

श्री संतोष बागडोदिया (राजस्थान): उपसभापति जी, मैं स्वयं को इससे संबद्ध करता हूँ।

DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA (Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with what the hon. Member has said.

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I also associate myself with what the hon. Member has mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Matilal Sarkar. Shri D. Raja will speak on his behalf.

Derogatory Article in "The Economist" about India and Indian Bureaucracy

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I am raising an issue on which large sections of our patriotic people are agitated and anguished. The issue is a write-up in *The Economist* published from London. The 8th March, 2008 issue carries an article 'Briefing India's Civil Service', 'Battling the babu raj'. I have gone through the entire piece. Sir, it is a worldwide sinister propaganda to malign and undermine India and its capabilities. It is really a sinister worldwide propaganda to malign and undermine India's Executive. I shall read certain extracts for the consideration of the House.

The article says, "Some economists see India's malfunctioning public sector as its biggest obstacle to growth". In fact, India is emerging as an economic power in the world and India has got a significant growth rate, but this is because of the collective efforts made by our people. But this write up says that the malfunctioning public sector is the biggest obstacle to its growth. Then, it goes on to say, "Part of the problem, such critics say, is that the quality of IAS recruits is falling. They identify a number of reasons for this: falling education standards, growing competition for talent from the private sector, increasing political interference, and, above all"—I would like the House to take note of this—"caste-based reservations, which now retain half of all IAS posts for outcaste and low-caste Hindus and members of tribal communities". This is how the article has been written, Sir. It is a kind of malice against the IAS officers who hail from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is a different fact that these officers do not find adequate representation in the decision-making of the Government. But, having said this, I must say, it is a malice against our Executive and it is a world-wide propaganda. The article says, 'Some economists say', 'some critics'. Who are those 'some economists'? Who are those 'some critics'? It is not journalistic ethics and a journal like *The Economist* should not publish such articles about a country like ours.

India is the largest democracy in the world. We have a vibrant democracy. We have an Executive that is answerable to the people and I condemn this...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your mike has been switched off.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

-SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All Members associate. Shri Rajeev Shukla.

Problems of Indian Workers in us

SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA (Maharashtra): Sir, I am raising a very important issue about the problems being faced by Indian workers in America. Hundreds of Indians working in shipyards in Mississippi and Texas have been subjected to torture and human trafficking by US and Indian recruiting agencies and employers. These workers are reported to have paid huge sums of money to recruiters on false promises that they would be given work-based permanent residency in America. Instead, they have been given short-term guest workers' visa and are made to work in unsatisfactory and exploitative conditions. It is also alleged that the Indian Embassy in America has not taken serious note of the issue even though repeated complaints have been made. Therefore, these workers are reported to have begun a Satyagraha and they are moving on foot from New Orleans to Washington D.C. to confront the Ambassador for not considering the case seriously. What are the steps being taken by the Government to resolve this issue? What are the proposed measures to fight such cases in the future?

Sir, this is a very serious issue. Most of these Indian workers with false promises by the recruiting agencies are being deceived and cheated and all these agencies are minting money. Our Ambassador to Washington is not taking any notice of it. He is not trying to help them. So, the Foreign Affairs Minister must be asked to look into it personally so that these Indian workers could be helped. This is our demand.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD (Bihar): Sir, I associate myself with this matter.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes. You may please associate yourself with the matter.

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA (Gujarat): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Special Mentions to be laid. Shri Shreegopal Vyas.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Demand to take Action Against Violent People Working Against the Interests of Scheduled Tribes in Kandhamal, Orissa

श्री श्रीगोपाल व्यास (छत्तीसगढ़): महोदय, उड़ीसा के कंधमाल जिले में अनुसूचित जनजातियों के हितों को आघात पहुंचाने मतांतरित लोग हिंसक उपद्रव कर रहे हैं। इन्हें कई भूतपूर्व अधिकारियों का प्रश्रय है। ये भी मतांतरित हैं।

दुर्गापूजा आदि प्रसंगों पर पीड़ित लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने गए एक 82 वर्षीय स्वामी पर प्राणघातक आक्रमण भी हुआ है। आक्रमणकारी तत्वों को भड़काया जा रहा है।

मेरा सरकार से निवेदन है कि वह जनजातीय (अनुसूचित) लोगों के हितों की ऐसे तत्वों से रक्षा करे एवं इन्हें प्राप्त होने वाली विदेशी सहायता की जांच करे।