

this issue. We, the people of Arunachal Pradesh, should not be kept in such suspense. Thank you very much.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज (मध्य प्रदेश): मैं अपने को इस विषय के साथ सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA (Jharkhand) Sir, I also associate myself with this issue.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The entire House associates itself with the matter raised by the hon. Member. Shri Santosh Bagrodia. Not here. Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy. Mr. Reddy, I think, you have already spoken on this issue before the Question Hour. You are not supposed to mention you are aggrieved.

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I have also given a notice to speak.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no notice of yours.

DR. K. KESHA RAO: There is something wrong.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, suspension of Question Hour notice was there. I mentioned about that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, okay. You have three minutes.

Plight of Paddy Farmers in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): The present issue, the agitation of farmers, which is taking place in Andhra Pradesh with regard to the Minimum Support Price for paddy. Farmers are agitating. Today, the whole of Andhra Pradesh is observing bandh against the attitude of the Central Government and inaction on the part of the State Government. Sir, the demand of farmers is to give Rs. 1,000 per quintal for paddy at par with wheat. The investment, time-consumption and risk factor are more for paddy than for wheat. I don't know why this disparity is there in between these two crops. Sir, during 90s, the prices of wheat and paddy were equal. Now suddenly, it was raised to Rs. 1,000 per quintal for wheat, whereas for paddy, it is kept at Rs. 645 per quintal and thereafter a bonus of Rs. 50. Again, on insistence of farmers and a delegation from Andhra Pradesh, led by my leader, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, which met the Prime Minister, they have again increased Rs. 50 as bonus. It will, in no way be helpful to the farmers, Sir. In all, it will come to only Rs. 745 per quintal for paddy, whereas, in case of wheat, it is Rs. 1,000 per quintal. We have no objection for giving Rs. 1,000 per quintal for wheat. But, why is this disparity, why is this discrimination there against paddy? Paddy farmers are in real distress. About 5,000 farmers have committed suicide in Andhra Pradesh alone. About 1,10,000 farmers have committed suicide in the whole country during the past three years. The reply given by the Government of India, through the Ministry of Agriculture, is incorrect. They say that there is some wastage in paddy. It is not like that, Sir. Every part of paddy is useful and there is a price for every by-product of paddy. Sir, I demand that the rate of paddy should be Rs. 1,000 per quintal and it should be nothing short of wheat. The farmers are agitating since 10-15 days. This is the third day since they have been on fast-unto-death. Last night, police disrupted their camp in Andhra Pradesh. This is highly unjustified on the part of the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, we condemn the inaction and partisan attitude of the Government of India against the paddy farmers. And, we demand of a debate in the House *...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments raised by the hon. Member. *...(Interruptions)...*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, we also associate ourselves *...(Interruptions)...*

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. *...(Interruptions)...* He has given a notice, let him speak. *...(Interruptions)...* You can associate later on. *...(Interruptions)...* I will give you time.

...(Interruptions)... Those who have given the notice ...(Interruptions)... It is the sentiment of the entire House. Let the hon. Members who have given notice, express their views. Shri D. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, with great agony, I raise this issue. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Puducherry): Sir, Mr. Raja is not concerned with the farmers. ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why not?

SHRI D. RAJA: I am concerned with the farmers.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: He is concerned with the people of this country. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: I am talking about Mr. A. Raja not Mr. D. Raja. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: D. Raja stands for 'democratic' Raja. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, with great agony, I raise this issue. The plight of farmers is very miserable all over the country and the plight of paddy growers is more miserable all over the country. It is not an issue which concerns only the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is an issue which concerns the entire nation. The paddy growers in all the States are agitating. As it is happening today in Andhra Pradesh, the Tamil Nadu farmers have announced a day of agitation. That will be on 27th of this month. I understand that this problem cannot be delayed by the Government. This has to be addressed with a sense of concern and urgency. It is of no use quoting Jawaharlal Nehru all the time, "Anything can wait, not the agriculture". But, in reality, nothing waits except agriculture. The UPA Government should understand, when it claims that it is a Government of *aam aadmi*, that the farmers are the real *aam aadmi*. Their distress continues. The crisis in agriculture deepens. Here, I think, the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, even if it comes out with some data, that data is being questioned. Even the investigators, who have to visit the fields, they do not visit. There are many press reports that the field investigators do not visit or interact with farmers to understand their problems. That is why I appeal to the UPA Government that the paddy growers should be given the Minimum support Price of Rs. one thousand per quintal. Wheat growers have already got the Minimum Support Price. Now, it should be the turn of paddy growers and they must get the Minimum Support Price of Rs. one thousand per quintal. This issue cannot be delayed by the UPA Government.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am calling those who have given notices. You can associate yourself with the mentions only after I exhaust all the names who have given notices. ...(Interruptions)...

