

tasks They are pushed up from their villages between 3 and 4 a.m. to reach the factories by 6 a.m. and dropped back after 7 p.m. They do not get any statutory benefits like provident fund, ESI etc.

In the year 1976, a former Member of the Board of Revenue studied the problem of child labour employed in the match industry in detail and submitted his report to the P. N. Naidu Government. However, his report has not so far been published. The newspapers have quoted the following extracts from the Report:

- (a) Child labour constitutes 40 to 45% of the total labour employed in the match industry, girls outnumbering boys by 3 to 1;
- (b) the minimum age is 5 to 6 years and some times even lower;
- (c) The wages vary from 50 paise to Rs. 2/-.
- (d) The children are woken up from their houses even as early as 3 a.m. to get ready to be taken to the factory and brought back home by 7 p.m.
- (e) Several accidents take place in the industry, but these are invariably hushed up.
- (f) Few amenities are provided to the child workers, in spite of law making specific provisions.
- (g) Safety standards are very poor.¹

It is absolutely essential that in this International Year of the Child, the Government should make a thorough enquiry into the nature and extent of exploitation of child labour in the hand made match industry and take such effective steps as are necessary, to do away with such exploitation.

(ii) **REPORTED HUNGER STRIKE BY WORKERS OF TANNERY AND FOOTWEAR CORPORATION OF INDIA, KANPUR.**

श्री मनोहर लाल (कानपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की अनुमति से नियम 377 के अधीन निम्नलिखित अधिलेखनीय लोक महत्व के विषय की ओर सरकार का ध्यान बिलाया चाहता हूँ :

कानपुर स्थित भारत सरकार के टैन्नी एंड फुट-वियर कारपोरेशन, कंपनी के लगभग 3500 कर्मचारी 70 दिनों से अपनी पुरानी ग्रेडिंग की मांग को लेकर कृषिक धनशन कर रहे हैं। माननीय उद्योग मंत्री जी ने लोक सभा में धारावाचन दिया था कि 31 जनवरी 79 तक ग्रेडिंग हो जायगी। मगर एन पी सी की रिपोर्ट पाने के बावजूद भी

अभी तक ग्रेडिंग के आदेश पारित नहीं हुए हैं। कर्मचारियों में बड़ा असन्तोष है। जन्म व प्रवेशन भी निकाल रहे हैं। स्टाफ के लोगों की ग्रेडिंग कई साल पहले हो चुकी है। अतः टैपका के कर्मचारियों के शीघ्र ग्रेडिंग के आदेश पारित किये जाय और यदि विलम्ब हो तो असन्तोष ग्रेडिंग तुरन्त दो जाय।

MR. SPEAKER: Now Mr. Mani Ram Bagri. He is not here. Shri T. Balakrishniah.

(iii) **LACK OF MARKETING AGENCIES IN ANDHRA PRADESH FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE.**

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNIAH (Tirupathi): Sir, under rule 377, I wish to raise the following matter:

The State of Andhra Pradesh got a quota of 30,000 tonnes of rice for export for the year 1979-80. But so far, it is alleged that not a single tonne of rice has been exported from Andhra Pradesh. The farmers in Andhra Pradesh are envious of Punjab which is better placed with respect to export and marketing, though this State took to paddy cultivation quite recently.

Confronted thus with an economy of surpluses in agricultural production with no market for crops such as paddy, sugarcane and tobacco, the farmer in Andhra Pradesh is undergoing hardship to market his agricultural produce. There is frustration among the farmers for lack of market. The marketing agencies of the State Government, such as Civil Supplies Corporation and MARKFED are unable to solve the farmers' problem, in any significant way. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has no plans to strengthen the existing marketing agencies. The farmer sold paddy at Rs. 70 per quintal last season, which would correspond to a rice price of Rs. 1.05 per kg. The price of rice in the retail market is more than Rs. 2.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to come forward with some proposals to buy the paddy, jaggery and tobacco from the farmers directly in Andhra Pradesh where there is hardship for marketing.

