

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

be totally stopped and some way should be found. In this connection, I endorse the suggestion made by Shri Pugalia that an enquiry should be conducted by a retired judge.

SHRI VISHVIIT PRITHVIIT SINGH (Maharashtra): Madam, I also associate myself with this.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदया, महाराष्ट्र की सरकार ने पहले तो ठीक फैसला नहीं किया। जो लेख प्रकाशित हो चुके थे उनको निकालने की आवश्यकता नहीं थी। महाराष्ट्र की सरकार दबाव में आ गयी। अभी भी उसने...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Don't make political capital out of it.

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : अभी भी उसने निर्णय को स्थगित किया है, निर्णय को रद्द नहीं किया है। डा० बाबा साहब अम्बेदकर को हमें उनकी समग्रता में देखना होगा। उनके विचारों से हमारा मतभेद हो सकता है। डा० बाबा साहब अम्बेदकर ने राम और कृष्ण के बारे में जो कुछ कहा है उसे बिल्कुल सहमत नहीं, लेकिन उनको अपनी बात कहने का अधिकार है और जब एक बार पुस्तक में उनके विचार छप गये तो महाराष्ट्र सरकार का यह कहना कि उसने सपादकों से सलाह कर ली है और उसके बाद वे लेख निकाल रहे हैं। उनमें से एक सपादक ने उसका खंडन भी किया है, तो मेरा निवेदन है कि सरकार दबाव में आकर कोई फैसला न करे। किसी सिद्धांत पर, किसी आधार पर उसका फैसला होना चाहिए।

श्री राम अश्ववेश सिंह (बिहार) : महोदया, मैं उनका समर्थन करता हूँ, लेकिन एक रिजर्वेशन के साथ कि छपी हुई किताब से कुछ निकालने का निर्णय सरकार का एक धिनौना निर्णय है इसलिए मैं इसको कडम करता हूँ।

Need to Check Deforestation

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT (Jammu and Kashmir): Madam,

Deputy Chairman, I rise to speak on a subject which is connected with forestry which is the wealth of the country. Forests are being cut indiscriminately decreasing the wealth of the country. It pays revenue to the States but this cutting of trees affects many aspects. Forests protect wild life, they give rains, there is cool climate and many other aspects are there. There is a proverb, world forestry goes on improving but the forests in India go on decreasing, thinning.

Madam, I have met Mr. Sunderlal Bahuguna two-three times who has organised 'chipko' movement in India. He travels from one place to another on foot and covers thousands and thousands of miles creating awareness among the people not to cut trees. Trees are felled with speed and who is responsible for this? The major responsibility falls on various lessees and contractors and also the State Governments and their officers because this pays revenue to the State. In my own State, in 1947, annual revenue from forests was Rs. 40 lakhs and now it has gone up to Rs. 60 crores. This is the reason why forests are thinning in various States of the country. If we do not check this rapid felling of trees, India will one day be converted into a desert and the climate will also be very hot. So, I request that concrete, effective and harsh steps should be taken to stop indiscriminate felling or cutting of trees, especially to protect wild life. We see thousands and thousands of birds coming from foreign countries staying in the forests of India. We will be deprived of them if forests became thinner and thinner.

Need to Ameliorate the Condition of Artisans and Craftsmen

SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT (Nominated): Madam. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of public importance. Shrimati Anes Jung's article of 7th November, 1987, on the plight of a national awardee Padmashri, painter Gangadevi of Mithila, makes tearful reading. She is ailing with cancer today. No wonder, mere awards

like a letter of the First Lady of the country will not satisfy her when Gangadevi has not enough to wear, enough to eat, enough to buy medical care and enough to survive her old age with dignity. Gangadevi may, now, receive some support either through Government or through a sympathetic philanthropist.

However, the issue is, how are we going to protect our cultural heritage without protecting our craftpersons and artisans? They receive some publicity and admiration for a while when we give them awards, but soon we leave them to survive against the forces of industrialisation, market mechanism and inhuman modernism.

Madam, if this is the fate of the national awardee Padmashri Gangadevi, what about the 30 lakh craftsmen and artisans who have not been identified and recognised? We use their products for building our national image abroad and enrich our museums. Their products are exported abroad by merchants, who fast prosper. Designers and mediamen do a thriving business through documentation and publication. Export Promotion Councils and amporia have yet to make an impact on craftsmen's working and living conditions.

Madam, Gangadevi's condition is typical of the condition of thousands of artisans and craftsmen in India. We need to develop such programmes and policies at Central and State levels that directly improve their quality of life and ensure social security when they are ill, old and devoid of income.

The State Handicraft Boards do assist them to a certain extent by buying their products. But beyond that the Boards have no relationship with the lives of the artisans and craftsmen. Madam, I urge the Government to frame a national policy on crafts persons, for whom we should ensure a fair return for their work and self-respecting conditions of work and living. Their welfare cannot be ignored any longer, as it is bound to affect their productivity, apart from their wellbeing.

Their homes are their work places; so proper housing is the foremost measure.

General insurance companies may be roped in to devise suitable insurance against maternity, incapacity, illness and old age and for award winners, a monthly income scheme under the Unit Trust may be introduced. A Central fund may be created for medicare of the ailing artisans and craftsmen.

The country earns foreign exchange close to Rs. 1000 crores from handicrafts, handloom and ready-made garments. So, Madam, there is ample scope and justification for investment in providing social security and welfare schemes for artisans and craftsmen of our country. Thank you.

Withdrawal of Recognition to Chowkidars Union of RPF

श्री राम चन्द्र दिक्षित (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
उपसभापति महोदया, मैं इस सदन के द्वारा और आपके द्वारा रेल मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ कि रेल सुरक्षा बल के 70 हजार छोटे कर्मचारी जिन्हें चौकीदार कहते हैं उनकी यूनियन अच्छे ढंग से पिछले 14 साल तक चलती रही और अचानक उसकी मान्यता समाप्त कर दी गयी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि रेल मंत्री जी इन छोटे कर्मचारियों की यूनियन को मान्यता दें।

उपसभापति महोदया प्रधान मंत्री जी को दोनों सदनों के अनेक मदद्यों ने जिसमें सभी दलों के लोग हैं इस यूनियन को मान्यता दिलाने के लिए ज्ञापन दिया है ;

(1) रेल सुरक्षा बल का कार्य मात्र रेल सम्पत्ति की रखवाली कर सुरक्षा करना है।

(2) रेल में कानून व्यवस्था बनाये रखने का कार्य रेलवे पुलिस का है। रेल सुरक्षा का नहीं।

(3) रेल सुरक्षा बल वह सशस्त्र बल नहीं है जो कानून व्यवस्था बनाये रखने या राष्ट्र की प्रतिरक्षा का कार्य करते हैं।