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Title: Further combined discussion on Demands for Supplementary Grants (General) 2007-08 and Demands for Excess Grants (General) 2005-06. (Discussion not concluded)

MR. SPEAKER: We now come to Item No.14, Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). [r24]Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI K.S. RAO (ELURU): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for keeping India as a destination for investment by all the world nations. We know it very well that most of the multinational companies throughout the world are giving first preference to India, having felt that this is the best place where they can invest their money in industry, trade, business and in every other field.

Sir, there is another aspect. I also congratulate him for seeing that the tax revenue is growing.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, there will be no luncheon recess today; this debate will continue till 2 p.m.

SHRI K.S. RAO : The tax revenue is growing very impressively. There is excellent tax compliance with 85 per cent of the assesses filing tax returns. Possibly, there is a change in the thinking of the assesses these days that they must pay the tax and then make their money official. Particularly, the direct tax revenues are increasing by 43 per cent, which is a good indication, thereby leading to a very robust growth in the economy.

**12.56 hrs.**

(Shri Mohan Singh *in the Chair*)

When it comes to the question of purchasing power, we stand very high in the world of nations. We are perhaps one of the largest world economies. I am very happy that the GDP growth rate was 9.4 per cent in 2006-07. I am always optimistic that with a little more effort, it can always cross the two digits.

Yesterday, my BJP friend, while speaking, appreciated that there is a GDP growth rate of 9 per cent during the tenure of our UPA Government. But he was telling that it was very natural. If it were to be natural, I do not understand why it was not so during the NDA Government. It had gone down to the extent of 4 per cent at one time.

Similarly, my BJP friend was referring to pension funds. He said that they used to pay 10 per cent during their tenure and now it is being reduced. Every one of us is aware that by virtue of increase in the average living age of the people, most of the employees now live longer than what they used to live earlier. Naturally, the burden on the Government is going up. The burden on the Exchequer is going up year after year. So, without affecting the interests of the employees, we have to find an alternative way. For that, the Government of India has already brought a Bill, and then referred it to the Standing Committee where we discussed it. We felt that by giving it to the fund managers and putting adequate securities for the funds, the employee will be benefited more than what he will by taking the 10 per cent guarantee. But then, as my colleague said, there was difference of opinion in regard to this, particularly from our Left friends, because of which it could not be decided. But this is very good even for the employees also without putting any burden on the Government. So, my humble request in this context to our Left friends, is to accept the Bill and then bring it immediately so that we can pass it. That is in the interest of the employees also.

In regard to the petrol prices, my BJP friend was referring that during their tenure they had dismantled the Administered Price Mechanism. Now, in spite of the fact that the international prices of oil have gone up from 35 to 100 dollars per barrel, the Government of India is not increasing the prices. He found fault for that. Actually, till yesterday, they were raising the slogan that the Government should not increase the oil prices. But now he found fault for not increasing the oil prices. Possibly, he could not find means to make allegations on the Government of India in the coming elections in Gujarat. He thought that the other way of making allegations is speaking about their not increasing the oil prices. This is very surprising. I could not understand the rationale behind it. He also said that it is a fraud on the common man. Not raising the prices for the common man particularly in regard to kerosene and cooking gas, is it a fraud on the common man? Does it mean that raising the prices is not a fraud?[r25]

**13.00 hrs.[h26]**

I just want to understand this from my friend. He also said that the regime of the NDA Government was an era of plenty,

and now it is an era of scarcity. I do not know what is scarce in this country now. We have got everything available. If he were to say that we have imported paddy or wheat, that was done during the regime of the NDA Government. So, such occasions can come once in a way in any Government because of the nature. There may be some rains or may not be some rains and because of which there can always be fluctuation in the production of food grains, about which we need not be perturbed. The country has reached a stage of self-sufficiency in food grains. On that account, he cannot find fault.

Now, I come to the foreign exchange reserves. Now, the foreign exchange reserves have gone up to more than 260 billion dollars, which is possibly one of the seventh largest in the world. That is a plus point really but my friend was finding fault even on that.

Sir, possibly because he sits in the Opposition, he felt that it was his duty to criticize the Government. If that were to be his motive, I can understand that but I do not find any substance in criticising the Government in this regard. Had he raised some other points pertaining to poor or people below the poverty line or the farming community, I would have been happy and even supported him but I do not find any substance in his criticisms.

The information, which was 7.4 per cent in April had been brought to 3.01 per cent in November. In spite of this hectic activity in industry and flow of foreign funds into the country – it is really to the credit to the hon. Finance Minister – the hon. Finance Minister is able to regulate and control the inflation to 3.01 per cent.

Similarly, the hon. Finance Minister had promised to the nation that he would bring the revenue deficit to zero over a period of time. It is coming to that very soon. In regard to the fiscal deficit, he promised to reduce it to three per cent by 2008-09, and I am sure that he will be able to keep that up. This is also the best indication about the national economy.

Now, I come to capital flow, which is 62 billion dollars. It is not in the entire year but between April and October of this year, there is a capital inflow to the tune of 62 billion dollars and FFI to the tune of 17 billion dollars. What more is required to show that the economy is flourishing?

Sir, in this context I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister some of the points which I have in my mind and which I expressed time and again during my speech on several occasions.

