

RAJYA SABHA

***SYNOPSIS OF DEBATE**

(Proceedings other than Questions and Answers)

Friday, March 17, 2017/ Phalgun 26, 1938 (Saka)

MATTERS RAISED WITH THE PERMISSION OF THE CHAIR

1. Concern over the Strategic Sale of the Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Company and the Bridge and Roof Company

SHRI SUKHENDU SEKHAR ROY: This Government has decided to sell out the Bengal Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals Company Limited, the first Swadeshi company in India. This company's factories and sales offices are located in various parts of the country. This is the only public sector company in Asia which is manufacturing anti-venom serum in the country. Despite a profitable company, the Government has decided for a strategic sale of this company. The Bridge & Roof Company is a Mini-Ratna company, still the Government has decided for a strategic sale of this company. In this way, the public sector companies are being sold out and thousands of labourers will be rendered jobless not only in Bengal but in different parts of the country. So, I would urge upon the Government to review the decision.

*This Synopsis is not an authoritative record of the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

2. Need to Stop the Strategic Sale of some Alloy Steel Plants by SAIL

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE: I demand to save the industrial city of Durgapur and stop the strategic disinvestment of Alloy Steel Plant. This plant is capable of producing most special steels of nearly 500 varieties for use in science and technology, defence applications, submarines, research projects, and so on. Despite a regular reduction in its employees' strength, the Alloy Steel Plant has not compromised with its production and quality. The move of Strategic Sale of ASP by SAIL Board is demoralizing. The industrious city of Durgapur is losing its industries one after another. The people of Durgapur have launched a march for saving Alloy Steel and Durgapur industrial area. I urge upon the Government, to stop the Strategic Disinvestment of Alloy Steels Plant and different units of SAIL.

(Several Hon'ble Members associated.)

3. Plight of Common Man Due to Economic Burden Imposed by the Government

SHRI HARIVANSH: Recently, banks have decided to impose penalty on customers if they are not having minimum balance in their accounts. Whether public sector banks and private banks are there for public interest or only for imposing and collecting taxes? Banks are taking different types of fees in the name of fund transfer, cheques, ATMs, etc. Same situation is there with Railways where prices of tickets have been increased in the name of Dynamic Fares. Condition is also not very soothing with Private Airlines where even the basic required facilities are not provided rather sold.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2016-17

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I lay on the Table, a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) 2016-17.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' RESOLUTIONS

Need to Suitably Amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act, 1960

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: I beg to move the following Resolution:-

“Having regard to the fact that:-

(i) from time immemorial, India has been an agrarian economy as the agricultural sector employs 263.1 million Indians, which accounts for 54.6% of the total Indian workforce;

(ii) agriculture contributed 15.4% of the Gross Value Added in 2015-16;

(iii) over the years, indigenous breeds of cattle have been the backbone of the agricultural economy as prior to the introduction of modern farm equipments, agriculture would not have been possible without cattle and even today, cattle play an important role in agricultural activities, particularly for the small and medium farmers;

(iv) bull power is used for ploughing and transportation, which saves electricity and consumption of large volumes of fossil fuel that are harmful to the environment;

(v) India imported 2.28 lakhs TMT of crude oil and other petroleum products in the year 2015-16, worth Rs. 5.24 lakh crores, 60 lakh tonnes of diesel worth Rs. 4000 crores which can be potentially saved by replacing tractors by cattle for the purposes of ploughing and transportation;

(vi) cattle manure has been traditionally used in India as fertiliser which helps reduce reliance on chemical fertilisers and pesticides, that have a negative effect on soil quality and harm quality of food crops produced as India consumed 256 lakh tonnes of fertilizers in 2014-15;

(vii) indiscriminate use of fertilisers and pesticides in agriculture has been linked to spread of diseases through food products but use of dung and urine from cattle has a positive impact on the environment and soil quality, with no negative effects on health;

(viii) a higher dependence on fossil fuels and chemical based farm inputs significantly raises the cost of farming resulting in higher food prices;

(ix) by increasing reliance on cattle in agriculture, one can reduce cost of food products and avoid negative effects on environment and health;

(x) cattle used in agriculture are reared with great care, and are fed a high-quality diet, including grass fodder grown exclusively for the cattle and their health is monitored and taken care of on a periodic basis by qualified veterinary doctors;

