

[डा. विकास महात्मे]

हैं। सरकार से मेरी यह गुजारिश है कि सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि ऐसी विधवाओं को अन्य संपत्तियों के वितरण में प्राथमिकता मिले और उनकी बेटियों की शादी और एजुकेशन के लिए मौद्रिक सहायता दी जाए।

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, मैं माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, मैं भी माननीय सदस्य द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ स्वयं को संबद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. AMEE YAJNIK (Gujarat): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. AMAR PATNAIK (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Demand for subsistence allowance to empower the farmers of the country

SHRI A. K. SELVARAJ (Tamil Nadu): Sir, despite all our achievements over the decades, it is a sad commentary that farmers in the country continue to suffer year after year. Even today about 70 per cent of the Indian population depend on agriculture and account for 15 per cent of GDP and 50 per cent of the country's employment. More and more farmers are leaving farming and there is growing shortage of workforce in agriculture. We praise professionals like doctors, engineers, lawyers and so on. But whenever we take a morsel of food to our mouth, or sip a cup of tea, we fail to acknowledge the invisible hands of farmers in that food and drink. To help improve the conditions of farmers, the Tamil Nadu Government has been taking consistent initiatives. Tamil Nadu is the first Indian State to enact law on contract farming. But the Union Government has to take measures on war-footing to empower farmers so as to retain them in farming activities. Small farmers are a vulnerable population where social, market and economic pressures are huge, often leading to considerable distress. Indian farmers incur Rs 92,651 crore per year in post-harvest losses, the primary causes of which are poor storage and transportation facilities. Ironically, according to Dalwai Committee report,

an investment of ₹ 89,375 crore is needed to improve the state of storage and transportation facilities for food crops. As the Centre is committed to double the farm income, I appeal to the Government to provide a dignified subsistence allowance to farmers as the first step to empower them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Ashok Bajpai. Not present.

**Demand to expedite the process of the Semi High Speed railway
corridor in Kerala**

SHRI K. J. ALPHONS (Kerala): Sir, there is a proposal to set up a semi high speed rail corridor in Kerala between Trivandrum and Kasargod. At present, it is a nightmare to travel by train from Trivandrum in the South to Kasargod in the North as it takes about twelve hours to cover 532 kilometers. Drone survey has already been done to determine the alignment. As per preliminary indications the project may cost ₹ 66,000 crores. About 1200 hectares of land has to be acquired. It is learnt that the Ministry of Railways has given in-principle approval for the project. I appeal to the Railways to expedite the process of preparing the estimate and grant sanction for the estimate along with firm commitment to fund at least 50 per cent of the project cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Narain Dass Gupta. Not present. Shri P. Wilson.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION — *Contd.*

Need to expedite cases falling under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution

SHRI P. WILSON (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I rise today to bring the attention of this august House to the fact that the legislative intent of the anti-defection law, inserted by the Constitution (Fifty Second Amendment) Act 1985, stands defeated by the inordinate delay in taking up and disposing complaints by the authorities referred to in Clause 6(1), that is, the Speaker of the House or the Chairman as the case maybe. We have noticed in the past few decades that various Speakers from State Legislatures, who act as a Tribunal under the Tenth Schedule, sit over the issue of disqualification indefinitely.

Sir, the object of the Constitution (Fifty Second Amendment) Act, 1985 is to curb the evil of political defections motivated by lure of office or other similar considerations which endangers the foundations of our democracy. A political party goes before the electorate with a particular programme and sets up its candidate on certain promises. Such a person who gets elected after election cannot change his affiliation for extraneous reasons.