

और मार-पीट कर उसे सड़क पर डाल दिया उनके हाथों में चोट लगी। मान्यवर, इस बर्बर हमले का नेतृत्व संसद मार्ग के एक सहायक पुलिस आयुक्त और अतिरिक्त थानाध्यक्ष कर रहे थे। उन्होंने पत्रकारों को देख लेने की धमकी भी दी है। पत्रकारों और फोटोग्राफर्स पर लगातार कुछ दिनों से हिंसक हमले हुए हैं और इन हमलों में ये दोनों अधिकारी विशेष रूप से भाग लेते रहे हैं। जैसा कि ज्ञात हुआ है फोटोग्राफर संजय शर्मा, नवभारत टाइम्स के ए० के० लश्कर और पेट्रियॉट के राजीव चोपड़ा, वीर अर्जुन के फोटोग्राफर सुभव राजधानी में ही पुलिस जुलूम के शिकार हो चुके हैं। इसी प्रकार गत दिनों जब शास्त्री भवन में आग लगी थी तो वहां पर जो प्रेस फोटोग्राफर पहुंचे और पत्रकार रिपोर्ट लेने के लिए वहां पहुंचे तो वहां से उन को मार-पीटकर भगा दिया गया। उनको वहां नहीं घुसने दिया गया। हालांकि इसके बाद पुलिस के अभद्र व्यवहार के लिए उपराज्यपाल ने पत्र प्रतिनिधियों से माफी मांगी। इसी प्रकार से हरियाणा के मेहम में पहुंचे पत्रकारों के ऊपर जानलेवा हमला किया गया। उनके ऊपर इतने हिंसक हमले किए गए कि उनके सिर फूट गए और वे गंभीर रूप से घायल हो गए।

महोदय, यह अत्यंत चिंता की बात है कि ये हमले सरकारी संरक्षण में होते हैं। मान्यवर, मैं पूछना चाहती हूं कि पुलिस द्वारा पत्रकारों, फोटोग्राफरों पर जो हमले किए जा रहे हैं और सरकार द्वारा जो प्रसार भारती बिल लाया जा रहा है, क्या उसका सरकारी स्वरूप यही है? क्या इसी तरह से हमारी अभिव्यक्ति की स्वतंत्रता पर खूनी हमला किया जाएगा? मैं इन खूनी हमलों की निंदा करते हुए सरकार से मांग करती हूं कि इस तरह से जो पुलिस अधिकारियों और सरकार का जो सुनियोजित षडयंत्र है, उसको बन्द किया जाए और प्रेस की आजादी को बहाल किया जाए।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): मान्यवर, फोटोग्राफर्स और पत्रकारों के साथ जो पुलिस ने ज्यादती की है, उसकी जितनी भर्त्सना की जाए, कम है। मैं मांग करता हूं कि ऐसे पुलिस अधिकारियों के खिलाफ कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए।

SHRI KAPIL VARMA (Uttar Pradesh): This relates to the atrocities on journalists. I associate myself with this. This is the fifth attack on journalists in Delhi in last one week and the journalists are not being given any protection. We have been assured from time to time on

the floor of the House in reply to our questions and on other forums also that protection will be given to journalists but even journalists belonging to important papers are being beaten up. The Government must come out with a statement on what it is doing to give protection to journalists. The photographers and correspondents were manhandled yesterday. It is most condemnable. I demand from the Government an immediate statement and immediate action against all those police officers who were responsible for atrocities against journalists. This Government cannot exist if it tries to demolish the Fourth Estate. I am sure the Minister will take notice of this and make a statement.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): We do not want to be lectured like this.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जन-प्रतिनिधियों के साथ हो रहा है, अखबार वालों के साथ हो रहा है। हम लोग इसको कंडेम करते हैं और इस स्पेशल मेंशन के साथ एसोसिएट करते हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (डा० बापू कालदाते): ठीक है, हो गया। श्री बसन्त कुमार दास।

Destruction of Green Forests in Kalahandi district of Orissa

SHRI BASANT KUMAR DAS (Orissa): My submission is regarding Kalahandi District, but before that I want to associate myself with the submission made by Mr. Manmohan Mathur who hails from my State regarding disruption of railway line from Raipur to Waltair and I urge upon the Government to expedite the process and restore the railway line accordingly.

Sir, my submission is regarding Kalahandi district. As you know, Sir, Kalahandi district is drought-affected, poverty-stricken and the starvation deaths are plenty there. This area is primarily dominated by the traditional tribals. They seek their livelihood out of the jungle.

[Shri Basant Kumar Das]

They eat roots and leaves of the trees and seek their food from these jungles only. They struggle with rocks and fight the beasts, but they are afraid of our so-called civilised human beings, especially those who are clad in khakhi uniform, may they be the police people, may they be the excise people or forest people or the village Patwari. Once they see them, they are so much afraid of them that they climb hill tops.

In such an atmosphere, the Government is taking up tea cultivation in that area. In an area of 4140 hectares, as per the scheme, 4140 hectares of rich green forests will be destroyed in the Thuamul-Rampur area of Kalahandi district of Orissa. Big industrial houses have been invited through Idicol to take up tea cultivation. In this connection, I want to apprise the House of the consequences that the district will suffer.

Out of this 4140 hectares of land earmarked for tea cultivation, Government has already notified to convert 1000 hectares of land as reserve forests under Notification No. 4(1). The rest of the land is classified as 'Dongerla'—which means hills with jungles. The Forest Department has been asked to enumerate the forest growth in this area. It has been enumerated that the area is rich in Sal forests. Upto 1.8.89, the Forest Department had enumerated tree growth in 2502 hectares and it has been found that there are 14,750 Sal trees besides many other precious species. When the enumeration of the entire area is completed, it will be found that there are many more number of trees with lots of bushes underneath.

Sir, a similar experiment of tea cultivation was taken up in the Chhotangapur area and that experiment has failed. Massive destruction on forests has resulted in erosion and environmental imbalance and climatic conditions are so changed that the area has now become a desert and droughtprone. Now, Sir, Kalahandi is already stricken with drought and such other problems, and if

the tea cultivation scheme is pursued further this will deforest 4,140 hectares of land will destroy the ecology, peace and tranquillity of the area and displace the tribals. That should be stopped immediately and for that the Government of India should restrain the State Government to proceed further in this matter. That is my submission, Sir. Thank you very much.

Status of Technology Mission on Flood Control in Ganga Basin

PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR (Bihar): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through this Special Mention I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India, particularly the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Science and Technology, to the problems of the Ganga Basin which constitutes a major part of the heartland of India.

Sir, a large track of India is covered in this region, stretching from Uttar Pradesh, passing through Bihar and right up to the major parts of West Bengal until the Ganga reaches the Bay of Bengal. The river Ganga, Mr. Vice-Chairman, has brought great bounties of nature to this popular region. Human settlements have grown since ages and a very rich civilization has developed on its sacred shores. Agriculture, industry and trade have flourished, but the potential of this region in terms of development is infinite provided appropriate steps are taken at the right time with adequate support.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Ganga river is not bountiful all the way. Its blessings are not unmixed. Floods in the Ganga, particularly, and in the other perennial rivers in that region have brought incalculable misery to this region in general, and to north Bihar and north Bengal in particular. Lives and properties have been destroyed year in and year out. Relief measures and limited flood control measures have often been taken but still, there is no adequate provision as