

[Shri Ritabrata Banerjee]

barrages leading to the flood like situation in our rain battered State. The DVC barrages are quite old. They are not cleaned or dredged from time to time, which has resulted in sedimentation. If proper and modernised dredging had been done, then, another 2,00,000 cusecs of water could have been stored there. The hon. Chief Minister of Bengal has been raising the issue of water release by the DVC time and again. Due to the demography and the geography of Bengal, water from the Western part of the State and the Northern part of the State enters whenever there are rains in other parts, flooding our State. The DVC is doing its main business in our State, but it is causing floods by not holding water to its capacity in the dams on a regular basis. For the last three, four years, on an average, the DVC has released up to 2,00,000 cusecs of water causing floods in more than hundreds of our blocks. This is happening because the DVC dams have failed to hold the water to their capacity. Now, dredging and modernisation also at Farakka is creating problem resulting in the rivers of North Bengal to flood the hinterland. This is an international issue because most of the rivers of our State flow to Bangladesh and then to the Bay of Bengal. So, I urge the Government, through you, Sir, that this needs to be taken up on an international basis when there is a bilateral meeting between India and Bangladesh. This issue, dredging and modernisation on an international basis by both the countries, needs to be taken up. The State Government needs to be consulted before releasing the additional water. The DVC needs to sit with the State Government on an immediate basis. No water should be released without prior consultation and intimation to the State Government. Man-made floods must not cause sufferings to the people of our State and it needs to be checked immediately.

Lastly, through you, Sir, I will urge upon the Central Government that this is a very serious matter. The DVC must not release water without consulting our State Government. The Government has taken up this matter. Through you, I once again request the Government to look into this matter on an immediate basis. Thank you.

SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI (West Bengal): Sir, I associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I also associate myself with the issue raised by the hon. Member.

The treatment meted out to citizens by BSF along the Indo-Bangladesh border

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS (West Bengal): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak. Sir, I will be speaking in Bengali. * Hon'ble Chairman Sir, at the outset I

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Bengali.

want to thank you for permitting me to raise the issue of citizens living along Indo-Bangladesh border. Sir, the people living along Indo-Bangladesh border have been suffering from various crises, of which I want to present a few painful ones before you. Sir, the Indo-Bangladesh border is 4156 km long and is the fifth longest border in the world. Out of the total, 2217 km is within the state of West Bengal and touches almost half of its districts. As per an agreement signed in 1975, no defence infrastructure can be built within 150 yards of the zero point of the border, to which India has some reservations. However, to honour the agreement, barbed wire-fencing have been placed at all places on the Indian side at a minimum distance of 200 metre from the international border and at many places, it is located even at a distance ranging from 1 km to 1.75 km. Sir, it has led to a complex situation. Agricultural land totalling lakhs of hectares belonging to lakhs of people are now outside the fence; even some villages and residential accommodations are now situated across the border. It has made lakhs of people reeling under great stress and pain. It is living like a foreigner in your own land. I am trying to present their immense suffering before you, Sir, in the hope of alleviation of the pain.

Hon'ble Sir, the only way to reach one's village or agricultural land situated within the Indian side is to cross the gate at the barbed-wire fence. But in the case of West Bengal, the distance between the main land and the gate ranges at an average of 4.5 km. So it is quite a hard task to reach one's village or agricultural land. The problem is even deeper and lies elsewhere.

These gates were kept open, just a few years ago, from 6 am to 6 pm every day. Now at the borders, especially at the border areas along Gede, the gates are kept open during three time slots —from 6 to 9 am, from 11 am to 1 pm and again from 3 to 5 pm. What happens if there is an emergency medical case owing to snake bite to the farmers, heart diseases, cerebral stroke, fire or conditions of pregnant women? They have to wait a long period before the gates are opened and at times great damages befall them.

श्री सभापति: आपको पढ़ना नहीं है, बोलना है।

SHRI ABIR RANJAN BISWAS: * I want to draw your attention, Sir, to these problems.

Sir, there is a lack of farm hands in the villages of West Bengal these days.

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Bengali.

Elderly farmers are therefore compelled to till their lands. In order to reach the gates at 6 am for the said purpose, they have to first clear the bushes and wild shrubs around the border for about 1 to 1.5 hours.

SHRI SUBHASISH CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the Zero Hour mention made by the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Digvijaya Singh; not present. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad.

Need for uniform SC/ST certificates in all States

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे इस अति महत्वपूर्ण विषय को उठाने का मौका दिया, इसके लिए मैं आपको धन्यवाद देता हूँ। भारत के संविधान के अनुच्छेद 341में अनुसूचित जाति और अनुच्छेद 342 में अनुसूचित जनजाति के लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था की गयी है। इसी तरह से मंडल कमीशन ने 1993 से ओबीसी के लिए आरक्षण की व्यवस्था दी है। महोदय, चूंकि पूरे देश में रोजगार की कमी है, इसलिए लोग रोजगार की तलाश में इस जिले से उस जिले और इस प्रदेश से उस प्रदेश में चले जाते हैं। इसी तरह से शादियां भी एक प्रदेश से दूसरे प्रदेश में होती रहती हैं। यदि हरियाणा की ओबीसी की महिला की शादी दिल्ली में ओबीसी के व्यक्ति से हो जाती है और अगर वह महिला दिल्ली सरकार में नौकरी के लिए apply करती है तो उसे सामान्य जाति का माना जाता है। उसे उसके पति की जाति के आधार पर आरक्षण का प्रमाण पत्र नहीं दिया जाता है। इसी तरह से अनुसूचित जाति और अनुसूचित जनजाति में है। अगर कोई भी व्यक्ति काम की तलाश में, रोजगार की तलाश में किसी दूसरे प्रदेश में चला जाता है - मान लीजिए, उत्तर प्रदेश का कोई व्यक्ति है, जो अनुसूचित जाति की सूची में है, जैसे दिल्ली में मल्लाह है, उत्तर प्रदेश में मझवार है, गोंड है, बेलदार है, तुरैहा है, शिल्पकार है, तरमाली है, मध्य प्रदेश में माझी है, बिहार में माझी है - तो ये जो जातियां हैं, अगर इनका कोई व्यक्ति दूसरे प्रदेश में चला जाता है और काम की तलाश में वहां रुक जाता है, वहां मकान बनाकर रहने लगता है तो सरकार उन्हें वहां के अधिकारों से वंचित कर देती है, उन्हें वहां पर नौकरी में कोई सुविधा नहीं मिलती है। जबकि सरकार ने आधार कार्ड बनाया है। एक ही प्रमाण पत्र जारी होना चाहिए। केंद्र की नौकरियों में तो सुविधा मिलती है, लेकिन प्रदेश की सेवाएं अलग-अलग सूची बनी होने के कारण....यहां तक कि तमाम स्टेटों में एक ही राज्य में एक-एक जिले की सूची बनी हुई है। मान्यवर, यह पार्लियामेंट है, इनको ठीक करना और इसमें करेक्शन करना संसद का काम है। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इन विसंगतियों को दूर किया जाना आवश्यक है। अभी जैसा आप भी बता ही रहे थे, हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश में हमारी 17 पिछड़ी जातियां हैं, जैसे कहार, कश्यप, केवट, मल्लाह, निषाद, कुम्हार, प्रजापति, धीवर, बिन्द, भर, राजभर, धीमर, बाथम, तुरहा, गोडिया, माझी और मछुवा। ये समनामी पुकारू