Sir, the growth in agriculture is 2 to 2.5 per cent in this country. It has necessarily to be brought to four per cent. Now, the agricultural sector is contributing about 17 per cent of the GDP, and by bringing it to four per cent growth, the share of the agricultural sector can go up to 35 per cent. That is essential because more than 65 per cent of the people are living in the rural areas and most of them are depending on agriculture. Their income has to go up. Their purchasing power has to go up. No matter how much development we have achieved and no matter how much growth we have achieved in this country, it will not have real meaning unless it reaches those 60 per cent of the people who are living in the rural areas. How will the rural income go up? Now will the income of the agricultural farmers go up? Firstly, the production per acre must be increased. That is possible only when the hon. Finance Minister concentrates on giving more allocation to Research and Development. The production of food grains in China, which has less cultivable area than what we have in India, is to the tune of 400 million tonnes, and the production of food grains in India is only 209 million tonnes. [\[h27\]](#) But this has to go up. So, my humble request to the hon. Finance Minister is to please consider it. He should not get satisfied with the shooting up of the share prices with the Sensex moving up to 19,000 or 20,000 points. There is a terrific inflow of money, and India has become a centre for investment. Everything is positive. But unless this growth, this boom, this income, and this wealth generated, reach to the people living in the rural areas including the farmers and the farm labours, it would not make any sense.

So, I want the hon. Finance Minister to concentrate in the coming years on agriculture, rural areas and the people living below poverty line. I do not say that he has not done anything for the farmers. I do say and I congratulate him that he has increased the credit to the agricultural communities, to the farmers from Rs. 75,000 crore to more than Rs. 2.3 lakh crore. Similarly, the rate of interest also has been brought down from 12 per cent to seven per cent. I give him full credit for doing all this. But having seen the plight and the problems of the farmers in the field -- I had made a request to him earlier also -- I am again requesting him that the rate of interest on the credit to the farmers must be reduced to three per cent; or even brought to zero per cent after some time. There is nothing wrong in it. It is because, in three days when the share price index had gone up, it was said in the newspapers that the market value of the capital of those industries have gone up by Rs. 5.4 lakh crore...

**सभापति महोदय :** मिल मातिकों को मिला है।

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): It is only on papers.

SHRI K.S. RAO : All right, it is on papers. Even on papers, their wealth has gone up. When the wealth has gone up to Rs. 5.4 lakh crore in three days pertaining to the industrialists, should it not be the same thing with the farmers?

MR. CHAIRMAN: For sugar mill owners, it is zero per cent.

SHRI K.S. RAO : Yes, Sir. I am limiting myself only to farmers and BPL families. Even to Self Help Groups, this has to be done. I am sure, he would realize and he would take a decision to reduce the rates of interests further on the lending to the farmers, farm labours , BPL people and Self Help Groups in the coming years.

Sir, I have seen the allocations made in the Supplementary Demands. I have been telling since 1985 in this House that I do not find any reason as to why the Budget allocations must be made to the Economic Ministries, be it the Ministry of Civil Aviation, be it the Ministry of Railways or be it the Ministry of Petroleum. All these Ministries must not be given any allocation in the Budget. The entire revenue collected must be put on either education, welfare or on connected activities for the benefit of poor people and the rural development. I can understand about the allocations being made to the Ministry of Rural Development but certainly not to the Ministry of Civil Aviation. Why should allocation be made to the Ministry of Civil Aviation? If a private corporate sector, who is purchasing an aeroplane and paying interest on it, and then also paying tax to the Government could survive, why should not the Ministry of Civil Aviation run on their own? If they want any money, they must raise the money from the market and then pay interest, but it should not be from the Budget resources.

While I am not against the Government support to the Public Sector Undertakings but those Public Sector Undertakings, which are incurring losses in spite of getting package after package, should not be considered for such support regularly. Suppose, a steel industry in the Government of India were to lose because of its inefficiency and if they demand and get a package or permission to increase the price of steel, the real benefit is taken by the private sector because they work efficiently and increase their margin. That is why I say that such industries under the Government should not be encouraged at any cost. You can give them some powers. Suppose, if they are given money, they must ensure that their industry runs into profit; then, they can allocate some profits to the employees or they can give more and more benefits to their employees; there is nothing wrong in it. But continuously feeding them from the budgetary resource is putting tax on the common man...*(Interruptions)*

**सभापति महोदय:** राम कृपाल जी, सदन में अखबार पढ़ना उचित नहीं है। इसके लिए पुस्तकालय में जाना चाहिए।

SHRI K.S. RAO : Sir, I have seen the allocation. The allocation made to the Ministry of Civil Aviation is Rs. 548 crore; the allocation made to the Ministry of Coal is Rs. 127 crore; the allocation made to the Ministry of Commerce is Rs. 900 crore. I can understand some allocation to the Ministry of Petroleum for some time, but even then, it is Rs.11,256 crore. Then, see the allocation to the Ministry of Textile? Should it be a continuous process for decades together? In spite of a huge allocation to the Ministry of Textile for decades if it runs into losses, should the Government go on providing such allocations to them year after year? [r28] Is there no end to it? Shall we not put a full stop to that at some point? Sir, I want the hon. Minister to think on this matter and do not waste the funds of the public on these industries and deprive the poor people who are below the poverty line. I have been asking the hon. Minister that the entire BPL families in this country must be provided with health insurance. I gave the statistics. It does not cost more than Rs.6,000 crore. All the families must be provided with health insurance, and the burden can be shared by the State Governments and the Central Government.

Now, today if a poor man were to go to the Government hospital anywhere in the country, he is not getting the right treatment. In fact, he has been neglected. Even if he were to be at the stage of dying in another one hour, no doctor is coming and looking at him. If he wants to go to a corporate hospital, he cannot pay. So, what is his situation? We have to take care of him. He will also be working right from the age of 10 or 12 and up to the age of 65. When he had been working, he could not save even one rupee either to purchase a house site or construct a house, while the wealth of the industrialists like Ambanis is going up from Rs.1 lakh crore to Rs.2 lakh crore in one year. How long should it continue? Sir, 60 per cent of the poor people remain in debt for ever and then they go on selling their land year after year, acre by acre while these people are making money by lakhs and lakhs of crore.

