

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

Lilian Carter, the mother of the President of the United States. I do not know if our Ambassador was engaged in a demonstration of the habit of touching the feet of elders in the American public. I am not also sure whether it is a gesture of new and genuine non-aligned policy assured by the government.

The report further goes on to say :

"It appears that at a lunch attended by our envoy, Miss Lilian had expressed a desire to own a pair of chappals to match the sarce she had. The Ambassador quickly jumped out of his seat to take measurements of Miss Lilian's foot oblivious of the fact that there are photographers present around."

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam): Where is the hon. Minister for External Affairs?

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN: We know, Sir, that Mr. Palkhiwala is a very eminent lawyer but we did not know that he had other concealed virtues including chappal-fitting.

It is a pity that the Ambassador Extra-ordinary should have thought fit to display such accomplishment in the public lowering the dignity and respect of our country and our people.

The President of the Indians Association in the United States has expressed deep concern over the incident which tends to be little the image of our country. It is also reported that one of the newspapers had captioned this picture as a bootstrap diplomacy and this is a compliment to the government that what they are following is a bootstrap diplomacy.

The entire episode is shameful and the least the government should do in this matter is to recall not the Ambassador Extra-ordinary but the extra-ordinary Ambassador and if they so desire, put him in charge of export promotion of chappals to the United States of America.

SHRI O. V. ALAGESAN: Will you please ask the Minister of External Affairs who is not here to let us know his reactions?

(iv) STRIKE BY THE EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): Sir, with effect from the 16th December, 1977, more than one lakh employees of the Govt. of Assam are on continuous strike demanding implementation of their demands including payment of additional

D.A. of Rs. 30 per month which was announced earlier by the State Chief Minister, making it payable from 1-7-77. He has not been able to pay because he pleads that he is in debt of Rs. 553 crores. He has become incapable of administering the State. Therefore the workers have again gone on strike.

Instead of making settlement with the workers the Government has threatened the employees with termination of services of the temporary ones and ordering break in services to the permanent ones. These threats are being issued over the Gauhati Station of AIR. At the same time, armed police battalions are being deployed to terrorise the striking employees and their families in their residences. In sympathy with this strike other government undertakings have also started going on strike. Industries undertakings and other public utility services are going to strike from December 28, next. It is likely that the strike will extend to other branches of the administration and public utility services including the State Electricity Board. The whole governmental machinery has collapsed in the meanwhile. Supply, procurement and distribution system has also been completely paralysed. So, under Rule 377, I draw the attention of the Government. The Central Government should immediately take steps to dismiss this Government which is incapable of administering the State. The Centre should take over the State administration of Assam and create a situation to satisfy the workers. Only Rs. 6 crores would be needed in order to satisfy their demands. That should be paid. The strike will be called off. At the same time peace will be established in the State. The State is running into difficulties. So, the Centre should step in immediately and save the State from ruin.

(v) CLOSURE OF DELHI EDITION OF NATIONAL HERALD AND WEATHER CONTROL AND EXPERIMENT ON WEATHER WARFARE

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Sir, I have mentioned about the closure of the *National Herald*.

Today is the last day for this session and I am told that we are not meeting before the 19th of February next year.

Is this paper to be allowed to close down because some people want to shield and hide their economic malpractices and corruption? Every month, I am told, Mrs. Gandhi used to give Rs. 1 1/2 lakhs. I have told this to the Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Agarwal, to enquire into the matter through Revenue Intelligence and other sources. In the meantime, some 400 persons are going to be thrown out of employment. Their jobs have to be

secured. On two occasions, the matter has come up on the floor of the House. Yet, the management is going the way they have decided to go. It is proved how ineffective Parliament is. For an illegal closure, we have shown maximum anxiety on the floor of the House. The Minister has given assurance, but nothing happens. This is how the Parliament is getting belittled in the eye of the people, to my advantage, I am telling you, and they also lose faith in Parliament.

One more small thing. I have seen some very important communication which is very categorical. The tycoon in South India is quite likely as a result of experiments on weather warfare. If you go through the report of the Public Accounts Committee, as published in 1975, they have said this about a foreign country experimenting in our country on biological, chemical and herbicidal warfare, which they had conducted from time to time, from the time of late Jawaharlal Nehru. The report is indeed a very revealing one. It has upset those who are now sitting in the WHO and doing harm to developing countries. Now, this tycoon in Andhra Pradesh, it has been stated by very eminent persons, is quite likely to be the outcome of experiments which have been conducted on weather warfare. Weather warfare has already made enormous progress. An agreement has been signed recently. I would request the hon. Minister to give the information if he feels that it can be disclosed. The hon. Prime Minister made a trip to Soviet Russia. I want to know this. Whether this matter was brought to his notice by the Soviet Union friends or not, it is a fact that some time ago in Indian Ocean....

MR. SPEAKER: You are now travelling very far.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: It is an important matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Even important matters have got a limit.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Some time ago, the Soviet Project had put up a ship in the Indian Ocean and outside it was said that they were watching over the monsoon. In reality, they were watching as to how weather warfare is being experimented in this region of the world.

Therefore, if the hon. Prime Minister would kindly make certain observations to what all I have said about his visit to the Soviet Union, we shall all be grateful to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Before taking up the other matters, I put it to the House.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, it is on record that the sugar discussion will be taken up and that we will be sitting.

