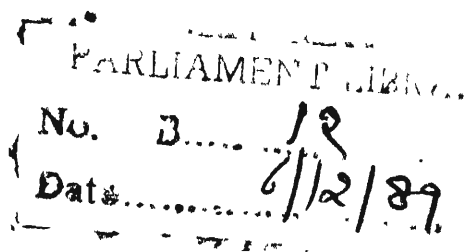


# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Thirteenth Session  
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



सत्यमेव जयते



*(Vol. L contains Nos. 41 to 49)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI**

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

(Interruptions)

Friday, May 12, 1989/Vaisakha 22, 1911  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[English]

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palayam): Sir, I have given a privilege motion against the Indian Express. Today, on page number 9, under the heading 'The PAC's new Chairman', they have said 'The man who makes wild charges'. Under this heading, there is character assassination with a view to malign my position and image before the public and with this ulterior motive, they have done this.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Sir, in our country, there is a saying as 'Chor Machai Shor'....(Interruptions).... You see the National Herald. The Hegde Government seeks for customs duty exemption for fodder production units.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: It doesn't matter, what's the harm in it.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): There is a saying in Hindi as 'Chor Machai Shor'...(Interruptions)... They have been doing all these things and now they are taking some excuses.

MR. SPEAKER: If they have done something good, why should you blame them?

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Those who live in glass houses should not throw stones at others.

MR. SPEAKER: There is nothing. It does not matter.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): What is the imputation of Mr. Naik? He says 'Chor Machai Shor' (Interruptions)

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: It is a saying. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you create disturbance.

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: I hope this idiom has not been expunged. (Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): Sir, you were pleased to direct the Government yesterday to see that the C&AG para on Bofors...

MR. SPEAKER: I have done it already.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** It is true but what is the time frame? We want an assurance from you and a direction from you that it will be placed on the Table by Monday at least.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER:** Whatever I said, I will stand by it.

[English]

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):** You have said categorically that it will be placed on the Table during this session itself.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What I have said, I have already said. I never go back on my words. I have already done it.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:** On Monday it should be placed on the Table as per your directions.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** We will see this.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** Sir, your direction will go waste.

[Translation]

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have already said that we will see it when it comes. How can I commit before that.

[English]

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** There is only one day left.

**MR. SPEAKER:** No, there are still three days.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI AMAL DATTA:** Even if they place it on the Table of the House on Monday, there would be no discussion in the House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** What can I do? Also in the rules there is no such stipulation. I could not have gone out of the rules. There is no such stipulation that by this date this has to be done. That is why I said—expeditiously.

(Interruptions)

**SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram):** The report has to be placed on the Table of the House. Constitutional obligation is there...(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Might be.

**SHRI AMAL DATTA:** What are they processing? Are they tampering with the report?...*(Interruptions)*. It should be placed on the Table of the House. There is nothing that the Government can do....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Look here, gentlemen, we decided yesterday; there was a complete assurance on the floor of the House that there cannot be and shall not be tampering or anything like that. It has to be done according to the rules.

**SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY:** What about delay?

**SHRI AMAL DATTA:** There is nothing to process. What is the justification for delay? Let them explain....*(Interruptions)*

**MR. SPEAKER:** There is no such rule.

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:** It is mysterious that the report has been sent to the Defence Ministry...*(Interruptions)*. They can read the report after laying it on the Table of the House...*(Interruptions)\**

**MR. SPEAKER:** We discussed every thing yesterday. Nothing goes on record.

(Interruptions)\*

**MR. SPEAKER:** I have given my ruling yesterday.

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: They don't let me speak.

*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, we want a discussion on the Atrocities on Women and also a discussion on the Scarcity of Drinking Water.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall have the discussion on Atrocities on Women at 2.00 O' clock.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: What about the discussion on the Scarcity of Drinking Water.

MR. SPEAKER: That is after that.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Sir, has the Government indicated to you as to when the Report..

MR. SPEAKER: I can only say, Kishore Chandra that we discussed it yesterday in full detail. We have discussion on the floor of the House. Under the rules I did whatever I could. I have told the Government and I think they have taken a note of it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever I have to do, I have done.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have done my job and I think they will do it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: You ask them to place the report today. Why should not the Report be placed today?

