

arrest the ongoing slippage by constructing a protection wall.

In conclusion, I would like to put forth my suggestions, in brief, to save the hill and the people who are in distress. If we make a close study of the reasons for landslides, we will find some common reasons. They are: (a) Unauthorised collection of holders, (b) Massive deforestation and (c) Construction of roads without consulting the G.S.I. The district authorities must enforce laws against unauthorised collection of boulders. At the same time, some sort of subsidised rates may be fixed for building material. Mass education for construction of alternative ways of houses should also be undertaken.

Sir, firewood is the only main fuel in hills. Steps should be taken to introduce LPG at a special subsidised rate and to use solar power to heat rooms during winter. Sir, construction of roads at random by the D.G.H.C. should be stopped. No road should be constructed without any opinion from the G.S.I. Use of boulders, available in different river belts, is to be ensured. However, to combat the prevailing situation, I suggest a Parliamentary team along with officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Surface Transport, Railways and others may visit the areas without even a day's delay. The team should suggest ways, both temporary and perpetual, to save the villages from total destruction. I must add here that, in case of delay for any reasons, Darjeling will be a history. Thank you.

Inclusion of Dogri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution

DR. KARAN SINGH (Jammu & Kashmir): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the rich and varied linguistic heritage of India is represented in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. But, unfortunately there still remain serious lacunae. A glaring omission is that of Dogri, a language spoken by lakhs of Indian citizens, residing in the Jammu region, Himachal

Pradesh, and the Punjab. The brave and patriotic Dogras have played a major role in defending and consolidating northern boundaries of India. Today also the Dogra Regiment, the JAK Regiment, the JAK Rifles, and other service formations continue to bring credit to the nation. The Dogri has a rich literary tradition, which over the last half-a-century has produced a wide spectrum of literature, including poems, dramas, novels and short stories. The Sahitya Akademi had recognised the Dogri as an independent modern Indian language several decades ago. But, despite repeated requests, the Dogri has not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. This injustice needs to be rectified at the earliest possible opportunity. I would like to urge the Government that whenever they bring a constitutional amendment bill before the Parliament, inclusion of the Dogri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution should be a part of it. Alternatively, a separate Bill should be moved for this purpose by the end of this year.

Central Legislation for Agricultural Workers

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government regarding the problems of agricultural workers, especially after an announcement by this Government that they will not pass a comprehensive legislation for agricultural workers. This is a matter of concern and also a matter of shame for this country that even after 50 years of independence, we could not pass a legislation for agricultural workers. Time and again, we have discussed this matter in this House, in the other House, and in our society, as a whole. We all know that agricultural workers constitute the largest working population in this country. Seventy per cent of the working force in this country are agricultural workers. Fifty per cent of male population, and seventy per cent of female population are agricultural

workers. Even then, there is no enactment. Recently, there was a statement in this House by the Labour Minister, stating that they were not going to pass a Bill, and for that he narrated so many strange reasons. Now, the Government is telling that it is a State subject. Since 1975, the Central Government has been discussing this matter with the States. A comprehensive Bill had been passed in Kerala in the year 1974. Immediately after that a move had been started by the Central Government in this regard. Since May, 1975, there had been 35 communications between the State Governments and the Central Government. The last such communication had been on 11th March, 1997. That means for nearly 22 years there had been mutual consultations and discussions between the Central Government and State Governments. But, how did it become a State subject? Now, they say that it is a State subject, whereas the Central Government had been discussing it with different States for 22 years. Those who are sitting in the Government, have finally discovered that it is a State subject. It is a matter of concern for nearly one million people of this country. Who will think about them? That is the question. So, Sir, this is one argument of the Government. Secondly, they are saying that such an enactment will create problems in the rural villages of our country. Industrial culture will be there and disputes will be there. This is a new discovery of this Government. Sir, in my State Kerala, we passed such a legislation in 1974. You look the records of the Labour Institutes. There is no dispute between the agricultural workers and these peasants. There is no dispute now-a-days. There were disputes, but now-a-days there are no disputes. They came with a strange information. It will create problems. Now there is a discussion in our country that agriculture should be at par with industry. That is the discussion going on in this country. What is the demand for agricultural produce? The output should get the international price.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Already your point is clear, (*interruption*)

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: It is a very important thing. We are thinking of giving international price for agricultural output. They are even getting international price for the foodgrains, but they are not ready to give minimum wages. We are not demanding international wages for the workers. So, a minimum wage should be there. Some legislation should be there to implement the minimum wages.

Thirdly, this Government said that the implementation of the Agricultural Workers Bill in Kerala is a total failure. How did they find it? Sir, all the provisions have been implemented. About 1.5 million workers are getting assistance by this Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Now, please conclude.

SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Now they have come with a strange information. Another point is, they are saying that there is shortage of agricultural workers in this country. Is there any shortage of agricultural workers in this country? They are migrating from villages to the towns. They do not have any work. These people who are sitting there discovered a new thing. The People are migrating from villages to cities and state Government from Punjab and other places are saying that there are no agricultural workers in this country. This is a betrayal against these people. It is a most uncultured action. Sir, this is an uncivilized action. For the common man this is fraud. (*Time-bell rings*) I am concluding. I would like to say to this Government through you, that they should come with a Bill. They, should not betray the common man of this country. This is what I wanted to say here.

SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA (Bihar): Sir, I want to associate myself with it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SAN AT AN BISI): Do you want to say anything more?

श्री नागेन्द्र ओझा: सर, बात इस में यह है जिस पर आप को चेयर को ध्यान देना चाहिए, उस में कारण बताया गया है कि यह कानून क्यों नहीं बनाया जाएगा? उस में कहा गया है कि: Due to some shortage of agricultural labour in some States there is no exploitation of agricultural labour. There is no exploitation of agricultural labour. There is no exploitation of agriculture labour; therefore, there is no need for additional protection or a separate legislation.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसी): ठीक है।

श्री नागेन्द्र नाथ ओझा: नहीं, यह बहुत ऑब्जेक्शनल बात है जिस पर सब लोग एतराज करेंगे। आप बिल लाइए न लाइए कानून बनाइए न बनाइए दूसरी दुनिया में भी यह स्वीकार किया जा रहा है, देश के कोने कोने में स्वीकार किया जा रहा है, जो भई सरकार आई है वह स्वीकार कर रही है, जो भी स्कीम आप रुरल डवलपमेंट की लेकर चल रहे हैं उन में वह स्वीकार करते हैं कि खेत मजदूरों का शोषण जारी है। फिर आप ये कहने वाले कौन होते हैं, किस आधार पर कहते हैं कि उन का एक्सप्लॉयटेशन नहीं हो रहा है? इसलिए हम मांग करेंगे कि इस विषय पर आधे घंटे की चर्चा कराई जाए क्योंकि जब जब सेंट्रल लेजिस्लेशन के सवाल पर हाउस में चर्चा हुई है, उस में सभी दलों के लोग बोले हैं और सेंट्रल लेजिस्लेशन बनाने की मांग की है। इसलिए इस विषय को असाधारण तौर पर लिया जाए और आधे घंटे की चर्चा कराई जाए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री सनातन बिसी): आप का पाइंट आ गया।

SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I want to associate myself.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): All right.

SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, I want to associate myself.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): All right.

Reported plan by Vishwa Hindu Parishad for Mass Conversion of Christlikns in North Eastern States

श्री के. एम. खान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): नायब सदर नशीन साहब, मैं एक बहुत अहम मसले की तरफ आपके तवस्सुत से इस एवान की तवज्जोह दिलाना चाहता हूँ और अपनी बात इस तरह शुरु करना चाहता हूँ कि हमारा मुल्क एक अजीम मुल्क है, जिसमें बहुत से मजाहेब के मानने वाले रहते हैं और उनको इस बात की मुकम्मिल आजादी है, चाहे वह हिन्दी हो, मुसलमान है, क्रिश्चियन हो, सिख हो, उनको अपने मजहब पर चलने की, अपने मजहब का प्रचार करने की पूरी पूरी आजादी है और सेकुलरिज्म हमारे दस्तूर का प्रीएम्बल है। हम कभी यह सोच भी नहीं सकते कि किसी एक मजहब के मानने वाले को इस बात के लिए मजबूर किया जाएगा। इस बात का लालच दिया जाएगा कि वह अपना मजहब बदले और अपने मजहब को बदल कर कोई और मजहब अख्तियार करे। हमारे दस्तूर में ऐसी कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है।

सदर साहब, मैं आपकी तवज्जोह उन इत्तलात की तरफ दिलाना चाहता हूँ, जो आज से चंद दिन पहले 9 जुलाई को एसियन एज में छपी, जिसमें कहा गया कि विश्व हिन्दु परिषद नार्थ ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स में क्रिश्चियन कम्यूनिटी का, जो हमारे ईसाई भाई और बहन हैं उनका मास कन्वर्सन करने का एक प्रोग्राम बना रही है। जैसा कि मैंने पहले आपसे कहा, अगर कोई अपना मजहब बदलता है कि मुझे अख्तियार है, मैं जो चाहे मजहब अख्तियार करूं। मुझे कोई रोक नहीं सकता। लेकिन, किसी दवाब के साथ, जो मास कन्वर्सन लफूज का आपने इस्तेमाल किया या इस खबर के अंदर कि यह सब काम हम इसलिए कर पा रहे हैं क्योंकि कर्ज में भारतीय जनता पार्टी की सरकार है और इसलिए हमको इससे बड़ी मदद मिल रही है। मैं आपसे यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि नार्थ ईस्टर्न स्टेट्स एक हस्सास इलाका है। वहां बहुत पहले से, आप जानते हैं, तशदुदद की इनसर्जन्सी कि लहर है। इस तरह की सरगर्मियां वहां है और कभी कभी हमने यह भी पड़ा, देखा कि कभी मिजोरम की डिमांड, कभी नागालैंड की डिमांड, और बहुत सी डिमांड वहां आती रही हैं, इसलिए वहां के लोगों से इस तरह की छेड़छाड़, वहां के लोगों को इस तरह मुश्ताइल करना, यह हमारे देश की एकता के लिए खतरनाक है। यह मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ।