

Title: Problems being faced by farmers in the country.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA (JALANDHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me a chance to speak on the need of the hour for the farming community. It is rightly said that most of the Indians live in villages. India's economy depends on agriculture. Out of a hundred crore of population in India, there are 12 crore farmers. They produce different kinds of commodities. The whole nation depends upon them for food. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Singh, all these issues have been dealt with. You want to make a general reference to farmers' conditions but there was a full debate on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture. Anyway, just point out the main issues instead of going through the entire thing.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : Our late brave Prime Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastriji gave the slogan, 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan'. If the farmer is happy, the whole nation is happy.

MR. SPEAKER: This has already been discussed. Just briefly mention the main issues. There has been a full discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture the other day.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : I would just take two minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a long statement.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : The cost of agricultural inputs has increased many times. Our farmers need support from the Government for getting new and good quality seeds. Our agricultural universities should develop seeds which are high yielding. If the farmers get more yield and good quality produce, they can compete with the farmers of the rest of the world. More grants should be given to agricultural universities and research centres so that new seed varieties and new agricultural practices could be developed.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, please conclude now.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : There is also a need to look after the general conditions of the farmers. Many farmers of different parts of the country are committing suicides.

MR. SPEAKER: All these issues have been discussed.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : A farmer of the country on whom the economy of the nation depends commits suicide. We should take a serious note of it. The Government should come forward to help the farmers. It should include seeds at subsidised rates, crop insurance, concessions in electricity bills, speedy purchase of agricultural produce and timely payment to farmers. They should also be given loans at cheaper rates of interest for purchase of tractors, implements and agricultural inputs.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, you will have to conclude.

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : I have a very valid suggestion to make.

Minimum Support Price (MSP) may be extended to the crops being taken up under diversification programme. I think, Punjab is already doing a lot of works in diversification. So, MSP should be given. Increased price for products and adequate funds may be provided to the agricultural universities for research and development. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry. I have already allowed this matter.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GURJEET SINGH RANA : This has not been addressed by our Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This matter has been fully discussed on the floor of the House. Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Agriculture had been debated. The hon. Minister had given more than a comprehensive answer. Now, again repeating the same thing does not help. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, you are not helping me.

...(*Interruptions*)

श्री रामसेवक सिंह (ग्वालियर) : महोदय, मैं मध्य प्रदेश में बीटी कपास पैदा करने वाले किसानों के बारे में निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ। राज्य सरकार द्वारा बीटी कपास पैदा करने वाले किसानों को बीज और कीटनाशक दवाएं उपलब्ध कराई जाती हैं। लेकिन इस बार अभी तक उन्हें ये उपलब्ध नहीं कराई गई हैं, जबकि बीटी कपास के बीज बोने का समय अप्रैल तक था। इस कारण वहां के किसान काफी परेशान हैं। मेरा सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह शीघ्र ही मध्य प्रदेश में बीटी कपास पैदा करने वाले किसानों को बीज और कीटनाशक दवाएं उपलब्ध कराने के लिए राज्य सरकार से कहे।