

Karnataka State, and drought situation is prevailing there. Drinking water is not available to the people of that area particularly in the rural areas.

Hence, it is high time to take up the most important Tunga Lift Irrigation Project. In fact, survey is being conducted to take up this vital project. This project has to be taken up without any further delay as the entire Chitra Durga district is drought prone.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to provide sufficient funds for the Thunga Irrigation Project in Karnataka.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South-Central) : Chairman Sir, in my city Mumbai, there is one Scindhia workshop where workers did not get their wages for the last 11 months. I have met the Minister of Finance several times in this regard. Some of the workers of that workshop had opted V.R.S. till 1991. But there also some of the workers were there who got their wages upto the year 1990. But now it is 1997. It is therefore requested that the remaining workers should also be paid their wages upto 1997.

13.18 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Twenty two Minutes past Fourteen of the clock

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the chair]

RE: QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE REFERRED TO PRIVILEGE COMMITTEE.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir ruling on the notice of Privilege Motion given by me was likely to be announced. This is what the Hon'ble Speaker had said.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have been informed that the Privilege motion notice given by you.

[English]

It has been referred to the Privileges Committee.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Deputy Speaker Sir

when this matter has been referred to the Privileges Committee it should be told to everybody so as to tell them about the subject matter of that notice. What was this notice the members should be told about this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay, Prof. Verma you please speak briefly about your notice.

PROF RITA VERMA : Deputy Speaker Sir, this matter involves question of breach of privilege of all the members of this House and not only my rights. So, very briefly I will speak so that all the members could know about it.

Honble Deputy Speaker Sir, we all the members are facing a problem because of privatisation and closure of Public Sector undertakings because we have to protect the interests of those workers who have been working and affected by the closure or sickness of these public sector undertaking located in our area. It is not a matter relating to a party (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just tell about the portion relating to the breach of privileges.

PROF RITA VERMA : I am telling that. I just read it in brief. My notice was on these following four points :-

[English]

1. "that I was prevented from carrying out my legitimate duties as a Member of Parliament;
2. that I was abused, physically assaulted and singled out for gross misbehaviour;
3. that I was arrested and taken to jail in violation of all laws and regulations; and
4. that I was prevented from filing an FIR by the police which refused to accept it."

[Translation]

Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, my agitation is for the protection of interests of workers of a sick public sector Hindustan steel ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just read the relevant portion of the privilege motion.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you have already read then it is alright.

(Interruptions)

[Prof Rita Verma]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other people could not understand it.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Deputy Speaker Sir, kindly give me two minutes time to speak . . . *(Interruptions)*.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, this is already been referred

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : I would take only 9 minute . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon'ble Speaker has already referred it so no further discussion can take place on this.

(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : I just want to tell in one sentence . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already too much. There is not need to say anything more . . . *(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA : I wanted to say that I was agitating for the interests of those workers of Hindustan steel works construction Ltd. who have become jobless and against corruption. For that I got this punishment that I was insulted, slapped, disrobed thrashed and Jailed . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Alright. This has already been referred.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : When the notice is referred to the Privileges Committee, where is the need to explain it further ? How can she do it ?

14.30 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to provide financial Assistance to Betel Leave Growers in Lalitpur District of U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, agriculture of betel leaves is done in Lalitpur district of U.P. The cost of production of betel leaves is very high. Due to pest infection for the last three years the production of betel leaves is decreasing there gradually and betel leaves growers have suffered heavy losses. The farmers are on the verge of starvation. I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact earlier also. The experts of the Agriculture Research Institute, Jabalpur had conducted an enquiry in this regard, but so far there have been no fruitful results. The U.P. Government has also opened an office to monitor the situation there, but so far no conclusion has been drawn by them also regarding the impact of pests on the betel leave production.

The Minister of Agriculture is therefore requested to take necessary steps to sanction adequate grant-in-aid to growers, provide pesticide and arrange bank loans for them at lower rate of interest to make them prosper and progress.

- (ii) **Need to provide adequate compensation to the people whose land has been acquired for various projects in Robertsganj, U.P.**

SHRI RAMSHAKAL (Robertsganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Robertsganj Parliamentary Constituency which is predominantly inhabited by people belonging to SC and the backward classes. A number of Central, State, and non-governmental schemes are being executed in Sonebhadra district of U.P. but the original land owners have neither been given due compensation for the land nor provided jobs in the projects. The Central Government is requested to inquire into the matter, give due compensation to the land owners and absorb them in the projects.

- (iii) **Need to release funds for early completion of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project of Andhra Pradesh**

[English]

SHRI BHUMA NAGI REDDY (Nandyal) : I would like to bring the matter of Pochampad 2nd Phase irrigation project (Sriram Sagar Project) at Andhra Pradesh in Nalgonda district to the kind attention of this august House. It would irrigate about 2.75 hectares. It is pending for a long time and recently just before the Parliament elections, the foundation stone was laid on 6/3/97 by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh with a promise that it would