

[9 May, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh) : Sir, I also associate myself with what Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy has stated.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Goa) : Sir, I also associate myself with what Mr. Ravula Chandra Sekar Reddy has stated.

Second International Airport at Chennai

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation had put up a proposal to the Ministry of Civil Aviation for construction of a new international airport at Chennai. The main objective of the proposal was the development of an airport hub for South India. It was done after arriving at the air traffic projections for the next 20 years, thereby justifying the proposal for developing the airport through private participation. A detailed proposal in this regard has already been sent to the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, for giving "in principle" approval so as to take up the second phase which includes activities like master planning, recommendation on institutional structure, land acquisition, etc.

The Government of India informed us that the Union Cabinet had already decided to restructure the airports in metropolitan cities, including Chennai, as world-class airports on a long-term lease basis. The decision to lease the airports on a long-term basis to the private operators would jeopardize the efforts of the State Government to have a new international airport at Chennai. Further, this project has a better chance of implementation on a BOO/BOOT basis, without recourse to Government funds. Unless this proposal is cleared, I am afraid, Tamil Nadu will stand to suffer in the competition from the neighbouring States in attracting foreign direct investment in industrial projects.

I humbly request the Government to accord "in principle" approval to the new international airport proposal of the Tamil Nadu Government, and drop the Airports Authority of India's proposal to lease out the Chennai airport on a long-term basis, and render justice. Thank you.

Serious drinking water problem in Karnataka

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKARAN (Karnataka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to make this Special Mention and draw the

attention of the Central Government, through you, to the serious drinking water problem and the severe drought situation in Karnataka. Sir, for the last two decades Karnataka has been facing a severe drought situation. This year the situation is severe than the last year. The severity is such that the catchment areas of major dams, lakes, reservoirs and even ponds have dried up; adding to the problems, the power situation has worsened due to steep fall in hydropower generation.

In the year 2001, because of failure of the monsoon, out of 27 districts which comprise 154 taluks, 25 districts were declared as drought-hit on 15.9.2001. Under the leadership of Shri S.M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka, an all party delegation met the hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister and requested them to release a grant of Rs. 903.45 crores for various drought related projects. But the request was not considered and the State had to spend most of its money on drought related projects.

The very insensitive and irresponsible Union Government released one lakh tonne of foodgrains to Karnataka under the Food for Work Scheme, whereas our neighbouring State, Andhra Pradesh was given more than 22 lakh tonne of foodgrains. Again, the request made by the State of Karnataka was not considered favourably. In the first week of January, 2002, due to floods and hailstorms in seven districts, approximately 32,000 hectares of agriculture crop and plantation were destroyed. On 28.2.2002, the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka submitted a memorandum to the Central Government and requested the Government to release Rs. 70.51 crores. But the Union Government has not taken any decision in this regard.

Sir, till March 2002, the Government of Karnataka has spent Rs. 112.29 crores on the areas affected by natural calamities, Rs. 45 crores on providing drinking water and Rs. 36 crores on employment generation. The Government of Karnataka has spent Rs. 56.97 crores more in addition to the shares of the Union Government and the State Government. It is very unfortunate that requests made by the State of Karnataka are not being considered favourably. If the situation remains like this, the State may not be able to sustain itself financially in future.

Keeping in view the seriousness of the drought situation and the drinking water problem, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to release

the requested grant immediately so that the drought situation could be tackled.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Sir, I would like to associate myself with this issue.

Need to Give Rehabilitation and compensation to kin of persons dying in police custody

श्री देवी प्रसाद सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति जी, मैं अपना विशेष उल्लेख हिरासत में मानवाधिकार के हनन के विषय में रखना चाहता हूँ।

सभापति जी, राष्ट्र मानवाधिकार आयोग हिरासत में होने वाली मौतों को नियंत्रित करने तथा जेलों की स्थितियों में सुधार लाने के समुचित कदम उठाने के वास्ते विभिन्न राज्य सरकारों को समय-समय पर आदेश देता रहा है। राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग ने राज्यों से हिरासत में होने वाली मौत की घटनाओं की सूचना 24 घंटों के भीतर देने व आयोग को भी इसका सूचना देने के निर्देश जारी किए हैं। इन सभी निर्देशों और अनुदेशों के बावजूद विभिन्न जेलों तथा पुलिस थानों में हिरासत में मौत के बहुत सारे प्रथम दृष्टया मामले हुए हैं लेकिन पुलिस तथा जेल के दोषी अधिकारियों के विरुद्ध अभियोजन की कोई कार्यवाई शुरू नहीं की गई है। श्रीमन्, फरवरी, 2002 के अंत तक मानवाधिकारों के उल्लंघन की 1657 घटनाएं हुई थी जो मार्च, 2002 के अंत तक बढ़कर 1931 हो गई थीं। इसी प्रकार न्यायिक हिरासत में हुई मौतों की संख्या 31 जनवरी, 2002 तक बढ़कर 948 हो गई है। इसलिए मैं सरकार से यह अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि वह उन राज्य सरकारों से विरुद्ध तात्कालिक कदम उठाए जहां हिरासत में होने वाली मौतों की संख्या में वृद्धि हो रही है तथा जेल प्राधिकारियों द्वारा निर्दोष लोगों को प्रताड़ित किया जा रहा है।

महोदय, मैं इस बात पर विशेष रूप से जोर देना चाहूंगा कि जिस व्यक्ति की हिरासत में मौत हो जाए, उसके निकततम संबंधी को राष्ट्रीय मानवाधिकार आयोग के निर्देशानुसार द्वारा तत्काल आर्थिक मुआवजा दिया जाए और इसके लिए संबंधित अधिकारी को व्यक्तिगत रूप से जिम्मेदार ठहराते हुए उससे मुआवजे की पूरी रकम की वसूली कराई जाए।

Allotment of wheat for Andhra Pradesh poultry farms

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, the poultry industry in Andhra Pradesh has sent an SOS to the Central Government to allot at least 3 lakh tonnes of wheat immediately, so that they can use it as an alternative to cereals like maize and jowar which are, currently, in short supply. The manufacturers of poultry feed have requested the Centre to allot the wheat at its prevailing export price of Rs.435/- per quintal. The