

LOK SABHA

SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES
(Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 / Kartika 28, 1941 (Saka)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(1) Need to develop the path of '84 Kosi Parikarma' in Sitapur and Hardoi districts of Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Namishranya, in my Parliamentary Constituency Mishrikh, (Uttar Pradesh) is a very famous place of mythological and religious importance. This area has a number of religious places. One of them is 84 Kosi Parikarma. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Tourism to hold discussion with the state government and draw up a time bound scheme with the Central Government assistance for widening, electrification, beautification etc. of the entire Parikarma path.

(2) Need to recover leased Government land lying unutilized in Satna district, Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI GANESH SINGH: The State Governments provide land on lease for industrial development. Several companies have been provided land on lease in

my Parliamentary Constituency, Satna which has been forcibly occupied by them. Under Land Acquisition Act, 2013 of the Government of India in case the land is not utilized or the purpose it had been leased out, it can be recovered. I demand the Government that there should be a probe on this count and the swathe of land leased out to the companies lying unutilized be recovered from them.

(3) *A Railway line from whitefield to Chittoor via Mulabagale in Karnataka.*

SHRI S. MUNISWAMY: A railway line from Whitefield to Chittoor via Mulabagale will help in the development and transportation in Kolar area. So, I request you to allocate fund and develop railway line from Whitefield to Chittoor via Mulabagale.

(4) *Need to address the problem of scarcity of drinking water in Latur Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.*

SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE: The Marathwada region of Maharashtra, particularly the Latur district, has been reeling under severe drought this year. The crops of farmers have got devastated. The common people do not have even drinking water facilities. I would like to request the Government to pay compensation to the suffering farmers after carrying out survey. The Government should implement the Scheme namely “Har Ghar Jal, Har Ghar Nal” being run by the Jal Shakti Mantralaya to ensure sufficient quantity of drinking water in Latur City on priority basis.

(5) *Need to set up a medical college at Aurangabad Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.*

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH: The NITI Aayog has made a recommendation for the setting up of a Medical College in Aurangabad. Because of the shortage of suitable plot for this Medical College, I have made proposal to state government to make available 20 acre land of my own. I would like to request the Central Government to allocate budget for the setting up of this College on the land proposed by me.

(6) *Need to enhance the ceiling for procurement of moong by government agencies in Rajasthan.*

SUSHRI DIYA KUMARI: The Government of India procured farm produce on minimum support price. The rules framed under this policy provide that the Government will procure 25% of the total production made by the farmers. Rajasthan and particularly my Parliamentary Constituency produce a rich harvest of *Moong*. I would like to request the Government to prepare data after carrying out new survey and ensure that 50% of total production of this crop is procured.

(7) *Utility of existing free trade agreements.*

SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJ: Amidst much speculations and apprehensions that India may sign up the RCEP compromising the interests of domestic sectors in agriculture and dairying, but we got much relief with the fact that the Government has opted out of the RCEP deal, at the last stage. To safeguard the interests of

domestic arecanut and coconut plantation sectors from the threat of cheap imports of arecanut and desiccated coconut produce routed through Sri Lanka under FTAs, India should revisit and review the utility of the existing FTAs.

(8) *Land Lease in Tripura.*

SHRI REBATI TRIPURA: I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the lease of land issued by the previous government of Tripura under the Forest Act.

(9) *Need to dissolve the committee to monitor implementation of laws prohibiting commercial use of residential premises.*

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: In March 2006, the Hon'ble Supreme Court set up the Bhure Lal Committee to monitor the implementation of laws prohibiting commercial use of residential premises. However, it has attracted severe criticism regarding frequent cases of unfair and arbitrary sealings. I urge the government to dissolve the committee to bring an alternative that is fair and non-arbitrary.

(10) *Need to provide electricity connection to farmers for operation of tubewells in Churu Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.*

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: The underground water level has gone down in my Parliamentary Constituency Churu. I request the Government to implement speedily the different schemes launched by the Government for the welfare of

marginal farmers and *dhanis* so that the farmers living in the rural areas could be benefited.