How much disparity is being created between a section of the poor and the rich? How long should it go? How can there be peace in this country? Over a period of time, we blame the Naxalites; we blame the terrorists; and we blame all these people. But we must go into the genesis why all this agitation is coming. It is because the disparities are very vulgar, too much. That is the reason why this entire situation is coming. So, while appreciating the creation of wealth, which is basically to be done, we must also ensure that this one reaches the common man also to a reasonable extent. It is not that everybody must be equal.

Now, in this context, I would like to say about the Minimum Support Price fixed for the agricultural products. What is the mode of fixing the price for the industrial products? While fixing the price of industrial products, if you were to take 80 per cent of the loan from institutions, the interest paid on that 80 per cent is loaded into the cost of the products and for which year of 20 per cent of investment, he is taking profit on it and then he is charging for his own services rendered. His wife, himself, his daughter and every member acts as a Director. All those things are loaded into it. Over and above that, the share value increase and all these things are added to that.

While in the case of a farmer, the method of calculating the Minimum Support Price for paddy, they take only the inputs' cost into the farm cultivation, that is, tilling the land, raising the seedlings, plantation, cutting and then taking the produce to the house plus nominally Rs.3,000 per acre. An acre costs Rs.3 lakh or Rs.4 lakh or even Rs.10 lakh in certain areas. If you were to pay even six per cent per acre, he must pay Rs.20,000 on interest alone. Why is this different method of fixing the price adopted in the case of farmers?

We have asked recently when the paddy price was fixed. Even in that context I appreciate the Union Government because during the NDA's Government, in nine years, they have raised the price of paddy by Rs.180 only. In three years of the UPA Government, we have raised the price of paddy up to Rs.185. So, in comparison we have done well. But we must go to the root cause and then see whether it is still reasonable. So, I humbly request that not only for paddy but also for cotton, maize, groundnut and almost for all the agro-products, while fixing up the price, it must be done on the same pattern as the Government is doing in regard to the industrial goods.

Sir, I will take two or three minutes more.

Similarly, now, today how can a poor man in a village come up? We agree that once again he has allocated good money for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to see that the drop-outs are reduced. Our observation is that if 100 people were to join the primary school, by the time they go to the college, only six per cent goes. [m29] That means the drop out rate is 94 per cent. Why is it happening? A poor man says that instead of sending his child to a school, if he were to send him to the field, he can get a wage of Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 whereby his income is increased. In the net effect, the child is remaining without getting education. So, they are providing the funds. What kind of education are we giving to them? We are giving them education of 10<sup>th</sup> class, 12<sup>th</sup> class, and intermediate, and by the time, he completes his BA or MA, he does not have a job. So, once again, the situation remains. So, my humble request to the hon. Minister is to please do it on a war-footing and see that vocational education in the country starts from 8<sup>th</sup> class. If a boy, be it from poor section or middle class, were to be trained in a profession in which he has got some interest and if he were to learn and acquire skills in that profession, by the time, he completes 12<sup>th</sup> class, he must come to a stage where he will acquire self-confidence and the skill, on which he can depend on his own either for self-employment or for getting employment. So, I am saying that this require immediately allocating funds for giving skills to all the people in the rural areas in one sector or the other by which their lifestyle can be improved.

The poorer sections have got a lot of patience in this country. All that they are asking for is food grains at a subsidised price, then shelter, a permanent house, then healthcare – we may put some limit to take treatment from the hospital of their choice – and finally good education. Can we not provide these things? Is it not the duty of the Government?

Similarly, for old people, I am happy that the other day, he started Indira Gandhi National Pension Scheme and without putting a limit to it. He said that there was no limit of the money and any number of people can come in. I am very happy about it. I had been asking for it for a long time. Let him not restrict the number and let it be anybody from a below the poverty line family. If he crosses 65 years, he must be provided this pension. I would request the hon. Minister to allocate more funds to such schemes than to the economic Ministries.

I support this Bill and while supporting it, my humble request is that these points should be taken care of.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I support the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for the year 2007-08 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. Sir, it is true that any Finance Minister has to come with the Supplementary Demands and there is nothing wrong with it because no Finance Minister can understand what expenditure we can take in the near future or in the coming year.

Yesterday when my friends belonging to NDA spoke, they said what they had done was not being followed by the UPA Government. The UPA Government came with the popular verdict and it was against the policies of the NDA Government. So, there is no question of following the norms or steps taken by the NDA Government. So, the UPA Government is to take

steps according to the National Common Minimum Programme adopted by it in the beginning itself.

It is true that there is high growth rate of above 9 per cent and it is also true that we have been able to check the inflation rate, but I could not understand one thing that while we have such a good growth rate and we are also able to check the inflation rate, these factors are not translated into the experience of the common people. That is the main issue that the people now face.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): The issue is governance.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : So, we have to think about it because I think that the discussions – we have to approve the Supplementary Demands – may give some more facts, especially in the economic situation beyond these facts and figures.

There are a number of Government surveys and international surveys with us. You see that there are about 146 million people in the world who are suffering because of malnutrition. It is sad to say that 57 million are in India. Sir, we are at the forty seventh stage. We see that in Africa, it is 33 and in China, it is 9. When we see the growth rate, at the same time, we are not able to see these realities in the lives of the common people. As per another survey, 72 per cent of the rural people are suffering due to lack of better drinking water. [s30] It further states that 75 per cent of the people are living in small huts where there are no facilities; 55 per cent of the Indians do not have enough land; and 33 per cent are illiterate. I am highlighting these figures because we say that there is high growth rate and low inflation rate and it is true, but we are not seeing this being translated in the lives of the common people. Six crore people have a monthly income of only Rs. 322, and those are considered below poverty line. Therefore, we can imagine the situation being faced by the rural people in our country.