(xi) native breeds of cattle are gradually being phased out due to the onslaught of modern farm equipments and the import of exotic breeds;

(xii) as per the Livestock Census conducted by the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries of the Government of India, the total indigenous cattle population in India has reduced by 8.94% from 1660.15 lakhs in 2007 to 1511.72 lakhs in 2012, which is a small fraction of the total actual requirement for cattle for agricultural practises;

(xiii) the population of exotic breeds of cattle has increased by 20.18% in the same period, from 330.6 lakhs in 2007 to 397.32 lakhs in 2012;

(xiv) owing to the decline in the population of the indigenous bulls, artificial insemination is increasingly being relied upon for breeding of cows;

(xv) article 48 of the Constitution of India directs that the State shall endeavour to take steps for preserving and improving breeds of animals; and

(xvi) all possible steps are needed to be taken to preserve, improve and protect the stock of indigenous cattle of the country,

this House urges upon the Government to: —

(a) suitably amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 to exempt bulls from the application of provisions that restrict their utility and training for various purposes by using of various techniques to train them to perform agricultural tasks such as ploughing and transportation;

(b) include the amended Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in the Ninth Schedule to the Constitution of India; and

(c) take steps to encourage and incentivise the use of indigenous cattle for agricultural purposes and improve their health and stock."

From time immemorial India has primarily been an agrarian country. Today, the spread of modern technology or the modern methods uprooted several traditional agricultural methods which have been an integral part of heritage. However, in the goal of increasing the short-term yield, the long-term impacts of these modern methods have been severely neglected. Over the years, indigenous cattle have been the backbone of the agriculture of our country rather our economy. Even today, cattle are an integral and important part of agriculture particularly for the landless, the marginal and the small farmers. This not only helps to save consumption of power but also in using volumes of fossil fuels that are harmful to the environment. The fossil fuels release many Green House gases that will severely harm the environment as such. Burning of fossil fuels is one of the primary causes of global warming. Pollutants are released by the fossil fuels,

which cause acid rain. Acid rain not only leads to destruction of monuments but also severely affects crops due to acidification. Fossil fuel is a non-renewable energy. A lot of money can be potentially saved by replacing tractors with cattle for the purposes of ploughing and transportation. Cattle dung has been traditionally used in India as manure and fertilizers. Over utilization of chemical based fertilizers and pesticides is further adding to the problem of non-usability of existing ground water resources and spread of diseases through food products. Ground water contamination has been linked to diseases. Dung and urine from cattle contain various natural minerals which are extremely beneficial for the soil and have other environmental friendly uses. A high dependence on fossil fuels is also extremely expensive and because of that so many number of farmers committing suicides in recent days across India. It has to be replaced with a traditional and heritage form of cultivation. Use of cattle will help the farmers and also preserve the soil for food products. Native breed of our cattle are diminishing and are being extinct whereas the exotic breeds of cattle are increasing in number. The milk which the indigenous cows yield has a protein and helps the people to live in good health. Whereas, milk given by exotic breed cows brings new diseases. Artificial insemination is increasingly been relied upon for breeding cows. Bulls are used for ploughing, transportation, breed cows and also for other sports like Jallikattu. When native bulls actually become extinct, the focus on certain specific breeds also results in loss of genetic variation. Our cows also will become extinct in the coming years. Even for insemination and growing cattle, we have to depend on other nations. We are keeping the lives of our children and the country at stake. The native cattle in India have evolved in perfect harmony with their local region. Today, owing to increase in artificial insemination most of these breeds are on the verge of extinction. Only two native cows and two native bulls are enough for 15 acres of land whose cow dung and urine can be used as manure as well as pesticides. People are waiting for produce that come out from such farm. Artificial insemination is the worst thing which we have to stop immediately. Our own bulls used for ploughing, transportation and sports can otherwise be used for breeding our own

cows. We should have some humanitarian consideration also with animals who come along with us and who are always with us. The Jallikattu, a bull taming sport, requires the use of indigenous breed of bulls. They are not tortured. They are fed well as that of a child. In a bid to extract more commercial value and more milk from the cows, artificial insemination methods are used rather than breeding of the indigenous breeds of a cattle. Jallikattu is one such festival that is celebrated with full enthusiasm across the State of Tamil Nadu, by the people, breaking through numerous class, caste and religious barriers. There is no caste barrier and religion for the festivals. If curtailed, it may spoil the ancient heritage, culture and tradition of the country. In light of the importance of social harmony, it is a goal that must be pursued at all costs. Events like Jallikattu play an important role in maintaining such harmony. I also urge the Government to take all positive steps to promote the use of indigenous cattle, and actively engage in preserving and protecting the native breeds.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: We have our own cock fights, bull fights, bullock cart races and the variety of races in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana and variety of seasonal and festive-related celebrations involving the animals are there almost all across the nations. We should pay attention to encourage, sustain and preserve the traditional knowledge and traditional festivity also. Until and unless we protect the original natural resources such as earthworms, frogs and tortoises, we won't be able to protect organic farming. All traditional fights have their significance. It is not just for encouragement and enthusiasm, but also to protect the nativity of breeds. Hence, focus should be on preservation of such traditional festivities involving animals. Such traditional heritage-oriented festivities and competition between animals should be ensured on humanitarian grounds.

SHRI BASAWARAJ PATIL: The Government should give serious consideration to all the aspects in the special Resolution put forward by hon. Tiruci Siva. Excess use of chemicals and fertilizers has led to high cases of cancer in Punjab. Bovine should be protected at all cost in view of numerous benefits to mankind from it. Use of

chemicals should be checked to reduce environmental problems. There should be natural breeding of cows in the country instead of artificial methods of breeding.

SHRI LA. GANESAN: I whole-heartedly the Resolution moved by hon. Member, Shri Tiruchi Siva. People of Tamil Nadu, specially kisans, students and youngsters have come forward to protect our swadeshi cows and bulls. Jallikuttu is observed for only one day in a year, for all the other days the bull is maintained only for breeding. Awareness needs to be created among farmers also. I demand that inhuman transportation of cows and bulls should be stopped.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: We really stand with the farmers and also the traditional way of ploughing by farmers. The organic farming has to be promoted in the nation as general. I am proud to say that Tamil Nadu excels other states of the country in agriculture industry. The Government of Tamil Nadu has set up five model villages to promote organic farming. In the wake of concerns over the deterioration of organic content in the soil an eco-friendly initiative was taken to strengthen the integrated pest management. Bulls are part and parcel of our life. Bull -taming sport is a heritage of Tamil Nadu. Use of cow dung can help in reducing use of fertilizers and pesticides. I support this resolution. We have to encourage farming. Kindly improve farming methods and give farmers latest techniques and methods. We have to give them minimum support price. The view of the Government should be as to how to improve agriculture in India and how to improve the living standards of farmers in India.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: I support this resolution. In this country almost 65 per cent of the population is involved in agricultural activity. In coastal part of Karnataka the agricultural activities are mainly dependent upon buffaloes. During the non-agricultural season they have a buffalo race called Kambala. It is a 900-year old tradition. In this country buffaloes are totally neglected. I believe in non-violence on any kind of animals. Jallikattu and Kambala are sports of farmers. We do not treat the bulls cruelly. These animals contribute to

the development of the region. Today India is the largest producer of milk in the world. That is because we protect and groom our animals. Government should support this commendable resolution.

SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: I welcome this resolution. Today chemical pesticides and chemical manure are spoiling our land, water and bio-diversity. Cattle are source of organic manure too. Use of organic manure can prevent disease too. Urine of cow is very beneficial for various things. It can be used in pesticides too. Government should conduct research on all such things. A scientist committee should be constituted for this purpose. In the dairy farm of Kanpur one new equipment has been made. It can be used as a tractor with the help of bulls. It should be made available to farmers.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: I oppose this resolution. It is right that organic farming and traditional agricultural practices should be encouraged. We should protect the buffalo which is unfortunately neglected in our society. But the real objective of mover of this resolution is not organic farming, improving agricultural practice and animal welfare. His real objective is to bring back Jallikattu. He wants that bull must be removed from the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. My point is this that there is no need to amend this act. There is nothing in the act that prohibits the State Government from doing any of the things that he wanted. According to the laws of the land passed by this Government with the cooperation of all parties now Jallikattu is permitted. But it is also unfortunate that fourteen people have died because of Jallikattu this year. He should not persist with this resolution rather he should persist with putting pressure on the Government to promote organic farming and animal welfare, to improve animal productivity and to protect indigenous breeds etc.

