

[Shri Chitta Basu]

are violating with impunity almost every law at every stage. Government officials aware of what is happening are turning a blind eye, to cases of gross violation, eager as they are to complete the construction by any means by November 1982 when the ASIAD games would be inaugurated. In the process, the toiling workers are being denied the rights guaranteed under such important laws as (a) Minimum Wages Act, (b) Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Condition of Services) Act, (c) Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, (d) Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 (e) Personal Injuries (Compensation Act), (f) The Workmen's Compensation Act, (g) The Employment of Children's Act.

It was revealed on inquiry that all the workers were getting less than the minimum daily wages fixed, and in some cases were leading a life of bondage tied to the 'Jamadars' who enlisted them for contractors during the entire period of work, without any right to quit and join some other work. The minimum wage for an unskilled worker is Rs. 9.25 daily, but as per the current price index (January 1981) it is Rs. 11.25. In all the sites, workers are getting Rs. 8.00 only or even less, since they have to part with the best of their dues as commission to the Jamadars.

Almost all the workers are migrants, recruited from Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Most of them are from backward districts of these States and are mainly landless and poor peasants. Under the Inter-State Migrant Workers (Regular of Employment and Condition of Service) Act, such migrant labourers are entitled to certain benefits. At almost all the sites, the workers are being denied the benefits like 'displacement allowance' which is equal to fifty per cent of monthly wages payable to him or Rs. 75 whichever is higher, to be paid to the migrant workmen at the time of recruitment by the contractor; suitable residential accommodation during their

period of employment, prescribed medical facilities free of charges, and regular payment of minimum wages.

But what are provided by the contractors are nothing but hovels, torn tents and jhuggies.

Sanitary conditions are even worse. Given such unhygienic living conditions, and lack of proper sanitary facilities, the risk of diseases is pretty high. Yet, in spite of standing rules, which enjoin upon the employers to give free medical treatment, there is hardly any arrangement for such medical treatment. Maintenance of proper safety standards of construction sites is an obligation enjoined upon the employers by the law, but accidents due to negligence on the part of contractors are quite frequent.

The plight of women and children working at the sites is worse.

Having regard to these pitiable conditions of life and work for over a lakh of workers, engaged in the construction work of the Asiad '82, I urge upon the Government to hold an on-the-spot enquiry and take suitable steps to ensure enforcement of the existing laws in respect of them.

(v) INCREASING ACTIVITIES OF ANTI-SOCIAL ELEMENTS IN BANARAS HINDU UNIVERSITY AND STEPS TO CHECK THEM.

श्री हरीकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) : मान्यवर, काशी हिन्दू विश्वविद्यालय में समाजिक तत्वों की गतिविधियों के बढ़ जाने के कारण वहाँ के अध्यापक एवं छात्र असुरक्षित हो गये हैं। विश्वविद्यालय परिसर में अपराध हो रहे हैं। इस परिस्थिति के विरोध में वहाँ के सभी अध्यापक हड़ताल कर रहे हैं एवं उन्हें मोन जुलूस निकालने के लिए बाध्य होना पड़ा है। अध्यापकों की हड़ताल एक गम्भीर समस्या है जिससे छात्र भी प्रभावित हुए बिना नहीं रह सकते। उक्त विश्वविद्यालय एक

केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय है अतः केन्द्र सरकार को तत्काल वहाँ की स्थिति को सुधारने हेतु ठोस एवं आवश्यक कदम उठाना चाहिए जिससे वहाँ पर शांति एवं सुरक्षा का वातावरण उत्पन्न हो सके। साथ ही केन्द्र सरकार का यह भी उत्तरदायित्व है कि वह उस विश्वविद्यालय में शीघ्र एक कुलपति की भी नियुक्ति करें क्योंकि इस समय वहाँ पर कोई कुलपति नहीं है। इस कार्य में किसी भी प्रकार का बिलम्ब अनुचित होगा।

(vi) NEED TO PROVIDE KIOSKS/STALLS/PLATFORMS TO HAWKERS IN DELHI SELLING PAAN ETC.

SHRI KAMAL NATH (Chhindwara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are a number of hawkers in Delhi selling paan, cigarettes, bidis etc. They are pavement hawkers and are exposed to sun, rain and all other weather conditions. They are also subjected to extortion and harassment by the police and the Municipal Corporation authorities.

Paan forms almost a part of Indian culture. Panwallas both individually and collectively through their unions have been appealing to the Delhi Administration for remedial measures. It is strange that while the Delhi Administration has chosen to make beautiful looking garbage enclosures, they are not prepared to provide to these hawkers any kiosks or platforms.

A standard design for all panwallas and hawkers could be made by the Delhi Administration and the hawkers could be asked to reimburse the cost thereof.

I, therefore, through this special mention, and through you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, appeal to the Government to consider the genuine demands of the hawkers and to provide them with adequate kiosks, stalls, platforms against reasonable payment.

(vii) NEED TO CLEAR SILENT VALLEY PROJECT IN VIEW OF THE REPORTED RECENT RECOMMENDATION BY A COMMITTEE.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Galghat):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, The House would recall the controversy that was raised regarding the Silent Valley forest and the proposed hydro-electric project there. The environmentalists in our country protested against the construction of a hydro-electric project in Silent Valley as they thought that this would destroy a substantial part of what they called the tropical rain forest in Silent Valley.

But, now a Committee has come to the conclusion that Silent Valley does not have any unique geographical or biological features. The Committee is also of the view that Silent Valley is not a tropical rain forest.

As a matter of fact forests in Attapady, Muzhiyar, Sabarigiri etc. are more dense than that in Silent Valley. Even after the construction of a reservoir in Sabarigiri, there have been sufficient rainfall in this region. There is no rain in Silent Valley area during the period between January and March. There are only 48 species of plants in the area that is liable to be submerged by the reservoir whereas there are 71 species of rare plants in the non-submergible area. The soil, the flora and fauna in Silent Valley are more or less similar to those of other forests in the Western Ghats. Thus, the conclusion reached by the Committees is that construction of reservoir in Silent Valley will not submerge a large part of the forest.

This conclusion of the Committee should set at rest all controversies regarding the proposed project in Silent Valley. The benefits from the hydro-electric project would be far more important than what the environmentalists call the disruption of ecological balances.