

(iii) Need to settle pending cases of Freedom Fighters' pension expeditiously

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many applications for Freedom Fighters' pension from the Central Government are pending with the Home Ministry. There is usually delay in sanctioning these cases. There is a great discontentment among the freedom fighters as a result of the delay. The Central Government should enquire into the delay and settle the freedom fighters' pension cases recommended by the State Government at the earliest.

(iv) Need to include Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

PROF. N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the rising national consensus in favour of the inclusion of Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution does not need re-emphasis: As to justification, Manipuri is the official language of the State of Manipur. It is the medium of instruction and examination upto XII class in Manipur. Manipuri has been the language of administration and the judiciary for the State of Manipur for thousands of years still the British annexation of Manipur in 1891 and continued more or less in the same position upto Manipur's merger with the Indian Union in 1949. It is the mother tongue of more than two million people in Manipur mainland and Manipuris in Assam and Tripura. It has been recognised as a developed modern India language by the Sahitya Academy. It has an ancient script of its own and has rich ancient medieval, modern and contemporary literatures particularly in the modern and contemporary spheres, original writing comprising novels, stories, essays, criticisms poems, history of literature and drama. In the sphere of translation it has covered the Mahabharata, Ramayana, Puranas, Upanishads, Smritis, Shremad Bhagwat Gita, the Bible and leading Bengali, Hindi and English works, International agreements till 1891 were signed in Manipuri by Manipur Kings. The Government is requested to take

early steps to amend the Constitution to fulfil the long standing demand.

(v) Need to withdraw the increase in excise and customs duty on man-made fibre yarn

SHRI KASHIRAM CHHABILDAS RANA (Surat): Sir, the recent increase in excise and customs duty on man-made fibre yarn is likely to dislocate the entire textile industry in Surat resulting in a loss of revenue in form of excise and customs duty to the Government. This would also effect more than three lakh workers engaged in twenty thousand small powerloom units and ancillary units. Surat and surrounding South Gujarat region is the biggest centre for art silk and weaving industry in India, where more than 195 thousand powerlooms are working, producing about 45 lakh metres of cloth per day.

Textile policy, 1985 *inter alia* stipulates reduction of taxation on man-made fibre yarn. Abid Hussain Committee has also supported this contention. In 1988, the then Finance Minister had reduced the excise duty. Besides, the last meeting of N.D.C. consented to transfer an additional excise duty to yarn from fabric.

I urge upon the Government to withdraw the present decision, which has an adverse effect on the industry.

(vi) Need to bring Pay-scales and other facilities of Anganwadi workers at par with those of Government employees

[Translation]

SHRI SARJU PRASAD SAROJ (Mohanlalgarj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Central Government towards Child Development Projects being run in the country. The condition of the Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' working in these projects is becoming miserable day by day. In my constituency, Mohanlalgarj, Lucknow and in its

[Sh. Sarju Prasad Saroj]

development blocks, Sarojini Nagar, Malhihabad, Purva, Auras and in Delhi, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and other parts of the country, they are not getting the full supplies of medicines, biscuits other edible items. Under the scheme, people from high castes get 50% reservation and backward castes and Scheduled Castes are getting 25% reservation each, whereas high castes should get only 40% reservation and backward castes and Scheduled Castes each should be given 30% reservation.

The Anganwadi workers are considered honorary workers and they get Rs. 275/- to Rs. 325/- only and 'Sahayikas' get only Rs. 110/- per month. As against this, the employees working in the Children Development Project are considered as Government employees.

The Government has merely given assurances so far for increase in the salary of the Anganwadi workers and no concrete steps have been taken in this regard. The Government instead of increasing their salaries, has all along been saying that these workers get honorarium, which is not a correct reply. The Government should pay special attention for the upliftment of the women working in Anganwadis so that their economic and social level is raised.

The Government has recently celebrated the Girl-Child Day. How can Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' develop the life of the girls properly when meagre amount is being paid to them.

I, therefore, demand from the Central Government that Anganwadi workers and 'Sahayikas' should immediately be given the status of Government Employees and they should be given the pay-scales and facilities being provided to the Primary Teachers.

(vii) **Need to name some street/road/lane in Delhi after Gopabandhu Das, Shri Madhusudan Das and Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapati Deo, the eminent of Orissa**

[English]

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO (Aska): Sir, Delhi is not only a metropolitan city but also the Capital of India and the seat of Government. It symbolises the national integration of the country. Many streets, roads, lanes have been named after persons of eminence belonging to different States. Though many streets have been named after national leaders, men of letters and leading personalities in different spheres, no such roads have been named after eminent persons belonging to Orissa.

The Government is requested to name any street, road or line after the name of three of Orissa's illustrious sons, namely Gopabandhu Das, Madhusudan Das and Krushna Chandra Gajapathi Deo.

(viii) **Need for early completion of Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala**

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasargod): Sir, there is slow progress of work at Naval Academy in Ezhimala Kerala.

Thousands of acres of fertile and valuable land has been acquired and thousands of people have been evacuated from this area by spending crores of rupees. But, the progress of the work is slow which causes great anxiety in the minds of the people.

Except construction of compound wall and posting of guards, no work is presently going on at that place.

It is absolutely necessary to complete the work of Naval Academy so that Naval Academy starts functioning in Ezhimala, Kerala immediately.