

Given the importance of this project and the prolonged wait, I urge the Railway Department that the demands of the people of Malda Uttar will be fulfilled, and this issue resolved at the earliest. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Please maintain peace. There is a lot of disturbance.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Mausam Noor: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Niranjan Bishi (Odisha), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu).

Shri Raghav Chadha; he is also not present. Dr. Bhagwat Karad; he is here. Dr. Bhagwat Karad.

Demand for Mental Health Helpline to Reduce Farmer Suicide

DR. BHAGWAT KARAD (Maharashtra): Sir, farmers' suicides in the Marathwada region of Maharashtra have become a tragic and pressing issue. This region, plagued by drought, debt, and economic instability, has witnessed a disturbingly high number of farmer suicides. In India, over 10,000 farmers die by suicide each year, with Marathwada contributing significantly to this grim statistic. In the first half of 2023 alone, over 500 farmers in Marathwada took their own lives, highlighting the acute distress in the farming community.

Depression and financial despair are the primary drivers behind these suicides. Farmers, trapped in a cycle of debt due to crop failures and fluctuating market prices, often find no way out. The lack of adequate mental health support exacerbates their plight.

In response to this crisis, it is imperative for the Government to take immediate and robust action. Establishing a special farmer helpline under the National Mental Health Mission would provide much needed psychological support and counselling. This helpline could serve as a lifeline for distressed farmers, farmers' families, offering them a platform to share their struggles and receive professional help.

I urge the Government to look into it. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): Thank you.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by the hon. Member, Dr. Bhagwat Karad: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik, (Maharashtra), Shri Sant Balbir Singh (Punjab) and Dr. Sikander Kumar (Himachal Pradesh).

Demand for restoration and support for Khazan Land in Goa

SHRI SADANAND MHALU SHET TANAVADE (Goa): Sir, my Special Mention is about demand for restoration and support for Khazan land in Goa. I rise to draw the attention of the august House to a significant issue concerning the Khazan land system in Goa. The Khazan Land System, an engineering marvel crafted by our ancestors centuries ago, consists of reclaimed wetlands and low-lying lands located in the inter-tidal zones of estuaries and tidal-affected rivers. These lands are protected and regulated by Marginal Marine Clay Bunds and a Sluice Gate System (MANAS) located near the mouths of rivers. The Khazan land system is a perfect model of an ecosystem with an excellent blend of men, marine life, flora, fauna, land, agriculture, water bodies, migratory bird habitats, mangrove forests, and beautiful backwaters.

However, these lands are now facing threats from extreme weather events driven by climate change, including changes in rainfall patterns, flooding, and rising sea levels. These factors are leading to permanent loss of land, erosion of riverbanks, pollution of groundwater due to salinity ingress, and flooding of nearby villages.

I urge the Government to provide the necessary assistance in terms of Special Grants, technical expertise and a robust policy framework to revitalize Khazan lands and ensure their sustainable management, which will help bring back thousands of hectares of land under cultivation, stop the permanent loss of land, and make the State more resilient to the challenges of climate change, sea level rise, and changes in rainfall patterns. Restoring Khazan lands will not only preserve our cultural heritage but also enhance environmental sustainability.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA): The following hon. Members associated themselves with the Special Mention made by hon. Member, Shri Sadanand Mhalu Shet Tanavade: Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu) and Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha).