

(ii) Reduction in the number of Government of India holidays for 1982 and need for declaring Maharashtra, Ramanavami and Valmiki Jayanti as Gazetted holidays.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is a matter for deep regret that the Government of India has reduced the number of holidays for 1982 by deleting three major Hindu holidays—Mahashivratri, Ramanavami and Valmiki Jayanti. These festivals are sacred to crores of Hindus throughout the country, and there is no justification for the unilateral action taken by the Government. Even if it was felt that the total number of holidays needed to be reduced, it is not fair that only those holidays which are sacred in to the Hindu community should be unceremoniously dropped in this manner.

The Government has in fact gone one step further. In a circular issued by the Press Information Bureau on 19th November, 1981, it has been stated that out of the 16 closed holidays, Central Government offices located outside Delhi/New Delhi would treat only 11 of these holidays as compulsory. The House will be astounded to know that these 11 exclude every single Hindu holiday. It is thus theoretically possible for a Central Government office situated outside Delhi not to observe a single Hindu holiday throughout the year.

This is a blatant case of reverse discrimination against a community constituting 80 per cent of the population of India. While certainly minority sentiments must be respected and safeguarded, is it Government's view that the majority community are devoid of any sentiments? I would appeal to you, Sir, and through you to the Government to rectify this glaring anomaly and reinstate the deleted holidays. In particular Ramanavami is being celebrated on a big scale

in Delhi and other towns and cities with a massive procession. It would be most unfortunate if a holiday is not declared on that day, 2nd April.

(iii) Crisis in Silk industry in Karnataka.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udipi): The import of raw silk and increased productivity of Cocoons have resulted in an unprecedented crisis in the silk industry in Karnataka. With the prices of yarn crashing down to new low-levels, the weavers in Bangalore, Doddaballapur and other prominent silk-producing centres expressed their protest in the form of demonstrations and dharnas. The weavers, on Tuesday the 23-2-82, refused to take their bags of silk to the Marketing Centres for auction. For the last few days, the rates of silk yarn are crashing down steeply. Due to this trend, many merchants and weavers are not coming forward to buy the silk. The defective system of auctioning is also proving a damper to them.

The rate of 1 kg silk had reached Rs. 650 but now it has come down to Rs. 350. The demand for chiffon material has declined very much. Daily, about ten tonnes of silk would come to silk marketing centre. But now reelers are not interested to send silk to the marketing centre. At the same time, the silk exchange would not allow them to sell it outside. In Cubbonpet in Bangalore silk worth two crores of rupees was lying unsold. The main reasons for this critical situation is due to the stoppage of purchase of silk by the silk-marketing Board. According to the Board, they do not have adequate funds for the purchase of silk.

One of the Directors of Karnataka Silk Marketing Federation and the Vice-President of Reelers Union have demanded vigorously support price. Therefore, I urge the Minister to look

[Shri Oscar Fernandes]

into the matter and help the reelers and weavers to get the support price. Here, I would also suggest that the import duty on the silk yarn from outside should be levied so that the price of indigenous yarn does not come down. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to meet the entire demand of the weavers by indigenous production. The silk exchange centre needs radical reformation so that it becomes instinctively responsive to the weavers and the reelers.

(iv) Demand for declaring 14th April, the birthday anniversary of late Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, a Gazetted holiday.

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, डा. बाबा साहब भीमराव अम्बेडकर भारत के करोड़ों शोषित दलित के मसीहा हैं। वे संविधान के जनक हैं। काफी असें से डा. अम्बेडकर के जन्म तिथि 14 अप्रैल को राष्ट्रीय अवकाश दिवस (National Gazetted Holiday) घोषित करने की मांग हो रही है।

अतः आग्रह है कि करोड़ों दलित समुदायों की भावना को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार 14 अप्रैल को राष्ट्रीय अवकाश (National Gazetted Holiday) घोषित करे। और उनके निवास स्थान एवं उनके सामान को राष्ट्रीय संग्रहालय National Monuments सुरक्षित रखा जाय

(v) Need for relief measures for the poor farmers who has suffered loss due to damage to crops from hailstorm in Bharatpur district of Rajasthan.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Bharatpur): Recently there has been a heavy hail-storm in Bharatpur district (Rajasthan) and the crop of nearly 24 villages in Tehsils Nagar and Kama have been totally damaged and in some of the villages the crops have

been totally damaged. The farmers are in complete loss, even the seed which they have put in the fields is not returnable after this damage. I urge upon the Government to announce immediate relief to these farmers and also to get the loss in that area assessed by an independent committee and the farmers should be compensated for the loss which was unforeseen and as the farmers in that area have already suffered during the last year because of the drought conditions and with this loss the farmers of this area are fully ruined.

I urge immediate intervention by the Government and relief measures to be announced, so that these poor farmers could be helped from this unprecedented natural calamity.

(vi) Need for payment of adequate compensation to the farmers of Chauhan Patti village of Delhi for the loss to their crops due to construction of anti flood devices.

श्री जैनस बज्जर (गाजीपुर) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, दिल्ली के चौहान पट्टी गांव में पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार के लगभग एक हजार किसान यमुना नदी के किनारे रेतीली भूमि को भाड़े पर लेकर वहां खरबूजे तथा करले की खेती करते हैं। दिल्ली में बाढ़ कंट्रोल करने वाले विभाग की तरफ से उक्त क्षेत्र में बन्ध तथा नाले बनाये जा रहे हैं। वहां उन्होंने अचानक यमुना नदी की धारा को मोड़ने का प्रयास किया। यह कार्य बिना पहले किसी को बताए या सूचित किए हुए किया गया। इसका नतीजा यह निकला है कि इन किसानों की खरबूजे और करले की खेती बरबाद हो गई और इनका बहुत काफी नुकसान हुआ है।

गत 11 मार्च को मैं चौहान पट्टी गांव में गया था। वहां मैंने उस स्थान को देखा, जहां खरबूजे और करले की खेती होती है। मैंने इस खेती की बरबादी के दृश्य को भी देखा। बाढ़ नियंत्रण का कार्य करने वाला विभाग बड़ी लापरवाही से काम कर रहा है। यमुना की धारा को