

>

Title : Issue regarding agrarian crisis and the demands of the peasantry of the country.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thousands of peasants from across the country have marched to the Parliament House today under the banner of All India Kisan Sabha to highlight the agrarian crisis and to press the demands of the peasantry of the country.

The crisis in agriculture is being accentuated. The suicide-committing by the farmers is continuing unabated. A number of proposals have been made in the Budget 2011-12 like reduction of subsidy on fertilizer by Rs.5,000 crore, reduction of allocation to agriculture and capital formation in agriculture is stagnating for the last several years. All these anti-farmer measures of UPA-II Government will further accentuate the crisis in agriculture.

There is a proposal to reduce the import duty on raw silk from 30 per cent to five per cent. This will adversely affect the large number of sericulture cultivators because the raw silk will be imported at a cheaper price and our farmers will not get the right price. This will harm the interests of thousands and thousands of our farmers.

A Bill to amend the antique, age-old law, a law of the British period, Land Acquisition Act of 1894 – to which Shri Sharad Ji referred to and raised two days back – is still pending. Along with that Bill, there is another Bill which is also pending before the House, the Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please be brief.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is the problem of the peasantry of our country. Let me highlight the problems and issues. I will take only 2-3 minutes.

Thousands and thousands of acres of land is being acquired. The Railways have enacted a Special Land Acquisition Act. This is 100 per cent draconian where there is no provision for public hearing and there is no provision for raising objections by the land owners. The Railways are applying that Act to acquire thousands and thousands of acres of agricultural lands in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for construction of railway projects.

So, there is a need to bring forward these two Bills, in order to amend the age-old Act which was passed during the British period and which is still continuing. There is no provision for rehabilitation and resettlement of land losers. So, these two Bills should be brought forward before this House.

There is also a proposal to decontrol the price of fertilizer. If the price of fertilizer is decontrolled, then the price of fertilizer will reach a level where a majority of the farmers will not be able to purchase fertilizer, thereby production will be hampered. UPA-I Government had constituted a commission, Commission of Farmers, under the Chairmanship of eminent Agricultural Scientist, Dr. Swaminathan. That Committee had submitted its report in 2007, but not a single pro-farmer recommendation of that Committee has so far been implemented. That Committee recommended for remunerative price for agricultural produce. There is a need for remunerative price; C+50 is the recommendation of that Commission. That has not been implemented by the UPA-II Government.

As the agrarian crisis is being accentuated, more than two lakh farmers have committed suicide; that means, one farmer is committing suicide in 30 minutes, today also. This Government had failed to address the problems being faced by the farmers of our country.

I demand that in order to address the problems of the farmers, whatever anti-farmer measures have been taken by this Government and whatever anti-farmer proposals are there in the Budget for 2011-12, should be withdrawn forthwith.

Land Acquisition Bill along with Rehabilitation and Resettlement Bill should be brought before the House so that proper rehabilitation and resettlement is provided to the land losers. In order to save the farmers of this country, the old British period draconian law of 1894 should be scrapped and a new Bill should be brought and passed by this House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:

Shrimati Susmita Bauri,

Sk. Saidul Haque,

Shri P.K. Biju and

A. Sampath would like to associate with the matter raised by Shri Basu Deb Acharia.