SHRI D. RAJA: I support this resolution. I must salute the youth of Tamil Nadu who came together and gave a collective expression on the issue of Jallikattu. It is a part of the Tamil culture. Jallikattu became a turning point in the polity of the whole country and it has made tremendous impact on the thinking of young people of Tamil Nadu. We are talking about cattle. We should increase the population of our cattle. We should be worried about cruelty to

animals. In Tamil Nadu cattle are all living as family members. This jallikattu is a sport and during that period, people decorate these cattle. So, let us not get into that argument as though it is cruelty to animals. We are a country who believe in the rule of law and if there is a need to amend Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act then this Parliament Act needs certain Amendments in a changed situation and we need to acknowledge it. It is for the Government to take this in a proper perspective. I appreciate this Resolution. I urge upon the Government to give due consideration to this Resolution.

MAHANT SHAMBHUPRASADJI TUNDIYA: The objective to bring this resolution to amend the Act with reference to cruelty against animal is different. Agriculture and Sages have been given more importance in our Indian tradition. Cow milk comes under the category of complete food. When we talk about animals then animals in wild are different thing and domesticated animals are different from those. Domestic animals are used for various purposes therefore we rear these animals. In this reference, this resolution is very good. As far as making amendment in cruelty against animals Act is concerned then there should be separate amendment for wild animals and for domesticated animals, there should another amendment. I appreciate this.

SHRI T.K.S. ELANGOVAN: I rise to support. Education is the most invaluable among all wealth. Cattle are called as wealth. That was the only wealth of the people of Tamil Nadu in the rural areas and this Jallikattu is part of a celebration with the bulls. It is not cruelty to bulls. There is a need of an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. A cultural festival should not be stopped for the sake of commercialism. Jallikattu should not be stopped for the sake of killing Indian animal bulls and bringing Jersey Bulls. We want an amendment to the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The ultimate idea is to see that Jallikattu is performed because the most petted animal in Tamil Nadu are the bulls so, this amendment should be made.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT), intervening in the discussion, said: The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change is enacting and implementing the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 so, part (a) and (b) is not concerned with my Ministry. National Bovine Mission was launched in December, 2014 in the country for the development and protection of native bovine breeds and amount was allocated against 35 proposal received from 27 States. A new scheme for the development of organic agriculture also launched. National Dairy scheme focuses on development and protection of 12 native breeds of bovine and buffalos. National Bovine Productivity Mission has been launched with the objectives of increasing milk production etc. In view of progress being made in implementation of above schemes, I request hon. member to withdraw his resolution.

The Hon'ble Member, replying to the debate, said: The intention behind moving this Resolution was interpreted in another manner by my esteemed colleague. Though my intention is for Jallikattu but, at the same time, Government cannot undermine my advocacy for organic farming and to protect and preserve indigenous cattle. So, considering all these aspects, we have to find some other ways. We cannot totally give-up that. When the population in our country is increasing, the agricultural lands or cultivable lands are coming down. The production has to be increased. So, whatever we produce should be healthy in nature. That is the main reason for my bringing or moving this Resolution. The Minister was very much concerned about the cattle. I am concerned about the indigenous cattle.

The Tamil Nadu Government has enacted a law unanimously that Jallikattu can be performed and that Cruelty to Animals Act will not be a hindrance to that while it is an Act of Parliament. The Parliament can any time by way of another amendment supersede the Act which was passed by the Assembly. Moreover, the Act which was passed by the Assembly can be challenged in a court of law. When you are using bull for transportation, the man on the cart will be

whipping. Will you say that it is a cruelty to the animal? Yes, they will. 'Bears, Monkeys, Tigers, Panthers, Lions and last of all 'Bulls' are forest animals, whereas, bull is being domesticated. It is used for agricultural purposes.

