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Title: Need to provide financial assistance for drought relief to the State of Punjab.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप में से किसी ने शून्य काल का नोटिस दिया है?

श्री जे.एस. बराड़ (फरीदकोट) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमने स्थगन प्रस्ताव का नोटिस दिया है।

Sir, it is a very important matter. We should be allowed to speak for a minute or two on it in the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, it is a very important issue.

श्री प्रभुनाथ सिंह (महाराजगंज, बिहार) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने कार्य स्थगन प्रस्ताव का नोटिस दिया है। मैं उसके संबंध में बोलने की इजाजत चाहता हूँ।
â€ (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने सारे नोटिस डिसएलाउड किए हैं और जीरो आवर में सभी को बोलने के लिए चांस दूंगा।

â€ (व्यवधान)

श्री हन्नान मोल्लाह (उलूबेरिया) : क्या सरकार की तरफ से एडजार्नमेंट मोशन का नोटिस दिया जाता है? â€ (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : नहीं होता है। But nobody can stop him under the rules. But I am not allowing him to speak now.

...(Interruptions)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : सुनिए। आप सभी लोग जानते हैं और कल आपने देखा है। कम से कम यहां 15 वियॉ पर चर्चा हो सकी। आज भी हम चर्चा करेंगे। जिन्होंने एडजार्नमेंट मोशन का नोटिस दिया है, उनको दो-दो मिनट की मैं इजाजत देने वाला हूँ। अगर आप सहकार करेंगे, तो अच्छा रहेगा। सभी को चांस मिलेगा।

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): Sir, we are always co-operating with the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri J.S. Brar, I am allowing you to speak. But before that let me read out the names of the Members who have given notice on this issue.

This notice is regarding drought relief fund to the State of Punjab. It has been given by Shri J.S. Brar, Dr. Charan Das Mahant, Shri Charanjit Singh, Shri Kantilal Bhuria, Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Shri Iqbal Ahmed Sardgi and Shri A.C. Jos.

श्री जे.एस.बराड़ (फरीदकोट) : महोदय, मैं आपकी इजाजत से देश के एक राज्य पंजाब का एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा उठाना चाहता हूँ। देश के सम्मुख पंजाब का एक महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा है। जो प्रदेश देश के लिए ग्रीन रिवोल्यूशन लेकर आया और इतना बड़ा कन्ट्रीब्यूशन नेशनल पूल में किया। पिछले सीजन में ड्राउट की वजह से पंजाब के 17 जिलों में मुकम्मिल तौर पर नुकसान हुआ। करोड़ों रुपयों का नुकसान हुआ। पंजाब सरकार के डिपार्टमेंट आफ एग्रीकल्चर और को-आपरेशन ने 18 सितम्बर, 2002 को आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए हैं।

The loss was to the tune of Rs. 6,372.38 crore. So, the requirement for relief, special assistance has increased now. In this regard a memorandum was resubmitted on September 16 and October 15.

Sir, this is a very important matter. The Government of India sent a Central team headed by Shri P.K. Aggarwal, who is the Joint Secretary and Agricultural Marketing Adviser to the Government of India, to make an on-the-spot assessment on November 9.

The details of the losses, causes due to drought, and the relief demanded are mentioned in the memorandum. I am not going into all those details now. But on Agriculture, we demanded Rs. 2,190 crore. For drinking water, electricity, irrigation, feed and fodder, damages to plantation, soil and water resources, health and medical care, Centrally-sponsored schemes for employment and industrial cooperation, the losses were to the tune of Rs. 6,000

crore.

Sir, we were just surprised and we got a big shock of our life. The entire people of Punjab have been ignored and not a single rupee has been sent to our State of Punjab.

Now, the technical matter is that the Centre sent a letter to the Chief Minister of Punjab saying that "Because the crop is not 50 per cent damaged, so, you will not get the relief."

Sir, our contention on that point is that there was less than a normal rainfall in Punjab. There was excess expenditure on diesel consumption in agriculture sector and higher electricity consumption in that sector. There is a fall in the water table also. Out of 138 blocks, 89 blocks of Punjab have gone blank. This was a very major and a big loss to the State. There was damage to the crops; areas were left unsown; wells and tube-wells have gone dry.

Sir, I will take only one more minute. The parameters mentioned in paragraph 3.3 were stated to the Government of India in the memorandum on drought relief, kharif 2002 and it was sent to them on 18.9.2002. But the Government of India has not conveyed their acceptance as yet.

I would like to request the Government through you, Sir, that Punjab should be given this drought relief immediately; otherwise, we are in a big financial mess. It is a loss to the country as well and the people are on the agitational path. The Government of India should consider this drought relief for Punjab.

Thank you very much and I am grateful to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Those hon. Members who have given notices to raise this issue, can associate themselves with this.

...(Interruptions)

कई माननीय सदस्य : जी हां, हम एसोसिएट कर रहे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you all will be associating with this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BALBIR SINGH (JALANDHAR): Sir, the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. Let him react to it; it is a very serious problem. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, even the hon. Finance Minister is here. He can comment on it. ...(Interruptions) महोदय, देश का बड़ा नुकसान हो रहा है। (ब्यवधान) इसके बारे में तीन बार मेमोरेंडम आ चुका है, हमारी यह बहुत जेनुअन मांग है। It has been re-submitted. He should convey it to the Agriculture Minister and to the Prime Minister also. He should also highlight our woes.

श्री शमशेर सिंह दूलो (रोपड़) : महोदय, पंजाब को इग्नोर किया है, हरियाणा को दिया है। (ब्यवधान)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, anyhow, you have indicated that I should convey their feelings. I am the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Since the hon. Members are insisting, I will definitely convey their feelings. I will convey. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Members are so decent and so nice that they deserve it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.S. BRAR : Sir, thank you very much. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am the Minister of Posts and Telegraphs also. So, it is my responsibility to convey it to them!

...(Interruptions)