

history of Manipur. The two women uprisings of Manipur, known as the "Nupi Lan of 1904 and 1939", against the British colonial rule, were initiated, organized by the women leaders of this market. This market is a unique symbol of women's economic empowerment and it may be described as "A great example of *Nari Shakti*."

Because of its unique nature, its historical significance and its value of women's empowerment, I urge upon the Union Government to declare the Ema Keithel or Khwairamband Ema Keithel as a Living Cultural Heritage Site under Article 51A and to preserve it as a place of historic interest and national importance under Article 49 of Indian Constitution. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Maharaja Sanajaoba Leishemba: Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha) and Shri Dhananjay Bhimrao Mahadik (Maharashtra).

Dr. V. Sivadasan, "Need to address the issues faced by journalists and media professionals."

Need to address the issues faced by Journalists and Media professionals

DR. V. SIVADASAN (Kerala): Sir, the history of our world teaches us that journalism is the integral part of the liberation movement. The world-renowned personalities like Gandhiji, Bhagat Singh, Karl Marx and Lenin used media as a tool for struggle. Many of freedom fighters were active in journalism. I am sorry to say that India, the land of Periyar, Ambedkar and Ravindranath Tagore, is in the 159th position out of 180 countries in Press Freedom Index. The journalists are facing police cases including UAPA, arrest and imprisonment. Journalists like Prabir Purkayastha and Siddique Kappan were in jail because they were speaking truth to power. In India, in the last 10 years, more than 100 journalists were killed in different places, including the noted editor and writer, Gauri Lankesh.

The communal fanatics target the journalists, who are standing with people. The journalists, who are trying to expose the anti-people policies of the rulers, are targeted by the forces of the Union Government. Working journalists are one of the most exploited groups in India. Thousands of brilliant youngsters are working in media but the Government is not ready to protect them, and the Government is not taking initiative to ensure proper wages to the journalists. After the implementation of neo-liberal economic policy, the number of permanent employees has been reduced. The journalists have no social security. There are no proper welfare and pension schemes.

The Majithia Commission was appointed to study the issues of journalists and it has suggested a minimum wage to the media persons. But, till now, the majority of the journalists are not getting the suggested salary.

The Government is not bothered about the journalists. The journalists are working in most in-human conditions. Basic amenities are not there. Human rights are violated in their work places. Journalists have no proper work time. Legally, the working time is eight hours per day. But, they are working for 14 to 17 hours. When the journalists are raising issues pertaining to them, they are not getting any legal protection from the Government. They are unable to form their associations as trade unions in their media institutions.

At present, the real news journalists have been degraded. The journalists have been treated as only column fillers between the advertisements. Some of the media have given more importance to advertisements than to the news.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Dr. V. Sivadasan.

The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Dr. V. Sivadasan: Prof. Manoj Kumar Jha (Bihar), Shri Ravi Chandra Vaddiraju (Telangana), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose (West Bengal), Ms. Dola Sen (West Bengal), Shrimati Mahua Maji (Jharkhand), Shri Jose K. Mani (Kerala), Shri Sandosh Kumar P (Kerala), Shrimati Priyanka Chaturvedi (Maharashtra), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shri M. Shanmugam (Tamil Nadu), Shri R. Girirajan (Tamil Nadu), Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Fauzia Khan (Maharashtra), Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Shri Jawhar Sircar (West Bengal), Shri Haris Beeran (Kerala) Shri Saket Gokhale (West Bengal) and Shri Niranjana Bishi (Odisha).

Now, Shri Muzibulla Khan; 'Concern over delays in completion of National Highway projects in Odisha'.

Concern over delays in completion of National Highway projects in Odisha

श्री मुजीबुल्ला खान (ओडिशा): उपसभापति महोदय, आपका धन्यवाद कि आपने मुझे सदन को एक गंभीर विषय से अवगत कराने का मौका दिया।

उपसभापति महोदय, ओडिशा के बारे में, खास करके नेशनल हाईवे के प्रोजेक्ट के बारे में, मैं कुछ बोलना चाहता हूँ। ओडिशा राज्य सरकार का जो रास्ता है, जो स्टेट हाईवे है, हमारे तत्कालीन मुख्य मंत्री, नवीन बाबू ने जो स्टेट हाईवेज़ बनाए हैं, इसलिए ओडिशा के हर गाँव, हर गली, हर कुँचे में रास्ता बहुत ही खुबसूरत है। जब तक कोई इंसान नहीं दिखेगा, तब तक वह समझ नहीं पाएगा। अगर स्टेट हाईवे और नेशनल हाईवे का comparison किया जाए, तो सोचिए