

[Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee]

the State Governments too could not do anything due to paucity of funds. It is necessary that the UGC Act is amended to bring them also under the provisions of Welfare Schemes.

Fourthly, the teachers and students are given representations on the Managing bodies of the universities and colleges. As the non-teaching employees also play an important role in the functioning of the universities and colleges, they should be given representation in the Managing bodies.

Finally, there should be equitable and rational service conditions for the non-teaching employees.

For the above mentioned issues, the All India University and College Employees Federation had been struggling for the last 5 years. A number of times, memoranda were submitted to the Prime Minister, the Education Minister and the Labour Minister. The concerned Ministers had been giving assurances inside and outside the Parliament to do the needful. But nothing concrete has been done so far.

I, therefore, urge upon the concerned Ministers to take necessary steps in their respective spheres to provide protection to the non-teaching employees and to safeguard their interests as mentioned above.

(viii) NEED TO COMMEMORATE THE MEMORY OF BABU KUER SINGH OF 1857 FREEDOM STRUGGLE

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar): Our struggle for freedom has been long and arduous. Its various stages have been worked by unparalleled heroism and an equally savings attempt on the part of foreign rulers to contain the over-growing movement to throw off the yoke of slavery. The vicissitudes of freedom struggle instead of weakening the resolve, the determination of the brave patriots, led to greater awakening among the

people and involvement of a cross-section of our society which resulted in the first serious attempt to challenge the British power in India in 1857. Innocuously described as 'Sepoy mutiny' by British historians, it was on any reckoning, the first 'War of Independence' which generated such momentous force as led ultimately to the formulation of a national party and it sustained political efforts resulting in the advent of freedom in 1947.

Among the leading lights of the 1857 struggle for freedom were Jhansi ki Rani, Babu Kuer Singh and others who fought valiantly and shook the very foundations of the British empire in India. Babu Kuer Singh was born in a Zamindar family at Jagdishpur in Bihar and showed signs of greatness from his very childhood. Inspired by the ideals of our epic heroes and the martial tradition of his own family, he raised an army of his followers and the local youth and initiated them into various techniques of warfare which made him a force to reckon with in this part of north India. His growing influence and power made him an eyesore for the British and they took various steps to curb his popularity and his hold on the people. As he was engaged in legal battles with the British, came the revolutionary call of 1857 and Babu Kuer Singh responded to it with unbounded enthusiasm. Although advanced in years—he was 80 in 1857—he hurriedly organised his men and sent messages to other patriots in the country to prepare a co-ordinated military offensive to dislodge the British from India. In his first major military engagement, he roundly defeated the British at Arrah in Bihar and after unfurling his own flag at the Collectorate building marched towards Ballia to ultimately join the forces of Jhansi ki Rani who was constantly in touch with Babu Kuer Singh. Before crossing the Ganges, he had another round of fierce battle with a British and successfully repulsed their attack. The prospect of Babu Kuer Singh joining

Jhansi ki Rani alarmed the British and they sent reinforcements equipped with high powered canons and guns and in the ensuing battle, he laid down his life for the freedom of the motherland. Babu Kuer Singh's life is a saga of bravery, heroism and sacrifice. It is one of the ironies of history that a patriot of Babu Kuer Singh's eminence is yet to get his due at the hands of the Government and historians alike. He should no longer remain a shadow figure in the forgotten annals of history of our long struggle for Independence and all-out effort should be made to recognise him as a national hero who still inspires millions of our countrymen through legends and folklores. His magnificent fort with a lovely pond and sprawling compound at Jagdishpur is in a state of decay. Little has been done to perpetuate the memory of this brave son of India who at the age of 80 fought against, defeated and drove terror into the hearts of the British. On the occasion of his 205th Birth Anniversary which falls on the 23rd April, I make a fervent appeal to the Government of India to establish a full fledged military college and a suitable museum at Jagdishpur, a befitting monument at Delhi and issue a commemorative stamp in the memory of this indefatigable fighter who lived and died for the country.

(ix) NEED TO STOP HARASSMENT OF THE WORKERS OF DCM AND BIRLA MILLS IN DELHI

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER (Delhi Sadar): Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the sad and miserable plight of the workers of the DCM Chemicals Works, the DCM Silk and Textile Mills, the Swantra Bharat Mills and the Birla Mills.

In the DCM Chemical Works alone, the official records show that there are only about ten contractors, while actually there are more than 100 Contractors. There are 3,000 workers but officially documents show only 425 or 450 workers. The DCM Chemi-

cal Works has only 850 permanent workers. The 3,000 workers get no benefit like bonus, provident fund, a weekly holiday, casual leave or annual leave. The 450 workers listed in the records of the Works get ESI benefits. The rest just work with no benefits. Ill-treatment and high handedness have gone to such an extent that, when a worker gets involved in an accident, he is bodily thrown out of the compound.

Recently, the identity cards and records of the contractual workers were withdrawn. These people had put in more than five to twenty-five years of service in the Works. These cards and records were burnt inside the Chemical Works.

Money collected from contractual labour as Provident Fund is not deposited in the P. F. Account but misused by the contractors abetted by the officers of the Management. Also, the Provident Fund records do not show the real and correct years of service but are fictitious, and a low number of years are shown.

Those employees who question the ethics of such high-handedness and viciousness are suspended and slowly removed. They then have to fight their cases for fifteen to thirty years in courts for their rights; and this being beyond the means of the worker, because of unemployment and lack of monetary support to fight such a big organisation, he is victimised without recourse to law.

All these works and mills have earned a reputation for harassment of their workers. They have neglected worker's health and safety as is evidenced when a transformer burst in the S. B. Mills. The L. G. of Delhi called for an investigation and nothing turned up. Last week another transformer burst. The Management has ridden rough shod over the numerous workers who are uneducated, poor and underprivileged also. These poor people have been mercilessly exploited.