

Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had mentioned the Baliyatra (voyage to Bali) during his address to the people in Bali and lauded its rich tradition. Odisha was well known for her navy. It not only advanced its economic interests but also had large cultural impact on nations like Sri Lanka, Thailand and Brunei during its overseas trade relations with them. In addition to having a vast coastline, Odisha is rich in natural resources and has the potential to become a hub for mineral transportation. In addition to that, if the Skill development programmes could be linked to that then, a large number of people could be trained, which in turn would create huge employment opportunities. At the 3rd meeting of the National Sagarmala Apex Committee (NSAC) held under the Chairmanship of the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Odisha Government emphasized and highlighted the importance of economic and cultural development in the overseas trade relationship, and requested the Centre to examine the proposal and help set-up a university for the future development of the maritime sector in Odisha. These will not only further the development of Odisha but *Bharatvarsh* (India) will also get an opportunity to have collaborations and treaties with many international organizations and an integrated corridor can also be created. I, therefore, urge the Centre to establish an exclusive Indian Maritime University campus in Odisha. We have a Maritime Museum, and adding a campus to the whole set-up will expand it manifolds, benefiting the people of the state and our country."

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. Amar Patnaik: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shrimati Sulata Deo (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Masthan Rao Beeda. 'Need to support and enhance the horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh'.

Need to support and enhance the Horticulture Sector in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI MASTHAN RAO BEEDA (Andhra Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on importance of horticulture in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, Andhra Pradesh was amongst the top States for fruit production during 2021-22, producing approximately 1.8 crore metric tonnes of fruits, as per

Ministry estimates. The horticulture sector is critical to the State's agricultural landscape and includes a diverse array of crops with mango, banana, orange and papaya leading in production.

Horticulture is rapidly growing, with Andhra Pradesh aiming to become a significant horticultural hub, exporting its produce globally. This transition to horticulture provides a climate-resilient and higher-income alternative for farmers, contributing to food and nutritional security in the State and country.

However, India's share in the global horticultural market remains a mere one per cent. The sector faces numerous challenges, such as small operational landholdings, irrigation inadequacies, poor soil management, inadequate transportation infrastructure and fragmented supply chains contributing to delays. The perishable nature of produce and the lack of equitable cold storage and warehousing facilities across States lead to wastage, affecting profits. Addressing these issues and taking the required action, such as expanding cold storage facilities, is crucial for unleashing the sector's full potential.

I, therefore, urge the Government to support and enhance the horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh, boosting its contributions to sustainable agriculture and increasing our country's exports in the global market. Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Masthan Rao Beeda: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Kanakamedala Ravindra Kumar (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Abir Ranjan Biswas (West Bengal), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), and Dr. Santanu Sen (West Bengal), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu and Dr. Amar Patnaik (Odisha).

Now, Shri Niranjana Bishi; request to exempt GST for handloom sector.

Demand to exempt GST for Handloom sector

SHRI NIRANJANA BISHI (Odisha): Thank you, hon. Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise the matter of urgent public importance on the matter of urgent public importance to exempt GST for handloom sector.

Sir, the fact that GST has been implemented in the textile sector, especially, the handloom sector after its implementation in 2017, has not produced the desired