

payment, both principal and interest. At the same time, the same jewels can be re-mortgaged only the next day and cannot be pledged on the same day. So the poor people and farmers have to turn over the entire amount, which is putting lot of financial and mental strain on the borrowers. The option to re-pledge the jewels for loan by paying interest only was more beneficial to the poor people. For example, a person who has taken a loan of Rs.2 lakh can pay back the interest only and he can re-pledge the jewel for another tenure in the earlier system. Now the compliance of these conditions would create a situation of informal credit or borrowing from private individuals, pawn brokers and commission agents at higher rate of interest at the exploitation of farmers and other borrowers.

I am given to understand that the RBI wanted a more transparent and fair lending environment and that is why issued this guideline. But it is like throwing the baby out with the bath water. I would, therefore, urge upon the hon. Finance Minister to intervene in the matter and ensure that new guidelines for jewel loans are withdrawn and the old norms are followed. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri Vaiko: Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shri P. P. Suneer (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri N. Chandrasegharan (Tamil Nadu), Shri Prakash Chik Baraik (West Bengal), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri A. A. Rahim (Kerala) and Shri P. Wilson (Tamil Nadu).

Dr. K. Laxman. Concern over the sale of 400 acres of land belonging to Hyderabad University.

Concern over the sale of 400 acres of land belonging to Hyderabad University

DR. K. LAXMAN (Uttar Pradesh): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the most important and sensitive concern of the Telangana people. The Congress Government in Telangana has decided to auction 400 acres of land claimed by the University of Hyderabad, a prestigious Central University. The University of Hyderabad was established in 1974 and was allotted 2,300 acres of land but till now no demarcation has taken place. The move not only undermines the rights of Central Institutions but also raises serious questions about environmental

conservation and governance. The land, put to auction, includes ecologically sensitive areas, such as mushroom rock and other biodiversity-rich zones near the University's East Campus. Unfortunately, it happened on this campus on festival day at mid night by this Government. Bulldozers with heavy police *bandobast* have ravaged the forests, lakes and habitats. There is unrest in the student community and campus. The Congress Government claims sustainable development, but how can destroying Hyderabad's green lungs and educational institutions be sustainable development? काँग्रेस पार्टी बार-बार कहती है, 'मुहब्बत की दुकान'। The students have now almost declared war. ...*(Interruptions)*... The university has declared war on the students. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, let him authenticate this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.

DR. K. LAXMAN: Sir, the future of students is at stake. Is this how democracy functions under the Congress rule? Even today our BJP MLAs tried to visit that disputed place. They have been put under house arrest since early morning.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: Sir, let him authenticate the facts.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please.

DR. K. LAXMAN: Sir, till now, no demarcation has taken place. The land is purely environmentally sensitive and biodiversity rich. I urge the House to take cognizance of this issue. The auction must be stopped immediately. The ownership should be clearly established. And environmental concerns should be addressed. Let us not allow Hyderabad's heritage and greenery to be bulldozed for short-term gains, for the sake of your *revdi* announcements, the promises which you are unable to fulfill. Now you are putting for auction all the Government's land in Telangana. This is how in Telangana डॉ. बाबा साहेब अम्बेडकर का संविधान नहीं लागू हो रहा है, सिर्फ और सिर्फ राहुल गाँधी, रेवंत रेड्डी का संविधान चल रहा है। यह जबर्दस्ती से चल रहा है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Dr. K. Laxman: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Subhas Chandra Bose Pilli (Andhra Pradesh), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri Madan Rathore (Rajasthan), Dr. Kalpana Saini (Uttarakhand), Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba (Manipur), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shri K.R. Suresh Reddy (Telangana) and Shri B. Parthasaradhi Reddy (Telangana).

Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar; Demand for releasing outstanding MGNREGS funds to the State of Tamil Nadu.

Demand to release outstanding MGNREGS funds to the State of Tamil Nadu

SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the subject of my today's Zero Hour mention is: Demand for Releasing Outstanding MGNREGS Funds to Tamil Nadu. I rise to bring to the attention of this august House a critical issue affecting rural livelihoods in Tamil Nadu. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, MGNREGS, has been a lifeline for over 91 lakh workers in the State. It is to be noted that 86 per cent of employment is provided to women workers and nearly 29 per cent of workers belong to SC/ST households. However, Tamil Nadu has been facing severe challenges due to delay in the release of outstanding wages due to this vital scheme. Funds amounting to nearly Rs. 4,000 crore are pending with the Union Government as wages for workers under MGNREGS for the past four-and-a-half months, as on 1st April, 2025. This delay has caused a huge financial distress to lakhs of poor rural households who depend on timely payments under this scheme. The Tamil Nadu State Finance Minister has already met the Union Finance Minister and submitted a representation, requesting for immediate release of these dues. Earlier, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written to the hon. Prime Minister on 13th January, 2025, urging to release the pending wages amounting to Rs. 2,985 crore and to approve the State's request to increase Labour Budget. This delay in releasing funds not only disrupts the livelihood of rural workers but also affects the implementation of this flagship programme in Tamil Nadu. The situation demands urgent attention and action from the Union Government.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to release pending MGNREGS dues of Rs. 4,000 crore to Tamil Nadu and also approve the proposal to revise and increase the Labour Budget, ensuring sustained employment opportunities for rural workers. Last Saturday, MGNREGS workers protested in front of Block Panchayat Office in Tamil Nadu. In my constituency, tribal people, tribal workers and SC/ST workers are struggling. Please save their livelihoods. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by hon. Member, Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar: Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha), Shri Tiruchi Siva (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil