

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Beekhabhai.

(iii) INCREASING FOREST WEALTH WITH THE SLOGAN "BIRTHDAY TREE" SCHEME.

श्री भीखा भाई (बांसवाड़ा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, प्राकृतिक संसाधनों की अतुल सम्पदा मानव के उपयोग के लिए बनी है। परन्तु इन संसाधनों का उपयोग इतना अतिविकी एवं अत्यधिक नहीं हो कि मानव एवं जीवन सम्पदा की आस्था ही खतरे में पड़ जाए। इस दृष्टि से वन सम्पदा का आज के युग में अत्यन्त महत्व है। परन्तु यह एक खेद का विषय है कि आज इस सम्पदा के बारे में हम इतने जागरूक नहीं हैं।

अभी हाल ही के वर्षों में जन-संख्या की शहरी बढ़ौत्तरी के कारण हमने बहुत सी जगहों पर अपनी इस वन सम्पदा को नष्ट किया है। यह विषय कितना हास्यास्पद हो गया है कि जहां एक और बढ़ते हुए प्रदूषण को रोकने की हमें सख्त आवश्यकता है वहां दूसरी ओर इस सम्पदा को नष्ट किया जाए। इस बारे में तुरन्त ही हमें एक राष्ट्रीय नीति बनानी होगी।

वैसे तो वनों के बहुत से लाभ कालान्तर से ही सर्वविदिता हैं तथापि आज के प्रदूषणयुक्त वातावरण में इनका अधिक महत्व है। अगर हमें मानव या अन्य जीवों को इस धरती पर फलते फूलते देखना है तो हमें वनों का विकास एवं रखरखाव अवश्य ही करना होगा।

अभी हाल में इन बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए विश्व के कई देशों में अधिवेशन आदि हुए हैं। केन्या का

राजधानी नेरोबी में 20 मई से 2 जून तक संयुक्त राष्ट्र पर्यावरण कार्यक्रम (यू० एन० आई० पी०) का वार्षिक अधिवेशन हुआ और उस में वन सम्पदा की निरंतर वृद्धि में जोर दिया गया। इस विशेष अधिवेशन के साथ ही आरंभ हुई एक अनोखी परियोजना जिस का नाम है "हर बच्चे के लिए एक-एक पेड़"। नए वृक्ष रोपने एवं पालन पोषण के काम में लोगों को निजी दिलचस्पी और निष्ठा पैदा करने का यह एक सुन्दर उपाय है। इसके लिए अभिभावकों को प्रेरित किया जाएगा कि बच्चे के जन्म दिन के साथ-साथ एक वृक्ष रोपा जाय और फिर उसको पाला जाय। इस तरह से ये "जन्म दिन "वृक्ष" योजना फलीभूत होगी।

मेरा विचार है कि भारत में भी हमें ऐसे ही इस योजना को क्रियान्वित करना चाहिए। इस बारे में एक योजनाबद्ध तरीके से कार्य वांछनीय है। पोस्टर आदि का इंतजाम किया जाना चाहिए और लोगों को जंगल के बारे में अधिकतम जानकारी देनी चाहिए।

अतः मेरा भारत सरकार से अनुरोध है कि वह इस ओर तुरन्त ध्यान देवे।

(iv) ALLEGED CLOSURE OF LARGE NUMBER OF DYESTUFF UNITS IN WESTERN MAHARASHTRA AND AHMEDABAD

SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE (Panaji): Under Rule 377, I am making the following statement:

It is a matter of grave concern that about 300 dyestuff units have closed down in Western Maharashtra and Ahmedabad due to

[Shrimati Sangogita Rana]

uneconomic operations. Thousands of workers have been rendered jobless these units because of the closure of these units. The mass closure is the result of introduction of a Central Government scheme of total excise exemption to small scale dyestuff units having turnover upto Rs 5 lakhs. The total excise exemption for small scale sector was raised upto a turnover of Rs 7.5 lakhs in the 1981-82 Budget with the result that many dyestuff units sprang up to take advantage of the excise exemption by limiting their production and sales below 7.5 lakhs. These units have captured a lion's share of the market by selling their products 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than the organised sector. The growth of dyestuff units has hit the large scale sector hard and the progressive units whose turnover is more than Rs. 15 lakhs. There is a steady decrease in the capacity utilisation of large scale sector which is bound to affect their prospects.

I urge the Government to rationalise the excise concessions by providing excise exception to all small-scale units upto a turnover of Rs. 7.5 lakhs and levying 50% excise duty to units whose turnover exceeds that limit in order to save this industry from the present crisis. That would protect the large scale manufacturing units.

(v) ALLEGED SHIFTING OF MATERIAL MEANT FOR CONVERSION OF MANNED MUDKHED RAILWAY LINE

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): Sir, I read the following statement under Rule 377:

Some years back, it was assured by Government that the conversion of Manmad-Mudkhed section will be taken up. Accordingly, this section was surveyed and the work was also started some years back. But due to meagre provision

in the Budget, the work could not be completed soon. This was also raised on the floor of both the Houses on several occasions but the Government did not take any action to complete this conversion work from metre gauge to broad gauge.

Now, it is reliably learnt that the offices which were looking after the conversion work are shifted and the material that was to be utilised for this purpose has also been shifted to other places. All these actions of the Railway Board have irritated the people of Marathwada region. Now they are thinking of having an agitation from 16th of this month which may turn violent as this area feels neglected in every walk of life. The promise of Government has also not been fulfilled by the Railway Board which has upset all the sections of the people.

The Government is requested to stay the shifting of offices and material meant for conversion of this railway line immediately and start the work in full swing so that the work may be completed early and proposed agitation in Marathwada region be averted.

(vi) DEMAND FOR WITHDRAWAL OF ORDERS REGARDING COLLECTION OF SECURITY DEPOSITS TOWARDS TELEPHONE BILL ARREARS IN RATNAGIRI DISTT.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Under Rule 377, I would like to mention the following:

The telecommunication wing of the Communication Ministry has issued notices to many customers owning telephones to deposit Rs. 500 as security deposit towards the telephone bills. These notices *inter-alia* mention that if the paying habit of the customer is improved, the deposit amount will be [refunded after three years or on