

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

right of use of Maithili language for official purposes in the Maithili speaking region under Articles 345 and 347 of the Constitution and for early construction of multi-purpose High Dams at Barahkshttra and above on Koshi, on river Kamla at Sisapani and on Bagmati at Nunthar to eliminate floods and drought for good from that region and end power crisis in Bihar and rest of the country by providing 8000 MW of cheap hydro-electric power. I do urge upon the Government to concede the just demands of the fasting leaders and scores of millions of Maithili speaking people to enable those on hunger strike to conclude their fasts. I do specially urge upon you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, to take initiative to enable and persuade them to conclude their fast. I hope, with sympathetic persuasion, the fasting leaders and their organisation, the Akhil Bhartiya Mithila Sangh, will agree to terminate the current fasts.

(xiii) REPORTED INSANITARY CONDITIONS IN BADHALGANJ TOWN AREA OF GORAKHPUR.

श्री महावीर प्रसाद (वांसगांव): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं नियम 377 के अन्तर्गत निम्नलिखित अविलम्बनीय लोकमहत्व के विषय की ओर माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ:--

बड़हलगंज टाउन एरिया जनपद, गोरखपुर में पानी के जमाव व गंदगी के ढेर के कारण महामारी के प्रकोप की शिकारतः--

मान्यवर, इस टाउन एरिया के अन्तर्गत निम्न कारणों में यहाँ के लोग कष्टमय जीवन व्यतीत कर रहे हैं। इस टाउन एरिया के अधे भाग में बरसात में पानी जमा हो गया है तथा साथ ही साथ पानी जमा होने के कारण वहाँ की गंदगी बढ़ गई है जिससे दारुण आ रही है। कारण यह है कि पानी निकालने के लिए कोई समुचित रास्ता नहीं है। अतः सरकार को चाहिए कि शीघ्र ही पानी निकालवाने के लिए एक पक्की नाली बनवाए।

इस टाउन एरिया में सन् 1974 में 21 कर्मचारी नियुक्त रहे किन्तु इस समय

8 ही सफाई कर्मचारी कार्यरत हैं जबकि इस समय उक्त टाउन एरिया की आबादी काफी बढ़ गई है। फलस्वरूप सफाई नहीं हो पा रही है जिससे गंदगी बढ़ती जा रही है। अतः अविलम्ब सफाई कर्मचारियों को बढ़ाया जाए। आज भी इस टाउन एरिया में कोई शौचालय तथा मूत्रालय नहीं है। इसलिए और अधिक गंदगी बढ़ रही है। अतः केन्द्रीय सरकार राज्य सरकार को आदेश दें कि अनुदान वगैरह दे कर उक्त टाउन एरिया में अविलम्ब शौचालय एवं मूत्रालय बनवाए ताकि गंदगी न बढ़ने पावे।

इस टाउन एरिया में इस समय केवल एक कूड़ा गाड़ी तथा 6 हड्डियों हैं। इसमें दो हड्डियों सराब हो गये हैं। फलस्वरूप कूड़ा बिना फर्के जहाँ का तहाँ रह जाता है। अतः एक ट्राली ट्रैक्टर की अविलम्ब व्यवस्था की जाए वरना जनमानस का जीवन दूभर हो जाएगा तथा महामारी से काफी लोग मर जाएंगे।

(xiv) SURPLUS WATERS OF WEST-FLOWING RIVERS IN SOUTHERN STATES.

SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur): The Irrigation Commission constituted by the Government of India had made a thorough study of the river waters, particularly the waters of west-flowing rivers, going waste into the sea. In regard to the southern States, the Irrigation Commission had estimated that about 1000 cmt. of water was going waste into the sea from the west-flowing rivers. Most of the rivers emanate from Tamil Nadu and flow through Kerala. If this much water is harnessed, nearly one million hectares of drought-afflicted areas in Tirunelveli, Ramanathapuram, Madurai and Coimbatore Districts could be irrigated. The Government of Kerala had admitted before the Irrigation Commission that this much water was going waste into the sea.

In pursuance of this recommendation, the Government of India constituted a Technical Committee in December, 1976, with Member (Water Resources), Central Water Commis-

sion as Chairman and Convenor, and the Chief Engineers of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka as its members. Giving concurrence to the terms of reference of this Committee, the Kerala Government nominated its representative in July, 1978, and this Committee has been enabled to function by the Kerala Government for assessing the surplus waters available from these west-flowing rivers.

In addition to this, the Planning Commission constituted another committee in February, 1978. Besides the representatives of the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, the Kerala Government nominated its representatives on this Committee also and concurred in its functioning for assessing the resources of rivers flowing into the Arabian sea and their utilisation.

Now, like a bolt from the blue, the Irrigation Minister of Kerala, on the floor of the Legislative Assembly, has stated that not even a single drop of water would be given to the State of Tamil Nadu from the surplus waters of west-flowing rivers. In view of this statement, the people living in the drought-afflicted parts of Tamil Nadu have become panicky and they are apprehensive of finding no end to their misery.

I demand that the Government of India should expedite the work of these two Technical Committees and also simultaneously take steps for declaring river waters as national assets and bring them under either the Concurrent List or Union List of the Constitution of India.

(xv) EXEMPTION FROM LEVY OF EXCISE DUTY ON BRANDED BEEDI PRODUCED BY KERALA DINESH BEEDI SOCIETY.

SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI (Kasargod): Towards the end of 1968 Kerala Government implemented the provisions of Beedi and Cigar workers Act, 1966 (Central Act). In protest, the prominent Beedi companies closed their factories in Cannanore district

of Kerala. As a result more than 12,000 workers became jobless and were thrown out of employment. The only alternative to the workers was starvation and death. At this juncture, the Trade Union Movement of Kerala rose above party politics and with the cooperation of the State Government, it was decided to start workers industrial cooperative society. Accordingly 20 primary cooperative societies and one Central Society were organised and 12,000 workers were initially given work. The beedi manufactured by the societies was sold in the market under the brand name 'Kerala Dinesh Beedi'. Initial obstacles were overcome within three or four years and it earned good reputation throughout India. It is the only cooperative society of this kind in the whole of the country, providing employment to about 25,000 beedi workers. Not only that, the society also gives the highest wages in the country besides giving all other statutory benefits.

The policy of the Central Government of levying excise duty on the branded beedi adversely affected the stability of the society. The society cannot devise means like other big beedi companies for escaping from payment of excise duty. At the same time, the society could not prevent the spurious beedis being sold in the market in the name of 'Kerala Dinesh Beedi' for want of appropriate statutory provisions. The Directors of Kerala Dinesh Beedi Society and the MPs from Kerala jointly appealed to the Government to find a proper solution and save the society and 25,000 workers. But in the latest Budget of the Central Government also, the levy of excise duty on the branded beedi continues.

If this state of affairs and the policy of the Government continue for some more time, "Kerala Dinesh Beedi Society" will not be able to function as an ideal institution of service to the workers. If the society fails, 25,000 workers' families will have to face starvation and hardship. The only way out is to exempt the societies like