

Demand to stop import of Areca and Ginger into the country

SHRI K. VANLALVENA (Mizoram): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the farmers of the North-East are facing serious problems regarding the export of their areca and ginger products nowadays. These problems have been created by the import of such goods from foreign countries. I am strongly demanding to stop the incoming of areca and ginger from neighbouring foreign countries. The economy of a large number of farmers in the North-East depends on the production of ginger and areca. In the meantime, a huge quantity of dried areca has been imported from Myanmar through the States of Mizoram and Manipur illegally. Although the Government is deploying customs officials and Assam Rifles in the Myanmar border, a huge amount of dried areca is still being imported by some smugglers. Many people of the North-East thought that the Government officials and such smugglers are working together to import such illegal areca across the borders. Moreover, the Government of India has also imported a large quantity of ginger from foreign countries like China. Such kind of importing agricultural products hampers the economy of farmers who grow ginger and areca in the States of North-East India.

I strongly demand the Government to take necessary action to stop the unnecessary import of ginger and areca from neighbouring countries. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The following Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri K. Vanlalvena: Shri Rwngrwa Narzary (Assam), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).

Concern over rising cases of suicides among students of Indian Institute of Technology and other educational institutes of Kota

SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA (Assam): Thank you very much for allowing me to speak on one of the very important subjects of today. In the last couple of months, we have very seriously observed that brilliant students studying in coaching centres in Kota, Rajasthan and All India Institute of Medical Sciences have an unnatural death which is rising day-to-day. We are very much concerned about this.

Sir, it is known to every Indian that Kota is the hub of coaching institutions of India. The Indian Institute of Technology is one of the most prestigious institutions of our country. Only brilliant and academically-meritorious students get admission in the Indian Institute of Technology. It is the call of the hour that Government have to identify a route-map to find out as to what is the reason behind these suicides. Why are these brilliant students going for taking the ultimate step? Sir, the Government have to examine all those cases whether they are related to suicides or not. It may not have been suicide; it could have been ragging also. The Government must seriously look into it. I would like to give one example here. Mr. Faizan Ahmed was a meritorious student from Assam, who was doing his third year in Mechanical Engineering in IIT, Kharagpur. On 14th October, 2022, his body was found at the Lala Lajpatrai Hospital of the IIT. The IIT authorities informed Ahmed's family that he had committed suicide, but his family was not ready to accept that it was a case of suicide. They challenged the post mortem report in the Kolkata High Court given by the Midnapore Hospital in 2022. Ultimately, hon. Justice of the Kolkata High Court gave an order to go in for a second post mortem of the dead body. After the second post mortem of the dead body, it was found that there was a bullet injury in the body. ...(*Time-bell rings*)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is over. Thank you, Shri Birendra Kumar Baishya. The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya: Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita (Assam), Shri Rungwra Narzary (Assam), Shri Ajit Kumar Bhuyan (Assam), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri A.A. Rahim (Kerala), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Jawahar Sircar (West Bengal).

Demand to increase minimum monthly pension under EPF 1995 Scheme upto Rs. 9,000

SHRI M. SHANMUGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I would like to raise a demand for increasing the minimum monthly pension under the EPF 1995 Scheme up to Rs. 9,000 per month.

Sir, lakhs of people in the working class are suffering in the country. They are planning to agitate at the *Jantar Mantar* on the 6th and 7th of next month. The Employees