(11) *Development of Rourkela as a smart city.*

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Rourkela has been declared as one of the Smart Cities in the country. Since then, the Central Government has been allocating funds for the development of the City. It is unfortunate that the funds allocated in 2015-16 and 2016-17 financial years have not been entirely spent in the development of the City. I demand that the Central Government intervenes in the matter and direct the State Government to expedite the development of the projects so that Rourkela becomes full-fledged and beautiful Smart City.

(12) *Need to set up a Passport Seva Kendra in Jalaun district, Uttar Pradesh.*

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA: The people of my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun have to visit Kanpur for making passport. I request the Central Government to open the Post-Office Passport Seva Kendra at the head Post Office Urai which is the headquarter of district Jalaun.

(13) *Setting up of a Medical College in Rayagada district of Odisha.*

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: Rayagada district being an aspirational district with large tribal population needs support especially in health services. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Hon'ble PM has decided that new Medical Colleges would be set up in underserved areas having no Medical Colleges and preference will be given to Aspiration Districts. Hence, I

urge upon the Minister of Health and Family Welfare to take necessary action immediately.

(14) Status of works on NH 544 Mannuthy-Vadakkancheri stretch in Kerala.

SHRI T. N. PRATHAPAN: NH 544 Mannuthy - Vadakkancheri stretch in Kerala was the first ever six-lane national highway project in the State. After the commencement of works, it has been around a decade and the project is still stuck unfinished. Due to the alleged irresponsible attitude of NHAI and concessionaire company, this project has reached nowhere. I request to the Central Government to intervene in it to either replace the concessionaire which has been doing nothing or to make it work according to the promises that Minister had made.

(15) Deaths caused due to falling into bore wells.

DR. T. SUMATHY(A)THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN: It was very sad that hundreds of children are falling into bore wells. While it is true that the Central and State Governments have made regulations to ensure that adequate safeguards are put in place to prevent such incidents, the scenario continues unabated. The Supreme Court had issued guidelines to prevent such incidents in 2010. But despite these regulations there has been no dearth of casualties. I urge the Union Government to bring a comprehensive law to prevent further loss of lives.

(16) Need to develop Tarakeshwar Railway Station in Arambagh

Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal.

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR: Tarakeshwar a place of pilgrimage and having a Temple of Lord Shiva is situated in my Arambagh Parliamentary Constituency. I urge the Government to develop Tarakeshwar Railway Station as modern Railway station with all facilities.

(17) Problem faced by private security industry.

SHRI LAVU SRIKRISHNA DEVARAYALU: The private security industry is facing many hurdles in India. The GST law does not factor into consideration the fact that security agencies receive their dues. The RBI has effectively restricted the most of the Private security organizations from providing their services since most of them are Micro Small and Medium Enterprises. There is a need to overhaul and modernise the licensing and review system.

(18) Need to amend the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: The consumption of tobacco has led to higher incidence of mortality and disease in India. The Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003 (COTPA) was passed to discourage the consumption of tobacco products. But this legislation is failed to achieve its objectives. I demand upon the Government to proscribe the consumption of tobacco at public places, the advertisement and display of tobacco products and sale of single cigarette or tobacco product. The amount of penalty should be enhanced and the legal age for the consumption of tobacco product should be enhanced to 21 year. I request the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the COTPA Act, 2003.

(19) *Need to expedite construction work on the stretch of National Highway No. 333A from Barbhiga to Panjwara in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.*

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the construction work on the stretch of National Highway No. 333A from Barbhiga to Panjwara in Banka Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar. I request the Government to expedite this work and fill the craters on this road.

(20) *Infestation of rice crop in Ambedkar Nagar Parliamentary Constituency of Uttar Pradesh.*

SHRI RITESH PANDEY: Rice blast is destructive fungal disease. Large swathes of farmland in my constituency Ambedkar Nagar and neighbouring districts have been infected. This infestation is covered under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and yet the administration hasn't surveyed the scale of the damage. I strongly urge the Government to swiftly make an official assessment of the disease and process claims of affected farmers.

