

>

Title: Request the government to set up a dedicated social media for handing misinformation about coronavirus and formulate a contingency plan for daily wage labourers.

SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH (MANDYA): Thank you, Sir. I wish to first and foremost convey my thoughts and prayers to the people, the families and the dear ones of the victims of this dreaded Coronavirus. I also commend the rapid response and proactive efforts shown by the Central Government and various State Governments to address this issue as also the doctors, the nurses and the medical community who are at the forefront putting their own health and lives at risk. I think that we have to sincerely thank them from the bottom of our hearts.

This is undoubtedly the first such outbreak in the age of social media, and it brings along with it a host of new kinds of problems of wholly different dimensions, which needs to be addressed. There are so many rumours, conjectures, misinformation and fake news in abundance in the social media across various platforms. I would urge the Government to expedite and set up a dedicated social media handle to address the issues, and dispel fears and doubts of the common man who is already stressed by this unprecedented situation. At this point, inaccurate information should not be allowed to spread at any cost. The more we educate the easier we eradicate is my humble opinion.

I would also like to urge the Government to begin formulating a contingency plan for the daily wage labourers, the day-to-day vendors

and the small businesses and traders who are facing livelihood threat as they do not have the luxury or option of sitting at home and waiting it out till the virus passes or this issue is resolved. I think that this has to happen parallelly and immediately so as not to precipitate this crisis any more. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

माननीय अध्यक्ष: श्री कुलदीप राय शर्मा को श्रीमती सुमलता अम्बरीश द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।