

for the first time. We know it had broadcast the death news of Shri Jayaprakash Narayan and the House stood in silence. We also know that All India Radio had broadcast the death news of Shri Jagjivan Ram. Therefore, I would like to know-how long this important news media controlled by the Government of India shall be allowed to continue in such irresponsible way which brings disgrace, not to the Government alone, but to the country as a whole? Therefore Madam, with your kind indulgence, I shall seek that the Government takes immediate measures, proper measures, so that news without proper corroboration is not broadcast. This is one. Secondly, people who are responsible for such falsehood being carried on in the news bulletins, as part of the political campaign of the Americans and the South Koreans, are brought to books immediately. Thirdly, Madam. I request the hon. Minister concerned to make a statement and send an apology to the Government of the Democratic Republic of Korea because we have broadcast a false news about the murder of the Head of the country.

**REFERENCE TO THE AGITATION
BY WOMEN VENDORS OF IMPHAL
AGAINST THE DEVELOPMENT
PLANS OF THE STATE
GOVERNMENT**

SHRIMATI ELA RAMESH BHATT (Nominated): Madam Deputy Chairman the news-item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' on 16th November, is quite disturbing to all of us. About 6,000 women vendors of Imphal in Manipur are on vigil to protect their little space in the market. For the last seven months, these women vendors are standing there day and night in the market. As the report says, it all started on the 8th January this year when the news came to the women that the Government is going to demolish their vending sheds in the market and build a

new multi-storeyed complex in its place. Only ten days back, other sisters in the fruit market adjoining this market were evicted from their vending stalls. Therefore, the fear of the market women of Imphal is not ill-founded. The Government have decided to construct a four-storeyed market complex on the site with the assistance of HUDCO. The market women do welcome this improvement in their market place. They are not resisting it totally. But they do not want to sacrifice the traditional identity of the Manipuri market. They do not want walls in between. They do not want high-rise structures. Obviously, all retail sales of vegetables and fruits and such products have to be open, accessible and visible. It cannot be in a multi-storeyed building. There should be a direct contact between the seller and the buyer. Madam, the women fear loss of their business as it has been the experience of the handloom market women of Lakhi Bazar which is adjacent to the present market which we are talking of. The women also fear that in the proposed new market building, looking to the high price of the stalls, it is the men who will replace them. A continuous dialogue is going on between the market women representatives and the Government of Manipur. Even 1.00 P.M. the Chief Minister has been met twice but no solution has yet been reached. I learn, some three months back the women have also given a memorandum to the Prime Minister. Yet, there is no solution. It is about 7 months and according to the latest information that I have, there is a total stalemate and an atmosphere of mistrust.

Madam Deputy Chairman, this battle is not limited to Imphal, and that is why I want to make special mention about the plight of the total vendors in our big cities. A similar battle between the municipal, government officials and police is going on everyday in all the major cities of

[Shrimati Ela Ramesh Bhatt]

the country. On behalf of the self-employed women with whom I have been connected for a long time I wish to state that we have been fighting such battles for space of 2 tokri. We had a conference also in Delhi in last April, where the Prime Minister himself had given strong support to the women vendors. At that time the Prime Minister had also announced setting up of a Commission for the self-employed women, which we are very eagerly looking forward.

So, I appeal to the Government to show positive attitude towards vendors of the cities, not to treat them as nuisance or as criminals. They should decide what the status of vendors and hawkers in big cities and in our markets is. Lastly, I appeal to the Government to come forward with a solution to this problems and not to make it a matter of party or political fight.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Madam, I support this. We all support this. Recently I was in Imphal. This is the only women market in India and I associate myself with their issue.

AN HON MEMBER: We all support it.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam. I also support this. I have been representing the case to the Prime Minister. On a number of occasions the women vendors have come here. They have met the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister, in front of these women, has said that something concrete will be done. So, let there be unanimous support of the House on this issue. Let the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs take note of this and send it to the Prime Minister so that something concrete could be done for them.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Something positive must be done for them. I also associate myself with their issue.

REFERENCE TO THE THREAT OF EXTINCTION FACED BY JODHPURI HANDICRAFTS

श्री धूलेश्वर मोणा (राजस्थान) : मेडम, उपसभापति महोदया, अपने देश में हैंडीक्राफ्ट्स की बनी हुई चीजें और हस्तशिल्प एक बहुत ही महत्व रखता है। हिन्दुस्तान के कोने-कोने में खास करके उत्तर-पूर्व की स्टेट्स में और कुछ राजस्थान और गुजरात में इस प्रकार की हस्तशिल्प की बहुत सारी चीजें बनाई जाती हैं और इन्हें विदेशों को भेज करके उस से काफी फारेन एक्सचेंज कमाया जाता है। इसी प्रकार की एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण बात हमारे लोकल अखबार राजस्थान से निकला है कि जोधपुर में बनने वाली बंधेज की जो हस्तशिल्प की चीजें हैं उसमें सरकार का प्रोत्साहन नहीं होने से वे काफी गड़बड़ा रही हैं। साथ ही साथ इन हस्तशिल्प की चीजों के ऊपर खास करके साड़ियों पर जो बंधेज होता है उस पर मशीन के बने हुये बंधेज वाली साड़ियों ने कुठाराघात किया है और साथ ही सरकार भी प्रोत्साहन नहीं दे रही है इस हस्तशिल्प के उद्योग में 5 से 10 हजार व्यक्ति जोधपुर में काम करते हैं और इसमें खास करके मुसलमान भाई और उनकी औरतें काम करती हैं। यह घंघा पुराने जमाने से चलता हुआ आ रहा है। राजा-महाराजाओं के समय में ही नहीं बल्कि आज भी ऐसी अच्छी-अच्छी चीजें बनाई जाती हैं, जो विदेशों में बेची जाती हैं और उससे विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है।

मेडम, इस उद्योग में लगे लोगों खासकर के इस अखबार वाले ने व्यक्तिगत रूप से इंटरव्यू लिया है, उससे कई एक लोगों ने यह कहा है कि देश में बनी हुई चीजें कुछ तो व्यापारी अपने मनमाने ढंग से मशीन की बनाई हुई चीजें, जो उपलब्ध होने से और सस्ती होने से, बाजार में ले जाते हैं। लेकिन इस देश का कारीगर, जो हस्तशिल्प का काम करता है और जो इम्पोर्टेन्स है, वह हाथों की बनाई हुई चीजों की होती है, इसको हम लोग पसन्द करते हैं, विदेशों के लोग पसंद करते हैं, आज वह कारीगर बेकार हो रहा है। उनकी रक्षा की जाय।