

[Shri Suresh Shamrao Kalmadi]

years old were found in "the muster; forced signature and thumb impression of workers on blank musters; fabrication of work which is not actually carried out; police officials, deputy engineers, junior engineers and muster assistants are found hand in glove in" this corruption.

I would like to point out a very grave thing that a Deputy Union Minister as well as State Minister along with their relations have been prominently mentioned in many newspapers as having encouraged these frauds in the EGS at Dhule and having compelled the State Government to transfer the Collector as he had started criminal proceedings against the culprits. Meantime, surprisingly, the Government of Maharashtra has come out with a circular in June directing all collectors to "consult concerned department" before initiating criminal action against the corrupt, and not to approach the police directly. This is a very shameful thing.

I demand that an enquiry must be constituted by the Central Government to go into this multicore fraud in the name of the Employment Guarantee Scheme in general and in Dhule in particular.

REFERENCE TO THE NON INCLUSION OF MAJOR HINDU FESTIVALS IN THE LIST OF HOLIDAYS DECLARED BY THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
श्रीमान् थड़े खेद और दुख के साथ मैं यह प्रश्न सदन के सामने रख रहा हूँ। ऐसा लगता है कि देश में जो बहुमत समाज है हिन्दू उसके ऊपर चोट पर चोट करने के लिए सरकार तत्पर है। मेरे हाथ में एक कतरन है जिस में रिटन

जवाब दिया गया है दूसरे सदन में। इस में कहा गया है कि होली, दीवाली, दशहरा आदि कोई भी छुट्टी हिन्दू की सरकार की तरफ से केन्द्र में नहीं होगी। यह मेरे सामने है, रेस्ट्रिक्टड होलीड हैं। क्या यह रेस्ट्रिक्टड होलीडे हिन्दू के लिए ही हैं। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि बाबा नानक के, महावीर के, बौद्ध धर्म के अनुयायी हिन्दू नहीं हैं। यह हिन्दू है, बिल्कुल ठीक है, लेकिन आप इस प्रकार से जाने-अनजाने हिन्दू समाज को विभाजित करना चाहते हैं। जैन, बाबा नानक के अनुयायी, बौद्ध धर्म के अनुयायी हिन्दू हैं, कानूनी तौर से हिन्दू हैं, लेकिन आप कहना चाहते हैं कि आप अल्पमत में हैं इस लिए आपकी छुट्टियां होंगी लेकिन हिन्दु जो बहुमत में है, जो राम के, कृष्ण के मानने वाले हैं उनकी छुट्टी नहीं होगी। मैं नहीं जानता आपने यह जानबूझ कर किया है या अनजाने में किया है, लेकिन जो डिवाजन की नीति अंग्रजों ने अपनायी, हिन्दू-मुसलमानों के बीच शगड़ा पैदा कर दिया, सिख और हिन्दुओं के बीच शगड़ा पैदा कर दिया, आप यह नीति अपना कर जानबूझ कर या गलती से विभाजन पदा कर रहे हैं। क्या गुरु नानक के जो मानने वाले हैं, अथवा बौद्ध धर्म के मानने वाले हैं अथवा जैन धर्म के मानने वाले हैं वे होली नहीं खेलते ? खेलते हैं। दीवाली नहीं मनाते ? मनाते हैं। यहां तक कि होली खेलने में बहुत से मुसलमान साथी भी शामिल होते हैं। मेरी मांग है कि आप जो बार-बार कर रहे हैं कि बहुमत हिन्दू समाज को विभाजित करना चाहते हैं अथवा उसके दिल पर चोट करना चाहते हैं इस गलती को सुधारिए। मेरी यह मांग है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार को चाहिए कि इन छुट्टियों के अपने निर्णय को बदले। अन्यथा जो चीज आप पदा करना चाहते हैं वह तो पैदा नहीं होगी और जो