But who is challenging it again and again? It is the PETA, an organization which has its headquarters in the USA. They want to kill traditional methods of agriculture in our country. There are many other things, like Pepsi, that they are bringing here to spoil the health of the people of our country. They are only commercializing things. They want to take away our bulls. When tractors were being brought in, I said that it consumed more of fossil fuel and that it was hazardous. We experience global warming only because of the excessive use of fossil fuels. Tractors came in and fossil fuels came in. When bulls are not used for agriculture, farmers won't rear them. When Jallikattu is banned, they would not tame bulls for sport. So, bulls need not be brought in the category of 'performing animals'. Through a Notification in the Gazette in 2011, bulls were brought in. In the year 2016, when Shri Prakash Javadekar was the Environment Minister, another Gazette Notification came which allowed the use of bulls at events such as 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu and 'bullock cart races' in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Gujarat. It was challenged in the court of law by PETA. So, it was stayed. So, Tamil Nadu witnessed a very big agitation and the Tamil Nadu Government passed an Act unanimously. I am afraid that it may again be challenged in a court of law. In that situation, I move this Resolution in this House that necessary amendments should be made and bulls must be exempted from the performing animals and it should be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

I take the words of the Minister. And, since many hon. Members are supporting me, I should also consider it. I think, the message should be strong enough from the Government that my Resolution will be taken into consideration and necessary amendments will be made in the PC Act and it will be incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Need to take Welfare Measures for Farmers in Bundelkhand Region and Steps for Overall Development of Region

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: I move the following Resolution:—

"Having regard to the fact that:—

- (a) desperation is growing among farmers in Bundelkhand region due to crop failure because of drought, flood, frost and hailstorm;
- (b) this region consists of seven districts of Uttar Pradesh namely, Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalon, Banda, Chitrakoot, Mahoba and Hamirpur and seven districts of Madhya Pradesh namely, Chhatarpur, Panna, Sagar, Damoh, Tikamgarh, Datia and Gwalior;
- (c) farmers of Bundelkhand are continuously migrating to other places in search of employment for the last many decades;
- (d) farmers in Bundelkhand are getting frustrated because of huge loss of crops due to wild animals and *Nilgais*;
- (e) Bundelkhand is mainly rain-fed agricultural region and the production of crops depends mainly on the monsoon, which causes an irregularity in production and income that makes the life of farmers uncertain and difficult;
- (f) due to persistent severe droughts in Bundelkhand, crop production is continuously decreasing as a result of which farmers are not even able to recover their cost price;
- (g) the financial income in the region is meager because of dearth of agro-based and cottage industries; and

- (h) agriculture has become a vocation of loss because of under-valuation of cash crops and wide spread exploitation of trade which is the prominent reason for burden of debt and desperation prevalent amongst the farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

this House is of the opinion that-

- (i) small scale and cottage industries should be established in the region;
- (ii) a training centre for central police force must be commissioned in Chitrakoot, Banda and Satna area of Bundelkhand, so that farmers in the area may get some security;
- (iii) loan recovery from farmers in Bundelkhand be stopped and waived off besides providing fertilizers, seeds and electricity free of cost to them;
- (iv) the farmers of Bundelkhand should be awarded a package of fifty thousand crore rupees, which will cater to completion of various incomplete works of the region and help in sustainable crop enhancement, macro-micro irrigation projects and other schemes related to development of infrastructure in the region;
- (v) a separate fund with the corpus of Rs. 500 crore should be established to provide financial help to elderly wives of old farmers and to provide facilities related to higher education for their children as thousands of elderly women and widows have high expectations of a relief and rehabilitation package;
- (vi) as the Finance Minister had promised in his budget speech, the Government should establish a price stabilization fund and a national market for agro products, start micro-irrigation and water-shed projects in drought prone areas, new and increased NABARD

fund to restore the credit and steps should be taken to increase the storage capacity;

- (vii) useful information should be provided regarding reasons for drought and forecast of appropriate time for sowing the crops to lessen the effect of it and there should be proper rain water management and crop monitoring;
- (viii) a survey of all poor and labourers of Bundelkhand should be conducted and on that basis BPL cards, free accommodation and toilet facilities be provided;
- (ix) the Central Government should take steps to stop the loss of crops due to wild animals and *Nilgais*;
- (x) the Central Government should provide free fertilizers and seeds in order to promote production of pulses and oil seeds;
- (xi) Yamuna Canal should be built by making a dam on Yamuna river near village *Augasi* of Banda district so that the problem of irrigation in Bundelkhand may be solved;
- (xii) besides the existing ponds in Bundelkhand region, concrete ponds should be constructed at places in the fields for rain water harvesting so that the farmers can use the water of these ponds when needed for irrigating their respective fields and reap the harvest and the Central Government should provide interest free loan for this purpose;
- (xiii) to curb migration from this region, the schemes like MNREGA should be amended and consideration be made for giving more than 100 days employment throughout the year under such scheme;

