms, and providing support on a range of institutional measures to achieve the end objectives. The Programme is being implemented by the NITI Aayog along with McKinsey and Company and IPE Global consortium in three States, Jharkhand, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh. There is also news of NITI Aayog's MoU with Boston Consultancy and Piramal Foundation for technical assistance.

The restructuring agenda of the Programme involve critical interventions including school mergers, remediation programme, training, monitoring teacher recruitment/rationalization, institutional reorganisation at district and State levels and proper utilization of MIS in execution mode. Regarding this, I would like to ask the MHRD, on what basis these initiatives have been undertaken and the reasons to substantiate such radical measures to close State-aided schools. Approaching 10 years of RTE by next March, 2020, instead of strengthening the Act and moving towards complete implementation on the Act, as per RTE Forum's calculation and from media reports of the data on school closure, it is found that more than a lakh schools have been closed. I would like to know how many schools have been closed which were funded by public finance, from 2009 onwards.

श्री राजमणि पटेल : महोदय, मैं स्वयं को इस विषय के साथ संबद्ध करता हूँ।

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member.

Need for steps to make barren land fertile

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): महोदय, जलवायु परिवर्तन का एक महत्वपूर्ण दुष्प्रभाव जमीन के बंजरीकरण के रूप में सामने आ रहा है। बेमौसम बारिश, लगातार सूखा एवं रसायनों की अधिकता से जमीन में बढ़ता खारापन तथा धूल भरी आँधियों के कारण जमीन बंजर होने लगी है। भारतवर्ष में 32.8 करोड़ हेक्टेयर जमीन कृषि योग्य है तथा इसमें बंजर भूमि 9.6 करोड़ हेक्टेयर है, जो कि कृषि उत्पादन के लायक नहीं है। इसका बुरा असर खाद्यान्न के उत्पादन पर पड़ सकता है। ऐसा माना जा रहा है कि अगले 10 वर्षों में तेजी से बढ़ते जा रहे बंजरीकरण के कारण लगभग 2 करोड़ टन खाद्यान्न उत्पादन घट सकता है तथा खाद्यान्नों की कीमतें अतिरिक्त 30 प्रतिशत बढ़ सकती हैं।

आज की तारीख में खाद्यान्न की उपलब्धता घट रही है। "ग्लोबल हंगर इंडेक्स" में भारत की रैंकिंग 119 देशों में 103वें स्थान पर पहुँच चुकी है। स्टेट ऑफ इंडियाज़ एन्वॉयरनमेंट रिपोर्ट के अनुसार, भारत में 30 प्रतिशत जमीन बंजर हो चुकी है। यह वैश्विक औसत से ज्यादा है। शहरीकरण तथा अन्य विकास योजनाओं के कारण भी लगभग एक प्रतिशत भूमि पर कृषि संभव नहीं है, परन्तु 29 प्रतिशत जमीन जलवायु बदलने की वजह से बंजर हो रही है। इन जमीनों को कृषि योग्य बनाने के लिए विशेष प्रयास किए जाने की आवश्यकता है।

Demand for nutritious and affordable diet for children

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, recent studies have estimated that per capita cost of a daily diet, that is both nutritious and affordable, amounts to