(21) *Allotment of land for construction of electric sub-station in Telangana.*

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY: I would like to bring to your kind attention the representation received from Sri G. Mahipal Reddy, MLA Patancheru and from Divisional Engineer, M/s Southern Power Distribution company of Telangana State Limited, Patancheru, for allotment of 2000 sq. yards land in ESI Hospital Ramachandrapuram, in Telangana State for construction of

33/11 KV Sub-Station. I, request the hon. Minister to kindly direct authorities for construction of Sub-Station on priority.

(22) *Privatization of BPCL.*

ADV. A. M. ARIFF: The decision to privatize Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) will have huge repercussions on the employees and society as a whole. The Central Government should desist from any effort to privatize BPCL.

(23) *Development of Kollam Junction Railway Station in Kerala.*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Kollam Junction Railway Station is the largest railway station in Kerala. Considering the importance of Kollam, it is highly essential to terminate more trains at Kollam and originate more trains from Kollam. Hence I urge upon to initiate immediate step for construction of pit tine at Kollam.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Re: Air Pollution and Climate change.

SHRI MANISH TEWARI *initiating said:* It is very unfortunate that despite being the seat of the Central Government, the Parliament, the State Government and the other important ministries and Departments which run the

administration of India, the climate of Delhi gets so much polluted on regular basis on a particular time in the year that people are forced to breath poisonous gas instead of life giving oxygen. Unfortunately it is not only Delhi which is plagued by this problem. As per a report released by the World Health Organization, India has 14 out of 15 most polluted cities of the world. I would like to ask as to why any voice is not raised by this House or by the Government to get rid of this problem. Our rivers and glaciers continue to suffer from this severe pollution. There are 86 live monitoring stations on the river Ganges, out of which 78 locations contain water which is unfit for even taking bath not to mention of drinking that water. In 1998, air pollution in Beijing was dominated by coal combustion and motor vehicles. Major pollutants exceeded national limits. Over the next 15 years, Beijing implemented a series of measures focused on energy, infrastructure optimisation, coal-fired pollution control, vehicle emission controls and by 2013 levels of air pollutants had fallen and some pollutants like Carbon Monoxide and Sulphur Di-oxide met national standards. Most of this reduction came from measures to control coal-fired boilers, providing cleaner domestic fuels and industrial restructuring. In 2013, Beijing adopted a more systematic and intensive measures for air pollution control. Whenever the Government makes any announcement or formulates an action plan on a sensitive issue, it should also come with proper funding pattern for its implementation. A Standing Committee of the House should be set up to deal with the issue of air pollution and climate

change. If you accuse the small farmers for the pollution, then to me, you will do justice neither to the farmers nor to farming. The Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the only head of the states who participated in the first United Nations conference on human environment in 1972 and asserted before the world that it is our duty to protect our environment and our ecology.

SHIR PINAKI MISRA: This is a persistent problem which is being faced since the last 7-8 years. The United States of America is the world's largest polluter and the President Mr. Donald Trump has decided to walk out of the Paris Agreement. It is a matter of salutation to our Government that we have adhered to the Paris Accord. The farmers of Punjab, the farmers of UP and the farmers of Haryana have been vilified completely and needlessly. Stubble burning had been happening for two weeks before the Deewali. The stubble burning is a contributor, but not a primary issue. If there is some contribution, even that contribution can be waived and do away with. The Prime Minister has taken a salutary step in the direction of Swacha Bharat. I requested Prime Minister to take up this issue of curbing pollution. The simple solution for stubble burning is to give the subsidy to the farmers to either shift to growing alternate crops - maize, pulses etc or to adopt alternate mechanism. It is a matter of simple economics for the farmers. The farmers will go where he can make his two ends meet. You should give the farmers the opportunity to use his stubble in biogas, in paper manufacturing, in electricity, in cardboard manufacturing, but, for that the Government has to take the initiative

