

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN (Karnataka): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

DR. BHALCHANDRA MUNGEKAR (Nominated): Sir, I also associate myself with the matter raised by the hon. Member.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All names of the Members who are associating may be added.

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री और संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): उपसभापति महोदय, आदरणीय दिग्विजय सिंह जी ने जो स्कॉलरशिप से रिलेटिड इश्यु उठाया है, हमारी सरकार जिन छात्रों को छात्रवृत्ति मिलनी चाहिए, उनके लिए पूरी मुस्तैदी के साथ, पूरी जिम्मेदारी के साथ प्रतिबद्ध है। आपने जिस स्पेसिफिक इश्यू के बारे में कहा है, तो किसी राज्य में कहीं पर इस प्रकार की घटनाएं घट रही हैं, जिनके बारे में आपको पता है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... अगर आप हमें बताएंगे, तो हम संबंधित मंत्री को और संबंधित मंत्रालय को बताएंगे। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह: अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजातियों को ...**(व्यवधान)**... नहीं मिल रहा है। ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप हमें बताइए। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all. Now, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all; that is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... Now, sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Don't encroach on the time of Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, please stop them and re-start the clock. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It starts now. Nothing else will go on record. Mr. Tapan Kumar Sen, you start now. ...*(Interruptions)*...

Alleged Discrimination and Exploitation of women workers through Violation of the Equal Remuneration Act

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): Sir, I am already delayed. I should have raised the issue on 8th March itself, on the International Women's Day because I could not get the chance. Again, I took a chance on 9th, but because of the *din* I lost that opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you speak about this.

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Now, today I use the opportunity. It is on the Women's Day, the entire House has pledged to empower women, to bid justice to women. But the worst kind of repression and discrimination against the women are facing in the place of work. The Equal Remuneration Act is being flagrantly violated in the name of ease of doing business, and women workers in construction, in bidi, in plantations, where they have big women population, are being given much less wage compared to the same work being done by their male counterparts. In this situation, the problem is of enforcement. But unfortunately the Equal Remuneration Act is being diluted further, as the Labour Ministry proposed in their Labour Code Bill. So, only sound bytes cannot bring justice to women.

Secondly, the Government itself is the biggest violator. Almost one crore scheme workers, Anganwadi, Mid-Day Meal and ASHA, who are maintaining the human development standard of the country, are not being recognized as workers even and as usual being deprived of the minimum statutory wages and social security benefits. The issue is being raised since long by the entire scheme workers movement. But if the Government takes a lead to deprive the workers of the statutory minimum wage, who can save them? So, it is not enough to pledge for empowering women and meeting justice to them. It is something that is to be done on the ground. Sir, both the concerned Ministers are here. I request the HRD Minister and the Health Minister, who are looking after Mid-Day Meal, ASHA, and Anganwadi under the Women and Child Development Department, to take care of their long pending demands. They don't want more than recognition as a worker to ensure statutory minimum wage and the attendant social security benefits. Please let us not do justice only by sound bytes. Let us do some justice in terms of action. That is my demand before the Government. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI RANVIJAY SINGH JUDEV (Chhattisgarh): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM (Meghalaya): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

डा. विजयलक्ष्मी साधौ (मध्य प्रदेश): महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय यहां उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती रजनी पाटिल (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय यहां उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय यहां उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करती हूँ।

श्री हुसैन दलवाई (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो विषय यहां उठाया है, मैं अपने को इससे सम्बद्ध करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, all the names of the hon. Members should be added, including my name. Now, Shri K. K. Ragesh. ...*(Interruptions)*... I said all the names to be added, including my name. Now, Shri K. K. Ragesh.

Concern over the Pathetic Condition of the Inhabitants of Lakshadweep Islands

SHRI K. K. RAGESH (Kerala): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to bring before this august House an issue relating to the pathetic living condition of the inhabitants of Lakshadweep Islands. The Union Territory of Lakshadweep was formed in 1956. Even after 60 years of its formation, the Government failed to ensure basic needs of the people of Lakshadweep. Proper healthcare facilities and higher education facilities are not ensured for the people of Lakshadweep. In Lakshadweep, everything is uncertain. ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, I have been there many times. That is why, I am saying all these things. I would like to raise here a very vital issue. ...*(Interruptions)*... If we take up the example of health care, till today, no referral hospital has been established there by the Central Government. There is no referral hospital. Though the Government has already sanctioned twelve posts of specialist doctors, yet only one post has been filled up on regular basis. The remaining eleven posts are lying vacant. There are no doctors in small, small hospitals which are there in different *dweeps*. That is the situation. For every emergency, they have to depend on Kerala. Every time when there is an emergency, the patients have to be taken to Kerala. The Lakshadweep Administration has to evacuate these patients and send to Kerala. Every year, the administration is spending around fifteen crores of rupees on evacuation of emergency patients. Why can't the administration use