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do that. Amalji I can only go to the limits up to which I am allowed, and I have gone that far. I have done whatever I could.

SHRIAMAL DATTA: The Government's only duty is to lay it on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER: What we did yesterday was that we decided..

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What did you decide?

MR. SPEAKER: I told you yesterday.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid. Shri Arunachalam.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIAMAL DATTA: The Report should be laid today so that we can discuss it on Monday.

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do that. I cannot assure you.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: You cannot dictate the Government.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No rules allow me to do that.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Sir, I have give a Privilege Motion against the Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already taken action and I will be getting back to you.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If the House does not like to proceed, I can adjourn the House. If you want to go like this, what can I do?

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHARY (Katwa): You first listen to us.

MR. SPEAKER: I listened you yesterday and I have listened you today also.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What is your ruling?

MR. SPEAKER: I have told you yesterday. Rulings are not repeated daily.

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: Yesterday I could not read it.

MR. SPEAKER: Then you read it.

Papers to be laid

11.13 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

**Annual Report and review on the working of Tool Room and Training Centre, Delhi for 1987-88 and statement correcting reply to vsq dated 7721 regarding mini cement plants**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Delhi, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Tool Room and Training Centre, Delhi, for the year 1987-88. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7965/89]
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) correcting the reply given on the 2nd May, 1989 to Unstarred Question No. 7721 by Shri Mohanbhai Patel regarding

mini cement plants. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-7966/89]

11.13 1/2 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Assam University Bill, 1989, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 11th May, 1989."

11.14 hrs.

ASSAM UNIVERSITY BILL

**As passed by Rajya Sabha**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the Assam University Bill, 1979, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

11.14 1/2 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILL

[English]

**Appropriation (No. 2) Bill, 1989**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I lay on Table the Appropriation (No.2) Bill, 1989 passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 7th April, 1989

11.15 hrs.

**WEALTH (INHERITANCE) DUTY BILL**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): On behalf of Shri S.B. Chavan, I beg to move \* for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a duty on the inheritance of wealth.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of a duty on the inheritance of wealth."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI A.K. PANJA: I introduce\* the Bill.

11.16 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

[English]

**(I) Need to cover cotton growers under Crop Insurance Scheme**

DR. DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar): The cotton growers of India are placed in a greater predicament than any other agricultural producers because cotton is produced in marginal semi-arid regions suffering recurring drought conditions and crop failures.

In normal years, they suffer from non-remunerative prices in production because of the growing use of man made fibres; glut in global production of cotton and the proliferation of sick mills.

Ways and means must be found to offer crop insurance schemes to cotton growers.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHURSHID AHMED CH- OUDHRY (Faridabad): Sir, I refer to an item which appeared in the *Tribune*. This is an important matter. The Central Government through their intelligence agencies has started operating in Haryana the destabilisa- tion of Shri Devi Lal's Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It does not concern us. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO (Parvathipuram): Sir, just now I asked you about my privilege motion against the Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh for deliberately misleading the House on Ram Janma Bhoomi issue. But just now, somebody from the Secretariat comes and whispers in my ear that it has been disallowed. Is this the man- ner in which we are to be informed? *(Inter- ruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH): How can I whisper such a thing from here? I have not whispered anything in his ear.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Not you. Somebody from the Secretariat came and whispered *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Har- bour): What is happening to Parliament? The motion which you say you have referred to them, has been disallowed by you! *(Inter- ruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Is this about the Babri Masjid issue? Just a minute please...Let me find out. There might have been a slip. Yes please. It has been disallowed. Sorry.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA: This is an impor- tant issue.

---

\*Moved/Introduced with the Recommendation of President.

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: This is a case of deliberate misleading of the House. It has even been flashed on the TV!

MR. SPEAKER: Well, we can discuss it if you come to me.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is there to discuss? We have to see whether he has misled the House or not.

MR. SPEAKER: That is all right. I have satisfied myself about it and I have disallowed it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): Sir, 23 workers were dismissed from service by the management of Behora Tea Estate in my constituency illegally...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter concerning the Assam State. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Sir, this is a clear case of deliberately misleading this august House.

MR. SPEAKER: I am satisfied about it.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Will you give a ruling Sir?

MR. SPEAKER: I will give my ruling if you like

SHRI AMAL DATTA: ...\*\*... *(Interruptions)* ...\*\*...