to put up these plans. So that stubble burning stops in and around Delhi. The fireworks that are manufactured here are, unfortunately, of very poor quality, which are very high with sulphur content. So, fire-crackers pose serious problem here. Here in Delhi and in surrounding areas, Ubers and Ola has added around 65 per cent further burden to our roads. Nobody is looking at the kind of influx of cars that have moved into the NCR region all of a sudden which is creating this massive pollution in the last 5-6 years. China has taken some extraordinary steps in cleaning up its air and that is why it has succeeded. Its existing plants have been told to reduce emissions and coal has been banned. In fact, China completely banned winter heating last year. I have been criticized on Twitter today that I have to lead this debate in this House and I appear for the redevelopment of colonies in Delhi for instance where trees have to be cut down. But, then, I have to say, sustainable development is the only way forward. For every tree that is cut down, you have to plant 100 trees or 200 trees. Our economic output could actually go down by as much as two per cent because of pollution reasons. This is affecting the whole of North India which is one of the productive basins of India. The Government must deal with it with ferocity, with single mind dedication and ensure that what we suffer in the months of November and December does not happen year after year.

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Today's topic of debate is such a topic which shapes the future of our country. Air pollution has become a

disease. WHO has said that Delhi is the most polluted city. Delhi is getting the most contaminated water. Vehicular pollution is the major reason of pollution. The other major reasons are dust, gases emitting from industrial plants, traffic congestion etc. And the least contributing reason is crop stubble burning. But the Delhi Government is stressing on crop stubble burning factor and it has spent an amount of Rs.600 crore on advertisement to emphasize this point. Other reasons are not being mentioned. Increasing the divide between the villages and cities would not serve political interest of any party. Today Delhi has five thousand buses against a requirement of fifteen thousand buses. Ten thousand new buses should be purchased, but not a single bus has been purchased by the Delhi Government during the last five years. Dust is one of the major reasons of pollution in unauthorized colonies which is due to lack of metalled roads. Whether roads have been constructed by the Chief Minister of Delhi in these unauthorized colonies? Our hon. Prime Minister has given a big gift to the people of Delhi by regularizing these unauthorized colonies. Construction activities is also a major reason of pollution in Delhi. But even the Delhi Government is not complying with the norms in this regard. AIIMS hospital has said that the effect of pollution cannot be mitigated by using mask. Despite this, the Delhi Government is distributing mask among the children. The Government of NCT of Delhi did not even feel the need to talk to the Prime Minister in order to tackle the problem of pollution. They do not have any plan of action to improve the condition of Delhi

in the coming 10-20 years. How will Delhi get water and air constitutes a matter of concern for all of us. We all parliamentarians should give Rs. 2 crore each from MPLAD Fund for the installation of air purifier towers and smoke cleaner towers in Delhi. Moreover, the Delhi Government should slash VAT from 30 percent to 20 percent on petrol and diesel. I firmly believe that this House, cutting across the party line, will certainly take a good step to contain the pollution for the sake of the future of our children.

DR. T. SUMATHY(A)THAMIZHACHI THANGAPANDIAN: I would like to begin my discussion with air pollution which has reached to alarming proportion. According to Air Visual, the leading source of International Quality Data, India is home to 20 of the world's 25 worst polluted cities. Needless to state that increasing air pollution in our national Capital, Delhi is a matter of great concern as well as worry for all of us. But it is sad to note that the government probably concentrates more in taking temporary measures rather than finding any permanent and preventive solutions in the long-run. Hence, I would like to persuade the Union Government as well as the State Government to take proper measures and introduce stringent laws concerning the climate change as well as the air pollution. This is not just the case in Delhi. According to the Air Quality Index of Central Pollution Control Board, the ozone and the nitrogen dioxide particles are increasing in Manali and Chennai as well in recent times. But the present State Government is neither aware of the seriousness of the situation nor

