

Seventeenth Loksabha

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**Title: Regarding the need for amendments in the SARFAESI Act passed by the Parliament.**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Sir, I am going to raise a very important issue regarding the repeated instances of use of provisions of the draconian SARFAESI Act.

They have been excessively used to attach properties of defaulters, often through unfair and inhumane procedure, leading to helpless debtors or even their children committing suicide due to harassment and humiliation by the bank authorities.

In Kerala State itself, numerous instances of debtors or even their children committing suicide, due to harassment experienced in the process of attachment of their properties by banks, are being reported frequently. The suicide committed by Abhirami in Patharam, Sooranad Gram Panchayat in Kunnathur District took place in my parliamentary constituency, Kollam. Her father had taken a loan from a scheduled cooperative bank in Kerala. It is a sad and unfortunate incident where a young student committed suicide. Her father had paid the majority of his loan, but that did not stop the bank from placing a board in front of the house and publicly humiliating the family. Such an old inhumane and archaic practice must be stopped once and forever.

The financial position of people in Kerala has declined rapidly, and innumerable *pravasis* have lost their jobs. As a result, they default in repayment of their loans for no fault of their own. However, the SARFAESI Act does not consider the healthy repayment of loan by the debtor and the Administrator starts attaching the property. ... (*Interruptions*) It declares the unfortunate person an enemy of the bank and an economic offender. At the same time, there are some big fish who looted crores of rupees from the banks and have fled the nation.

They ruin cashew factories, fail small-scale businesses, and the loanees who took loans to meet the educational expenses of their children are all facing the sword of SARFAESI Act where they will stand to lose everything. ... (*Interruptions*)

I therefore, urge upon the Government, through you, Sir, to intervene and amend the SARFAESI Act which was passed by the Parliament.