

Darbhanga Parliamentary Constituency has been lying closed for several years causing adverse affect on the livelihood of thousands of families. The State Government is trying to reopen it, but now it is not in a position to invest adequate amount of funds in it. The repairing of outdated machinery, the payment of arrears of electricity bills, strengthening the proper arrangement of railway live upto the factory and payment of the outstanding dues of Banking and Financial Institutions amounting to Rs. 70 crore in total, are yet to be done. The demand of paper in the country is very high.

I, therefore, would like to urge the Central Government to grant central aid to restart the Ashok Paper Mill in Darbhanga.

(vi) Need to treat 'SAARA' community of Orissa as Scheduled Tribe

[English]

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): Sir, although the Saaras of Orissa belong to Scheduled Tribes it is not mentioned in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Act of 1976 as a result they are deprived of the benefit meant for Scheduled Tribes. In No. 59 of the serial category of the tribes, it is mentioned as Saoria, Savar, Savru, Sahara. Although Savar and Saara are the same but the officials do not recognise it. In spite of repeated representations to no steps seem to have been taken by the Central Governmnet. But the tribal people of 'Saara' continue to suffer.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Central Governmnet to make necessary corrections and instruct the Orissa Government to treat the Saara tribe as a Scheduled Tribe.

(vii) Need to reveiw the decision to provide land belonging to Kandla Port Trust to Cargill Multinational Company for preparation of salt

[Translation]

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, had started his

Dandi March in 1930 from the Sabamati Ashram in Gujarat to launch his salt Satyagrah and he had got success too. But today despite the protest from Kandla Port Trust, the Gujarat Government has decided to provide 15 thousand acres of land belonging to Kandla Port Trust in Gujarat to one of the greatest American Multi-National Companies Cargill to produce salt. Today, more than two lakh people of the country are employed in salt industry. With the producing of salt by the Cargill Company, all the labourers would be rendered jobless.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to cancel the decision of granting 15 thousand acres of land belonging to Kandla Port Trust to U.S. Cargill Company in the interest of the nation.

(viii) Need to regularise services of seasonal Khalasis working under Eastern Rivers Circle, Central Water Commission, Bhubaneswar, Orrissa

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA (Balasore): Sir, I draw the attention of the Central Governmnet regarding agitation of 246 seasonal Khalasis working under Eastern Rivers Circle, Central Water Commission, Bhubaneswar for their regularisation of service.

The seasonal Khalasis in Central Water Commission are normally offered five or six months engagement in every year. But in the Eastern River Circle, Bhubaneswar only 89 days, work was provided and thereafter out of 246 seasonal Khalasis, 121 were offered engagement for 7 to 17 days on daily wage basis. It indicates that work is there but the Department desires to get the job done paying only daily wages. This is discriminatory and exploitive and unfair labour practice. Many of the Khalasis have been engaged as seasonal Khalasis for more than 20 years and gathered experience in assisting the flood forecasting and other works done in the Central Water Commission. The

[Dr. Kartikeswar Patra]

workers have been doing the job with the expectation of regularisation of their services. Most of them have crossed the age bar to be considered for getting regular service in other departments. The authorities instead of regularising these workers are filling the regular vacancies by bringing personnel on transfer from other circles and denying them the right of regular employment. This process also eats away the scope of getting regular service by seasonal Khalasis of this circle.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to regularise the services of seasonal Khalasis working under the Eastern Rivers Circle, Central Water Commission, Bhubaneswar.

(ix) Need to clarify the criteria for including new castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderaba): The Hon. Minister of Welfare has made a statement that about 100 castes will be included in the List of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. This will be a danger unless the basis of recognition of these castes is clearly enunciated and the criteria are free from any ambiguity.

The Constituent Assembly had evolved various principles, criteria and norms for recognition of various castes for inclusion in the SC/ST Lists by constituting a sub-committee headed by Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The fundamental sine qua non for recognising any caste were the criteria of untouchability and social inequality. These two qualities formed the sole reasoning of the entire matter. The members of any caste were removed from the normal pattern of social activity by the larger social elite proved to be a sound reasoning for identifying that caste as either SC or ST.

An example of arbitrary recognition of such castes is that of the Mochi community of Gujarat. In fact, this cobbler community is affluent with a

wealthy standing in society. From another point of view, we find that a particular caste in one State is not included in the same category as in another States. There is a move even to bring the Christians under this ambit.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Welfare to make a statement in the House clarifying the criteria, norms and basis for selecting the castes for inclusion of the 100 castes a new under SC/ST. A thorough discussion on the subject on the floor of the Parliament is needed to review and analyse the basic roots of this concept. I also suggest that a Commission be formed to review the socio-economic backwardness of the castes identified for this purpose and arrive at a common denominator for all the new entires without any chance for discrimination or favour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for Lunch and we will meet once again at 2.30 PM.

13.41 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till thirty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

14.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty Five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[English]

[MR. DPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL),
1993-94

(i) Ministry of Agriculture- *CONTD.*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Pujan Patel to speak now. Shri Patel, there are many other hon. Members who want to participate in this debate. Therefore, I request you to kindly