is taking any permanent and preventive measures. I would insist that the present State Government should take lessons from previous governments and take appropriate measures to save environment from the hazards of air pollution as well as the global warming. According to the WHO, India has the world's highest death rate from chronic respiratory diseases and asthma. Air pollution in India is estimated to kill about 1.5 million people every year. Levels of pm 2.5 and pm 10 particulate matter hit 999 micrograms per cubic metre, while the safe limits for those pollutants are just 60 and 100 respectively. I understand that vehicle emissions, wood-burning fires, fires on agricultural land, exhaust from diesel generators, dust from construction sites, burning garbage and illegal industrial activities in Delhi are the haphazard factors, but blaming the voiceless firework manufacturers alone is not very fair. I come from Tamil Nadu and my village is next to Sivakasi, which thrives mainly on the firework industry and just to blame the firework manufacturers is not very fair just as we cannot be blaming the burning of the agricultural wastage. I would like to ask the Union Minister whether there are any major important policy decisions in the pipeline to tackle this situation? I would also like to mention a few solutions. The major contributor for the air pollution is the construction sites, and the Government instead of making policies on the shadow-level or the cosmetic-level should make very strict laws thereby insisting compulsory covering of sheets around the construction areas and burning of debris should be banned inside the cities.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR: Out of the ten most polluted cities in the world, nine are in India. Can we launch *Swachh Hawa* Mission on the lines of *Swachh Bharat* Mission? We are fighting to breathe. Should not we ensure right to breathe clean air in India? Climate Change is a very serious matter and it is affecting the whole planet. The climate change depends a lot on illiteracy and poverty. If people are illiterate of what they are doing, how can you prevent them from doing things like stubble burning? If poverty alleviation is done properly, it will take care of the climate change also. We have to be talking about water pollution, air pollution, food that we are eating, the pesticides and the fertilizers that are being used. They are causing cancer. The incidents of cancer, heart attack and lung diseases have risen because of the uncontrolled use of chemicals. The Government really should do something about that. Eighteen per cent of pollution is contributed by the industry. Why can we not have a check on the industry? Why can the construction work not be done under cover? When buildings are being made, they should be covered. Otherwise, the cement enters the air that we breathe. Central Government had notified a comprehensive action plan in 2018 for prevention, control and mitigation of air pollution. Only notification will not help. We will have to monitor what is actually happening at the ground level. Even today most of the electricity is produced from fossil fuels and that is causing pollution. Forty per cent of the renewable energy produced should be electricity. In 2016, the Government of India had come out with a draft national wind, solar,

hybrid energy policy with the aim of facilitating functioning of 10,000 MW of hybrid, wind, solar plants by 2022. What the status of that is, we do not know. Are we serious when we are thinking of climate change? If the air polluted with lead or carbon monoxide is inhaled, people might die. The Government should take up this matter very seriously. The efforts of the hon. Prime Minister are definitely laudable when they have eight National Missions. Let us all work together towards it so that we can give a clean environment to our future and save our planet.

SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY: We have 13 out of 20 most polluted cities in the world. Pollution problem is due to continuous urbanization, industrialization and increase in the number of automobiles in a very short period of time. More than 95 per cent of the emissions from automobiles are of PM2.5. This is very small size and it can easily go into the organs through our respiratory system. It can choke the organs and this is very dangerous. In India, the third highest cause of deaths is air pollution. Studies have revealed that almost 1.2 million deaths in India in 2017 were due to air pollution. So, we need to act in a way where the common public do not get affected for no fault of theirs. People smoke now and then but in polluted cities, you smoke for 24 hours. India is especially very vulnerable to climate change because we have a huge coastline. We have seen what happened earlier in Kerala, Chennai and Mumbai. Large areas were inundated. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that

global warming will raise the temperature in India. This increase in temperature will play a very devastating role on our country. Besides, four to nine per cent of our agricultural economy would be affected by climate change and almost 1.5 per cent of our GDP would be affected. India has launched the Solar Alliance to reach the target of 40 per cent dependence on renewable energy. It is a very good initiative. Even the Bharat-IV norms for automobile industry are a very good initiative because it will reduce PM2.5 levels. Subsidies for electric vehicles is also a good initiative. We need to put petty politics aside and act together.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Hon. Members have discussed this issue quite seriously here in this august House. An agreement was signed in Paris on climate change. Unfortunately, the US President again went back on this agreement. During the last 50-60 years, I never experienced so much of rain in Mumbai. This is the impact of the climate change. The seawater entered deep into the city. All this happened due to the industrial revolution. The year 2016 was considered as the hottest year in the world. We had tried to bring the Nanar project in Maharashtra but who were those people who bought the land in Ratnagiri. They were all outsiders. But, our Government took a right decision and the Nanar project was withdrawn. Now, the Bharat Petroleum is proposed to be sold out. We brought the metro project in Mumbai which will reduce the pollution. The Sanjay Gandhi Park is located in Goregaon. About 30 acres out of 1700 acres of its land was acquired. People condemned it and launched a movement. The

Government cut down 2700 trees in the single night and we are now discussing the issue of environment here. It is not so that land was not available anywhere else. Mumbai city gets its oxygen from here only. We are over exploiting the nature and we need to go back to nature again.