(iv) **INCIDENTS AT JANPATH, NEW DELHI, ON THE 1ST MAY, 1979.**

SHRI N. KUDANTHAI RAMALINGAM (Mayuram): Sir, with your permission, I would like to make the following statement under rule 377:—

On the decision of the Youth Congress, myself and my colleague took a peaceful procession of the Youth Congress people on May day in order to demand withdrawal of the Black Law of the Special Courts

Bill and led the procession in a peaceful and democratic manner. The procession was big in size consisting of more than 5000 people all over Delhi from Minto Bridge in order to present a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister demanding the withdrawal of the Special Courts Bill. The route was already indicated to the police for proper security and other arrangements. When the procession reached Janpath, some people from some shops voluntarily pelted stones and tried to disturb the peaceful procession. Within the fraction of a second, some anti-social elements standing nearby the shops started beating the peaceful processionists by soda bottles and by sticks and disturbed the procession and it was also witnessed that shop-owners also started beating the processionists. In this connection, immediately I asked the Chief Police Officer, Mr. Brar who was present at that time at the place to prevent these anti-social elements using force, violence and beating on peaceful processionists and then I also disclosed my identity as a Member of Parliament to that officer, but it is most unfortunate that the said officer instead of protecting not only me but also the peaceful processionists, ordered lathi charge and tear gas simultaneously against peaceful processionists instead of taking any action against law breakers and anti-social elements who were responsible for such criminal action. In that scuffle many youth Congress people sustained injuries and to my utter surprise, even in spite of my requesting him to give protection he said, "I do not care whether you are a Member of Parliament" and simultaneously started beating me all over the body and on head and thereby I sustained injury and also fracture on my hand. Mr. Speaker, Sir, please see this shirt also. Even the other Member of Parliament who was standing behind me at that time appealed the same to him but he did not care to listen to me and the other M.P. and he ordered his policemen to beat me also and the Youth Congress people. Even repeated requests of mine to take me in a police van to a police station or to the hospital were also not heard by him. He detained me for 45 minutes, even not allowing me to come to Parliament House. He took me to the police station on foot and even did not care to get first aid for me till 6 P.M. I was taken to the hospital only at 6 P.M. and I have also made a complaint against Mr. Brar in the same police station in the Parliament Street on the same day. I would like to categorically state that no one had assaulted Mr. Brar, as is clear from the fact that he has received no injury.

Our intention was of organising this peaceful demonstration against the Government's attitude to bring a Black Law

Special Courts Bill and also it was in a democratic peaceful manner. The Youth Congress of entire Delhi responded to the call of this peaceful demonstration and we had no intention of using either violence of any such thing, in this procession. I also, as a Member of Parliament and as representative of Youth Congress, condemn any kind of violence in any manner. But it was unfortunate that the police did not eschew the violence perpetrated by anti-social elements on the peaceful demonstrators and in fact used violence without any provocation from the Youth Congress. Even I was not treated properly in the hospital and no room was allotted to me, even though the rooms were vacant in the hospital. I request the hon. Speaker to protect the rights and privileges of the Members and, at the same time, direct the Government to hold a judicial inquiry in this regard. I reserve my right of bringing a privilege motion against such persons.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Sangma.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN (M'dak) :
When a question of privilege is raised...

MR. SPEAKER : Don't record.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN : ***

(v) REPORTED IRREGULAR PAYMENT OF SALARIES TO PRIMARY SCHOOL TEACHERS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF MEGHALAYA

SHRI P. A. SANGMA (Tura) : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government of India and the House the problem faced by the lower primary school teachers in the East and West Garo Hill districts of Meghalaya for irregular payment of salaries. Some times the teachers do not receive their salary for three to four months. The delayed payment of salary to teachers has become a normal practice in Meghalaya. This is causing severe hardship to the teachers. They face great difficulty in meeting their expenditure. The entire family of the teachers is put to inconvenience. There are nearly 2,500 teachers in these areas, where non-payment of salary in time has assumed a serious and grave problem. There is great resentment among the teachers. If no timely action is taken, the situation will get aggravated. The teachers plan to stage demonstrations and adopt other methods to force the authorities to heed their just demands. The Union Government have allotted huge sums of money to Meghalaya State for education. Probably, this money is being diverted on other items by the District Council authorities. The teacher community is suffering from this anomaly for the last several years.