

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding custom duty on silk.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal are the largest producers of silk with Karnataka contributing about 60 per cent. Most of the silk is being exported. Because of the reduction in duty by the BJP Government, farmers and silk reelers are suffering. When the UPA Government was there, the duty was increased from 10 to 15 per cent. I urge upon the Government to come forward to protect the farmers and silk reelers by way of MSP and incentive. Farmers and silk reelers are committing suicide. They are facing serious problems, especially in Ramanagaram, Sidlaghatta, Channapatna, Tumkur and entire south Karnataka. So, this is a very important issue. Only three days ago, farmers committed suicide. ... (*Interruptions*) I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri R. Dhruvanarayana, Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda and Shri D.K. Suresh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, the Prime Minister's security is the concern of the nation. The Prime Minister addressed a *kisan kalyan* rally in Midnapur in West Bengal on 16th July, 120 kilometres from Kolkata. People were brought to the rally from Jharkhand, Odisha and also from within the State.... (*Interruptions*) During the rally, one tent collapsed. It injured 90 people including 50 women.

The rally was organised by BJP. They must take the blame for the shabby arrangement in the Prime Minister's meeting where there could have been several deaths. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down now.

... (*Interruptions*)