MR. SPEAKER: If the House wants it, I have no objection.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: We want it.

MR. SPEAKER: It is already 8-10. But, if the House wants to sit, I have no objection.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Sir, there was a time when the House sat upto 1 A.M. when the hon. Prime Minister was our Leader in the Opposition.

MR. SPEAKER: It is upto the House.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYANA RAO (Karimnagar): The Prime Minister is here. Through you I make a request that this is an important matter in the minds of the people. Let an impression not go out that we are not attaching any importance to the farmers. Because of adjournment motion there is a delay. Now, we are at the fag end—it is 8-10. It has not yet come up. I request the hon. Prime Minister to take this up tomorrow. This will be for discussion of this subject only and there will be no more business excepting this.

MR. SPEAKER: At present I have no proposal from Government. If Government gives the proposal and if the House approves of it, I have no objection. First of all, let the proposal come from the Government.

डा० लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर):

अध्यक्ष महोदय, सदस्यों के अनुरोध पर यह स्वीकार किया गया था कि दो घंटे के लिए इस विषय पर चर्चा होगी। सारे सदस्य यहाँ पर मौजूद हैं और इसमें किसानों के हित का सवाल है। किसानों को गन्ने का दाम नहीं दिया जा रहा है, वे बड़े परेशान हैं। किसानों का करोड़ों रुपया मिल-मालिकों पर बकाया है जिसका मिल-मालिक अनुचित लाभ उठा रहे हैं। गुड़ बनाने वाले और खण्डसारी बनाने वाले परेशान हैं। मेरा ध्यान से निवेदन है कि जैसा ध्यान पहले इस चर्चा को स्वीकार किया था, ध्यान रूपा करके यह चर्चा होने दें।

MR. SPEAKER: I have absolutely no objection. It is for the House to decide one way or the other. I thought that earlier the House expressed

[Mr. Speaker]

its opinion. This is the fag end of the session. Each one will speak and go out. And ultimately I am the last who will be here. It is for you to make up your mind on this.

श्री किरपी प्रसाद (बांसगांव) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, एक अनिवार्य चीज की ओर मुझे ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। गोरखपुर, उत्तर प्रदेश से एक भूतपूर्व लोक सभा के सदस्य श्री महादेव प्रसाद जी 5 दिसम्बर को दुर्घटनाग्रस्त हो गये थे और 11 दिसम्बर को उनकी मृत्यु हो गई। मैं अभी तक इंतजार करता रहा कि शायद बच्चा के जिन्दा होने का खबर आएगी। इसकी सूचना केबेसे लेकिन आज तक वह सूचना नहीं आई है। आज सब समाप्त हो रहा है, मैंने आप को लिखकर भी बोला है। जब मैंने देख लिया कि कोई सूचना नहीं है तभी मैंने सोचा आप को सूचित कर दूं। श्री महादेव प्रसाद जी रिबन्ड कंस्टीट्यूएन्सी से सदस्य रहे हैं।

MR. SPEAKER: If you want a debate on this, you can go on. I believe that we received the information only at about 5-30 P.M. or so.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrack-pore): Sir, I have a submission to make under 377. You allowed me to make. Now that the House is sitting late, why don't you allow me to make my submission which you have already allowed? You have been indulgent enough today. Please allow me to make my submission. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House is not allowing that. What can I do? They want to take up the debate on sugarcane price.

20.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE. POLICY ON
SUGAR INDUSTRY AND DISSATIS-
FACTION AMONG FARMERS ON
PRICE OF SUGARCANE

MR. SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to continue the debate on sugarcane price?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. SPEAKER: Then we take up that discussion.

श्री लक्ष्मी नारायण पांडेय (मंदसौर): अध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी का बयान गन्ना उत्पादकों के बारे में जो आज सबने उन्होंने सदन में दिया, वह अत्यन्त निराशाजनक है और उस से एक प्रकार से सभी सदस्यों के मन में, जो किसानों के हित से सम्बन्धित हैं, यह धारणा बनी है कि सरकार किसानों की समस्याओं के बारे में ठीक ढंग से सोचने को तैयार नहीं है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने बयान में स्पष्ट रूप से घोषणा की है कि भारत सरकार ने इस बात की घोषणा की थी कि राज्य सरकारें गन्ना-उत्पादकों, चीनी मिल-मालिकों के प्रतिनिधियों से मिल कर भाव के मामले में जो न्यूनतम भाव केन्द्र सरकार द्वारा निर्धारित किये गये हैं, उस को धारण कितना भाव देना है, यह निर्दिष्ट करें। लेकिन मुझे दुःख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि केन्द्र सरकार की इस घोषणा के बाद भी, केन्द्र सरकार के निर्देश के बावजूद भी राज्य सरकारों ने इस ओर जो कदम बढ़ाये और भाव तय किये, चीनी-मिल-मालिक उस भाव को मानने को तैयार नहीं हैं। आज भी कई मिल-मालिक ऐसे हैं जिन्होंने गन्ना उत्पादकों को, जो भ्रमना गन्ना सीधे शूगर मिलों में डालते हैं या विभिन्न तोल-केन्द्रों में डालते हैं, उन को दी जाने वाली पश्चियों में दाम नहीं भरे हैं। न न्यूनतम दाम भरे गये हैं और न वह दाम भरा गया है जो राज्य सरकारों के साथ तय किये गये हैं। भले ही आप ने दाम तय किये