आप इंडीग्रेशन की बात कर रहे हैं उसके बजाय इससे तो कंट्री का डिस्टिंडीग्रेशन होगा। आज इस समय गृह मंत्री जी यहाँ नहीं हैं, लेकिन मैं अपील करता हूँ कि आप इस अपने निर्णय को बदलें।
(व्यवधान)

श्री हुक्मदेव नारायण यादव (बिहार) :
यह तो किसी एक आदमी का सवाल नहीं है। होली दीवाली के बारे में पूरी तरह से सफाई होनी चाहिए।

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-KARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, we want to support him. The point is, what Mr. Mathur has demanded is that if you say these five holidays. Holi, Janmashtami, Deepavli and so on.. (Interruptions). Sir, I only want to support him. And you should advise the Government that this is not the proper thing, what has been done. This way, national integration is not going to take place.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA PANT (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I would also like to support what has been said by Mr. Mathur and I hope, the Government will come out with some statement soon, to clear the position because this would create a certain amount of misunderstanding, which should be avoided, among large sections of people who observe these holidays.

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the fact of the matter is that, a matter like this which plays on the sentiments of the people, should not be brought up in this abrupt way, where a notice is published in the Press. This has been done arbitrarily without consultations with all sections of the society or with all political sections in the House, even when Parliament is in Session. I remember, for instance, in one of the meetings of the opposition leaders* which the Prime Minister had called some time back,

she herself had announced that we must do something about it, about these holidays and things like that. This was the correct approach. Besides this, casual mention, the matter was never carried any further than that. As you will realise, a statement like this coming as it does in the manner in which it has come, is likely to create the sort of reaction that you have just heard from Mr. Mathur. If the Government had said that they are going to ban all the noise and noise pollution that emanates from all these festivals, I think, everybody would have liked it and the people in this country would have welcomed a suggestion like this. But to say that we have arbitrarily cut out these holidays without any prior consultations is not proper. These may be only Government holidays. But Government holidays are not the proprietary right of the Government, you know. It is a public right. It is a national right. These are national festivals. Therefore, Sir, something should be done to inform the Government that whatever decision they take in the matter must receive a wider consensus than they are prepared to have. After all, this is not a question of selecting Presidential nominee. It is something much more than that.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Sir, I would like to add to what Mr. Pilloo has said. In the matter of consultations, even the Government employees' organisations and unions should be consulted, but I think, nobody has been consulted. This is an arbitrary decision which has been taken at the level of the Government and on the face of it, it is wrong and it is perverse.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-KARNI: Sir, I would only like to point out.. (Interruptions).

SHRI SADASHIV BAGAITKAR (Maharashtra): Sir, as has been

(Shri Sadashiv Bagaitkar)

said, this has been done arbitrarily. This is being done in the name of national integration. I really fail to understand how can abolition of some holidays bring about or help you in bringing about national integration. This is what has been done, in the name of national integration. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KUL-KARNI: Sir, what is the opinion of the Leader of the House? (*Interruptions*). Why don't you say something?

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MAT-TO (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I would request the hon. Minister and the Leader of the House that before a decision is taken, there should be prior consultations with all the parties concerned. In the name of national integration, nothing should be done which may jeopardise the interests of any community.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Leader of the House please. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PILOO MODY: Please Pra-riab. Usha wants to say something.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I always concede to beautiful ladies and beautiful men. (*Interruptions*). Sir, as Mr. Pilo Mody has correctly pointed out, at a time when there was some discussion, the Prime Minister raised the question that we should give some thought and we should think as to how we should rationalise it. I may mention one thing. The hon. Members are aware. Sometimes, we take ad hoc decisions and suddenly, we declare a particular day as a holiday for Parliament or holiday for Government. And from various sections and communities, demands have come, in regard to some birthday or, on some other occasion, that this benefit should be

extended to them in such cases. (*Interruptions*).

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR (Madhya Pradesh): Last time also, for Rama Navami....

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: This is the difficulty with Dr. Bhai Mahavir. You cannot listen to anybody even for one minute. Sometimes. ...

