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Title: Regarding supply of hybrid banana seeds of poor quality by a multinational tissue culture company of Bangalore.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (SALEM): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the plight of the farmers who are cultivating banana in the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

There is a multinational company by name Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore. This company is situated in Bangalore which supplies tissue culture banana seeds to the farmers. And because of the extensive canvass and the kind of promises made by the company, the farmers were made to believe that this was a hybrid variety which they can indulge in cultivating. Sir, to their dismay, believing it to be true thousands of farmers had taken tissue culture seeds from this company. Two years have elapsed. Even the feathering is not taking place. Ultimately, the farmers have been put to very huge loss. This is a serious situation.

This situation was raised by Shri P.H. Pandian way back in 2001 and addressed the Ministry of Agriculture that this was the plight of the farmers in those areas. The Indo-American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore has completely deceived the farmers of those areas who are cultivating banana.

Sir, the Ministry was kind enough in sending a team to investigate this issue. The team, under the Chairmanship of the Director, National Research Centre for Banana, Trichy, visited the spot and they found out the cause of the loss of farmers. They felt that 80 per cent was due to poor quality of planting material. They were categorical in their finding that because of the poor quality of seed and tissue culture supplied by the multinational company, Indo American Hybrid Seeds, Bangalore, the farmers were put to huge loss.

I would like to cite the case of Shri V.R.N. Murthi alone, who is a big farmer and has taken seeds worth Rs. 95 lakh from this company. That report is available with the Ministry. Even then, the Ministry is insensitive and indifferent to that report. I would like to know whom they are shielding. Is the Ministry in line with the case that the farmers who are born out of debt are going to die out of debt? Is this the situation? Is it not the duty of the Government to book the culprit and give relief to the farmers? The farmers have gone to the National Consumer Forum. Two years have elapsed. The company did not even file a counter reply. The Ministry is sleeping over it. The Ministry of Agriculture knows that there is a report and because of the poor quality of seeds, the farmers are dying. I would like the Ministry to initiate immediate action. The banks are asked to recover the loan from the agriculturists. Two years have elapsed. That report is with them. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.H. Pandian will associate with him.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI : Sir, I would like to know as to why the investigating team has not initiated any action. Whom are they shielding? Are they shielding the multinational company?

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Now, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(*Interruptions*)

13.00 hrs.

अध्यक्ष महोदय : रघुवंश प्रसाद जी, क्या आप अपनी बात बोलना नहीं चाहते हैं।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह (वैशाली) : मैं इन्हें सपोर्ट करने के बाद अपनी बात बोलना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : ठीक है।

डॉ. रघुवंश प्रसाद सिंह : अध्यक्ष जी, नुनिया, मल्लाह, तत्मा, तुरहा, तांती और कुम्हार - ये सभी बिहार में अति-पिछड़ी जातियों में हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बिल तो आ रहा है, उस समय आप अपनी बात बोल दीजिएगा।

