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Title: Shri Rajagopal Lagadapati called the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the problems being faced by farmers of Andhra Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (VIJAYAWADA): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"The problems being faced by farmers of Andhra Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

***कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरुण यादव):** आदरणीय महोदया, इस वर्ष के दौरान आयी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के कारण आंध्र प्रदेश के किसानों द्वारा सामना की गयी समस्याओं पर माननीय सदस्यों द्वारा व्यक्त की गयी चिंता से मैं भी सहमत हूँ। प्राकृतिक आपदाओं की स्थिति में राज्य सरकारें अपने राज्य आपदा अनुकिया कोष (एसडीआरएफ) से तत्काल उपलब्ध निधियों से तत्काल आवश्यक उपाय करती हैं। भारत सरकार वित्तीय और संभार तंत्र समर्थन से राज्य सरकारों के प्रयासों में मदद करती है। गंभीर किस्म की प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए एसडीआरएफ से अलग अतिरिक्त वित्तीय सहायता के अनुरोध पर स्थापित प्रकिया के अनुसार राष्ट्रीय आपदा अनुकिया कोष (एनडीआरएफ) से सहायता पर विचार किया जाता है।

महोदया, आंध्र प्रदेश के पास वर्ष 2010-11 के लिए आपदा अनुकिया कोष (एसडीआरएफ) के अधीन 508.84 करोड़ रुपये का आवंटन है, जिसमें केन्द्रीय अंश के रूप में 381.63 करोड़ रुपये तथा राज्य अंश के रूप में 127.21 करोड़ रुपये शामिल हैं। वर्ष 2010-11 हेतु 381.63 करोड़ रुपये का पूरा केन्द्रीय अंश पहले ही जारी कर दिया गया है। राज्य सरकार के अनुरोध पर वर्ष 2010-11 हेतु 190.815 करोड़ रुपये की एसडीआरएफ की राशि की केन्द्रीय अंश की प्रथम किस्त अग्रिम रूप से राज्य सरकार को 3 जून, 2010 को जारी की गयी थी। राज्य सरकार के अनुरोध पर भारत सरकार ने 190.815 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि की दूसरी व अंतिम किस्त का केन्द्रीय अंश अग्रिम रूप से 16 नवम्बर, 2010 को जारी किया, जबकि राज्य सरकार से उपयोगिता प्रमाण-पत्र तथा वार्षिक रिपोर्ट अभी प्रतीक्षित है।

भारत सरकार ने 2010 के चक्रवाती तूफान लैला/बाढ़ों की स्थिति में राहत कार्य के लिए राज्य को क्षतिग्रस्त पेयजल आपूर्ति कार्यों की मरम्मत के लिए राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण पेयजल कार्यक्रम (एनआरडीडब्ल्यू) के विशेष घटक से 6.26 करोड़ रुपये के अलावा तात्कालिक आपदा के लिए राष्ट्रीय आपदा अनुकिया कोष (एनडीआरएफ) से 74.78 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि भी जारी की। प्रधान मंत्री जी की घोषणा के अनुसरण में 400 करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि एनडीआरएफ से, 300 करोड़ रुपये "ऑन अकाउंट" आधार पर तथा वर्ष 2011-12 हेतु अग्रिम रूप से 100 करोड़ रुपये एसडीआरएफ के केन्द्रीय अंश के रूप में राहत के लिए 29 दिसम्बर, 2010 को जारी किये गये।

2010-11 की दूसरी छमाही के दौरान आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार ने बाढ़, चक्रवात एवं भारी वर्षा के कारण होने वाली हानियों, जिसमें कृषि क्षेत्र को होने वाली हानि भी शामिल है, के लिए राष्ट्रीय आपदा अनुकिया निधि (एनडीआरएफ) से अतिरिक्त वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए तीन ज्ञापन प्रस्तुत किये हैं। भारत सरकार ने तत्काल इस पर प्रतिक्रिया की तथा राज्य सरकार को संभार तंत्र एवं वित्तीय सहायता दी।

