

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Need to provide support to the farmers who are custodians of traditional seed varieties in India

SHRI ANEEL PRASAD HEGDE (Bihar): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me time to speak on this very important issue pertaining to farmers who are custodians of traditional seed varieties.

Sir, India had rich agro diversity. Scientist, Dr. Richharia, had documented thousands of valuable paddy varieties which were evolved and selected by our ancestral farmers. Though Green Revolution paradigm eroded this rich agro diversity wealth, yet our farmers continued to conserve some of them in their farms. Despite great logistical and financial hardships, these farmers are conserving thousands of varieties of different crops. Some of them have been recognized with Genome Saviour Award, which is a welcome recognition for their contribution. We also need to remember the role of women farmers.

Sir, the Government needs to identify and support such seed savers and train them for maintaining genetic purity of seeds' characterization and cataloguing under a scheme, providing infrastructure facilities and stipends. Surely, the Government will agree with me that *desi* seed varieties and the farmers who conserve them need support so that it can then become a basis for spread of organic and natural farming.

Late Shri George Fernandes, who led an aggressive campaign against signing of GATT and WTO Treaty, is an inspiration for me. I am proud that in 2009, when regulator, GEAC, approved BT Brinjal, it was again my party leader, Shri Nitish

Kumar, who opposed this. The then Environment Minister, Shri Jairam Ramesh, ordered a moratorium on GM crops in 2010, which continued till the present Government approved GM Mustard last year.

In seeds, having natural and organic farming, I have got trained people, like Dr. Debal Deb, who has conserved 1,400 paddy varieties, agriculturist Shri Subhash Palekar who makes *jeevamrita* out of desi cow's dung, and also the Millet Man of India, Dr. Khader Vali. All of these great personalities advocate *desi* seeds. Two of them are the recipients of Padma Award by the present Government. Each of them believes that there cannot be organic or natural farming without *desi* seeds, definitely not GM crops.

Thank you very much.

DR. SASMIT PATRA (Odisha): Sir, I 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.

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. FAUZIA KHAN (Maharashtra): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JEBI MATHER HISHAM (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

SHRI SANDOSH KUMAR P. (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

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

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

Increasing incidents of Acid Attacks in the country

श्रीमती संगीता यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, आपने ऐसिड अटैक पीड़ितों की दुर्दशा के संबंध में मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूँ। युवा लड़कियों और महिलाओं पर ऐसिड हमला समकालीन भारतीय समाज में एक बहुत गंभीर चिंता का विषय है। यह एक ऐसा विषय है, जो महिलाओं के दर्द से पीड़ित है और मेरे लिए बहुत ही मायने रखता है। राष्ट्रीय अपराध रिकॉर्ड ब्यूरो के अनुसार, भारत में पिछले पाँच वर्षों में 1,500 ऐसिड हमले हुए हैं। इस जघन्य अपराध से बचे लोग शारीरिक, मानसिक, सामाजिक और आर्थिक कठिनाइयों से भी पीड़ित हैं। वे आजीवन भेदभाव, कलंक और समाज से अलगाव का भी सामना करते हैं। वे पर्याप्त चिकित्सा देखभाल, कानूनी सहायता तक पहुंचने के लिए भी संघर्ष कर रहे हैं। कई महिलाएं अपनी चोटों और अक्षमताओं के कारण काम करने और आजीविका कमाने में भी असमर्थ हो चुकी हैं। मैं सरकार से ऐसिड हमलों को रोकने और अपराधियों को दंडित करने के लिए तत्काल और प्रभावी कदम उठाने और लड़कियों एवं महिलाओं को व्यापक समर्थन और सहायता प्रदान करने का आग्रह करती हूँ। मैं यह भी निवेदन करती हूँ कि सरकार को यह सुनिश्चित करना चाहिए कि पीड़ितों को पर्याप्त मुआवजा मिले, मुफ्त चिकित्सा उपलब्ध हो, उनको कानूनी सहायता भी उपलब्ध करायी जाए, उनको शिक्षा, कौशल विकास एवं रोजगार के पर्याप्त अवसर भी मिलें और साथ ही, उनको सामाजिक सुरक्षा भी मिले। इसके साथ ही, हम सामाजिक बदलाव के लिए भी अलग से प्रयास करें।

मैं सरकार से यह भी निवेदन करती हूँ कि तेजाब हमलों के मामले पर विधि आयोग की 226वीं रिपोर्ट एवं उच्चतम न्यायालय के दिशानिर्देशों को भी तत्काल प्रभाव से लागू करना चाहिए, धन्यवाद।

DR. JOHN BRITTAS (Kerala): Sir, I associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI DEEPAK PRAKASH (Jharkhand): Sir, I also associate myself with the Zero Hour Mention raised by the hon. Member.