

and as a result of it this Act has become ineffective.

SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not being enforced strictly in Gujarat state. Thus, the incidents of atrocities on tribal women/men are increasing continuously.

The Central Government is urged upon to direct the State Governments, especially the Gujarat government to strictly enforce the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and immediate legal action should be taken under the provisions of this Act against the person found prima facie guilty of committing atrocities on tribals.

I would also like to make a demand that the administrative/police officers found to be lacking in taking action against the guilty persons, should be suspended/dismissed from the service with immediate effect. Only then all the concerned officers will enforce this SC and ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act enacted by the Central Government.

(iii) Need to take steps to protect the interests of Indian Consultants in Joint Venture Public Enterprises

[English]

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : It is reported that foreign consultants with little acumen and experience in India are being hired to locate Indians for suitable top positions in Joint Sector Enterprises when Indian Consultants with far better credentials, experience and facilities are available. It is happening even in those joint sector enterprises where Indian companies have majority equity participation.

Hexacom India Limited is a joint venture company with two-thirds equity being held by TCIL, a Central PSU and Shyam Telecom Ltd., a private sector unit and the remaining one third by a Canadian Telecom multinational. The company has been awarded licence for Mobile Cellular Services in Rajasthan. They asked for Indian top level consultants to quote for placement service; but it is understood that they are awarding the job to a foreign head hunting organisation at a fee reported to be of the order of eight to ten times per placement, as compared to that quoted by one of the topmost Indian Consultants. The plea is that the foreign joint venture partner has all along been used to working with the foreign head hunting firm. It is not just a case of giving preference foreign consultant over Indian consultants, but adding to the project cost also.

I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to ensure that the interest of Indian Consultants are protected in Joint Sector Enterprises and Joint Sector Companies.

(iv) Need to declare existing connecting roads falling on long coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu as National Highway

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (Chengalpatu) : The existing National Highway from Calcutta to Madras (Chennai) is very much congested due to heavy traffic on this National Highway, particularly due to transportation of manufactured goods, foodgrains and raw materials. The plight of this Highway is aggravated due to cyclone and heavy rains during the season. They severely hinder the movement of goods on the Highway. It is, therefore urgently felt, necessary to take over the existing roads connecting Hyderabad, the capital of Andhra Pradesh, and other important towns of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Tirupati, Arakkonam, Kancheepuram, Vandavasi, Dindivanam and Villupuram and declare it as National Highway. This route will serve as second connecting road to Calcutta and other adjoining State capitals including Maharashtra. Since the National Highway is falling on the long coastal area of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, heavy rains and cyclone occurring almost every year in the coastal region not only damage the roads including the Highways but also flood the small rivers at many crossings of Highways which render the traffic out of gear for several weeks.

Sir, a second route as suggested above up to Hyderabad would definitely go a long way in quick movement of goods by road, apart from easing the congestion in the existing National Highway. The necessity of having a second route has been there for more than two decades now.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Surface Transport to take immediate action for taking over and declaring the existing connecting roads between Hyderabad and the towns of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Tirupati, Arakkonam, Kancheepuram, Vandavasi, Dindivanam and Villupuram, as National Highway.

(v) Need to defuse strike of the employees of ONGC demanding construction of office building and staff quarters at Rajamundry, Andhra Pradesh

SHRI T. GOPAL KRISHNA (Kakinada) : There is exploration of Oil and Gas in Krishna-Godavari Basin of Andhra Pradesh. However, Gas Supply from there to industries has been hit as ONGC strike continues in that region. The demands of the employees include establishing regional office of ONGC at Rajahmundry and construction of office building complex and staff quarters in the area.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has already allotted five acres of land at Rajahmundry for construction of the Regional Office. The ONGC has also been given