

Regarding the challenges of implementation of Facial Recognition System faced by Anganwadi workers in Tamil Nadu

SHRI SASIKANTH SENTHIL (TIRUVALLUR): Thank you, Madam, for giving me the opportunity. I want to bring to the notice of the House the problems created by this Government in the name of Digital India.

Actually, it is not Digital India which is running. What is running is denial India. In fact, the entire NREGA programme is now completely based on some GPS-based App. All our farm labourers are waiting for GPS. The entire scholarship scheme is also being destroyed by making these digital authorisations.

Now, a new thing has been brought under the ICDS programme, where the pregnant mothers are supposed to do facial recognition. Madam, through you, I want to ask a question to the Government. How do they expect the pregnant mothers to walk all the way to the Anganwadi Centres to give their facial recognition for household kits? The take-home ration is now made mandatory only by this process.

In Tamil Nadu, all the Anganwadi workers are going on strike. The ICDS programme is a very important programme. If you make this digital joke everywhere, how do you think the people are going to get any services? This is ? denial India?. I want to bring the attention of this Government to stop this ... * As far as the labourers and poor people are concerned, they cannot have these smart mobiles for doing all these facial recognitions. So, not only in Tamil Nadu, everywhere in India, the Anganwadi workers are going on strike. They are not able to take these things.

Madam, now, OTP is required. Where do you expect people to go and get the OTP? Where do you expect people to do the facial recognition? These are not necessary. Please do not destroy the flagship programmes which are running well. The NREGA programme is already destroyed. Social welfare schemes are already destroyed.

So, I want to bring to the notice of this Government, through you, to stop all these things. The manual process was okay. Some amount of inclusion is okay, but total exclusion is a crime as far as the welfare programmes are concerned.

