

august House to the problem of cashew workers in the country. More than 1.5 million workers, mostly women, are employed in the cashew factories in our country. The weekly payment made to them varies from Rs. 12 to Rs. 45 only. They are made to work for 12 hours daily. Due to excessive work and under-nourishment, they often break down and fall ill. They work all the seven days of the week. As they do not have a day for rest, their hands become easily strained and disfigured as they are not often provided with gloves while at work. They are simply left to use mud and water to clean their hands and are not provided soap to wash their hands. The conditions prevailing in cashew factories are not at all hygienic and safe to work.

Cashew factories are the only means of earning a bare living available to many poor women in backward rural areas. The cashew workers have not formed trade unions to air their grievances and fight for their rights.

As such, I urge the Union Government to advise the State to fix minimum wages for the cashew workers, at par with other plantation workers.

(iii) **Need to allow lapsing of provisions of Essential Commodities (Special provisions) Act, 1981**

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under Special Commodities Act, 1955 the Central Government enacted the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Act 1981 for 5 years in the first instance. Later its duration was extended upto August, 1992. Although nothing in the interest of consumers or farmers has been provided under the new provisions, yet the following provisions are very stiff for the traders:

1. Giving Judgement by special Court after a brief hearing
2. Making a provision of a minimum of three months and maximum of two

years imprisonment.

3. Confiscating the whole stock and selling it at lower a price than the price prevailing at fair price shops.
4. Declaring all offences under the Act as non-bailable.
5. Arresting the trader then and there and putting him under police custody.
6. Putting restrictions on making appeals in higher Courts for such offence.

Due to these provisions there is a great resentment among all the traders of the country. They held a demonstration in the Boat Club on 28.7.1992 in its protest. They have planned to show their protest in each and every State from the 7th August, because instead of withdrawing these special provisions the Government wants to extend them from another 5 years from August 1992. Therefore, I would like to make demand from the Central Government not to extend the duration of these provisions and repeal them.

(iv) **Need to give clearance and financial assistance for Bisalpur Scheme.**

SHRI RAM NARAYAN BERWA (Tonk): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the population of Tonk district is nearly 12 lakh. Cultivation is the mainstay of the people. This area is backward in all respects i.e. from economic, social, industrial point of view. Though the Banas river provides drinking water to Ajmer district, yet even after 44 years of independence the Government has not been able to provide irrigation facility in this area. Due to untiring efforts of the people of this area the work on Bisalpur scheme has been started last few years. Though this scheme is meant for providing drinking water in Ajmer and Jaipur districts, yet the poor and hopeless farmers of Tonk district are still deprived of means of irrigation.