भारत सरकार ने दक्षिण पश्चिम मानसून के दौरान बाढ़ के कारण जून से सितम्बर, 2010 में होने वाली हानियों के लिए एनडीआरएफ से 264.54 करोड़ रुपये एवं एनआरडीडब्ल्यू के विशेष घटक से 5.62 करोड़ रुपये अनुमोदित किये। अक्टूबर-नवम्बर, 2010 के दौरान चक्रवात 'जेएल'/बाढ़ के कारण होने वाली हानियों के लिए एनडीआरएफ से 172.73 करोड़ रुपये एवं एनआरडीडब्ल्यू से 5.37 करोड़ रुपये भी अनुमोदित किये। इसके अलावा, 2009 के सूखे के लिए महात्मा गांधी राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण योजना गारंटी योजना, (एमजीएनआरडीजीएस) के तहत 100 दिन के अलावा अतिरिक्त योजना के लिए आंध्र प्रदेश सरकार को राष्ट्रीय आपदा अनुकिया निधि (एनडीआरएफ) से 3 मार्च, 2011 को 207.33 करोड़ रुपये की अतिरिक्त निर्मुक्ति की गई है। ...(व्यवधान)

दिसम्बर, 2010 के महीने में भारी वर्षा के कारण होने वाली हानियों के लिए प्राप्त ज्ञापन के प्रत्युत्तर में अंतर्मंत्रालयी केन्द्रीय दल ने 7 से 10 फरवरी, 2011 तक राज्य का दौरा किया। एनडीआरएफ से सहायता के लिए उच्च स्तरीय समिति का अनुमोदन प्राप्त करने के लिए अंतर्मंत्रालयी केन्द्रीय दल की रिपोर्ट पर निर्धारित प्रकिया के अनुसार कार्रवाई की जा रही है।

भारत सरकार ने 2010-11 के दौरान प्राकृतिक आपदाओं के लिए आवश्यक राहत प्रबंधन के लिए 1063.74 करोड़ रुपये (एनडीआरएफ से 582.11 करोड़ रुपये एवं एसडीआरएफ (केन्द्रीय अंश) से 481.63 करोड़ रुपये) निर्मुक्त किये हैं। एसडीआरएफ एवं एनडीआरएफ से उपरोक्त राहत सहायता के अलावा कृषि एवं सहकारिता विभाग के अंतर्गत केन्द्रीय प्रायोजित योजनाओं से भी आंध्र प्रदेश में कृषि क्षेत्र के लिए आवश्यक सहायता की पूर्ति की गई है।

MADAM SPEAKER: Shri L. Rajagopal.

...(Interruptions)

MADAM SPEAKER: आप बैठ जाइए। अभी कॉलिंग अटेंशन चल रहा है। Nothing will go on record except what Shri L. Rajagopal is saying.

(Interruptions) â€/*

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Thank you, Madam Speaker.

I am quite happy and pleased about the initiative and the support given by the Union Government to Andhra Pradesh. We met the hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh; the Chairperson of UPA, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi; and the Agriculture Minister, Shri Sharad Pawar. All of them were kind enough and very considerate to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

As has been mentioned by our hon. Minister in his Statement, we do agree that a sum of Rs.1,064 crore has been given last year alone to the State of Andhra Pradesh by way of the State share, the Central assistance, and also future advance amount for disaster management relief from NDRF and SDRF.

In the last year, during the months of September, November and December we had untimely rains. So, we had rains thrice and especially the untimely rain that we had in December caused a devastating effect in the entire Andhra Pradesh. More than 30 lakh tonnes of paddy has been damaged. At that time, the Government of India through FCI agreed to purchase paddy, discoloured or broken, upto 7 per cent. Later on, on our request, they extended it upto 10 per cent. But if you look the ground reality, you will find that actually more than 50 per cent discoloured or broken rice is there. But the Government of India has agreed to only purchase upto only seven or to a maximum level of ten per cent of it. What will happen to the balance rice? Of course, the State Government came to the rescue and they said that they will purchase any kind of paddy upto 50 per cent discolourment or broken but there are other types of paddy which has more than 50 per cent discolourment. Farmers have no other way but to throw it away as waste. They are not getting even a single rupee for the balance discoloured rice.

So, we requested the State Government and also the Central Government in this regard to rescue the farmers. They give input subsidy of Rs. 6000 per hectare which comes to Rs. 2400 per acre. But the farmers have lost nothing less than Rs. 15,000 per acre. So, we requested the State Government and the Central Government to increase the input subsidy. Of course the State Government came forward and increased it from Rs. 4500 to Rs. 6000 but even the Hooda Committee has given a recommendation that per hectare input subsidy for paddy should be at least Rs. 10,000. Of course, that Report is under the consideration of the Government of India. We want the Government of India to immediately accept that Report.

Madam, there is also the insurance component here. As per the insurance norms, only the standing crop is considered in accepting the losses. But a large quantity of crops has been harvested and crop cutting exercise is already being carried out. Those crops have been exempted from insurance. Because of that, many farmers are losing their entire investment.

We want the Government to consider all the aspects and ensure that farmers do not lose even a single rupee and every grain that they produce has to be purchased either in the market, or the Government has to come to their rescue.

