

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called Shri Chandumajra.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Virendra Kumar Singh, will you please sit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of Government to the fact that Punjab is being discriminated with regard to the price of paddy against other States. Rs. 20/- per quintal was reduced last year and this year. Hon. Agriculture Minister as well as the Prime Minister had assured that the farmers of Punjab will not be discriminated but this year also they have been discriminated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have given two items. One has been taken up under Rule 377. Now you, speak only on "Discrimination against Punjab farmers on price of paddy".

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : I am speaking on the same matters Mr. Deputy Speaker, P.R. 106 quality of paddy is considered super fine throughout the country. But it is considered fine in Punjab. When RP-106 quality of paddy is exported it is considered super fine. In reply to my unstarred question on 27th, the Food Minister admitted that RP-106 is considered superfine quality. The Government have replied that the moisture content is much in Punjab variety. It is a well known fact that the fields of Punjab are adjacent to the fields of Haryana. In Haryana this quality has been considered super fine whereas in Punjab it is considered fine and they have been paid Rs. 20 per quintal less. In this way they have been paid Rs. 40 crore less this year and Rs. 40 crore last year. Thus the farmers of Punjab have been plundered.

We want that bonus should be given to the farmers of Punjab. The assurance given by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister during the last session, that the farmers of Punjab would given proper price of their produce has not been fulfilled. Whatever the Prime Minister had said has not been fulfilled. I want to know whether Government are prepared to give bonus. The

Not Recorded.

wheat which was purchased from the farmers of Punjab at the rate of Rs. 300 per quintal is selling at Rs. 800 or 900 per quintal. Same is the case of cotton. The farmers of Punjab are being paid not more than Rs. 1500 per quintal. The Food Minister has given false figures here. The farmers are staging a 'Dharna' to get adequate price of their produce. Government are not taking any action in this regard. I request the Government that there should be no discrimination with the farmers of Punjab. The farmers who contribute 70 per cent of wheat and rice in the Central pool should be encouraged but on the contrary they are being discouraged. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether Government are prepared to give them bonus.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, through you I want to raise a matter of national importance. For the last some day a debate is going on that the Chief Justice of India would be superseded. But our Law Minister has given a statement on a T.V. channel that there shall be no supersession and Justice J.S. Verma will be made Chief Justice immediately after the superannuation of Justice Shri Ahmedi I would like to request as it is an important policy decision and the House is in session, this statement should have been given in the House. The entire nation is looking towards this statement. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon'ble Law Minister that whatever he has said on the Private channel should clarify in the House that immediately after the superannuation of the present incumbent Justice Ahmedi, the next senior most Justice J.S. Verma would be declared the Chief Justice of India. Previously, also at the time of the retirement of the Chief Justice of India, orders for the next Chief Justice were issued well in time to stop any speculations in this regard. Therefore, I would like to thank the hon. Law Minister that he has clarified this on a private T.V. channel. But I would like him to authenticate whether he has given this clarification on a Private T.V. channel and whether Government have taken a decision that Justice J.S. Verma would be made the Chief Justice. I would like him to give this statement on the floor of the House. This would enable judiciary to function freely and would create confidence in the 90 crore people of the country.

13.00 hrs.

I would like the Law Minister to repeat the Statement given on a Private T.V. channel, in the House itself just now. If he does so, I would congratulate him. Law Minister is present in the House. It is an important point and he should clarify it for the entire nation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Santosh Mohan Dev.

(Interruptions)