

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Introduction of the Payment of Cash Subsidy to Farmers and Agricultural Labourers Bill, 2019.

\*m01

**SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU (NARSAPURAM):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of cash subsidy to farmers and agricultural labourers in order to provide financial security to them and their family members and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the payment of cash subsidy to farmers and agricultural labourers in order to provide financial security to them and their family members and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

*The motion was adopted.*

\_\_\_\_\_ **SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU:** Sir, I introduce\* the Bill.

\*m02

**\*SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN (THRISSUR):** Sir, I would like to speak in Malayalam. Malayalam is one of the classic languages of India. In my tenure as a Member of Parliament, this is the first time that I am speaking in Malayalam. I am supporting this bill. Sir in our country, the voting percentage is coming down after each election. Our literacy rate has gone up. Our educational facilities have also improved. So we are among those

countries which have the largest number of literate population. But whether it be the local self governing bodies, or the state assemblies or the parliamentary elections, the percentage of votes cast are falling.

Kerala, has hundred percentage literacy. Even in Kerala, in the local self governing body elections, we get 86-87 percentage of voting. In the state assembly elections, we get 76-80 percentage voting. The percentage of voting for Lok Sabha elections is even lesser than this. Sir, this is not a healthy sign for the growth of our democracy.

Why is the voting percentage coming down? In northern parts of India, and other parts, we have 40-45 percentage, 50-55 percentage and at the most we have less than 60 percent voting. Is it a fact that people are losing their faith in our political system? There is increasing instances of corruption, favouritism and growing communalisation and caste divide in our political set-up. It has affected the quality of our body politic. Sir, the public in many parts of our Country do not have a faith in their representatives. People feel that politics is for the personal gain of the elected representative, for his party, and for his family. So the society does not have faith in our politicians.

In other words, the people are moving away from the political system.

So, the political parties should reset their political agenda, to bring back the public interest. Corruption must be wiped out from our society. Whether it be local self governing bodies or it be state assemblies or the Parliament, the people should be made to feel that these institutions belong to them. We must take our decisions for the enlightened citizens who can read our minds. Often in contemporary politics, the reverse of this is true.

Whatever be the government of the day, they get embroiled in corruption. The taxes levied from the citizen form a major share of the revenue utilised by the government. If the citizen feel that even the tax

money levied from him, is being used by their elected representatives for their personal gains, they will lose faith in the system.

So, the primary need is that the political parties must reset their political agenda. All political parties must agree unanimously decide that they will show zero tolerance against corruption. Anyone engaged in corruption must be sidelined from political parties. They should be removed from holding any public office.

Sir governance should be for the society at large and not for any party. When the public feels that their elected representatives are governing for the public interest, then faith in politics will grow. This will ensure that people will increasingly take part in the election process.

Therefore, the need of the hour is quality politics. Public must feel that the governance is taking place in a transparent manner.

So the mainstream political parties, which have been recognized by the election commission, must reset their political agenda and make it more and more socially relevant.

In our country, when candidates are selected and election manifesto is prepared, we invariably think in a communal manner. Caste and religion become a crucial factor. When even candidates are selected on the basis of castes and religion people will lose faith. Quality of the candidates must become the decisive factor in their selection. Then the public interest in the election process can be brought back.

Sir, we can also think in terms of compulsory voting, like many other countries in the world. These countries have achieved hundred percentage voting. Sir, our country too must make voting compulsory.

Sir, a responsible government performs many a welfare activities for the citizen. We have the public distribution system, free rice distribution. From a child going to an anganwadi to a student studying in the university, are all beneficiaries of one or the other government schemes. The public exchequer spends crores of rupees for the citizen's welfare. Therefore, it becomes mandatory for the citizens to play his role, by participating in the election process. So voting must be made compulsory. The mindset of our society must change.

It was Shri Rajiv Gandhi Ji, who had given voting rights to all citizens above the age of eighteen. Before that the voting age was twenty one. This was to encourage more youths to cast their votes.

**18.00 hrs** Considering the voting pattern we have now and also the voting pattern in our local body elections. We can see that the young generation is reluctantly to cast their votes. If we have to awaken the interest of our youth, we must encourage value based politics, which aims at social welfare. Our intervention must serve to achieve this goal. I support this bill. I am not concluding it. I would continue my speech by Sir. (Interruptions) Let me conclude by once again saying that this is my first speech in Malayalam. My mother tongue Malayalam is now a recognized classical language. (Inconclusive)  
**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Do you want to conclude your speech or continue it next time?  
**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Okay. You may continue your speech when this Bill is taken up next time.

सभा की कार्यवाही सोमवार, 6 दिसंबर, 2021 को प्रातः 11 बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है ।

**18.01 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 6, 2021/Agrahayana 15, 1943 (Saka)*

## **INTERNET**

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<http://www.parliamentofindia.nic.in>

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\* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

\* Available in Master copy of Debate, placed in Library.

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\* Not recorded.

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

\* Not recorded.

\*\* Speech was laid on the Table.

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\*\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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