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: I just wanted to ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: All right, you go on saying what you like. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, your leave has already spoken.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Let me explain. I did not mean any offence. I only said that sometimes holidays are given and sometimes holidays are cancelled. Neither should be done.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): I would request the Leader of the House to complete his statement.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Just I wanted to react because you wanted me to react. I had nothing to say on my own behalf. It is not that I wanted to say something *suo moto*. Sometimes we take *ad hoc* decisions and we take *ad hoc* decisions mainly in view of the demands raised by certain communities, either religious or linguistic communities, on various occasions, but I do agree with it that we should think on it. We can have wider consultations, particularly with the leaders of the Opposition, to see whether we can work out some more rational formula. For instance, one thing could be that we can have a number of holidays, but the entire office or the functioning of the entire office need not be closed. Persons belonging to

that particular community can take it. Some sort of a thing on sectional basis, i.e. by enlarging the areas of sectional holidays can keep people satisfied in a much better manner. But I do feel that we can have discussions and immediately after the Prime Minister comes back I will communicate her the feelings of the House.

SHRI MANUBHAI PATEL (Gujarat): Sir,...

DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, the matter is over. (*Interruptions*) There is little to say when the leaders will be consulted. (*Interruptions*). Please do not record.

REFERENCE TO THE PENSION PROBLEMS OF RETIRED RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I am mentioning an acute problem faced by the employees in the Railway Ministry after their retirement. The Railway Ministry says that the pension cases will be dealt with in the Finance Ministry and the Finance Ministry says that the Railway Ministry will be dealing with the pension cases of the railway employees. As a result, the railway employees are suffering after super-annuation, they are not getting pension.

Sir, a peculiar situation has arisen out of the problems of railway employees retired under SRPF. Sir, it is a matter of grave concern because of the way their problems are being tossed around from one Ministry to another without any solution. The Home Ministry says that the problems of railway pensioners are to be dealt with by the Railway Ministry and the Railway Ministry in turn advised the All India Retired Railwaymen's Federation that it was the Finance Ministry which was competent to deal with their problems

and the pension department of the Finance Ministry has again thrown the ball in the Railway Ministry's court. To say the least, this attitude speaks of utter callousness and indifference of the Government to their problems. This state of affairs has naturally created frustration among the pensioners. And the Government should know that most of the pensioners are facing a situation of destitution because of the non-chalant attitude of the Government.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to examine their problems and redress them as early as possible.

श्री सुकद सिन्हे रजी (उत्तर प्रदेश) :

डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, आपके मध्यम ने मैं आज गृह मंत्रालय की विशेषरूप से इस ओर तवज्जोह दिलाने को कोशिश करूंगा कि इस संबंध में इसी सदन में पिछले सत्र और पिछले सत्र के एक सत्र पहले बहुत ज्यादा चिंता व्यक्त की जा चुकी है और काफी उस पर विचार विमर्श हुआ है। मेरे कहने का तात्पर्य बैंकों में डकैतियां लीर लूट के संबंध में है। पिछली बार जब इसी सदन में इसी विषय के कालिग अटेंशन पर चर्चा हुई थी तब गृह मंत्री महोदय ने इस बात का आश्वासन दिया था कि बैंकों के जो भवन हैं उनमें जो डकैतियां होती हैं उनको रोकने के लिये बैंटर सेक्योरिटी अरेंजमेंट्स के लिये प्लान बनाया जायेगा। इस संबंध में लोक सभा में भी गृह मंत्रालय की ओर से इस बात का आश्वासन दिया गया था कि शीघ्र ही फाइनेंस मिनिस्टरी ने तालमेल कायम करके एक बैंकिंग सेक्योरिटी फोर्स बनायी जायेगी। लेकिन मान्यवर, उस संबंध में अभी तक कोई कदम नहीं उठाया गया है जिसकी वजह से जो असाभाजिक तत्व हैं वे बैंकों में वक्तन-फतन दाके डालते जा रहे हैं। इसके