The NDA Government and the people from the NDA side were speaking about 'India Shining'. I do not say that no change has been brought about in the situation in this country by the UPA Government. Of course, there are some changes that are visible, and I would like to give some more details of it. The World's Billionaires Report brought out by Forbes mentions about 946 billionaires. We can be proud that 36 of them are from India, and 14 of them have been enlisted last year. Therefore, on the one hand, we can see that there is high progress, but we also get to see the stark reality when we go to the villages and see the rural people there.

Now, I would like to talk about the life of the common people. The main issue that is being talked about nowadays is price rise. We are still not in a position to control rising prices of rice, wheat, sugar, pulses, vegetables, cement or metals. I do not know the reason for not being able to control the price rise. We have got some suggestions regarding this issue, and the Government has to think over it. We had made these points during the discussion that we had last time also. Firstly, there is failure in the food policy. I am saying this because the Government has to procure grains whether it is wheat or rice from the market. But we find that big companies like Reliance take away the food grains, and fill their godowns with it. Hence, we are faced with shortage of food grains.

Secondly, there is failure in the PDS. Our experience in Kerala shows that price rise can be controlled to some extent with effective implementation of the PDS. But the PDS can function properly only if they get sufficient quantity of food grains. The States are getting very less quota of food grains in relation to the classification of the APL / BPL card holders in the States. As far as the State of Kerala is concerned, it is getting only 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of its quota because of this classification issue. Therefore, I would request that the PDS has to be strengthened. If the people can get the essential commodities through the Maveli Stores or the Neethi Stores or the Fair Price Shops (FPS), then to some extent they can get the essential commodities at a reasonable price. Many of the major items were taken out during the NDA regime. I would request the Government to strengthen the PDS. This can only be achieved if we prevent hoarding and black-marketing. I feel that we have to take these points into consideration when we talk about controlling price rise.

I fully support and agree with Shri Rao's views on the issue of agriculture. We have pension scheme in every sector except for the farmers. The farmers have no confidence to go to their fields because they have to face drastic fall in prices of their produce, low productivity and various diseases that affect their produce. We want to encourage confidence among the farmers. Hence, I would suggest that there should be a pension scheme -- as is there in other sectors -- for the farmers in order to achieve this objective. In Kerala, we have formulated such a scheme costing about Rs. 200 crore, and the Government of Kerala has requested the Central Government to give an assistance of Rs. 100 crore in it. Therefore, the issue of the farmers has to be taken up seriously.

I also fully agree with a point made here that the procurement price must also be considered. There is an increase of Rs. 150 in wheat. We really congratulate the Government for taking this step.[r31] At the same time, such importance is not being given to paddy. This has to be taken into consideration.

In the committees, there was discussion about providing preservation facilities in rural areas, as far as perishable goods are concerned. Nearly 30 per cent to 35 per cent of perishable goods like potatoes, vegetables and fruits are lost due to non-availability of storage facilities. To improve the storage system, the Government has to allot some more money because we need storage facilities in the villages, and it is not possible for the farmers to create storage facilities as they do not have the necessary financial support.

The Swaminathan Committee has suggested some clear plans for Kerala, especially for Alleppey and Kuttanad. They have suggested to the Government to allot Rs. 1824 crore for this purpose, but no action has been taken. I would request the Government to take the necessary steps immediately.

As far as our country is concerned, on the agriculture side, there are problems relating to cash crops. In my State, it is true that the major income comes from these cash crops. It is so for not only Kerala but for entire India because the Government earns a lot of foreign exchange. If you look at the figures, 90 per cent income comes from pepper; 83 per cent income comes from rubber; 56 per cent comes from cardamom; 46 per cent from coconut; 26 per cent from coffee; 12 per cent from cashew; 7.5 per cent from tea and 2 per cent from areca nut. This means that the cash crops have become a major source of income for the States, and they also contribute to some extent to the Central revenue. At the same time, we see a drastic fall in the prices of cash crops like pepper, tea, coffee, areca nut, etc., excepting rubber. It is to some extent due to the import policy of the Government. Earlier, the price of one quintal of pepper was Rs. 21,000 in Kerala, and now it has gone down to Rs. 7,000 or Rs. 8,000. Similarly, the price of areca nut per kilogram was Rs. 160, and now it has gone down to Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 only. Some steps were taken by the Minister of Agriculture with regard to coconut. Some policy decision was taken in that regard. However, the fall in prices is due to the policies that are being adopted. These are all issues where the Central Government has to take necessary action.

Of course, we cannot fully disapprove of imports. At the same time, restrictions and qualitative control should be there. Necessary steps have to be taken by the Government.

There are strong protests by the retail traders throughout the country. There are nearly 5.5 crore people who are doing retail trade and the number of dependents on them is much more. They should not be abandoned, and the Government should come up with some legislation for monitoring or supervising them. We are not able to take any action because there is no law. That step has to be taken by the Government.

There was a discussion with the Civil Aviation Ministry. In Kerala and also in other sectors, Indian Airlines and Air India have taken on some additional routes, but the charge on fuel which Indian Airlines and Air India have to pay is higher. I do not know why Air India or Indian Airlines should suffer. This duty should be taken away or the charges should be lowered. We have been demanding that for a long time.

I admire the fact that some positive measures were taken by the Government in the last two or three years, as far as my State is concerned. However, I am said to say that public sector investment in Kerala is gradually reducing. [r32] It was 2.9 or 2.8 earlier; then it was reduced to 2.2 and 1.9.

Planning Commission says that education, health, housing and other sectors in Kerala are in a better position and so Government investment in those sectors can be less. It is true that in these sectors Kerala has made much progress. However, Kerala needs assistance in higher education, health, security and judiciary sectors. New diseases like Chikungunya are occurring and cancer cases are on the rise. Kerala has a long coast and it requires special financial assistance for the security of its coast. Modernisation of judiciary is the need of the hour. I, therefore, request the Government to provide more assistance to Kerala.

