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Title: Need to make necessary amendments in Food Security Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Madam, Left Parties organized five-day *dharna* from 30th July, 2012 to 3rd August, 2012 demanding Food Security Bill which was introduced in this House last year. We do not want it in that form. A fresh Food Security Bill should be brought before this House because this Bill, in the present form, will not provide food security to the entire population of our country. By introducing targeted Public Distribution System, the poor people of our country have been divided into BPL and APL. Now the proposal is to change the nomenclature from BPL and APL to priority and general. This proposed Bill also wants to divide the poor people of our country. One-fourth of our population remain hungry and they go to bed empty stomach. We have one of the highest mal-nutritioned population in the world. The hon. Prime Minister once said that it is a national shame. We have the highest number of women who are suffering from mal-nutrition.

Madam, we demand universalisation of Public Distribution System in place of Targeted Public Distribution System. The entire population should be brought under the Public Distribution System. Each family should be provided with 35 kilograms of foodgrains at Rs. 2/- per kilogram of food grains. There are some States where 30 to 35 kilograms of food grains are provided at just Rs. 1/- per kilogram of food grains. In the State of Tamil Nadu it is provided free of cost. In the proposed Food Security Bill, there is a provision of distribution of 25 kilograms of foodgrains at Rs. 3/- per kilogram has been proposed. We demand universal Public Distribution System should be introduced. Farmers also should get remunerative prices for their grains as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. Now, the MSP being provided to farmers does not meet their production costs. The prices of fertilizers have been increased by 100 per cent. The prices of seeds and other agricultural inputs have been increased. When there is an increase of 40 per cent, the corresponding increase in MSP is just 13 per cent during the Kharif season. So, we demand that the right to food security of our people should be protected and the proposed Food Security Bill should be adequately amended. Universal Public Distribution System should be introduced and each family should be provided with 35 kilograms of foodgrains at Rs. 2/-. We demand that the poor people of our country should be provided with food security.

MADAM SPEAKER: The following hon. Members may be allowed to associate themselves with the views expressed by Shri Basudeb Acharia:

Shri R. Thamaraiselvan

Shri Maheswar Hazari

Shri Sk. Saidul Haque

Shri Shivkumar Udasi

Shri T.K.S.Elangovan

Shri Nama Nageswar Rao

Shri Hukumdev Narain Yadav

Shri P. Lingam

Smt. Susmita Bauri

Shri Nripendranath Roy

Shri Bhudeo Choudhary

Smt. Rama Devi

Shri Baidyanath Prasad Mahato

Smt. Ashwamedh Devi