

[Shri Sudhir Giri]

(b) Is the Government prepared to reduce the working hours of the railwaymen as suggested by the Committee on Running Allowance and different unions of railway workers, so as to keep the working men efficient, prompt and zealous in their work?

(c) Is the Government ready to provide employment to the respective close relatives of the men affected by the accident?

(d) Would the hon. Minister let the House know the number of accidents occurred during the period when Tripathiji was incharge and during Pandeyji's regime and the regime of the present Chairman of the Railway Board?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not correct. Why do you bring in personalities?

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI: I am just demanding answer because the present Chairman of the Railway Board has been boasting of doing so many things.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I disallow the last question.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: In 1980-81, 1013 accidents had taken place. There were three factors which were primarily responsible for these accidents. There were about 304 accidents due to the failure of mechanical equipment, 43 due to the failure of track and one due to electrical equipment. As far as human failure is concerned, there were about 98 accidents which had occurred because of that.

So far as the question of reducing the working hours of locomen and other things are concerned, proper attention has been given to the locomen from time to time. They have been given all the requisite things. They undergo regular test and so on and so forth. The apprehension that accidents occur because of locomen is

not right. Even when they are on duty, breathalyser test is also conducted and the Railways are very very conscious to reduce the recurrence of the accidents as they are occurring of and on....

So far as the victims are concerned, we do have sympathetic attitude towards them.

13.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till twenty minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twentyfive minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[SHRI HARINATHA MISHRA in the Chair]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

(i) PENDING APPLICATIONS FROM FREEDOM FIGHTERS FOR PENSION

MR. CHAIRMAN: Matters under rule 377. Shri Ram Nagina Mishra.

श्री राम नगीना मिश्र (सलेमपुर) : सभापति महोदय, उत्तर-प्रदेश के अधिकांश स्वतन्त्रता-संग्राम-सैनानियों की राजनीतिक पेंशन रुकी हुई है। यह एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण और गंभीर विषय है। सम्बन्धित मंत्री महोदय को अनेकों बार इस के सम्बन्ध में पत्र लिखे गए, किंतु उसका समुचित उत्तर प्राप्त नहीं हो सका। मेरी व्यक्तिगत जानकारी है कि सैकड़ों ऐसे स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम सैनानी हैं, जिन पर इसका अत्यन्त बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है। केवल देवरिया जनपद और बलिया जनपद में 50 से ऊपर ऐसे स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम सैनानी हैं, जिनकी पेंशन रुकी हुई है, जब कि नियमतः उन्होंने अपने सारे कागजात सम्बन्धित प्रदेश और केन्द्र को भेज दिए हैं। इसी प्रकार समूचे प्रदेश स्तर पर स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम सैनानी परेशान हैं। ऐसे महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर मैं

माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आपके माध्यम से इस निवेदन के साथ आकर्षित करता हूँ कि अविनाश उचित कार्यवाही हो और जिन लोगों ने अपना सर्वस्व दे कर मुक्त को आजाद किया आज वे अपने आपको अतहाय महसूस कर रहे हैं। यह देश के लिए और शासन के लिए कलंक की बात है।

आशा है मंत्री महोदय अविनाश इस पर कार्यवाही कर उन स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम सेनानियों को राहत देंगे जो मुक्त की आजादी के लिए अपना सर्वस्व बर्बाद कर चुके हैं।

(ii) NEED TO PRESERVE FORESTS OF WYNAD IN KERALA.

SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat): Sir, I wish to raise a very important issue concerning the large-scale deforestation in Wynad in Karala.

Wynad used to have a salubrious climate owing mainly to the abundance of ever-green forests. Mahatma Gandhi had once described Wynad as the Kashmir of Kerala. It is lying adjacent to Mudumala in Tamilnadu and Bandipur in Karnataka. In 1973, the Government of Kerala declared it a wild-life sanctuary. The fertile soil and high rainfall in this area helped the high rate of yield of plantation crops like coffee, pepper, orange etc.

But, today the whole scenario has changed. The salubrious climate of Wynad has changed. It is becoming hotter and hotter every year. The natural streams and fountains are slowly becoming dry. At this rate, before long this place will become totally inhospitable.

The main cause of this alarming situation is the large-scale indiscriminate deforestation that has taken place in Wynad. Today, the plantation crops are dying out due to the attack of

some pests caused by the change in the climate pattern. Drinking water is getting scarce as the perennial water source is drying up. The Noolphuzha river, which used to flood the entire region, is slowly drying up. At this rate, the proposed Noolphuzha Project, which is supposed to irrigate Noolpuzha, Nenmeni and Sultan Battery Panchayats, will have to be abandoned.

The State Government is trying to plant teak and eucalyptus in these areas. But these trees will aggravate the problem as the existing water source in their vicinity will also dry up.

Wynad forests are a treasure house of rare valuable herbs of great medicinal value. Deforestation has destroyed most of these herbs.

In these circumstances, it is our duty to protect these forests if we want to survive. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to issue necessary instructions to the State Government so that the deforestation is put to an end and the precious forests are preserved.

(iii) NEED FOR A RAILWAY LINE BETWEEN PHALODI AND KOLIYAT TO ESTABLISH A LINK BETWEEN JAISALMER AND DELHI.

श्री दृष्टि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : बाड़मेर एवं जैसलमेर लोक सभा निर्वाचन क्षेत्र 70,000 वर्ग किलोमीटर में फैला हुआ है। उक्त क्षेत्र केरल प्रांत से दुगुना एवं हरियाणा प्रांत से ड्योड़ा क्षेत्रफल की दृष्टि से है।

संचार एवं आवागमन की दृष्टि से यह क्षेत्र देश का सबसे पिछड़ा क्षेत्र है जिस की केन्द्र सरकार एवं राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा लगातार अवहेलना की जा रही है।

जसलमेर एवं बाड़मेर पश्चिमी सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र के महत्वपूर्ण नगर है। जैसलमेर पर्यटन की दृष्टि से देश में बड़ा महत्वपूर्ण स्थान