

**Fourteenth Loksabha****Session : 7****Date : 20-03-2006****Participants : Salim Shri Mohammad, Gowda Dr. (Smt.) Tejasvini**

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Title : Alleged unfair labour practices being resorted to by the Management of the Hindustan Times.

MD. SALIM (CALCUTTA – NORTH EAST): Sir, I rise to raise an issue reflecting on the gravity of the situation in the newspaper industry in general and that of Delhi in particular. Without seeking mandatory permission of the State Government under the Industrial Dispute Act, the employees including journalists have been terminated. It is sad that both the Central and the State Governments are not taking punitive action against the delinquent management. They have turned a deaf ear to the scores of pleas by the DUJ and HTEU.

After illegally terminating 362 permanent workers, *The Hindustan Times* management is again poised to retrench another 400 permanent employees. The Accounts Department and the Co-operative Thrift and Credit Society have been directed to prepare the full and final account of another 400 remaining permanent employees. In a meeting of various Department Heads, the Vice President and the General Manager of HR Department have categorically said that March 31 was the last date for these employees. It is also very unfortunate because the management has also challenged the Protected Workmen's list declared by the Labour Department of the State Government. An Assistant Editor became the president of the union and he has also been victimised.

*The Hindustan Times* newspaper was aided by the freedom fighters and was even patronised by Mahatma Gandhi. But the subsequent Governments unfortunately have not paid much attention to the affairs of this organisation. It first began with an attack on the jobs of workers in the national newspaper chain. It then extended to the journalists with pressure on them to resign their confirmed regular jobs and rejoin on short-term contracts. How is this contractualisation taking place in the organisation? A staff member has committed suicide and many others are suffering and starving since 2004. Their families have been ruined and those who have dared to stand up and speak have been silenced by way of transfers, suspensions, dismissals and even pre-determined domestic enquiries. Even forces like the police and RAF and other instruments have been pressed into service to suppress the genuine demands of the workers and employees.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: What is your demand?

MD. SALIM : My demand is that the Government must come forward. कानून में तो प्रबंध है। लेकिन वे सरकार से राय लिये बिना परमानेंट इम्पलायीज को रिट्रैन्व नहीं कर सकते। ये सब समिट ऑर्गेनाइज करते हैं, बड़े-बड़े लंच और डिनर लैविशली ऑर्गेनाइज किये जाते हैं। वहां बड़े-बड़े नेता जाते हैं। सरकार द्वारा इनके ऊपर एक्शन लेने की बजाय पावर कॉरीडोर में इनके लोग बड़ी आसानी से घूमते हैं। ये लोग हमारी पार्लियामेंट में भी आते हैं। इन्हें सरकार ले आती है, इससे हमें कोई शिकायत नहीं है। लेकिन सरकार को इस बारे में एक्शन लेना चाहिए। सभी इम्पलायीज की वेज बोर्ड की डिमांड वॉ से पैन्डिंग पड़ी हुई है और यहां जो कर्मचारी और जर्नलिस्ट्स काम कर रहे हैं, उनके ऊपर अटैक्स हो रहे हैं। इसलिए सरकार को इनके ऊपर पाबन्दी लगाने का बंदोबस्त करना चाहिए। यही हमारी मांग है।

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (KANAKAPURA): Sir, I would also like to associate myself with him.