

Title: Further discussion regarding problems being faced by farmers raised by Shri Basudeb Acharia on 22nd December, 2004. (Not concluded).

14.41 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY FARMERS – contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yesterday, Dr. Manda Jagannath was on his legs. I request him to continue.

DR. M. JAGANNATH (NAGAR KURNOOL): Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the suicides by the farmers throughout the country, particularly in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. No concrete measures have been taken by the Government in spite of our discussions on this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

श्री प्रमुनाथ सिंह (महाराजगंज, बिहार) : उपाध्यक्ष जी, मुझे सदन को एक सूचना देनी है। देश के पूर्व प्रधान मंत्री श्री नरसिंह राव जी की मृत्यु हो गई है। हम यह सूचना देना चाहते हैं। इस पर कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए और शोक होना चाहिए। हमें-अभी-अभी यह सूचना मिली है। इसलिए सरकार को बताना चाहिए कि वस्तुस्थिति क्या है। क्या वे सचमुच मर गए हैं या यह अफवाह है?

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : स्पीकर साहब आ रहे हैं। मुझे भी सरकारी तौर पर कन्फर्मेशन नहीं हुई है इसलिए वे ही बताएंगे।

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in fact you know the practice. The practice is to announce it formally and officially. It will be better if we wait for the hon. Speaker to come. If the hon. Members have patience for a few minutes, then it could be done in the fitness of things. The news is confirmed. But it is to be announced formally and officially. That is why we have sent for the Speaker. Certain other things have to be done. Therefore, hon. Members, please have patience for a few minutes.

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I was talking about the issues of farmers. One of them is suicides by the farmers throughout the country, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Haryana. In Andhra Pradesh, more than 2,000 farmers have committed suicide within a period of 200 days. Nearly 200 weavers have committed suicides. They have died due to starvation. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please do not disturb.

...(*Interruptions*)

DR. M. JAGANNATH : During the visit of the hon. Prime Minister to Andhra Pradesh, an announcement regarding *ex gratia* was made over and above the State Government's grant of Rs. 1,50,000. He also assured that every care will be taken of the farming community to see that there are no suicidal deaths. But it has not changed. Even now, nearly six to ten deaths occur daily in Andhra Pradesh, which goes on unchecked. The Government of India has not brought out any policy. The helpline scheme was announced by the Government of Andhra Pradesh with a good intention to help the farming community who are in distress. They were asked to come to the Collectors and others so that the Government could help them.

Sir, sometimes, there was no response from the Helpline. Rather, it has become a helpless line leading to the death line. In spite of this situation, the Government of Andhra Pradesh, which has to take so many measures to stop all these, is not caring for anything and also not taking any step.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Leader of the House wants to say something.