

[Shri A.K. Selvaraj]

Tamil Nadu has made tremendous efforts in this regard and tapped almost all of its surface water resources. The groundwater resources are also fast depleting, and, in some areas, the groundwater is not available even at 1,000 feet. Now Tamil Nadu has to look for sources beyond its frontiers to meet the needs of its growing population. Therefore, there is an urgent need to find alternate sources to meet the water needs of Tamil Nadu. The only solution to the water-starved Tamil Nadu is to transfer water from Godavari to Cauvery.

Tamil Nadu has addressed the National Water Development Agency on 4.9.2019 to divert 200 TMC ft. of water at the Tamil Nadu border to meet the growing drinking water needs of Tamil Nadu and to stabilize the area under irrigation by linking Godavari-Cauvery. Further, Tamil Nadu has requested to rework the alignment at a higher contour so that the link which is proposed to terminate in Cauvery at Grand Anicut point can be revised as Godavari-Cauvery at Kattalai link point.

I urge the Union Government to take necessary steps to provide 200 TMC ft. of water from Godavari by coordinating with the riparian States of Godavari and to finalize the preparation of Detailed Project Report of Godavari-Cauvery at Kattalai link point and financial sanction may be accorded quickly so that the water needs of Tamil Nadu are fulfilled. Thank you.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION – *Contd.*

Non-payment of wages to the casual contract labourers of BSNL, Kerala

SHRI K.K. RAGESH (Kerala): Hon. Chairman, Sir, the casual contract labourers of BSNL have not been paid wages for the last ten months. Last month, in Kerala, two workers committed suicide due to non-payment of wages. One Ramakrishnan, an employee working as a sweeper in BSNL, after completing all his work, committed suicide inside the office as he had not been paid wages for the last ten months by BSNL. Not just in Kerala, but throughout the country, casual contract labourers in BSNL have committed suicide. Ten such workers have already committed suicide in our country. I would request the Government to listen to the agony of casual contract labourers, because yesterday the hon. Minister while responding to the issue said that it was due to the contractors. In fact, BSNL did not pay the contractors and that is

why contractors were not in a position to pay the workers. Apart from non-payment of wages to the workers, massive retrenchment is also going on. The Government had decided to reduce 80 per cent of the regular workers and also 50 per cent of the contract workers. That means, regular workers are compelled to take VRS and one lakh jobs have already been lost. Fifty per cent of the contract labourers have been asked not to work. Then, who would work, Sir?

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your suggestion?

SHRI K.K. RAGESH: I don't know if BSNL is going to be wound up. My point is that since the inception of BSNL, thousands of contract workers have been working on meagre wages. We don't know what would be the future of those poor workers. I would request the Government to intervene immediately and ensure payment of wages to the BSNL workers, which is due for the last ten months. Otherwise, we would be witnessing mass suicides among the poor casual contract workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let us not hope such a thing happens.

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

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA : Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA: Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI AHAMED HASSAN (West Bengal): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD (Kerala): Sir, I too associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whoever wants to associate may send in their slips. Now, Dr. Amar Patnaik would make a Special Mention regarding demand to adequately compensate farmers under PMFBY.

SPECIAL MENTIONS - *Contd.*

Demand to adequately compensate farmers under the PMFBY

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, this relates to crop insurance under the PMFBY, the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was initiated as a scheme to give the vulnerable Indian farmers monetary assistance in the event of crop damage arising from natural calamities. However, reports have emerged that cite several instances of the application of incorrect calculation methods to deny the farmers in Odisha their legitimate claims for crop loss under PMFBY. This has precipitated regular protests as the claim settlements to insured farmers have been reduced. The Oriental Insurance Company (OIC) has applied an incorrect Area Correction Factor (ACF) and Yield Correction Factor (YCF) in four blocks of the Bargarh district, namely, Jharbandh, Padampur, Sohela and Bijetpur for Kharif 2018 season. A similar situation obtains in a number of blocks in Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Bolangir and Nuapada districts of the State.

The insurance company has not followed the operational guidelines under the PMFBY. The terms and conditions have been altered by the company after depositing premium under the scheme. There have also been threats by the farmers to gherao and shut down the district offices of this company. Despite this issue having been raised on multiple occasions in Parliament, the situation has, unfortunately, not been remedied.