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT: we ought to explore as to why global warming and air pollution are happening and as to how to check them. This is quite a daunting task to the whole world. The climate change, air pollution and increasing temperatures are impacting the children most in India. India happens to be one of the most polluted countries in the world as per the WHO. The air pollution in Delhi has reached such a ominous level that the Hon. Supreme Court had to declare health emergency. There is more or less same situation in other cities as well. There is need to create awareness in the society as to how to curb the pollution. The hon. Chief Minister of Bihar launched a campaign '*Jal, Jeevan, Haryali*'. Under this campaign a five-pronged strategy is to be adopted which will include reviving the ponds, plantation, rainwater harvesting and taking the rivers to the areas where drought occurs. Besides, people are being encouraged to use solar lights.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI : The Government launched the National Clean Air Programme this year itself and it was targeted to bring down the pollution level by 20-30 per cent in 100 cities in the next five years. But, the ground realities are totally different. My Parliamentary Constituency is quite adjacent to the NCR.

There is a widespread propaganda that the farmers are responsible for pollution around Delhi. In fact, the farmers do not have any lobbies and therefore they cannot put their view point. They are being blamed for burning the *parali* which is causing the pollution. There is no doubt that burning of *parali* causes pollution but this is not the only reason for all the pollution. Construction is going on on a very large scale and the standard norms are not being followed in these construction projects. Pollution has adverse effects on health as well as on economy. There is a need to have comprehensive policy in this regard.

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO: Nine out of the ten most polluted cities of the world figure in our country. The Government has to think seriously on the issues of pollution and Climate Change. Pollution affects the economy of the country. Several issues have been identified after formation of the Prime Minister's Council on climate change. When this issue is being looked into at the Prime Minister's level, why are we not able to control it? The Opposition is forthcoming to support the Government on the issue of pollution. The hon. Chief Minister of Telangana has been implementing a programme named '*Harith Haram*' for the last five years under which plantation at the cost of Rs.176 crore has been done during the last five years. Gram *Panchayat* Act has been amended providing that every Gram *Panchayat* must have a nursery. We have developed Urban Parks. The *Sarpanches* have been entrusted with the responsibility of saving the trees so planted. *Sarpanches* have also been empowered to fine those

who litter or cause pollution. Forest cover has reduced by 10 per cent during the last 60-70 years whereas we have developed 3 per cent forest cover.

DR. AMAR SINGH: The reports on climate change are very disturbing. Rain pattern is changing. Glaciers are shrinking very fast. These things affect everything but agriculture and farmers are the worst affected. We are discussing air pollution with special reference to Delhi. There are several reasons for this. On one hand the Government is giving clearance to industries whereas on the other hand environment protection is a challenge. The Government has to strike a balance between industries and environment. The Government has to formulate a proper action plan to solve the problem of air pollution in Delhi and the climate change. Criminal cases are being filed against the farmers. We must try to understand as to why the farmers resort to stubble burning. They have to sow wheat crop within two weeks and that is why they clear the fields by burning the stubble. If they use the machine which we are talking about, their expenditures will increase by rupees five thousand to ten thousand per acre. 70-80 per cent farmers in the country are in distress. How can they afford machines? If the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and UP grow alternative crops and the Government ensures 100 per cent procurement, nobody will burn the stubble. Farmers of Punjab are suffering from cancer. The Government should conduct a study to find out the causes of high incidence of cancer in Punjab and the reasons for burning the stubble. This problem should also be solved.

The discussion was not concluded.

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SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA
Secretary General

**Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.

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NOTE: It is the verbatim Debate of the Lok Sabha and not the Synopsis that should be considered authoritative.

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