MR. SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow it.

S. BUTA SINGH: Sir, I take strong objection to it. It should be expunged.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum): He should apologise.

MR. SPEAKER: It is expunged.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not take your seats, I will adjourn the House.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Why should you adjourn the House?

MR. SPEAKER: Because you are not allowing me to run the House properly.

*(Interruptions)*

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377-CONTD

[*English*]

- (ii) **Need for a detailed survey for irrigation projects in Gundlupet Taluk of Mysore district to save it from continuing drought**

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD (Chamarajanagar): Gundlupet taluk located in Mysore district is declared as drought prone taluk, as it is now having any irrigation project.

Four tanks suffer due to failure of rains in catchment area. It is necessary to divert water from Nugu Hole or Hebballa valley for assuring water supply 2000 hectares existing under these 4 tanks and a fresh atchkat of about for the atchkat of about 1000 hectares enroute the canal.

To divert water, detailed survey has to be conducted. In the alternative surveys for storing water from Hebballa valley and diverting the same to Gundu river have to be conducted.

Preliminary investigations of proposals based on tope-sheet studies have been under progress since 1977. Project reports could not however be finalised as detailed surveys could not be conducted for want of permission from the Forest Department. The project lies within the territorial limits of Bandipur



National Park which comes under centrally sponsored 'Project Tiger', and any construction work in the reserved forest area will hamper the natural habitat and disturb the wild life and ecological environment.

I urge Union Government to grant permission to the State Government to conduct detailed investigations to find out the feasibility of the project.

—————  
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sreenivasa Prasad goes on record. That is all.

[*Translation*]

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Please give it to me in writing. I will look into it.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sreenivasa Prasad goes on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will look into it. Please sit down.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record. You sit down.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. SPEAKER: I have explained to the House whatever I have to explain.

[*Translation*]

Sir, I have repeated it several times. I have said what I had to. In plain words...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): I have sent you a letter yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER: I got your letter yesterday. I got your letter earlier also. I have replied to that. It is not a question of according to your wishes or their wishes. Simple it is.

(*Interruptions*)

—————  
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377-CONTD

[*English*]

(III) **Need to include scholars of Pali also for Grant of annual awards/certificates**

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): The Government of India confers annual awards and certificates to renowned scholars of Sanskrit, Arabic and Persian. These awards have brought recognition and also sustained a number of illustrious scholars—most of them in their old age.

The scholars of Pali are however, not included in this category in spite of the fact that Pali literature is one of the richest in Asia and is almost at par with Sanskrit in being a rich treasure house of ancient culture and philosophy. Pali is being in a number of Universities and Institutes of higher learning in our country at present and is also accepted as a subject of examination by the UPSC. Some collections of Pali literature and translations from this language have also been published by the Sahitya Akademi. Many neighbouring Buddhist countries like

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand; Laos, Kampuchea and Vietnam as also Japan have provided adequate facilities for the growth of Pali language and literature and for conducting research in this rich field.

I, therefore, request the Government of India to include the scholars of Pali for the grant of annual awards/certificates so as to provide them recognition and encouragement.

MR. SPEAKER: Don't interrupt me.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): What is your decision on that?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I am saying. You sit down. What has been done, has been done. Everything has been put before the House.

[Translation]

This House is supreme. It is the master. I am at its service. I have already said and repeat the same that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Everything is done in a systematic manner. What I have said is according to the rules and everything would be accomplished accordingly. I had said one thing. I stick to it and will stick to it in future also.

[English]

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is the law on the subject?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The law on the subject says that what you have asked for, has been already replied, and there is no other reply for it. The choice is yours. So far as I am concerned I am not bothered even if I am hanged to death for the cause of farmers. I am not afraid to face the consequences

either today or tomorrow. I have never been afraid of it.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down quietly.

[English]

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Pardhi is going on record. Nothing else goes on record.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record, except Mr Pardhi.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377—*CONTD.*

[Translation]

- (iv) **Need to direct DDA not to increase the announced cost of flats under self-financing scheme and also to allot flats to the registrants of HUDCO scheme of 1979**

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, DDA had recently issued charter of demands under the self financing scheme which showed he sudden increase of about 50 to 75 per cent of the cost of flats. Thousands of people were affected by it and they opposed it strongly. As a result the issue of charter of demand was suspended but no definite assurance for reducing the cost of flats has yet been given by D.D.A. In her reply to the unstarred question No. 7835 in the Lok Sabha, also, the hon.

Minister did not give a clear assurance for reducing the cost. Thousands of those who desire to acquire flats are worried on this account and are making frantic enquiries from the DDA office but the officials do not give satisfactory reply to them.

Besides, DDA has not yet allotted flats to those who registered their names under HUDCO scheme in 1979. It has deprived thousands of people of lower income group from getting flats.

The Government is urged upon the cancel the untimely and undue increase in the cost of flats under self financing scheme and provide considerable time to deposit money in order to provide relief to those who are really desirous of acquiring flats. They should also allot flats to the people of lower income group under HUDCO scheme immediately to do justice with them. (*Interruptions*)\*\*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing goes on record, except Mr. Pardhi.

[*English*]

- (v) **Need to provide inland water transport facility between Ernakulam and Kanyakumari**

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagarcoil): Provision of inland water transport facility between Ernakulam and Kanyakumari, the southern-most part of our country, would accelerate and promote greatly the economic and tourist activities of the south-western region of our country. Such a facility could be easily secured by the renovation and removal of the gaps that exist in some places, mainly between Kanyakumari and Trivandrum.

Previously, there was continuous and regular inland water facility between Kan-

yakumari and Trivandrum, through the ancient Ananda Victoria Marthanda Varma Canal. Subsequently, breaches occurred which closed some portions of the A.V.M. Canal with sand and earth, and they have not been removed for years. Due to non-maintenance and long neglected, now there is no continuous water transport service. If the gaps in the AVM Canal are removed and canal renovated, continuity could be restored, and a convenient and highly useful inland water transport facility could be easily achieved between Trivandrum and Kanyakumari too. By carrying out renovation and maintenance work further north between Trivandrum and Quilon, a very useful inland water transport facility between Ernakulam and Kanyakumari can be provided. Such a facility would greatly promote trade, commerce and tourism, and also provide cheaper and popular transport facility. It would promote national integration too.

In request that Government may take immediate steps for the speedy implementation of this inland water transport facility between Ernakulam and Kanyakumari.

- (vi) **Need to rehabilitate the Sir Silk Ltd. Kagaznagar In Andhra Pradesh by handing it over to the workers cooperative**

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): I wish to draw the attention of the Minister for Industries towards the closure of the Sir Silk Limited, Kagaznagar in Andhra Pradesh for more than four years, rendering more than 5,000 workers unemployed.

As a part of the programme to rehabilitate this industry, it was referred to the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR). But so far, no concrete scheme for reconstruction has emerged. I urge upon the Government to immediately rehabilitate the industry, by handing it over to the workers' cooperative, and remove the widespread distress of the workers and their dependents.

\*\*Not recorded.

**(vii) Need to Improve the tele-communication system in Sunderbans (West Bengal)**

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL (Joynagar): While nature has been bountiful in giving rich flora and fauna to Sunderbans in West Bengal, the entire area continues to be extremely backward and poverty-ridden. In the context of the present day fast developing tele-communications and micro-wave and satellite links for better communication, this area has been somewhat ignored. Schemes have been prepared but they seem to be gathering dust somewhere in the Department of Telecommunications at the Centre.

The scheme with five long distance public telephones on multi-access rural radio system with base station at Canning—the Gateway to Sunderbans—was likely to be commissioned in March last, but it has not as yet been done. On this depends further opening of long distance public telephones at the remaining places in the area and the State of West Bengal. I would urge for its early execution.

As regards the setting up of a micro-wave station in Sunderbans, the West Bengal Telecom. Circle and proposed the setting up of one 34 MB/S Digital system (420 channel) capacity between Calcutta and Canning during the current plan; but it is still awaiting final examination at the DOT Headquarters in New Delhi and allocation of funds. I will very strongly urge for its early clearance and implementation during this last year of the current plan. Both these systems, when commissioned, will not only boost the tourist traffic but also the economy of this poor and backward Sunderbans area.

[*Translation*]

**(viii) Need to direct NAFED to purchase onions in Gujarat to save the farmers from loss**

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAIMAVANI (Rajkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a severe drought for three succes-

sive years in Gujarat, there has been a good onion crop this year. But from financial point of view, this year too has proved to be a drought year. Due to good harvest, the price of onion has fallen so sharply in the wholesale market that the farmer can just manage to get only the cost of transportation and sometimes even less than that. In my view, the Government should formulate a policy according to which, whenever the prices of commodities fall, the Government agency should intervene without any delay in order to check the prices. Some policy should be formulated to divide the burden of loss borne by the agency.

NAFED or any other Government agency should be directed to purchase onions in Gujarat immediately in the interest of onion growers there.

The Government of Gujarat is ready to bear half the loss borne by NAFED in this work. If the Central Government agrees to bear the remaining loss and direct NAFED to intervene in the matter, then the farmers can be saved.

**(ix) Need to ensure regular water supply to the villages of Outer Delhi**

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water in my area—outer Delhi, particularly in Ochandi and Outabgarh villages is brackish. So, water from Nazafgarh—Haidarpur Tank is supplied there. But there is acute shortage of drinking water in Tikri-Kalan and Hir Kudana. Many other villages are also facing acute shortage of drinking water. Drinking water available in all the villages two years ago, but the population of Rohini, Vikaspuri, Paschim Vihar and Pritampura has increased manifold. Most of the water is consumed in these areas. The Haidarpur plant is located in Haidarpur village but the people of this area are deprived of water supply. Another plant should be set up there at the earliest in order to provide drinking water in every village in Delhi. Till then water should be provided

through tankers in the areas which are running short of drinking water.

11.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

**Liberalisation of Orders Improving Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Government Posts/Services—Contd.**

MR. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in the House on the 19th April, 1989 regarding liberalisation of orders with a view to improving the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities in Central Government Posts/Services, raised by Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy on 4th May, 1989. This discussion will go upto 2 P.M.

The House shall also take up discussion under Rule 193 under item no. 7 at 2 P.M.

The House shall also take up discussion under Rule 193 under item no. 8 at 4 P.M.

Shri Balkavi Bairagi.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the House. As you are yourself a Sanskrit scholar and might be familiar with the Vedas our ancient scriptures—I would like to draw your attention from the new view point. You may be aware that till the Vedic period, the Vedic literature makes no reference to two words.

The first is Harijan and the other is 'Shudra'. There is no reference even to untouchability. These words are unknown to Indian culture. I would draw the attention of the august House that these two words, 'Harijan' and untouchability, are not found either in the Indian culture or in our scriptures. These were added afterwards.

Our Vedic tradition, or literacy tradition is 5000 years old. It is a serious issue to have a discussion in Lok Sabha as to whether the Government should continue with reservation or not. In this context, first, I am grateful to Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who, while addressing rally at Lucknow, announced that the reservation facilities will continue till 2000 A.D. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may be aware that it was Mahatma Gandhi who coined the word 'Harijan' for Hindi dictionary. One thing more, towards which I would like to draw the attention of the learned Member of this House is that Mahatma Gandhi had once remarked that "I wish to be born from the womb of a Harijan mother in my next birth, if at all I get next birth, I want to be born as a Harijan in my next birth" Mahatma Gandhi had uttered these words, while expressing his agony over the matter. It is our earnest duty to work for the development of Harijans and Adivasis and the Congress has taken this responsibility sincerely.

The Congress party is not doing anything new. While it was out of power, it was doing this thing through propagating ideology and arousing mass awakening and now in power, it is doing this through launching programme.

I don't swallow one thing over my throat. At times some of our colleagues say that reservation should be given on the basis of economic condition. I would like to submit them that how a community which has been suppressed on caste line for the last five thousand years is expected to be so developed within 40-42 years that it can be self-sufficient. Poverty can be one of the criteria, but the reservation policy in its present form should be continued till the standard of living of the suppressed communities also come at

[Sh Balkavi Bairagi]

par with the others. We have to bear the brunt of our ancestor's atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit with all its seriousness that I have seen those days, hon. Members of this House might not aware of it, that during the regime of Holkar in my State, under the law a harijan may build a temple, but cannot instal an idol in it. If he could dare to install the deity in the temple built by him, he was prosecuted and punished. I have seen this by my own eyes and members of Congress party had started movement against it and were jailed. What an irony it is that a well could be dug with the toil of a harijan, but he cannot use the water of that well. To such an extent, untouchability was practised in our country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are discussing this issue in the House under your chairmanship and the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and trying to make the country understand the seriousness of this matter. I would like to submit that 15 and 7.5 per cent reservations have been provided for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. This reservation of 22 1/2 per cent is fulfilled in D class jobs only, but in A, B & C classes, this quota is not fulfilled. I would like to thank Shri Chidambaram, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and his Government for the announcement to the effect that the reservations will not be allowed to be lapsed till all the reserved vacancies are not fulfilled. Those posts will remain vacant till qualified persons from these categories are appointed. This should be made clear in the country. I was surprised to hear yesterday that some of the Members of this House who call themselves as progressive, stated that this work in being done keeping elections in view. Sir if we do something for the welfare of farmers, the opposition says that we are doing it for the benefit of elections if we take any steps for the welfare of labourers, women, scheduled castes or scheduled tribes, the opposition links it with the elections.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishan-

ganj): Because for the last 4 years, you did nothing and now you have started speaking in the fifth year.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Sir, you as well as we are well aware of the fact that as the who are the persons talking in the fifth years. I would like to submit to my friend that I don't want to name anyone. All of you know that for the last 103 years, we have been fighting for it. Your life span is for five years only and you remain alive for quarter to five years only. In the last three months you cease to function. My friend, I don't want to start this discussion. I would only like to request that we don't link elections with scheduled castes, minorities or muslims. I would like to ask how the opposition people also got elected under the policy of reservation. In opposition also, there are members belonging to schedule castes or scheduled tribes or muslim communities. They also get elected under this reservation policy. You should mind it that if we have adopted strategy keeping elections in view, we would have done it otherwise. We would have created condition in which even 2-3 otherwise. We should have created condition in which even 2-3 members who are otherwise being seen here, have not come here. So, let it be not linked with the elections. We realise the agony of the people every minute, every time, every year and we bear with it. Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to make a request to you. I would like to narrate my own experience to my friends belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that the behaviour of the officers, who get employment under reservation policy, with the people of their own community is quite disappointing. The police inspector belonging to SC/ST communities posted in my constituency committed more atrocities on the persons belonging to scheduled castes and I have to come for their rescue. A harijan give witness against another harijan. I am not saying that they should not make efforts to stop crimes. Excesses on anyone should be checked. But it is matter to be considered by them as what are their duties after getting promotions. Those who have become self-depend-

ent should provide opportunity to others to become so.

I would like to make yet another submission. May be, my this suggestion will be useful for you in future. I have no objection, if at present you take it as joke, but I would like to submit that many of my friends belonging to caste Hindu have got employment by showing themselves as scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. They have done a crime what punishments should be given to them. If you will accept my suggestion, the country will be very happy. Those who have taken employment on wrong certificates are forced to do the job of the caste of which they have produced the certificate for the period they remain in employment on the basis of forged certificate. Suppose, they have got the job by showing themselves as sweepers, they are a forced to work as sweepers. Then only they will understand the meaning of getting jobs by changing the caste.

My Speaker, Sir, earlier there was no caste or class fragmentation in our country. Castes were assigned on the basis of profession, but later on this system was distorted by the society and such a system was made in which, people of some particular caste were suppressed. We have to do the penance for it. If we can do something for their welfare by doing it, we should not hesitate. We should not do it as charity measure. I would like to make yet another submission. During Janta regime, some of the members who are making hue and cry now were in Congress Party then. We all know how that Government came into power, but now these people want to forget it and they are linking our steps with elections. Why should we take steps keeping elections in view.? In 1980, when the Congress Government came into power again, Shrimati Indira Gandhi extended the reservation for another ten years by bringing a Bill in the Lok Sabha, though elections were already over. What did these people do at that time? We brought the Bill after the elections were over and we have won the elections. We felt that we should set undone the wrong which was done during Janta Government. The Congress Party has

to bear the brunt of the right and wrong things done by the opposition. The Congress Party is the only responsible party in the country. You know that only a responsible person feel responsibility and accountability. No accountability is expected from an irresponsible person. I don't raise finger against the people, but I can certainly raise fingers against irresponsible parties. We run the democratic system through political parties. These are the persons who have not succeeded in organising a political party even two months before elections and if they are asked to tell about their leader, they say that they are still deciding. If asked about the venue of their meetings, they would say that the meetings are being held in Haryana House, now they do not refer to Karnataka House. Earlier it was held in Andhra House. What can you expect from those, who are unable to decide about their leader even six months before the elections or unable to adopt a symbol for their party. I would like to submit that Shri Rajiv Gandhi was our leader, he is our leader and he will be our leader in future also. I am saying it with full confidence. Let them tell the name of their leader, their party or their symbol. They have nothing to say and the whole country has to suffer....(*Interruptions*). Those who have nothing to do, will link everything with elections. But the Congress Party has not done anything out of elections compulsion. It is our duty to fight the distortion in our system brought about after the Vedic civilization. We are the successors of Gandhiji, Nehruji and Indiraji. Shri Chidambaram will give the reply, I am only making submission I am proud that it was Shri Baba Saheb Ambedkar, who gave us the right to vote and who was one of the framers of the Constitution of the country. We all know the community to which he belonged. It is Shri Shankaranand with whose signature the voting right has been given to the youths of 18 years of age. We have done it. It has not been done through any other person. It has been done through a person who comes from the society for whose advancement we have been struggling the day in and day out. I would request that this reservation policy should be allowed to continue and reserved posts should be filled with the reserved cate-

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

gory only, even though people of other categories are available. It will a violation of the Constitution, if you will break your commitment. Commitment is more valuable than life. We are committed and such people are often tested in the history. I would like to submit to all the hon. Members, political parties and the Government that it should not be linked with election and votes. I am happy that you have listened to me seriously and quietly.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): The reservation in public employment for the backward classes is a gift of the Constitution and has a national consensus behind it.

[Translation]

BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Elections were not held at the time when the Constitution was prepared. I am sorry.

[English]

SHRISYED SHAHABUDDIN: The election came as a result of the Constitution

This principle of protective discrimination and affirmative action in favour of the backward sections of society has a specific object. The object is to raise the backward sections to the average level of the society in due course.

We have failed in this objective. We thought that ten years were adequate, we found it was not. And now we are finding that forty years were not adequate for the purpose. In this view of the matter, I do not accept the statement of the hon. Minister that the mandate of articles 14 and 26 has been fulfilled. The mandate of articles 14 and 16 is equality and not the persistence of inequality. The sub-sections which he has perhaps in mind, refer to affirmative action in order to produce a regime of equality. There-

fore, I would suggest that we should think how we can correct this national failure. In the meantime, there is absolutely no option for the country but to prolong the regime of reservation by another decade. This has again national support and that is why I feel that it should not be presented as a partisan question.

Having said this, I would like to make a plea to the Government that there is a demand all over the country for a revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The same tribes which are fragmented among different States, enjoy reservation in one State but do not enjoy reservation in the other. That applies also to the same caste groups. This anomaly must be removed. This contradiction must be removed. Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should come up with a comprehensive revision of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order and should try to update the list.

Coming to the question before us, on the question of backlog, from a purely scientific point of view, without opposing the principle behind it, I have to ask certain questions. If the backlogs are to be accumulated indefinitely and the experience shows that the vacancies earmarked for reservation are not filled every year, then, the question is how far shall we go? After all, one fine year, eligible persons, qualified persons are not going to drop from heaven. Statistics also have a certain truth. Therefore, in the meantime, when we keep the places vacant indefinitely, particularly in relation not so much to the case of general administration but particularly in relation to what I call the technical posts, I think it is going to give rise to a certain injection of inefficiency in the system. For example, if a certain number of posts of medical doctors are kept vacant and the vacancies are accumulated over a period of time, then obviously the system of medical delivery, the system of medical service for the people is going to suffer from these constant vacancies. The amount of service that we wish to provide to the people, shall not be provided in the mean time. Therefore,



