

sufficient. It has to be increased five times. There must be a policy and strategy put in place to have an integrated development of the national parks and for the eco-development, which can also earn income by maintaining the national parks as places of tourist interest. At present, the Bhanneraghatta National Park gets a very meagre amount. Rs. fifty lakhs were announced last year but only Rs. 20 lakhs were given. Thereafter, no funds have been released. The Central Government should take both short-term and long term measures to contain the destruction of crops and killing of human beings by wild elephants, specially, in Karnataka, and also allocate more funds for the development of the Bhanneraghatta National Park, as well as provide funds to the Project Elephant to create natural habitation for the elephants in order to contain the conflict between man and animal. Thank you.

#### **Need to constitute Indo-Bhutan River Commission**

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter. Sir, rivers Torasa, Kalijani, Jaldhakka, Raidak, Gadadhar, originating from Bhutan, are flowing through the districts of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar in West Bengal, causing recurrent floods in the State for the last two decades. The intensity and fury of floods are such that vast areas of the districts get inundated every year. As a result of this fury of floods, the State had to incur heavy loss of crops, human lives and cattle, damage to thousands of houses and so on. The floods are caused by indiscriminate mining of the dolomite mines and denuding forest cover in Bhutan. As a result of this, the beds of the above rivers get siltation resulting in further erosion of embankments of the rivers. Since Bhutan is our neighbouring country, it is necessary on the part of the Government of India to take initiatives to spearhead this vital issue with the Government of Bhutan to constitute the Indo-Bhutan Joint Rivers Commission to tackle the problem. Thank you.

#### **Need to Enact a Central Legislation for Welfare of Agricultural Workers in the Country**

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this special mention on the need to enact a Central legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers in the country. The agricultural workers, who constitute the largest chunk of the country's working force, are the most downtrodden section in our society. They are subjected to exploitation by the landlords and other richer sections in our

country. Although the minimum rate of wages of the agricultural workers is fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, there is no adequate law enforcing agency to ensure, at least, such minimum wages to the agricultural workers. There is no law applicable to them on all India basis so as to provide for security of their employment, regulation of hours of work, provision for provident fund and pension and implementation of various welfare schemes. So, it is very necessary that a central legislation is enacted, which may be applicable to all the States, as is the case with other labour laws. The agricultural workers have been agitating for a long time for enactment of such a law and the Union Government is committed to bring a Bill.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to enact a comprehensive central legislation for the benefit of agricultural workers all over the country without further delay. Thank you.

**श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) :** सभापति महोदय, मैं इनको एसोसिएट करती हूँ और कहना चाहूंगी कि कृषि मजदूरों के लिए एक केंद्रीय कानून की नितांत आवश्यकता है लेकिन सरकार के कार्यों पर जूँ तक नहीं रेंग रही है। हम अपेक्षा करेंगे इस सरकार से कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी इस संबंध में बिल लाए और कानून बनाए।

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### GOVERNMENT BILLS

#### **The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002**

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to give effect to the International Maritime Organisation Convention for Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation and the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf and for matters connected therewith.

*The question was put and the motion was adopted.*

SHRI VED PRAKASH GOYAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

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#### **The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1990**

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill, 1990.