It is not only that, Madam. In fact, there is a lot of demand for rice in various countries. When there is a lot of demand for rice, they are restricting the farmers from exporting rice. Especially, in Andhra Pradesh, there is a variety called BPT. In Andhra Pradesh, the entire production of rice is 14 million tonnes. That is, 140 lakh tonnes of rice are produced there and the State of Andhra Pradesh consumes about 70 lakh tonnes and the balance 70 lakh tonnes are being exported to various States. They are meeting the food requirement of the nation. Today, the godowns are full. The buffer stock, as per the stipulated norms, should be around 297 lakh tonnes. But today, we have more than 459 lakh tonnes as buffer stock of rice and wheat put together. There is a new crop coming up now. In Rabi season, we are getting a new crop and that will make another 700 lakh tonnes. So, there is no storage capacity at all. The capacity is only for 297 lakh tonnes.

Hence, we requested the hon. Minister in December to kindly permit 25 lakh tonnes of Sona Masoori or BPT to be exported. Only then the farmers will get a better remunerative price. There is a lot of stock in the houses of farmers. Rice mills have also got a lot of stock but there is no space for them to purchase or store even a single additional grain. Three months have lapsed since our request. The Government has permitted only one lakh tonnes. Moreover they have said that they should sell it at 850 dollars per tonne. We made a request to them to kindly reduce the export price from 850 dollars to 750 dollars per tonne so that the excess production of grains which is there and which cannot be stored or procured can be made use of properly. A small portion of it, which is to only 25 lakh tonnes, should be allowed to be exported, since there is more than 459 lakh tonnes of buffer stock.

We want the Government to immediately come to the rescue of the farmers and announce the export policy for BPT. They are permitting Basmati and non-Basmati rice for export. I am happy that my friends from Punjab are here. They are exporting 22 lakh tonnes of rice. Definitely they should be helped. Similarly, in Andhra Pradesh, we do not produce Basmati. We produce a different variety, which is in excess in India. So, we want the Government to come to the rescue of the farmers by allowing export.

Apart from that, during the recent untimely rains, even the cotton farmers got gravely affected. At that time, we had requested that the ginned cotton should also be permitted to be exported so that the cotton price would also go up.

Similarly, the tobacco farmers are also getting affected. We have been requesting the Government as to why we should not allow foreign buyers into our market. We are restricting the purchase of tobacco only to the domestic buyers, which is in the hands of a few industrialists. Why should we restrict it in the hands of a few industrialists when there is a market outside and the foreign buyers are ready to come to India to buy the tobacco produce, by giving our farmers better remunerative prices? So, we need to understand it. When there is a market, we do not allow our farmers to sell, we do not allow them to export; when we are affected by natural calamities, we do not come to their rescue. Then, how would it be possible to help our farmers?

Madam, if we look at any other industrial product, be it cement, steel etc., we permit them to export. Even in the case of iron ore, we have been permitting them continuously to export.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr. Rajagopal, please conclude by asking your question.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: But when it comes to farm produce, we are not giving remunerative prices. Neither we come to their rescue, in full nor do we permit them to export. So, either it has to be market driven or fully protected so that no farmer in India will lose a single penny. Then only, we can come to their rescue.

I am happy that the Government of India has taken lot of steps including enhancing the credit loan to the farmers. The Government has said that they are going to give more than Rs. 4,80,000 crores as credit loan to farmers this year alone. They have also reduced the interest component from seven per cent to four per cent. Let me share that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is giving it at the rate of three per cent since last three years. So, we need to further reduce the interest component.

Madam, not only that, the farmers also want water. Unless there is water, how would they cultivate? Today in India, more than 122 million hectare is under cultivation. But only 40 per cent is irrigated by canals, tanks, ground water, etc. So, we want the Government to look at all their aspects and construct more irrigation projects.

Madam, I would make a request in this regard. At least, there should be 'one week Special Session' to discuss the problems being faced by the farmers. But so far, you have not given me even 10 minutes! So, let there be a 'Special Session' only to discuss the farmers' issue.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am giving you more than 10 minutes.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL : Madam, there are so many issues. I would also request that every Session, one day should be dedicated only to discuss the farmers' issues....(*Interruptions*) Unless we do this, we cannot solve the problems of farmers of our country. There are so many problems being faced by the farmers. Here, I could cover only a small portion of their problems.

Madam Speaker, I hope that you would consider my request for convening a Special Session to discuss the problems of all the farmers from the entire India so that the farmers feel: "This Government belongs to us." Even though, we have done so much, still there are a lot of things yet to be done.

