

ethos of *Sarva Dharma Sama-bhava* implying let all religions flourish under benevolent and non-discriminatory regime. This is unexpected from French people who enjoy reputation as progressive among Europeans. Other European countries comprise of sizeable citizen belonging to Sikh religion and this ban may encourage these countries also to imitate. I apprehend this ban on the Sikhs may be a design to force them to either give up their religion or face hardships. In view of the tradition of cordial relationship between India and France, the House may direct the Government to urge upon French Government to reconsider the new law in order that the religious freedom is restored to their citizens belonging to Sikh religion.

DR. M.S. GILL (Punjab): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE (Nominated): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA(Rajasthan): Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, the whole House would like to associate on the Special Mention made by Shri S.S. Ahluwalia.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, this is an issue which I have taken up with the Foreign Minister. Long back, I wrote to him and the Foreign Minister is here and he has taken it up with the French Government.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri P.K. Maheshwari.

Concern over the Implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme

श्री पी . के. माहेश्वरी (मध्य प्रदेश) : महोदय , मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन का ध्यान मध्याह्न भोजन योजना की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा । इस देश में शिक्षा और साक्षरता के प्रसार के लिए स्कूलों में मध्याह्न भोजन योजना बनाई गई है । सोचा यह गया था कि गरीबी में जी रही देश की 60 फीसदी आबादी के बच्चे भोजन की लालच में स्कूल जाएंगे । पालक भी बेहतर भोजन व्यवस्था को

देखते हुए, स्कूल भेजने को प्रोत्साहित होंगे। व्यवस्था दक्षिणी राज्यों में शुरू हुई थी, जिसके प्रारम्भिक नतीजे काफी उत्साहवर्धक थे। पर ज्यों-ज्यों योजना ने मध्य प्रदेश सहित अन्य राज्यों में विस्तार पाया, त्यों-त्यों वह अव्यवस्था का शिकार होती गई। तमिलनाडु का कुंभकोणम कांड इसका ताजातरीन हृदय-विदारक उदाहरण है, जहां भोजनशाला से उठी चिंकारियों ने कई मासूमों को जला दिया। दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण, लेकिन उल्लेखनीय तथ्य यह है कि तमिलनाडु हो या आंध्र प्रदेश, मध्य प्रदेश हो या महाराष्ट्र, कहीं भी पुरखा व्यवस्था नहीं है। कहीं भोजन में छिपकली गिर जाती है तो कहीं बासी भोजन से छात्र बीमार होकर अस्पताल पहुंच जाते हैं। नतीजतन भोजन से शिक्षा के प्रसार को जितना बढ़ावा मिलना चाहिए था, उससे कहीं ज्यादा तगड़ा झटका इन हादसों से लगता है। इन सबका कारण नौकरशाही की योजना के प्रति अरुचि और भ्रष्टाचार रहता है। बेहतर होगा कि सुप्रीम कोर्ट, प्रबंधन विशेषज्ञों, आला अफसरों की समितियां बना कर उचित व्यवस्था बनाने में मदद करें, ताकि देश में मध्याह्न भोजन योजना को सुचारु रूप से चलाया जा सके।

Demand for a High Court at Agartala, Tripura

SHRI MATILAL SARKAR (Tripura): Sir, there is a proverb "Justice delayed is justice denied". It is now applicable in the case of Tripura for not having a separate High Court at Agartala. Of course, there is a permanent Bench of Guwahati High Court at Agartala. But pendency of cases counts for a huge number, and it is next to Assam. The number of Judges in the Bench is far below the requirement. The people cannot take the facilities of Guwahati High Court straightaway, because the journey by bus to Guwahati is tedious and journey by air is costly for the common people. So, the people here are not getting facilities of justice to the necessary extent. Now, a new building is coming up at Agartala. All other infrastructural facilities exist at Agartala. Accommodation for the staff and officers for a High Court are also available.

I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to establish a separate High Court at Agartala at the earliest.

Demand for the Development of Tourism in the country

SHRI B.J. PANDA (Orissa): Sir, my Special Mention is with regard to the need for certain specific steps for the development of tourism. The importance of tourism for creating gainful employment and improving our economy cannot be over-emphasized. In the days to come, more jobs will