

[श्री हरि सिंह]

उन पर तरह-तरह के मुकदमें चलाए जा रहे हैं, बंदूक की नोक पर तरह-तरह के मुकदमें चला कर उनको सताया जा रहा है। और आज यह सवाल खड़ा हो गया है कि भारत के रहने वालों के साथ हरियाणा की सरकार जो कर रही है, वहाँ जो उत्तर प्रदेश के किसान गए उनके साथ वहाँ बड़ा अन्याय हो रहा है। इसके लिए बहुत बार हमारे लोगों ने बातचीत की लेकिन कोई नतीजा निकल नहीं पा रहा है। आजकल उनको डकैतियों और चोरियों में फंसाया जा रहा है। इस तरह से हजारों फैमिलीज दुखित हैं। मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्रीय सरकार को कहना चाहता हूँ कि चूंकि यह दो मूर्खों का डिस्प्यूट है, इसमें हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार की जो होम मिनिस्ट्री है इसको फिर अपने हाथ में टेक-अप करके हल करना चाहिए और उत्तर प्रदेश के जो किसान वहाँ गए हैं उनकी जमीन उन्हें वापस दिलवाकर उनको बाकायदा नगरिक माना जाए, उनका रेवेन्यू रेकार्ड तैयार किया जाए, उनकी बेदखली को रोक जाय और तरह-तरह के जो अत्याचार हो रहे हैं उनको भी रोक जाय। यह मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार का ध्यान आपके माध्यम से आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ।

Over-Burdening of School Children

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri R. K. Narayan, we are very happy that you are making your maiden contribution to the House.

SHRI R.K. NARAYAN (Nominated): Madam, Chairman, I am taking this honourable House to another world in the stress of concerns of adult world, the problems or rather the plight of children are unnoticed. I am not referring to any particular class but to the childhood itself. The hardship starts right at home when straight from bed the child is pulled out and got ready for school even before his faculties are awake. He

or she is groomed and stuffed into a uniform and packed off with a loaded bag on her back. School bag has become an inevitable burden for the child. I am now pleading for abolition of the school bag by an Ordinance, if necessary. I have investigated and found that an average child carries strapped to his mack like a pack-mule, not less than 6-8 kg of books, notebooks and other paraphernalia of modern education in addition to lunch box and water bottle. More children on account of this daily burden develop a stoop and hang their arms forward like a chimpanzee while walking and I know some cases of serious spinal injuries in the children too. Asked, why not leave some books behind at home, the child replies it is her teacher's order that all books and notes must be brought every day to the class. For what reason, God alone knows. If there is a lapse, the child invites punishment which takes the form of being rapped on the knuckles with a wooden scale, a refinement from our own days when we received cane cuts on the palms only. The child is in such terror of the teacher whether you call her sister, "Mother Superior" or just "Madam" that she is prepared to carry out any command issued by her who has no imagination or sympathy or whatever.

The dress regulation particularly in Convent Schools is another senseless formality. Tie, laced shoes and socks, irrespective of the climate is compulsory. Polishing a shoe and lacing it becomes a major task for the child first in the day. When the tie has become an anachronism even in the adult world, it is absurd to enforce it on children. After the school hours, the child returns home only to find her mother or her tutor waiting to pounce upon her, to snatch her bag and compel her to go through special coaching home work. For the child, the day has ended with no time for play or dream. It is a cruel harsh life imposed on her and I present her case before this House and the hon. Members to think over and devise a remedy by changing the whole educational system and outlook so that childhood has a chance to bloom rather than wilt in the dreadful process of learning. Other areas where

the child needs protection is their involvement in adult activities such as protest marches, parades, lining up on road-side and waiting for VIPs. Children are made to stand in the hot sun for hours without anyone noticing how they suffer from fatigue, hunger and thirst. Children must be protected and cherished which would seem especially relevant in the year of "Nehru Centenary". Now, how it is to be done, it is up to the rulers and administrators to consider but perhaps not by appointing a commission of inquiry but in some other practical and peaceful manner.

श्रीमती अमृता प्रीतम (नाम-निर्देशित) : उपसभापति महोदया, आर.के. साहब ने जो कुछ कहा, मैं उसकी तारीफ करती हूँ। "बस्ता-सिस्टम" दूसरे मुल्कों में खत्म हो चुका है। कितने स्कूलों में मुद्दिया होती हैं और वही पर छोड़ दी जाती हैं। 'होम-वर्क' नाम की चीज भी दूसरे मुल्कों में खत्म हो चुकी है। छः घण्टे की पढ़ाई के बाद बच्चे का वक्त बच्चे के हंसने का होता है, न कि 'होम-वर्क' का।

इन बातों के अलावा मैं एक पॉइंट का इशारा करना चाहती हूँ कि सालाना एग्जम का सिलसिला भी दूसरे मुल्कों में खत्म हो चुका है, हमारे देश में यह खत्म होना चाहिए। पूरे साल की ओवरजैशन से बच्चों को पास करना होता है। बच्चों की सही की हर तरह की जबरदस्ती से, इम्तहानों के खीफ से और चान्स की गेम से बचना होगा एक सेहतमंद काम की तैयारी के लिए।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think, the entire House associates with Mr. R.K. Narayan and we hope that you would include it in one of your serial "Malgudi Days". I feel the whole of the country will notice it and the Government will take notice of it. We are going to discuss the Human Resource Development Ministry. I would like you to put it

before the House at that time. Thank you.

DEGRADATION OF INDIAN WOMEN IN THE MEDIA ADVERTISEMENTS

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA (Rajasthan): Madam, my Special Mention is regarding some advertisements by Air India. The women, unfortunately, continue to be blatantly degraded in the media advertisements in our country contrary to our social, cultural and moral values and in utter disregard of the 'Indecent Representation of Women' (Prohibition) Act, 1986. Against this context it is some what surprising that a major corporation like Air India should advertise about itself by exhibiting semi-nude girls. There could be no question that Air India, like any other Airlines, has to advertise about its flights in respect of the countries that it flies to. There could again be no question that Air India has to bring out attractive advertisements to encourage more and more people to travel by this Airline. Being an international carrier, that is a part of Air India's duty. But one does not understand why Air India has to feature girls in cabaret dresses as it has done in some of its recent advertisements in several magazines. It could advertise about its flights in several other attractive manners to stimulate the interest of the travelling public. While advertisements are one of the prerequisites to project Air-India's field of activity, the services it renders and its performance which could lead to promotion of its interests the world over, it is equally of vital importance that the management is more circumspect and discreet in the selection of subjects for its advertisements/posters. The subjects should be relevant, artistic and of high standards. It would be prudent if more emphasis is laid by Air-India in its advertisements on projecting our cultural heritage including colourful folk dances, festivals, historical monuments of architectural beauty, flora and fauna and places of tourist interest in the country for attracting foreign tourists and likewise show cultural and artistic scenes of the foreign countries. Air-India should, in