

and other diseases in villages along the downstream of the river.

Though provision for pollution control in the factory is there, the same is not being implemented properly. The idea to store the remnants of the ore which are predominantly clayey and which contain certain chemicals in five dams closing the gaps between few hills has not been completely worked out. Out of these five, only three have been constructed so far which is quite inadequate to store the waste product of red sand. The whole idea was to store this highly poisonous red sand in as big an area as could possibly be formed lest there may be a serious health hazard.

Unless adequate precautions are taken now and sufficient safe storage area ensured now itself, a serious crisis may develop. To avoid such a contingency, the National Aluminium Company and the Government should realise the gravity of the situation immediately.

#### **Shifting of the Afforestation Division from Phulbani to Ganjam District in Orissa**

\*SHRI JAGADISH JANI (Orissa): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to make this very important special mention. Through you I want to draw the attention of the Honourable Minister of Environment and Forests.

Madam, Phulbani in Orissa is a tribal district. According to the census of 1981 the total population of this district is seven lakhs seventeen thousand two hundred eighty. Out of this tribal and Harijan population is two lakhs seventy-nine thousand two hundred seventy six and one lakh thirty three thousand seventy one respectively. Most of the land of the district is uncultivable. But the district is very rich in forest resources. The people of the district depend upon forest products for their livelihood. The geographical and social conditions of the district are favourable for the people to depend upon the forest products for their livelihood.

Keeping in view the social and economic conditions of the people. The Honourable

\*English translation of the original speech delivered in Oriya.

Prime Minister has visited this tribal district thrice in the meantime. I express my thanks to the Honourable Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi for this kind gesture on behalf of the people of the district.

Madam, the economy of the people of Phulbani depends upon forest products. Realising this fact the Government opened the office of the Afforestation Division in this district. But I regret to say that this office has been shifted to Ganjam district on 22nd July, 1988. Even the District Collector of Phulbani shows his ignorance as to why the office has been shifted from there. The office of the Afforestation Division looked after not only the rich forests of the district but also the social forestry programme of the Government in Phulbani. The shifting of this Division will create a lot of problems in implementing the social forestry programme.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government and the Honourable Minister to withdraw the order of shifting the Afforestation Division to Ganjam District. This will safeguard the interest of the tribals and Harijans in the district.

Thank you.

#### **Retrenchment of workers of Bridge Corporation, Allahabad**

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA (Uttar Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I want to apprise this august House, through you, about the plight of the 500 workers of the Bridge Corporation of India, about their unemployment. The bridge that is connecting Phaphamahara and Faizabad and which is up to Kathmandu is nearing completion. Allahabad is surrounded by two rivers, the holy Ganga and the Yamuna and the old bridge on the Yamuna and the Ganga. Allahabad is accessible only through bridges to the people. There are three bridges on the three sides. One is the Lal Bahadur Shastri Bridge that connects Banaras as well as Calcutta. That has been completed earlier. The next is going to be completed very soon. And the third bridge was on the river Yamuna which was constructed during British days. Its life has expired and still it is being maintained and used. Madam, there was a pressing demand from the people of

Allahabad that this Bridge should be constructed. When Mrs. Gandhi became martyr in 1984, the people of Allahabad demanded a bridge, called 'Indira Gandhi Bridge', to be constructed on the river Yamuna. Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, went to Allahabad in 1987 and he also promised that there will be a bridge and it was going to be started and the workers of the Bridge Corporation, those who were engaged to construct the bridge on the Ganga, would be again engaged in this. But I am sorry to say that the Ministry of Surface Transport, Government of India, has not yet passed any tender. So when this bridge which is nearing completion will be completed, these workers will be rendered unemployed.

Madam, it is all the more regrettable because Allahabad is a place where the greatest religious fair is held. Parallel to this fair there is no fair in the world because 20 million people assemble in this fair. That is going to commence on 14th of January next year after 12 years. You can imagine the plight or disaster if this bridge is delayed. We have to take extra precautions for this fair. Anyway, Mr. N. D. Tiwari, the Chief Minister of U.P. has sanctioned Rs. 31.49 crores recently for these arrangements. He has said that arrangements would be made without any laxity. Even then I would urge the Central Government through you, Madam, to give directive to the U.P. Government that the arrangements should be made for water and electricity supply to meet the shortage in Allahabad as well as to solve the problems of people of Allahabad. Also I would like to urge the Central Government through you, Madam, to immediately pass the tender so that the Indira Gandhi Bridge on the Yamuna could be installed at once. Thank you.

#### Demand for declaring Gujjars as a Scheduled Tribe

श्री राम चन्द्र विकल (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

उपसभापति महोदया, मैं आपका आभार मानता हूँ कि मुझे इस विशेष महत्व का प्रश्न उठाने का आपने मौका दिया है

काश्मीर के देशभक्त गूजरों के बारे में।

उपसभापति महोदया, यों तो 1857 से लेकर आज तक उनका बहुत बड़ा बलिदान है लेकिन आजादी के बाद सन् 1947 से लेकर आज तक काश्मीर के देशभक्त गूजर फौजों से आगे लड़ते रहे हैं और अनेक तरह की कुर्बानियाँ इन्होंने दी हैं। उनको शेंड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्ज में शरीक करने के लिए पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरू सन् 1960 में देहरादून एक सम्मेलन में गए थे और आश्वासन दिया था कि गूजरों को शेंड्यूल्ड कास्ट में शरीक करेंगे सन् 1966 में लाल बहादुर शास्त्री प्राइम मिनिस्टर थे तो बदरपुर में एक सम्मेलन हुआ था, शास्त्री जी नहीं जा सके थे, सरदार दरबारा सिंह उन दिनों होम मिनिस्टर पंजाब के वे गए थे उनके बीच में और बहुत बातें उनकी तकलीफ के बारे में वह कहकर आए थे। स्वर्गीय श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी सन् 1975 में जम्मू में, जनाने पार्क में उनका बहुत बड़ा सम्मेलन हुआ था, देशव्यापी सम्मेलन हुआ था। उपसभापति महोदया, जहाँ मैं गूजरों की बात कर रहा हूँ वह इसलिए कर रहा हूँ कि उन्होंने कौम से बढ़कर मुल्क को समझा है, मजहब से बढ़कर भी मुल्क को समझा है और इनकी देशभक्ति के, कुर्बानियों के अनेक बलिदानों से इतिहास भरा पड़ा है। मुल्क जिनके सामने सबसे पहले हो, अपना जीवन, अपनी कौम, अपना मजहब न हो, ऐसे देशभक्तों की जितनी भी मदद की जाए, वह करनी चाहिए।

उपसभापति महोदया, सीमावर्ती राज्य काश्मीर में—चाहे पुंछ का इलाका हो, चाहे राजौरी हो—सीमा पर ये बसे हुए