

माडर्नाइजेशन करने के लिए बहुत सारा त्याग किया। कई सुविधाएं जो उनको मिल रही थीं उसका भी उन्होंने त्याग किया। पिछली सरकार ने भी घोषणा की थी कि हम एच०ई०सी को मरने नहीं देंगे, बंद नहीं होने देंगे, उसका माडर्नाइजेशन करेंगे, बी०आई०एफ०आर० से उसको अलग करेंगे। उसके लिए फंड के लिए भी घोषणा की थी। लेकिन आज तक वह लागू नहीं हुआ। आपके माध्यम से हम भारत सरकार से अपील करेंगे कि अगर तत्काल एच०ई०सी० को बचाया नहीं गया, बी०आई०एफ०आर० से अगर उसको अलग नहीं किया गया तो न केवल आज वहां 20 हजार मजदूर जो है वे भुखमरी के शिकार हो रहे हैं, पांच-साल से उनके वेजेज का रिविजन नहीं हुआ है...। और बी०आई०एफ०आर० में रहते हुए वह कंपनी सिक हो रही है। दूसरी और भारत सरकार को अरबों रुपया साल में कोल इंडस्ट्री के लिए, भारत हैवी इलेक्ट्रिकल्स के लिए, स्टील अथॉरिटी ऑफ इंडिया के लिए, डिफेंस के लिए, रेलवे के लिए जो मशीनरी बाहर से मंगाना पड़ता है और उसके लिए फॉरेन एक्सचेंज खर्च हो रही है। इसलिए तत्काल भारत सरकार से हम चाहेंगे कि जो वायदा भूतपूर्व प्रधान मंत्री ने किया था उसको यह सरकार लागू कराये और पूरा कराये तथा एच०ई०सी० के माडर्नाइजेशन के लिए तत्काल और वहां के मजदूरों के वेज रिविजन और जो पैडिंग इश्यूज है उसको लागू कराए। धन्यवाद।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with Shri Gaya Singh...(Interruptions)

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Sir, we only want to associate ourselves... (Interruptions) It is a very important issue.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): सब महत्वपूर्ण विषय उठाते हैं और सब मामलों में एसोसिएशन होता है।... (व्यवधान)

श्री दीपांकर मुखर्जी: हम अपने को एसोसिएट करना चाहते हैं।... (व्यवधान)

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री मोहम्मद सलीम): कोई भी मामला अगर कोई एक सदस्य उठाए तो वह महत्वपूर्ण बनता है ऐसा नहीं है लेकिन बाकी अगर दो लोग जुड़ जाते हैं तो वह महत्वपूर्ण बनता है।... (व्यवधान)

Need to create a separate Union Ministry for North-Eastern States

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH (Manipur): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for giving me time for raising an important issue about the problems of the North-Eastern Region.

Sir, as we all know, the North-Eastern region, which is also known as the Seven Sister-States, is now becoming a problematic region from the point of view of not only its economic affairs, but also political and social affairs. The major portion of the area of this region is hilly and even now the age-old, primitive method of shift-cultivation continues to be practised widely by these hilly people there. A long absence of adequate infra-structural facilities and a marketing network, shyness in capital investment, shortage of skilled and unskilled manpower, huge growth in population, huge influx of immigrants, unemployment and shortage of foodgrains are some of the specific features of the region's economy. Despite sincere efforts at building up technical and institutional infrastructure for a planned development of this backward region during various Plan periods, the region's economy suffers from stagnation and it is caught in a vicious circle of poverty and backwardness. The North-Eastern Council has been set up to coordinate and formulate development projects essential for the economic development of the region. All these efforts have not solved the various problems in the region. The region is becoming a region that is full of burning problems, that is insurgency—prone and this might affect the integrity of our country.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, most of the States belonging to this region have chronic problems. Assam, which is the biggest State in the region and also a pioneer State of the region, is full of such problems such as the Assam-Nagaland border dispute, Bodo Land problem, ULFA problem, the foreigner's issue, etc. Manipur, which was a peaceful State three decades ago, has now become a State of

unrest. It is full of different problems including the insurgency movement in the valley and hilly areas. In Nagaland, the Mizo problem is there. We have seen the most powerful underground outfit, the Naga Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), that is operating in most parts of the North-Eastern Region. In Tripura, we have the Tripura Tiger Force and Tribal problem. In Arunachal Pradesh, we have the Chakma problem. Mizoram is now somewhat peaceful after the Mizo Accord and the HPC Accord.

Sir, numerous *ad hoc* measures have been taken by the Central Government along with the State Governments concerned in order to bring peace and prosperity in the region. But these temporary measures do not seem to have fulfilled the hopes of the people of the region so as to bring a lasting solution to various problems and restoring peace in the region. Sir, with the coming into power of the United Front Government which represents national and regional parties and which is working on some agreed common minimum programme, I think, it is high time to deal with the problem of the North-Eastern region. More especially, one of the regional parties of the North-East is participating in the United Front Government. It is high time to deal with the multi-farious North-East problem by creating a separate Ministry in charge of North-East Affairs. It would fulfil the popular demand of the people of that region.

Sir, I now draw the attention of the hon. Prime Minister, through you and through this House, for creating a separate Ministry for the North-East Affairs, like the Ministry for Jammu and Kashmir Affairs. It would bring peace and prosperity in the North-Eastern region and solve various problems which are affecting the region. If these problems are not sorted out, it would affect the integrity of our nation. Thank you, Sir.

Patenting of Bio-Diversity of India by Western Countries

SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD (Andhra Pradesh):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to speak on a very vital matter with regard to protecting our bio-diversity. Bio-diversity, as everybody knows, is the Nature's gift and it is the creation of our past generations. Fortunately, 50 per cent of world's bio-diversity is there in our tropical forests. India has the third largest bio-diversity which consists of 45,000 plant species and 75,000 animal species, including micro-organisms. Our task is to preserve this bio-diversity for future generations by making use of it for the present generation's sustenance and survival. This is possible only if we aim at ecologically sustainable growth. Unfortunately, at this stage, the U.S. and other western countries have started a course of mobilising or patenting the Indian biodiversity. It is more or less a large scale bio-piracy, I can say. It is not only bio-piracy, but day-light robbery of our intellectual and cultural heritage also. In the meantime, U.S.A. has obtained about 385 patents on non-American species. It means they are trying to take over other people's properties in the form of biodiversity. For example, in the case of our *neem* tree which is a wonder tree, evergreen and most promising of all trees, and is found to be effective against some two or three hundred insects—no other tree has such a diverse characteristic—the U.S.A. in the meantime has obtained 32 patents on various extracts of this *neem* or insect repellent properties of *neem*. For your information, Sir, I would like to tell you that in one of the Committee meetings, when I raised this issue, I was told by the officials at that time that only one extract has been patented by the U.S.A., whereas *neem* can provide about 100 or more than 100 characteristics. So, there is nothing to worry. That was their conception, but in the meantime, the number of patents has gone up to 32.

Not only *neem*, even turmeric also which is a traditional condiment for cook-