

[*Translation*]

Another member of Labour Party Mr. Ken Levintson says that.

[*English*]

"I think if a more helpful response from the Indian Government is not forthcoming, sanctions will have to be imposed."

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, I am raising all this because it is mentioned in the election manifesto of Labour Party that:

"Labour Government's readiness to make itself available to India and Pakistan to assist in achieving a negotiated solution to the Kashmir problem that is acceptable to all people."

[*Translation*]

This is their official statement. I would like to submit that all the Indians living in England are worried about the statement of the future Shadow Home Secretary of the Labour Party. I am saying all this in the House because the entire cabinet is present here. I would like to stress the need to take up the issue with the senior pro-India leaders of the Labour Party like Mr. Kinnock, Mr. Michael Foot and Mr. Dennis Hailey that the attempts to spread anti-India feelings by the would be Shadow Home Secretary can be very harmful for our country.

I think all this tantamounts to interfering in our internal affairs. That's why I have drawn the attention of the Government in the House that whatever needs to be done by India to influence the voting pattern in England in favour of those who support our country should be done by the Government.

[*English*]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to the plight of the construction workers of our country. As the House knows, there are about two crores of construction workers working in various parts of our country. Sir, after agriculture, construction industry provides the largest number of employment to our country men. The workers who are now engaged in construction industry are condemned to inhuman circumstances and sometimes in inhuman condition of life and work. They have no security of employment and their wages are very low. They have no educational, housing and medical benefits and accidents are very much frequent. All this call for a legislative measure for the protection of the interests of the construction workers. It is true that a bill is pending before the Rajya Sabha. But it is considered by the construction workers that that bill is not adequately comprehensive. Sir, a draft bill was presented, in the form of a petition, to the Petitions Committee of this House on the 15th December 1986. I would like to refer to the reference of the Petitions Committee on the 15th December 1986. The Petitions Committee of this House in its report submitted on the 25th of July 1989 states:

"The Committee therefore recommends that the Bill pending in Rajya Sabha be withdrawn and a fresh comprehensive Bill be introduced so as to cater to the long-felt demands of the hitherto neglected sector of the working classes."

MR. SPEAKER: Please Basuji, do not make a regular speech with quotations and all that. Make a brief statement.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Sir, this involves two issues. One is that the Petitions Committee of this House has recommended some-

thing. The Government has not responded to it properly. On the other hand, this is the most neglected sector of the working classes. The Labour Minister is here and I would be very much happy if he kindly responds to this and assures this House that appropriate action will be taken to protect the interests of the most neglected and exploited sector of the working classes.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN

(Mukundapuram): Sir, about 50 persons including women who were working in the Cochin Shipyard canteen for more than 15 years were mercilessly terminated from their services. There was a complaint that this termination was based upon a conspiracy of the canteen contractor.

MR. SPEAKER: Please don't bring this kind of things to discuss in Parliament. It will be very difficult. I would request you not to insist on it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, recently I received a letter from the parents of the students studying in Ukraine, a republic of the erstwhile Soviet Union. Sir, through you, I would like to apprise the House of the contents that because of the political turmoil and changes in the erstwhile Soviet Union, in the last few months, 4,000 Indian students there are living in miserable conditions. They are facing shortage of bread and eatables and are just surviving on bread and water. Though winter season is in full swing but they do not have shoes to put on. All this is published in the 'Jansatta' of 1st of this month. Medical students studying in Ukraine, have written to their parents that for shortage of cash they are not able to return to India. Their monthly stipend is just 150 Roubles. Their plight is miserable. If the House and the nation do not come to their rescue then they will not be able to return to India. We took prompt

decision to repatriate Indians from Gulf in the face of disturbed conditions over there. So similar efforts need to be made to bring back these students. Concern for safety and security of Uma Pathak and a few other girl students has also been mentioned in the letter. These students cannot even talk to their family members back home because prices have escalated so much that a pair of shoes costs 2,500 Roubles and a telephone call 500 Roubles. I would like to urge you to make arrangements for their return. They may be given admissions here and if they need cash, then arrangements should be made by the Government to send money to them, to save these students from hunger and misery.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE

(Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Indian student who were pursuing their studies in the erstwhile Soviet Union and are still staying there are really experiencing difficulties. I met two people at Bangalore. One's son and other's daughter are studying in that foreign land. Their difficulty is practical which has arisen due to disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Government of India should pay attention to remove their difficulties. Firstly, the scholarships they are getting in roubles is very meagre. Secondly, they are finding it difficult to come back to India. They cannot travel by Soviet planes. The Air India should make arrangements to bring them to India and fly them back to Soviet Union, who want to continue their studies there. Some of them have completed two years and some have completed three years of their course. They would not like to come back without completing their studies. They would like just to come to India once a year and Air-India can arrange tickets for them. The Government of India should cautiously gather complete information in this regard and place the same in the House. It is a very important matter.