Norms of some of the Central schemes need to be changed. Implementation of NREGA is an issue which we have to look into. It is a very good scheme. However, norms of this scheme apply equally to all the States. In India we have different States belong to different categories of development having different features. Therefore, there should be some flexibility in the norms for implementation of this scheme. The Government of Kerala has suggested that construction of houses by BPL families should also be allowed under the scheme. That is not allowed under the scheme now. If that is also allowed, that would be of assistance to the people.

PMGSY is being implemented for construction of roads in rural areas. Under the scheme, norm for the width of the road is about eight metres everywhere. The density of population in Kerala is very high. So, it is very difficult for the State to take up projects under this scheme. So, changes have to be made in the norms of this scheme also so that it can be really of assistance to the people.

Finally, I would like to raise the issue of pension for freedom fighters. I have raised this issue sometime earlier also in this

House. We are entering the 61<sup>st</sup> year of our Independence. However, we see that a large number of our freedom fighters are not getting the Central pension. The Central Government has identified as to which are the struggles that are to be considered struggles for this purpose. In my own State there were many struggles like Punnapravayalar, Kayyur, Karivallur, etc. There are many other struggles like Telangana, Thebaga, Goa, in other parts of the country. On the instruction of the Central Government, the State Government had constituted a Committee at the State and District levels which monitors, screens and decides as to the people eligible for this pension. The State Government takes a decision based on that and releases pension to them. We demand that the Central Government should also follow that decision. If those people go to the High Court, they may get their pension. But it is not possible for them to do so as most of them are old and sick now and some of them are not even alive now and are being represented by their relatives. When we come here, the officers, not the Ministers, ask us to produce a certificate. How is it possible to get a certificate about something that happened in 1943? If the Government can take a decision based on this and release pension to those people who are drawing pension from the State Government, it will be of immense help to them. That is a long pending matter which needs to be resolved.

**श्री रामजीलाल सुमन (फ़िरोज़ाबाद) :** सभापति महोदय, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने व्यय के लिए अंशदानों की पूरक मांग की है और यह 33,290.87 करोड़ रुपया है, हर सरकार सदन में आती है और पैसे की मांग करती है। यह कोई नयी परम्परा नहीं है। इसका समर्थन करना एक बाध्यता है लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर कहना चाहूंगा कि बजट के दूसरी बार सरकार सदन में पैसा मांगने आयी है। इसका सीधा मतलब यह है कि हमारे जो बजट अनुमान थे, वे पूर्णतया गलत साबित हुए और जो बजट बनाने वाले लोग थे, उनका दृष्टिकोण व्यावहारिक नहीं था। उन्होंने सूझबूझ से काम नहीं लिया, इसलिए सरकार को दो बार इस सदन में आना पड़ा। इस वजह से 30420.12 करोड़ रुपया विभिन्न मंत्रालयों से और शेष 11,879 करोड़ नगद रुपया सरकार ने मांगा [r33] है।

सभापति महोदय, सरकार 7051 करोड़ रुपया योजना व्यय और गैर-योजना व्यय के लिये भारी भरकम मोटी रकम मांग रही है। इसके अलावा सरकार ने 4300 करोड़ रुपया मार्केट स्टेबिलिटी के लिये मांगा है। बाजार अनियंत्रित हुआ, उसकी सारी जिम्मेदारी सरकार की गैर-जिम्मेदाराना नीतियों के कारण है। सरकार की इस गलत नीति के कारण बाजार अनियंत्रित हुआ। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से कहूंगा कि पैसा मांगने के साथ साथ वे उन सभी चीजों की समीक्षा करें जिसके कारण बाजार अनियंत्रित हुआ। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि सरकार की जो गलत नीतियां हैं, उनके चलते इस तरह के हालात पैदा हुये हैं। वित्त मंत्रालय ने कहा कि वह 3000 करोड़ रुपया विभिन्न राज्यों में चल रही परियोजनाओं के लिये देगा। ये परियोजनाएँ काफी समय से चल रही हैं, जो अभी तक पूरी नहीं हुई हैं और जिनका कारण सरकार की अकर्मण्यता है। मैं इस बात को सदन में कई बार पहले भी उठा चुका हूँ।

सभापति जी, भारत सरकार राज्यों के विकास के लिये पैसा देती है लेकिन उसका सही उपयोग हो रहा है या नहीं, इस संबंध में भारत सरकार का कोई ऐसा तंत्र नहीं है जो देखे कि इस पैसे का सही समय पर और सही जगह पर इस्तेमाल हो रहा है या नहीं? मेरा वित्त मंत्री जी निवेदन है कि इसे देखने की आवश्यकता है। भारत सरकार ने राज्य सरकारों को परियोजनाओं पर खर्च के लिये 1500 करोड़ रुपये देगी लेकिन उस पैसे का सही इस्तेमाल राज्य सरकारें नहीं कर रही हैं बल्कि दूसरी मदों में खर्च कर रही हैं। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि उस पैसे का सही इस्तेमाल होता है या नहीं, इसकी समीक्षा की जानी चाहिये।

सभापति महोदय, सरकार ने तेल कम्पनियों को 11, 257 करोड़ रुपया दिया जायेगा। जो तेल कम्पनियों बाण्ड्रज़ जारी करेंगी, उसके बाद घाटा होने की सम्भावना है, यह बात मेरी समझ से परे है। सरकार से 15 नवम्बर को एक सवाल पूछा गया था कि हमारे देश में तेल कम्पनियों घाटे में हैं या फायदे में हैं? प्रश्न के जवाब में बताया गया कि आईओसी का कर-पूर्व लाभ 7400 करोड़ रुपये है, बीपीसी का शुद्ध लाभ 1864 करोड़ रुपया और एचपीसी का शुद्ध लाभ 1150 करोड़ रुपये है। डालर की तुलना में रुपये की तेजी के कारण अप्रैल-सितम्बर, 2007 के बीच में विनिमय वृद्धि का अनुमान है। उसके अनुसार आईओसी का लाभ 966 करोड़ रुपये, बीपीसी का 304 करोड़ रुपये और एचपीसी का 264 करोड़ रुपये का लाभ है। मैं वित्त मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि एक तरफ तो सरकार कह रही है कि इन तेल कम्पनियों को फायदा हो रहा है और दूसरी तरफ उन तेल कम्पनियों को पैसा दिया जा रहा है, यह बात मेरी समझ से परे है, जब जवाब दें तो इस बात का खुलासा करें कि इन तेल कम्पनियों को ज्यादा पैसा देने की जरूरत क्यों पड़ी?

