

but due to growing incidents of attack on journalists, it is in danger now.

News regarding attacks on journalists by police and anti-social elements in various parts of the country are being received very frequently. A shocking news regarding the murder of the editor of a daily '*Madhyayuga*' in Banda district of U.P. has been received recently. This incident is a serious warning to the entire nation. If police harassment of journalists is not firmly put down, our present system may get paralysed. Though the police harassment is crossing the limit but the security of journalists is specially in danger.

Attacks have already taken place on journalists in many districts of U.P. including Eastern U.P. Such incidents have also happened in other parts of the country but U.P. is at the top in this type of heinous crime. Hence, Prime Minister should seriously intervene in this matter immediately and guarantee the security to journalists. It will be possible only when the criminals are given severe punishment and if required necessary constitutional amendments should be brought about for this purpose.

(vi) **Re-opening of S.T.C. Purchase Offices in Andhra Pradesh to purchase Virginia tobacco.**

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377 I want to draw the attention of the Government to the following matter of urgent public importance.

The Virginia Tobacco growers of Andhra Pradesh, particularly of Ongole, Guntur, Kandukur, Bezwada, Kanchika, Cherla, Nandigama areas have had to seek Government's protection in February through the price support operations of the State Trading Corporation because of failure of merchants and exporters to purchase tobacco at reasonable prices. Three peasants of Tangutum area were shot dead and many more were lathi charged by the police while peasants were observing '*Rasta Roko*' campaign to demand the S.T.C. intervention to protect them from the rapacity of merchants, and we had to draw the attention of

Parliament and Government to that Kisan agitation and demand Central Government's protection. Fortunately the Minister for Commerce decided to make the S.T.C. enter the market and purchase tobacco.

But contrary to peasants' needs and public hopes the S.T.C. stopped purchase operations by the end of May, leaving peasants groaning under the burden of as much as 20 to 23-1/3 per cent of their tobacco bales, still awaiting purchasers. So, today many peasants who had been hoping to be saved through the S.T.C. purchases are groaning under the burden of demands from banks for repayment of loans made during last year's crop season need to borrow for current year's agricultural season and the unsold and fast deteriorating tobacco stocks. So, I appeal to Government to hasten to reopen S.T.C. price support operations and save peasants from bankruptcy and loss of faith in the welfare aspects of Government.

(vii) **Regularisation and Confirmation of employees engaged in Census Work in Bihar.**

प्रो० अजित कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार में 1981 के जनगणना कार्यों के परिचालन हेतु समय समय पर लगभग चार हजार मैट्रिक से स्नातक एवं स्नातकोत्तर शिक्षा प्राप्त युवा कर्मचारियों की नियुक्ति पूर्णतः अस्थायी और तदर्थ रूप से 280 रु० प्रतिमाह की दर से समेकित वेतन पर की गई। 3000 कर्मचारी पटलांकन कार्यालयों में तथा बाकी पटना एवं हजारी बाग स्थित सम्पादन एवं संकेतन कोषांगों में टेबलेटर तथा कोडर बनाए गए। 1980 में नियुक्त किए गए समेकित कर्मचारियों का नाम सीधे रोजगार कार्यालयों से मंगाया गया था किन्तु अधिकांश नियुक्तियां 1981 में आयोजित प्रतियोगिता परीक्षाफल के आधार पर हुई थी। यद्यपि सेवा शर्तों के अनुसार ये नियुक्तियां पूर्णतः आकस्मिक किस्म की थीं जो जनगणना की नियमित स्थापना में विलय के लिए अथवा किसी अन्य नियुक्तियों में किसी छूट के लिए आधार नहीं बन सकती थी किन्तु कर्मचारियों को