

Soviet Union as a result of the recent tremendous changes that have taken place there. There are about 4000 Indian students scattered all over in the different republics. Now, the different republics are asking the Indian students to pay their fees in hard currency. The stipend of 100 roubles per month given to the Indian students has also been stopped and they are asking them to pay the fees in hard currency. Under the present circumstances, these students are not in a position to pay their fees in hard currency.

Another problem is that they are being denied admission in various colleges and other educational institutions there. If they are asked to pack up and come back to India, then they will find it difficult to get admission in this country as there is difference in the systems of education here and there. If they will be thrown out, they will be totally ruined because they will not get admission here which is equivalent to their education and classes in the Soviet Union.

So, the two problems which the Indian students are facing in Soviet Union are admission and payment of fees in hard currency. Some for us are being flooded with letters and telephone calls from these students and their parents. There are about 4000 Indian students in the Soviet Union. The Embassy here is getting SOS calls from the students as well as their parents. So, this is an urgent matter which the Government of India, especially the External Affairs Minister, should take care of. I request through you, the hon. External Affairs Minister to pay immediate attention to this matter. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secundrabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Vishwa Karma is considered a symbol of artisans of the country. He is considered responsible for several tools and equipments for the use of small rural artisans. All the artisans of India such as cobblers, pot makers, goldsmith, blacksmith, carpenters etc. worship Vishwa-karma as god. Our village folk specially rural artisans mostly depend on tools

developed by Vishwakarma. Vishwakarma Jayanti is falling on 17 September. I would request the Central Government to celebrate this day as "National Labour Day". Till today, we have been celebrating this day as "May Day" as Worker's Day, but it has almost lost its significance in present context. Now it seems proper to celebrate Vishwakarma Jayanti as "National Labour Day" I hope Government would soon announce '17th September' as 'Vishwakarma Day'. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is known to the House and to you, Sir, that there is a very serious flood situation in North Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER: We have decided not to allow senior Members to speak. Don't you like to be considered as one of the senior Members?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: By remaining present here yesterday till midnight and early hours of the day, I prove myself to be a back bencher. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, today you have earned time to speak. Now come on.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: In north Bengal, the intensity of flood is very serious. This is evident from the fact that 17 persons have already lost their lives. (*Interruptions*) It seems now the figure has gone to 42. You have not permitted me to read today's newspaper. So, I do not know the latest figure.

Sir, it is necessary that urgent relief is given to Bengal. A central Team also should visit the area and in association with the State Government try to mitigate the situation. There has already been a very swift response from the hon. Prime Minister. He has already granted some amount from his Relief Fund. Unfortunately, there is one matter of propriety that has escaped his