सभापति महोदय, राज्यों में कृषि को समर्थन और बढ़ावा देने के लिये सरकार ने 565 करोड़ रुपया का प्राविधान किया है। कृषि ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जहां रोजगार की ज्यादा सम्भावना है। अधिकांश कृषि इन्द्र देवता पर निर्भर है। सरकार ने गेहूँ का समर्थन मूल्य 1000 रुपये प्रति विन्टल निश्चित किया है लेकिन सरकार यह भी मानती है, - जैसा समाचार-पत्रों में आया है - कि गेहूँ की फसल ज्यादा पैदा होने की सम्भावना नहीं है। इसका मूल कारण किसानों के पास सिंचाई और अन्य साधनों की सुविधाएँ नहीं होना है। जब किसानों के पास ये सुविधाएँ नहीं हैं, भले ही सरकार गेहूँ का दाम 1000 रुपये प्रति विन्टल तय करे, उससे किसानों को लाभ नहीं पहुंच सकता है। कृषि के लिये पानी की समुचित व्यवस्था नहीं है। [s34]

पंडित नेहरू के ज़माने से, दूसरी और तीसरी पंचवर्षीय योजना के समय से लेकर जो सिंचाई की परियोजनाएं हमारे देश में शुरू हुईं, वे आज तक पूरी नहीं हो पाई हैं। परिणामस्वरूप उनकी निर्माण लागत बढ़ती रहती है और किसान उससे लाभान्वित नहीं होता है। मेरा विचार है कि इस क्षेत्र पर और ज्यादा दौलत देने की आवश्यकता थी जिससे किसान फसल पैदा कर सकता था। खेती को संरक्षण नहीं दिया जा रहा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार को प्राथमिकता सुनिश्चित करनी चाहिए कि किन क्षेत्रों को उसने ज्यादा दौलत देनी है और किनको संरक्षण देना है।

सभापति महोदय, अंत में, मैं आपकी माफ़त वित्त मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि खर्च करने की प्राथमिकताएं सुनिश्चित की जाए, आदमी की ज़िन्दगी से जुड़े हुए जो सवाल हैं उन पर अधिक खर्च होना चाहिए। मैं खास तौर से निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि कृषि को ज्यादा संरक्षण देने की आवश्यकता है जिससे किसान खुशहाल हो। किसान खुशहाल होगा तो देश खुशहाल होगा, मुझे यही निवेदन करना था।

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMRAJANAGAR) : Thank you Chairman Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2007-08.

Sir, farmer is the backbone of our Indian economy. This is being said by the Government for the last 60 years. But unfortunately, the condition of the Indian farmers has not improved. Our Hon'ble former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji has given a slogan "Jai Kissan Jai Jawan", but the farmers in India are born in debt, live in debt and die in debt. Sir during the 16<sup>th</sup> century A.D. there was a great poet Sarvajna in Karnataka, who said "Agriculture is the best education than all other education systems". But today farmers are being neglected. As a result, farmers are committing suicides at a large scale. Being the son of a farmer, I know very well about the plights of farmers. I can understand their problems very well. Therefore, I would suggest some important steps and I also request the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri P.Chidambaram Ji to consider these in the next Budget.

- i) Farmers should be provided easy loan from time to time.
- ii) Quality seeds should be made easily available to farmers.
- iii) Appropriate information should be provided to farmers about alternative crops.
- iv) Remunerative prices should be given to all agricultural products.

If the Government take up these steps it would be of great help to the farmers, who are feeding the whole nation. Farmers can be rescued from committing suicide.

Sir, during the period 1993-2003 about 1,00,248 farmers have committed suicide. It was the highest number in of suicides the world. The centre should come forward to check this menace.

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\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

Sir, sugarcane growers get only Rs.800/- per tonne of sugarcane. This is a very meagre amount. That is why I urge upon the Government to fix Rs.1,600/- as M.S.P per tonne of sugar cane. M.S.P. should also be fixed for milk, silk, wheat and other agricultural products.

Sir, milk is being sold at only Rs.13/- per litre, whereas one litre of Bisleri water is being sold at Rs.16/-. In the same way potato is being sold at Rs. 10/- per Kg. whereas the price of potato chips produced by multinational companies is Rs. 200/-. Wheat is being sold at Rs. 15 per Kg. but the price of one Kg Biscuit, is Rs.80/- which is a by product of wheat.

Sir, what a great irony it is? It is very unfortunate that the Government is not looking into these anomalies. All possible steps should be taken up to rescue the farmers form destruction. The Government should understand that the progress of the nation depends upon the progress of the farmers.

Sir, as far as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is concerned, thousands of crores of rupees is being spent by the Government of India every year. But the Government has failed to bridge the gap of literacy rate between Scheduled Castes, Scheduled



Tribes and other communities. The situation is not much different as far as women education is concerned. Women literacy rate is very low in the country. only God knows when this gap can be abridged. I hope the Hon'ble Minister in his reply would give satisfactory reply to this problem. I would site an example. Sir, Shri D.M.Nanjundappa commission has identified 32 talukas in Karnataka as backward. 10 out of 32 taluks are identified as most backward taluks. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister what conerete steps are being taken by the Government to develop these backward taluks in Karnataka.

