

SABHA SURPLUS LAND ALLOTTED TO THEM IN RURAL AREAS OF DELHI.

SHRI P.K. KODIYAN : (Adoor) : I wish to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to the serious situation that has arisen in the Rural areas of the Union Territory of Delhi due to the concerted attempts being made by the landlords to evict the Harijans and other landless people from the Gram Sabha, surplus lands allotted to them.

Ever since Government decided as a matter of policy to ensure distribution of surplus gram Sabha lands to the Harijans and other landless poor, the casteist sections of the landlords had been carrying on a persistent campaign against this policy. They have been resorting to all kinds of methods to thwart the process of land distribution and to prevent the acquisition of land by Harijans and other landless poor. Tempering with land records, grabbing of lands by force or by resort to bribery and corruption during land consolidation proceedings in league with upper caste revenue officers etc. were some of the methods adopted by the landlords to negate the Government policy regarding distribution of land.

The first attempt to dislodge the Harijans from the lands allotted to them was made at Khanjhawala village in 1977-78. Due to the firm stand taken by the Government at that time, and the countrywide protest raised against the Khanjhawala agitation, this attempt did not succeed.

Numerous incidents of intimidation and violence had taken place in the last two years. The former Lt. Governor convened a joint meeting of the concerned officials and representatives of the Harijans and other landless people in April, 1980 wherein it was decided that Bhoomidari rights be conferred on all allottees of surplus Gram Sabha lands who were entitled to such conferment under the provisions of Delhi Land Reforms Act, 1954. In pursuance of this decision about a thousand applications from eligible allottees were submitted to the Administration for conferment of Bhoomidari rights. But no decision has been taken on these applications so far. Tension has mounted up in Malikpur in Najafgarh block, Jinpur and Saraspur in Alipur block and Juanta in Nangli-Khanjhawala block due to concerted attempts at eviction of Harijans.

Representatives of Harijans and landless people from 100 villages in Delhi have started a 72-hour Dharna under the auspices of the Delhi Grameen Shram Jeevi Union demanding justice and Prime Minister's intervention. I request the Government to promptly intervene on this issue and to

see that deterrent action is taken against all those who try to illegally and forcibly take away surplus gram sabha lands allotted to Harijans and other rural poor and Bhoomidari Rights are conferred on all genuine allottees without delay and all encroachments on Gram Sabha lands by landlords are vacated.

(x) **NEED FOR AN INDIAN CORRESPONDENT ON THE COMMITTEE OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION.**

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : The Foreign Correspondents Association of the Press is there since mid-fifties and has correspondents from nearly 50 countries. Indians working for foreign media comprise about 45% of the membership and they always had two representatives on the Committee.

This year, the British President first called a meeting on or about 28-8-81 but, suddenly postponed it to 11-9-81. On 9-9-81, a circular for a meeting giving names of three members for the committee was sent out. There are five posts in the Committee. Therefore, these three would have automatically become committee members.

But, suddenly on the election date, 9 names were produced and five were elected. Then by certain manipulations, Indians were kept out. The Americans succeeded in getting their people elected.

This year, the Committee has a Britisher as its President, the two Americans, one West German and one Scandanavian woman married to a German, and a Japanese. Besides, there is a correspondent from a Socialist country. This is the first time that there is no Indian on the committee, although they are working on the soil of India itself. The matter should be looked into and necessary action should be taken to bring harmony in the whole affair.