- (xiv) for plantation of fruit bearing trees in this region, a time-bound systematic action plan should be initiated under a Central Scheme;
- (xv) for irrigation in the region, irrigation of crops of the farmers should be ensured by laying pipes in the fields, so that the production can be increased to improve the conditions of farmers;
- (xvi) there is a need to roll out schemes to encourage farmers of Bundelkhand to do cultivation with modern equipments;
- (xvii) for all round development of Bundelkhand, there should be a guarantee of employment to all the groups of persons above 18 years of age which will stop migration and totally curb the suicides committed by farmers;
- (xviii) since this region is extremely backward in education, there should be a separate special provision in Education Policy for this region;
- (xix) keeping in view the electricity problem in the Bundelkhand region, electricity should be supplied on concessional rates by the Central Government; and
- (xx) in order to protect crops of farmers from wild animals and *Nilgais*, the Central Government should make arrangement in every *Nyaya Panchayat* for an Animal Shelter Centre and a *Gausala* (Public Cow Shelter).

Bundelkhand has been under the grip of drought continuously for 6-7 years. Farmers are moving out from there to other places and that is why I have brought this Resolution. Agriculture in Bundelkhand depends on rains. Due to meagre rainfall, the farmer is unable to grow his crops. Farmers are committing suicides and moving out because of incessant drought for many years. In order to prevent it, we want that Central Government should make an assured arrangement for Bundelkhand. A central team should go there and

make a study. There is much dearth of employment and financial income due to shortage of agriculture based industries and cottage industries in Bundelkhand region. Agriculture has become a profession of loss due to adverse price fixation of cash crops. There is a crisis of drinking water and that of irrigation water also. The farmer of Bundelkhand is getting disappointed continuously. Mineral mafia from all over the country have taken over the area. The environmental condition has deteriorated much there due to mining. As a result of this the entire crop of farmers get destroyed. There is a layer of dust in the fields of farmers due to mining leading the people of that area to become victim of serious illnesses like cancer, TB, etc. The farmers, poor people and labourers are unable to get themselves treated there.

People come over there, do the mining and go. But local people of that area are not benefitted from that. A separate arrangement should be made for the people inhabiting the area where mining work is being carried out and where there are rivers. Thousands of native cows, blue bulls and other wild animals come in herds and destroy the crops of farmers. As a result thereof, the farmer of that area has been totally ruined. I want that cow-sheds should be constructed in each gram panchayat. There are plenty of ponds in Bundelkhand. There are near about 7800 old ponds. It needs to be renovated. There are a number of dams in Bundelkhand wherefrom drinking water and irrigation water is supplied to farmers and electricity is also generated. These dams and ponds get dried in the year which experiences meagre rainfall. We have brought this Resolution so that this government may make special provisions for Bundelkhand.

We want the Government of India to make an exclusive central fund, budget in order to stop the migration of the people of Bundelkhand. We want that an exclusive package of one lakh crore rupees be granted to Bundelkhand. The people of Bundelkhand take farmer credit cards from banks, but the bank managers take bribes to provide them credit cards. Insurance companies do not provide crop

insurance to them, in case there is a drought situation. You should make a minimum arrangement of 10 lakh rupees for the farmers' crop insurance so that they could get some relief from this distress.

Several industries and companies have been shut down and the people working in therein, have been returned to their native places. These people are below the poverty line and are not able to get ration and shelter to live. I would suggest that the amount of one lakh rupees given for building houses by the Center under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna, is very meager and it should be enhanced. The Government should provide toilets, houses and employment to all in Uttar Pradesh also. On the lines of several foreign countries, the Government should also enact some legislation to ensure the right of employment to the entire youth above the age of 18 years.

The youth of Bundelkhand is frustrated and disappointed. In this disappointment he may sometimes choose the wrong path. The conditions in Bundelkhand are very difficult and this region is not having the proper means of irrigation. We had demanded that an embankment should be made on the river Yamuna so that arrangements for irrigation in the entire Bundelkhand region could be made. Through this Resolution I am demanding a separate package of rupees one lakh crore, from the Central Government for the people of Bundelkhand, so that the people of this region could be saved from hunger and suicide. *((Speech unfinished))*

Discussion not concluded.

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Secretary-General.

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