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Kerala): Sir, he is a son-in-law of Kerala. But he mentioned only Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI D. RAJA: I include Kerala now. ...(Interruptions)... There was an agitation in Tamil Nadu. ...(Interruptions)... That is why I said, 'all over the country.' ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He said, 'entire country.' ...(Interruptions)... Mr. Raja, please sit down.

DR. K. KESHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that all farmers, particularly paddy growers, do require this kind of a support. But there has to be a difference between what is called an incentive support administered price and the support price. That is why I am not trying to make any grievance against the wheat growers. When the

production of wheat was going down, some kind of incentive was given to them in shape of support price which was raised. Thus the farmers are saved. Because they have to serve the community. The farmers of Andhra Pradesh ...*(Interruptions)*.. They have raised one issue. The issue is simple. One, the Paddy growers' risk factors are greater than that of the wheat growers. Two, their fate depend on the vagaries of nature. Three, it is sometimes two crops or three crops and sometimes no crops at all. So, the risk and costs increase every season. So they want to be on a par with the wheat growers. So, I think it is not only Andhra Pradesh, as Mr. Raja said, all over the country, paddy growers ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: I said ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. K. KESHAVA RAO: I am supporting Mr. Raja. I might not know as good English as you know. But, nonetheless, as you say, the paddy growers of the entire country need this kind of a support. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री उपसभापति: गिल साहब, आप केवल असोसिएट करिए।

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I will not waste the time of the House. Paddy constitutes 70 per cent of the crop in India; Wheat is only 30 per cent. I totally endorse Mr. Raja's view. It is not a matter of Andhra Pradesh alone; it is a matter concerning the whole of India. The Government should look into it, and increase the price of paddy for all of them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is the sentiment of the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, the maximum number of farmer suicides that are taking place are amongst the paddy growers and the cotton growers. The paddy price is a very critical input because the latest studies have shown that in the last seven years, every thirty minutes one farmer is committing suicide.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is why I said that it was the sentiment of the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: This announcement is to be made by the Government at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is the sentiment of the entire House. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, you must convey it to the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have conveyed it through the Chair that it is the sentiment of the entire House.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, make the procurement price Rs. 1000 per quintal on a par with wheat.

श्री ललित किशोर चतुर्वेदी (राजस्थान): सर, आप गवर्नमेंट को बुलाइए।

श्री उपसभापति: ज़ीरो ऑवर में Government is not able to ...*(Interruptions)*... The Government will definitely take note of it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Molestation of Girls from Goa in Rajasthan

SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK (Goa): Sir, I am raising a very serious issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... This incident took place recently when girls from Goa were molested while travelling by train to Rajasthan. A group of 57 girls from the Home Science College, Panaji, Goa, were molested in a train in Rajasthan in the last week of October. They have revealed this only recently. The incident came to light only because initially, the girls did not disclose this fact. According to eyewitnesses, around 200 youths boarded the Jodhpur-Howrah Express at Nadbai in Bharatpur district. They were going to Jodhpur to appear in a test for the post of police constables. They attacked and molested the girls as the train was passing through Dausa. In fact, to mention what is being reported is a bit embarrassing, but, still, I would like to mention it. According to the report, the students who travelled said that the youths masturbated in front of