

point in my special mention which concerns all the Members here, particularly those interested in the co-operative movement. Late Pandit Nehru described the co-operative movement as a vehicle of social change after Independence was achieved. Madam, I need not give any sermon or a lecture. I am associated with the co-operative movement in my day-to-day life, particularly with regard to the development of rural industry, consumer industry and the consumer sector. What has hurt me is, during the last so many years, or 5 to 7 years, I see a decline in the moral standards in the co-operative movement and that is why I have taken permission from the Chairman to make a mention about it.

This is a State subject; I am aware of it. But the Central Government is vitally interested because the law prescribing financial participation with the weaker co-operative sector concerns the Central Government. What has been found very recently is, I think it was on September 4, I read in the *Indian Express* a news item: 'Sugar Co-operative involved in FERA violation'. Madam, this is the death knell to the service character in co-operative sector. If a co-operative movement is to be charged with FERA violation, enough of it! Such co-operative movement should be stopped. I request you, and through you I request the Finance Minister particularly to look into it. This news item talks of FERA violation to the extent of 1,23,000 dollars. We have never seen in our life in the co-operative movement even one lakh of rupees in cash. It is because concurrent audit is going on in every agricultural processing, every consumer processing, every milk processing industry. Madam, I come from Sangli district which has got the proud record under the leadership of late Vasant Dada Patil, of co-operative achievement. The sugar factory in Sangli was alleged to be involved in corruption and the members threw chappals at the Chairman, and the

meetings were disturbed. The co-operative sugar factories particularly in Maharashtra and everywhere else, have got a social responsibility for supply of levy sugar. (*Time Bell rings*) Now, you have rung the bell. We have to think of the younger generation to whom we have given this co-operative movement for the benefit of common people and with the spirit of service, particularly the political workers involved in it. I feel ashamed at the younger generation going morally down, eroding the social principles of service enunciated by late Pandit Nehru. I think it is a cry in wilderness, because you are also laughing, Madam. You are a young lady. Perhaps, I think, I will invoke in you some social spirit to help the co-operative movement.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): You accuse the whole younger generation!

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने जो प्रश्न उठाया है, मैं अपने को उससे संबद्ध करता हूँ और यह चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से सहकारिता क्षेत्र के द्वारा इस देश का सर्वांगीण विकास करने की दिशा में महत्वपूर्ण कदम उठाए गए थे, उस पर एक जबरदस्त और झालक प्रहार हो रहा है, इसको ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार को कदम उठाने चाहिए।

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I have only supported you that the whole younger generation should not be condemned.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Shri R. K. Narayan. We welcome you, Mr. Narayan, after your illness. Welcome back.

Need to stop the practice of ragging in Colleges

SHRI R. K. NARAYAN (Nominated): I wish to place before the hon. Members of this House a situation in colleges which is becoming alarming.

[Shri R. K. Narayan]

I refer to the practice of ragging the new entrants by the so-called seniors. It is probably a relic of medieval barbarism copied from the British or Western Universities inherited by our countrymen. It is high time to put an end to this savage tradition. Actually three days ago, one student, Sharat, newly admitted in Philomena's college in Mysore was ragged by senior students, and unable to bear the memory of the humiliation and physical injuries, he committed suicide. There are several instances of such tragedies in all educational institutions. These may not be statistically impressive, but even if it is one in a thousand, it must be viewed as a national calamity. In the case I have cited, the boy was ragged on the first day, returned home to Coorg and complained to his father who sent him back with a pep talk. When he went to the college the second day, they ragged him again and unable to bear it, he took pesticides and committed suicide. The head of the institution has explained that he had warned his students against this practice — with what effect, one may guess.

This evil must be put down legally, as we have tried to put down other barbaric traditions such as dowry, sati, human sacrifice, customs which were accepted as inevitable at one time.

Growling at a new-comer seems actually a beastly instinct. A wolf pack, upon sighting a new arrival in their territory falls upon it and dismembers it. The same atavistic instinct operates among senior students when they find a freshman in their midst. It is not enough to punish the culprit. It does not give life back to the dead. This practice must be treated as a crime and prevented legally. Punishment does not prevent the criminal act and the consequent tragedy. I say again that it must be prevented through new laws and regulations and their enforcement

through police protection in institutions, if necessary, during the season of ragging. Youth organisations must be involved in enforcing civilized conduct in their institutions. Principals of colleges and wardens of hostels must be held responsible for the safety, welfare and survival of their wards and should not be allowed to give a weak excuse as in the case of Sharat. The Principal of the college has stated, "I have warned my students several times but in the present case, the ragging was by outside elements and not by my students." What consolation could this be for the parents who have lost a son? It is on a par with the explanation given by a man posted to guard a village, explaining his lapse by saying, "The tiger carried away the child. But it is not a tiger from our forest, but from another forest."

There are many instances of college ragging in Delhi itself where girls are stripped and punished by the school students and they have to give up their studies once and for all. Something must be done to stop this practice. I appeal to this House to take up this matter seriously.

Need to declare Hyderabad Airport as an International Airport

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I would like to make a Special Mention to declare Hyderabad airport as an international airport. The air traffic from the State of Andhra Pradesh to West Asia and Gulf countries has been increasing day by day. During last year, the passenger traffic from the State of Andhra Pradesh to various countries was as follows: To the Middle-East and the Gulf—14,384. To the U.S.A.—2,150. To the U.K.—846. To Europe—1,003. To South-East Asia—534. To Far-East Asia—254. Therefore, there is substantial air traffic from the State of Andhra Pradesh to various countries.