

[Shri W. Kulabidhu Singh]

and divisive forces may take hold of the situation. I therefore, earnestly urge upon the Government of India, through you, that this reasonable demand of the Manipuri people may be acceded to by the Government at an early date by introducing an appropriate legislation to include Manipuri language in the Eighth Schedule as it is an official language of a State of India. Regarding the richness of this language, Dr. Suneet Kumar Chattarjee, the famous linguist said that Manipuri is a very advanced language. Manipuri was not included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution when it was drafted because the State of Manipur was integrated in to Indian Union only on 15th Oct, 1949 and by this time the Constitution was already drafted. There were also doubts raised from certain quarters that if Manipuri was included in the Eighth Schedule there would be about another 14 to 15 languages which would also have to be included. In this connection, I would like to submit that Manipuri has been recognised as the official language of that State. Manipur was conquered by the Britishers only in 1891 and since then the Manipuri language has been recognised as the official language of that State. Hence the question of considering the demand of another 14 to 15 languages which would want to be included in the Eighth Schedule does not arise. I earnestly feel that the Government of India should introduce a Bill for amending the Constitution so that the Manipuri language is included in the Eighth Schedule. The Government should come forward with this amendment immediately so that the students and youth of the State do not resort to violent demonstration. There is an enormous sense of nationalism in the State. In fact, Dr. Lohia in early 50's had said that in this eastern part of India there is an enormous sense of nationalism and that Manipur is the bastion of India nationalism. I humbly submit that Manipuri should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, I support his demand for inclusion of Manipuri in the Eighth Schedule and I would also like to add that English should also be included in the Eighth Schedule as English is the official language of the North-Eastern States and it is also spoken by the Anglo-Indians.

Apprehensions regarding increase in the cost of agricultural production due to proposed hike in irrigation water tariff

SHRI RANJIT SINGH (Haryana): Madam, my special mention is regarding apprehensions of increase in the agricultural production cost. Firstly, a panel for pricing of irrigation water was set up. The Planning Commission has set up a committee on pricing of irrigation water under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidynathan of Madras Institute of Development Studies. The 15 member committee has been asked to review the existing water rate structure and the extent of subsidy in Government and public sector irrigation projects. The terms of reference also require the committee to suggest norms for fixing water rates, cost escalation in operations and maintenance of component of economic water rate and conversion of volumetric supply of cropwise and areawise water rates for different agro-climatic zones. It will also suggest organisational measures, including mechanism for efficient recovery of economic water rates and operating controls for ensuring levy of appropriate irrigation water rates by the States. Madam, the farmer is already under so much burden that he is not able to manage with the present water rates and irrigation rates. I will quote here:

"Union Power Minister Mr. Kalpnath Rai today urged the State Electricity Boards to function on commercial lines and charge a tariff, for the supply of electricity to the consumers, based on cost of generation. Addressing the Economic Editor's Conference here, the Minister stressed that the tariff must fully cover the cost of generation and there should be a provision of sur-

charge in the tariff to cover automatically increased input cost so that losses were reduced".

3.00 p.m.

"All very well.", some might say and ask, "Why not make the consumers fully pay for what they consume?". But there are some snags in the argument. If it is the right of the producer to demand full reimbursement, it is also the right of the consumer to demand maximum efficiency in production so that he is asked to pay the minimum. But the fact is that the State Electricity Boards are notoriously inefficient and have also been dishonest. The plant load factor in several units is much below the optimum though the ones in Punjab are the honourable exceptions. Transmission losses amounted to 23 per cent of the total generation in 1990-91, thus making India world record holder in this respect. The agricultural sector draws only 25 per cent of the total power generated in the country. In other words, if the transmission losses are drastically reduced and the resulting saving diverted to the farm sector, the present level of subsidy could also be drastically cut down. It is strange that these two aspects, namely, the low plant load factor and high transmission losses did not occur to the Ministers and the officials or did not appear to be important.

Therefore, my submission is that before the Ministry decides to take any action or steps, these facts should be considered because, otherwise, the whole system will fail. I say this because I come from a State which is known to be a progressive State so far as agriculture is concerned and the farmers will not be able to pay the water tariff rates which the Government proposes to charge. Otherwise, they will have to take to other methods, theft and other things. My submission, therefore, is that the Government, before taking any such action, should consider the overall interests of the farmers who constitute eighty per cent of the population of the country. Thank you, Madam.

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श्री भूपेन्द्र सिंह मान : (नाम-निर्देशित) : मैडम, मैं अपने आपको इससे एसोसिएट करता हूँ और यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि पंजाब की जो इन्होंने एक्सेप्शन दी है, वह एक्सेप्शन नहीं है। वहाँ फ्लैट रेट लागू है और फ्लैट रेट लागू होने की वजह से बैंक केलकुलेशन करके वह एसोसिएट्स जाहिर की जाती है। असल में वह किसान में बिजली चोरी की हुई कागजों में भर दी जाती है। यह ऐसा नहीं है। बाकी सब इन्होंने यह ठीक कहा है कि पंजाब की एक्सेप्शन जो है, वह भी है।

U.N. recognition to Anand Marg University Universal Relief Team

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी (पश्चिमी बंगाल) : उपसभापति महोदया, अपने इस विशेष उल्लेख प्रस्ताव के जरिए मैं इस सदन का ध्यान और सरकार का ध्यान एक ऐसी घटना की ओर दिखाना चाहती हूँ, जो न केवल चिंताजनक ही है, बल्कि हमारे लिए बहुत आश्चर्यजनक है।

महोदया, आनन्दमार्ग नाम के संगठन को हम सभी जानते हैं। वह अपने आप में एक अजीब किस्म का गुप्त संगठन है, जिसका घोषित रूप से तो उद्देश्य मनुष्यों की समानता को हासिल करना है, लेकिन इसकी सारी गतिविधियाँ हत्या और षडयंत्र की तरह की फासिस्ट किस्म की रही हैं।

महोदया आनन्दमार्ग स्वयं को एक धार्मिक राजनीतिक संस्था कहता है। वर्ष 1961 में प्रभात रंजन सरकार ने, जो खुद को सुभाष चन्द्र बोस का भतीजा कहते थे, इस संस्था का गठन किया। प्रभात रंजन ने खुद को आनन्दमूर्ति के नाम से विख्यात किया। इसके जन्मकाल में विदेशों के साथ इसके संबंध थे। वर्ष 1968 में इंटरनेशनल फंडेशन आफ क्रिश्चियन ट्रेड यूनियन ने प्रभात रंजन सरकार को सात हजार रुपए दिए थे। वर्ष 1965 में इस संस्था ने यह प्रचारित किया कि वह बहुत जल्द ही भारत में अपनी सरकार बनाने वाला है। इसी वर्ष इस संस्था के विभिन्न देशों में दफ्तर खोले गए।