

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): Special Mention is only as per the approved text.

डा .लक्ष्मीकान्त बाजपेयी : ठीक है सर, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by Dr. Laxmikant Bajpayee: Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Vandana Chavan (Maharashtra) and Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra).

Dr. Sasmit Patra.

Need to resolve issues of farmers in Odisha

डा. सस्मित पात्रा (ओडिशा) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अपना स्पेशल मेंशन अपनी मातृ भाषा उड़िया में पढ़ रहा हूँ और उसकी लिपि दी गई है। *Sir, there are three pressing issues that need to be resolved relating to the farmers of Odisha. Firstly, the non-payments and delayed payments of *Fasal Bima* (Crop insurance) to the farmers of Odisha. Many farmers especially, in western, coastal and southern Odisha are suffering due to that. The second issue is the need for fixing the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Paddy at Rs. 2,930 per quintal as it was unanimously resolved in the Odisha Vidhan Sabha on March 25th, 2017 by all MLAs present in the Odisha Legislative Assembly. The third issue is the need to implement the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission report for the development and welfare of the farmers, especially, in Odisha. In order to resolve these three issues, firstly, the Government of India needs to ensure timely payments of *Fasal Bima* to the farmers, failing which they have to undergo a lot of suffering. Secondly, MSP of paddy at Rs. 2,930 per quintal needs to be fixed by the Government of India which will enable farmers to have their right price for their produce. And, thirdly, the Government of India needs to implement all the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission Report, including providing MSP at 1.5 times of the C2 value for the farmers, at least. The Government of Odisha has written to the Government of India several times in this regard, and I am hopeful that the Government of India would resolve these issues of the farmers of Odisha. Thank you.

* English translation of the original speech delivered in Odiya.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Sasmit Patra: Shri Sandosh Kumar P. (Kerala), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha), Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala) and Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu).

Demand for Development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha

SHRI NIRANJAN BISHI (Odisha): Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to a matter of an urgent public importance relating to the development of the Harishankar Temple in the Gandhamardan Hills of Odisha. The temple holds immense cultural, religious, and historical significance and is a popular pilgrimage site for both local and foreign tourists. Despite its potential, the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills have not received the necessary attention for comprehensive development and promotion as a tourist attraction. This oversight limits the region's tourism potential and deprives local communities of the socio-economic benefits that a thriving tourism industry can bring. I, therefore, request the Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Tourism that the Harishankar Temple and its surrounding area be declared an India International Tourist Centre. Moreover, sufficient funds and resources must be allocated for infrastructure development, improving railway connectivity, accessibility and overall facilities in and around the temple and hills. Conservation and preservation measures are also needed to protect the natural and cultural heritage of the area. By declaring the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills as an India International Tourist Centre, their full potential can be unlocked, contributing to the growth of the tourism sector in Odisha. This move would not only boost the local economy but also showcase India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage to the world.

I urge the Government, through you, Sir, to take necessary steps to develop the Harishankar Temple and the Gandhamardan Hills. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI KARTIKEYA SHARMA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Niranjan Bisi: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri Sujeet Kumar (Odisha) and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).