Sir, as far as to Software Industry in Bangalore is concerned, 35% of the total software production of the country is being exported from Bangalore alone. It is a matter of great concern, that these software companies are moving out of Bangalore due to lack of infrastructure.

Kempambudi lake, which was constructed during the regime of Shri Kempegowda, Alsur lake, and other hundreds of lakes in Bangalore are desisted. As a result, capacity of these lakes has decreased. What is the fate of these lakes?

Roads, in Bangalore are in a very bad shape. The cases of road accidents increasing day by day. At least five people are being killed in road accidents every day in Bangalore city itself. There is acute shortage of drinking water in Bangalore. Power cut has become a routine problem allover Karnataka. In such a pathetic situation software companies are moving out of Bangalore. For instance "Apple" a software company has already moved out to United Sates of America. At this juncture if the Government is not coming forward to extend financial support to develop the infrastructure in Bangalore it would loose its importance. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister the measures taken up by the Government to improve the infrastructure in Bangalore. This is very urgent.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, you can lay your speech.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA : Okay, Sir. Thank you.

\*Sir, my constituency, Chamarajanagar is one of the most backward districts in the country. My constituency is lagging behind in all respect as far as development is concerned.

Therefore, my humble submission to the Hon'ble Finance Minister to consider the following genuine demands related to my constituency. They are :-

- i) There is an urgent need to set upon Indoor Stadium, in Chamarajanagar.
- ii) Shortage of Doctors and Nurses is there in the hospital in Chamarajanagar. This aspect should be looked into immediatly.
- iii) One Central university should be established in my constituency Chamarajanagar.

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\*â€¡\* This part of the speech was laid on the Table

- iv) Shri Male Mahadeshwara Hill is one of the great pilgrimage centres in Karnataka. Everyday thousands of devotees are visiting this famous hill temple. But there is no development is taking place here. Therefore I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether he would take steps to provide more funds for the development of this famous hill temple. With these words sir, I thank once again for giving me this opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.\*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Is there no other hon. Member to speak? Are there no more speakers?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): Sir, I want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have to finish it by 2 o'clock.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : But we were told that it will be completed tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No. At 2 o'clock, we will have to take up some other business.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if he wants to speak, please give him a few minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, Shri Chandrappan, you may speak for a few minutes now. [\[h35\]](#)

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): Sir, when the discussion was opened by Shri Swain from NDA, he said that when they were ruling their policy was a policy of plenty. Probably he was thinking of presenting that India shining slogan again. From the Government side Shri K.S. Rao spoke. He spoke of the GDP growth, the efficient tax collection, robust growth of economy and all that. When you look at certain realities, how the Government is going to answer them is an important thing.

Our criticism always about the UPA Government is that they have not faithfully implemented the Common Minimum Programme. Take for example, the newly elected General Secretary of Congress submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister demanding that the Employment Guarantee Scheme should be implemented all over the country. We were all demanding it during the last Budget Session also. The Finance Minister said that it will be done gradually because of the financial constraints. Once the Congress General Secretary submitted a representation to the Prime Minister, then came the announcement that all over the country it is going to be implemented. If the Government is serious about it, I welcome that but I do not see any reflection of it in the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The announcement was that remaining districts will be taken up from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : You will do that from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2008. That is good.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When we introduced it in February 2006, it was to be implemented in 200 districts. Then we extended it to 130 districts. Remaining districts will be taken up from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008. There is no contradiction in what we have said. It will be done in a phased manner.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : So, it will be there in your next Budget. To that extent it is okay.

After all, what is the growth? Is it reflected in GDP alone or the rise in the stock markets? It can be assessed in many other ways. In the morning a question was answered on the Millennium Development Goals. India is a country and we are all proud that it has achieved 9.2 per cent GDP growth. I wish there is two digit GDP growth, as Shri Rao was wishing for. The Prime Minister has repeatedly pointed out that until and unless we get 4 per cent contribution to the GDP by the agricultural sector this shining growth will perish. If you look at the Budget as a whole and the Supplementary Demands for Grants, you do not see a very conscious effort being made to make the agrarian sector strong. Yesterday, I was reading the agricultural policy published by the Agriculture Minister. About 60 per cent of our people depend on agriculture. Swaminathan Committee recommended a number of things. He recommended a draft agrarian policy based on which the Cabinet has approved the Agrarian Policy Statement made by Shri Sharad Pawar. [\[R36\]](#) Now, one of the key recommendations of Swaminathan Committee was that the peasants should be provided agricultural loan at four per cent interest. The Government has not taken any steps so far to achieve that.

I was reading an economic article wherein the writer wrote rather sarcastically that the dream of 1.1 billion poor in India is to become a cow in the next life in the United States because they spend two dollar a day on a cow. Here we have one

dollar a day as income. Around 1.1 billion people are having less than that income. So, we have to address how those people could be given a better life rather than looking at the glamorous figure of the GDP growth and at the billionaires who are growing.

In the last Session, there was a big criticism of inflation which was going out of control. Now, inflation is under control. But how has it been controlled? It has been controlled by importing everything. Now take one case of import. Liberal import of palm oil has been allowed. Palm oil means what? All the South Indian States produce coconut and especially Kerala produces nearly 60 per cent of the coconut in the country. The price of coconut has fallen to a level of less than Rs.3 a coconut as palm oil import is going on merrily. In that way, if you control inflation, how does it help the people? The inflation should be controlled by taking measures so that people could be benefited. Here what happens is that inflation is reduced and edible oil shortage has been arrested by importing palm oil in a merciless manner. You are bringing millions of farmers into conditions of poverty.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already taken ten minutes and you assured me that you will speak for five minutes.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : Sir, I would have liked to speak more but anyway, I will not take more time.