Madam Speaker, I would again request the Government to convene a 'Special Session' and also one day, in every Session, should be dedicated only to discuss the farmers' issues. Thank you.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you so much.

DR. K.S. RAO (ELURU): Madam Speaker, actually the Calling Attention, which we have given is in regard to the problems of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh and the steps taken by the Government. The hon. Minister has touched only one aspect of the recent floods that have occurred in Andhra Pradesh, for which he said that he has pumped in Rs. 1,000 crore to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to come to the rescue of the farmers. But that is only a pittance, a very small percentage of the loss incurred by the farmers in Andhra Pradesh.

I would explain some of the problems where they are suffering. Basically, I would appeal to all the Members of Parliament including the major Opposition party that the very policy of fixing the prices for agricultural products is faulty. When a price for an industrial product is to be fixed by a factory owner, though 80 per cent of the money is public money and in some cases -- it has been proved by some method or other that -- the promoters' money is only four to five per cent; and in spite of that he is called the owner of the factory and he changes the price of his product. When the price of the diesel were to go up by Re 1/-, the owner of the factory would immediately change the price of his product, which we are all agreeing. For

every 15 days, one month, two months, the prices of the industrial commodities have been changed, for which we have no problem. But when it comes to the question of farmers, we would not touch it even once in a year! The pathetic condition of fixing up the prices for agricultural commodities is that they would take the index, which would not be available readily.

The Index of four years back will be available two years back and they will take that Index. By the time they take the decision, another two years will lapse. That means they take the input cost of four years back, forgetting the rapid increase in the cost of inputs for the farmers. So, now in the present system there is no chance of farmers getting the remunerative price for their products in this method.

I will once again say in regard to what my friend has referred to, that Andhra Pradesh, particularly Krishna-Godavari basin, is the rice bowl for the entire country, and we are producing so much. Now, in the recent past because of flood and heavy rain, not only there is crop loss, but also instead of 40 or 50 bags that have to come from an acre, for no fault of the farmers, the yield has come down to 10 or 15 bags, which is also discoloured. The expenditure for getting that crop out of his farm is more than what he gets by selling his product.

We requested the Government of India to understand this peculiar situation there. Discoloured rice will not be used by those people or in the country. It can only be used for converting it into par-boiled rice which has got demand in Bangladesh and in African countries. The Government of India has to come to the rescue of the farmers by allowing export of this par-boiled rice. Then there is opportunity for the farmers for selling their product, at least, if not at MSP, a little less than MSP. Now, instead of getting Rs.800 per bag, he is not getting even Rs.100. It is a pathetic condition. That is what we requested the Government.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude. Ask your clarification.

DR. K.S. RAO: I will ask the clarification.

The other category of paddy that is available in Andhra Pradesh, as my friend said, is Sona Masuri. Madam, I wish to bring to the knowledge of the entire House why the Government is not giving permission to the export of Sona Masuri in Andhra Pradesh. The buffer stock norms indicate that 212 lakh metric tonnes to be available as on 1st March, 2011 while the stock in godowns is 459 lakh metric tonnes, that means, it is double the quantity. By July, the buffer stock norms indicate 319 lakh metric tonnes to be available in the godowns while the rice that would be available is 1644 lakh metric tonnes, that means, it is five times more than the buffer stock.

Where do they keep? They do not have godown capacity, and it is known to all of us what the Supreme Court has said. It is because there is no provision for godowns, there is no provision for stocking, the rice in the godowns was spoilt to an extent that it cannot be consumed by human beings. It is an insult to all of us that the Supreme Court orders to give it away freely. It is common sense that instead of allowing it to be spoilt, what is wrong in permitting export, in a good crop year, whereby the farmers can get good price?

There are always people who say that if we increase the price of the paddy, then the price of essential commodities will go up in the market. If the price of essential commodities goes up in the market, what is the harm to the country? The farmers will get the money. The farm labourers will also get the money. Money will be transferred to the rural areas. The purchasing capacity of all the rural people will be increasing. Otherwise, the entire money will go to the industrialists and to the urban areas. This is what is going to happen. If necessary, we suggested to the Government that when you permit the export of food grains, you collect a Price Stabilisation Fund and keep it with the Government. Whenever there is a need to purchase or import food grains from outside, utilise this. They have done neither of them.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

DR. K.S. RAO: So, we requested the Government to give the permission immediately. Without which, what happens? All the rice will go into the hands of the business community, the millers. Then, even if the Government increases the price or even if they permit the export at a later stage, the benefit will be reaped by the business community only.

MADAM SPEAKER: Please conclude.

DR. K.S. RAO : I have only one or two points.

MADAM SPEAKER: You have to just ask the question.

DR. K.S. RAO : I will put the question. I am asking the question.

The Crop Insurance Scheme that is being given to the farmers is given on village basis now, on a great struggle. But if a godown of an industrialist were set on fire or meet with an accident, the entire thing is recouped by insurance companies. What is the crime that a farmer has committed? Has he committed a grave *dacoity*? When he is so proud that his crop is going to be forty bags per acre, the next day if there were to be floods or some other calamity, the entire crop is lost. Who has to come to his rescue? We are not giving them crop insurance which covers everything. I request the hon. Minister, the Government and all the opposition parties also to think on this aspect and see that the crop insurance is brought on the basis of the loss suffered by each farmer. In a village if one farmer were to lose crop, he must be compensated. These things ought to be taken up on priority. No Government in power should be scared of the opposition that they will criticize the Government because of inflation or because of increase in prices of essential commodity.

I request the hon. Minister to take appropriate steps. I also appeal to the major Opposition Party and other Members of Parliament in this regard. Let all of us, with one voice, come to the rescue of the farmers without whom, no matter which Party will be in power for decades, we will be able to do justice. ...(*Interruptions*)

MADAM SPEAKER: It is a Calling Attention.

श्री गोपीनाथ मुंडे (बीड): महाराष्ट्र के किसानों की स्थिति भी बहुत गम्भीर है, इसलिए मैं उनके साथ अपने को सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : कालिंग अटेंशन पर आप रूल्स जानते हैं। कृपया बैठ जाइये।

â€!(*व्यवधान*)

श्री अरुण यादव: अध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं आंध्र प्रदेश के माननीय सदस्यों की जो पीड़ा है, उसको समझ रहा हूँ। पिछले एक साल में आंध्र प्रदेश में जो विपदाएं आई हैं, जिससे किसानों का...(*व्यवधान*) पहले हम आंध्र प्रदेश की बात कर लें, फिर आपकी करेंगे।...(*व्यवधान*) पहले आंध्र प्रदेश की बात सुन लें, उसके बाद हम आपकी बात भी सुनेंगे।...(*व्यवधान*) पहले आंध्र प्रदेश की बात हो जाये, फिर आपकी बात भी सुनेंगे। ...(*व्यवधान*) आप मुझे अपना वक्तव्य देने दीजिए।...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप लोग बैठ जाइये, कालिंग अटेंशन मोशन कर लेने दीजिए। कृपया बैठ जाइये। यह ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव है। उन्होंने जो विषय दिया है, उस पर चर्चा हो रही है।

...(*व्यवधान*)

MADAM SPEAKER: Nothing else will go on record. आप बैठ जाइये। बोलिये, मंत्री महोदय।

(*Interruptions*) â€!*

श्री अरुण यादव: जहां तक चावल के एक्सपोर्ट का सवाल है। हमारी सरकार ने कोला मसूरी वैयाटी का लगभग एक लाख टन चावल एक्सपोर्ट करने की अनुमति दी है और साथ ही साथ दो वैयाटीज़ के लिए भी 25 हजार टन चावल एक्सपोर्ट करने की अनुमति दी है। हमारे दूसरे सदस्य, जिन्होंने अपनी समस्या आपके सामने रखी है, सरकार की एक प्रक्रिया है।...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आपको यह क्या हो गया? आप परचा क्यों लहरा रहे हैं? आप बैठ जाइये।

श्री अरुण यादव: उस प्रक्रिया के माध्यम से ही सारी चीजें होती हैं और माननीय सदस्य ने जो निवेदन किया है, उसके बारे में निश्चित रूप से हम कदम उठाएंगे।...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : आप बैठ जाइये। उनका ध्यानाकर्षण कर लेने दीजिए। मंत्री जी को ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव का उत्तर देने दीजिए।

â€!(*व्यवधान*)

श्री अरुण यादव: मैं बताता हूँ, बैठिये। माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदया, जो बुन्देलखण्ड की बात हो रही है, सबसे पहले आंध्र प्रदेश के भी हमारे साथियों ने, मैम्बर्स ने जो बात रखी है, उसका एक प्रोसीजर, एक प्रक्रिया है, जिसके ऊपर हमारी सरकार ध्यान दे रही है और निश्चित रूप से जो चावल एक्सपोर्ट करने के बारे में कहा है, उसके बारे में भी चर्चा हो रही है। धन्यवाद।...(*व्यवधान*)

अध्यक्ष महोदया : क्या आपकी बात समाप्त हो गई?

...(*व्यवधान*)