So these are certain things which I would like to bring to your notice. Yesterday, we were meeting the Minister of Civil Aviation and it was mentioned here. I was surprised to know that on aviation fuel, the Air India has to pay a tax which is not being paid by the foreign airlines which are flying in the same route. They said that due to this tax, they are losing Rs.200 crore.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Which tax are you talking about?

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN : You must be knowing it. That kind of discrimination should not be there between our public sector undertakings and foreign companies. Again the burden goes on those poor people who are working abroad. They are sending foreign exchange which the Finance Minister always finds convenient to keep so that his economy is set in balance. Let me say that our people who are working there – some of your people are also there – are penalised because Air India is charging more. If you want to have the tax, other companies should also be taxed. There should be equity when you are dealing with such things.[\[R37\]](#)

Sir, keeping in view the constraints of time I would like to conclude my speech here by saying that we support the Budget but would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to be more concerned about the problems of the common people of this country.

**श्री विजय कृष्ण (बाढ़):** महोदय, अतिरिक्त अनुदानों की मांगें (सामान्य) वर्ष 2007-08 के बारे में बात हो रही है। कई विद्वान सदस्यों ने अपनी बात सदन के सामने रखी है। बहुत ही सार्थक बहस हुई है। मैं कतिपय अपनी बात रखना चाहूंगा कि कृषि क्षेत्र में कितना निवेश आपने बढ़ाया है। भारत गांवों में बसता है, कृषि प्रधान देश है। सदन में समय-समय पर अतिरिक्त अनुदानों की मांगें प्रस्तुत की जाती हैं। आप अनुमोदन भी मांगते हैं और अनुमोदन मिलता भी है। कृषि क्षेत्र में कितना निवेश बढ़ाया और उससे रोजगार का कितना सृजन हुआ, आपकी कौन-कौन सी योजनाएं हैं, जो पैसा आप मांग रहे हैं, उसे किस रूप में खर्च करना चाहते हैं। उसकी आप क्या विशिष्ट व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं। मंत्री जी जब अपना जवाब देंगे, तो मैं चाहूंगा कि इन मुद्दों का जरूर ध्यान रखें।

भारत का आधार स्तंभ कृषि है और कृषि पर बराबर चर्चा होती है और बड़ी-बड़ी योजनाएं बनाने की बात कही जाती है, लेकिन रोजगार ओरिएंटेड जो काम होना चाहिए था, वह अब तक नहीं हुआ है। जब सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स आप ले कर आए हैं, तो अब तक जो काम नहीं हुए हैं, उन्हें करने के लिए या नया काम करने के लिए आप क्या करने जा रहे हैं?

हमारे देश की सिंचाई क्षमता क्या है, यह सारे लोग जानते हैं। देश की राष्ट्रीय औसत 40 प्रतिशत सिंचाई क्षमता बताई जाती है और बिहार जैसे राज्यों में तो यह क्षमता 20 प्रतिशत ही है। देश की सिंचाई क्षमता बढ़ेगी या नहीं बढ़ेगी या कितनी बढ़ेगी, क्योंकि यह देश बाढ़ और सूखाड़ का देश है। एक तरफ देश की नदियों में बाढ़ आती है और दूसरी तरफ देश का एक बड़ा हिस्सा सूखाड़ से ग्रसित होता है। मध्य बिहार सूखाड़ का इलाका माना जाता है और उत्तर बिहार बाढ़ से जूझता रहता है। बहुत दिनों से बात चल रही है कि बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश और नेपाल से वार्ता की जा रही है और बाढ़ का वॉटर मैनेजमेंट इतना ठीक ढंग से किया जा सकेगा कि उत्तर बिहार का इलाका बाढ़ से बच सकेगा। बाढ़ और सूखाड़ सिर्फ बिहार की ही समस्या नहीं है, बल्कि पूरे देश की समस्या है। हर साल जब बाढ़ आती है, लाखों लोगों को उजाड़ जाती है, जन-जीवन की क्षति होती है। आपने अतिरिक्त अनुदानों की जो मांगें रखी हैं, उससे आप इस विषय पर कौन सा काम करने जा रहे हैं। यह हम आपसे जानना चाहते हैं?

**13.58 hrs.**

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

बंजर भूमि की चर्चा बहुत होती है, इस देश में लाखों एकड़ जमीन बंजर है। हम आपसे स्पेसिफिक जानना चाहते हैं कि कितनी बंजर जमीन को कृषि योग्य बनाया गया? आजादी के बाद से अब तक जो पैसा खर्च किया गया है, उससे कितनी बंजर जमीन को कृषि योग्य बनाया गया? क्योंकि हम समझते हैं कि आज भी कोई डाटा और खाका आपके पास नहीं है। यूपीए सरकार विश्वसनीयता पर टिकी हुई है और हम चाहेंगे कि आपकी विश्वसनीयता कायम रहे, मजबूत हो, आप आगे बढ़ें।

इसलिए जब आप जवाब देने के लिए आएंगे क्योंकि हम जानना चाहेंगे कि देश का बड़ा पथरीला, रेगिस्तानी और बंजर इलाका, जो कृषि योग्य बनाया जा सकता था लेकिन आज भी आजादी के बाद नहीं बना है जबकि हम पैसा आपको दे रहे हैं, अब आपने कितना काम किया है और कौन सा काम बंजर भूमि को कृषि योग्य बनाने के लिए कर रहे हैं, मैं आपसे इन सब बातों के बारे में जानना चाहूंगा? यहां विशेष चर्चा हुई, मैं ज्यादा चर्चा नहीं करके मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करना चाहूंगा।

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**18.01 hrs.**