this indefinite accumulation will create its own problems. My own solution would have been that at least insofar as the technical posts are concerned, let us wait for two years, three years. The backlog can be carried forward. But after three years, at any given point of time, for not more than three years, the available quota of reservation should be accumulated. In the fourth year, the first year's quota should be generalised. Some such arrangement should be there so that the level of the vacancies of the proportion of the vacancies does not produce this condition of inefficiency in the services that I pointed out. (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): You are saying generalised. Are you saying these should be de-reserved?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: After three years.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: No, we have banned reservation.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: You must give the rationale. That is what I am saying. I am with you in principle and yet I may point out to you a certain difficulty and you should give a rational answer to that. The same thing applies to technical posts. We have certain facilities for technical training. Assuming that they are kept vacant, then it is an under-utilisation of the system that we have created at great national cost. Why should it be kept unutilised or under-utilised? Under-utilisation, amounts to national waste and, therefore, there also there has to be some rational answer to this question that if we create certain facilities for industrial or technical training or technological training at a high cost, every seat costs so much and the unit cost we have got to keep in mind while considering whether the persons with a minimum qualification, absolutely minimum qualification, are available or not available at a given point of time to fill up the reservation

quota. As far as promotion is concerned, I have been in public service and I think, from two angles, it has created problem. It has created a lot of heat-burning in the various bureaucratic systems and cadres where you find that somebody who was working under you suddenly jumps and becomes your boss and this gives rise to certain frictions and certain tensions in the society. Sir, I have a feeling that from another angle, it is not equitable that the same person, for example, who was admitted in medical college on the reservation quota should also enjoy a second facility or having entered the Government service under reservation quota should enjoy the facility of reservation a second time in his own life. After all he has been brought in line and he has been given marching orders and then he should not expect somebody to back him up at every level, at every post. Therefore, even in principle I see something unwise in reservation in promotion in giving the facility of benefit or reservation to the same individual more than once or twice in his own life-time. At every stage he gets support. Why? Once he has been brought to the level of the rest of his pens. he has got to march ahead in his own. Yes, I know the answer. The answer is that our backward friends, our reservation quota friends feel that the reporting system is not fair to them. The minister has introduced a scientific method, he has got to adopt a scientific method to see to it that the reporting system is fair to all concerned and is as objective as possible. That is the matter for the hon. Minister to look into.

Similarly, Sir, this brings another point. I find that the reservation benefit is being limited to a few families. For example, if a Harijan becomes an IAS officer, then why should his son be entitled to the benefit of reservation? I see no reason at all, absolutely no justice, no equity in this and it is not only unfair to the society, it is unfair to the other members of the Harijan community. I would like the benefit of the reservation to be as widely diffused in the society as possible. Let other families take advantage of it. Let another group of people take advantage of it from the same milieu, from the same sub-

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

society. I would not mind. But I would certainly very much mind why the benefit of reservation should remain limited to the same family.

Sir, finally, I would plead at this point of time, very briefly, that some thought should be given to the question of universalisation of reservation. There are backward sections in every community. Are there backward Harijans? Are there backward Muslims? There are backward people in every community. Why can't we think of a system of universalisation of reservation but subject to a uniform economic criterion so that the benefit of reservation in any community applies only to the economically, socially and educationally backward sections of that group? With these words, I generally support the proposal of the Government. It is good as far as it goes, but it raises certain very basic questions and I would like the hon. Minister to apply his mind to the questions that I have raised. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would first like to thank Shri Chidambaram for his statement on the 19th April, 1989.

[English]

"regarding liberalisation of orders with a view to improving the representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes communities in Central Government Post/ Services"

[Translation]

and I would like to submit with regard to the discussion taking place here in that connection that while keeping in view the contention of Shri Syed Shahabuddin and other hon. Members of the Opposition, that the Congress Government have provided considerable encouragement to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes who have been sup-

pressed since ages and have for long carried the stigma of being outcastes. They have been encouraged socially, economically, educationally and also politically. In this connection, I would like to submit that the Congress party has been committed to the upliftment of these classes and from the very outset, provisions were made for their welfare in the constitution after it formed the Government of independent India. All possible radical measures have been taken during the last 40-42 years and of which reservation of posts and services in the Central Government constitutes a small part. This policy applies to the State Services as well. In this context, Shri Chidambaram deserves to be congratulated for his statement on behalf of the Government regarding the proposed liberalisation to be made shortly for the welfare of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

12.01 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

But how far such liberalisation will take place in what we are anxious to know. I would like to submit that the position of the harijans have improved much during these 40 years of the Congress Rule. An harijans in not discriminated against in any public transport system, educational institution etc. He is not told to get off a train if he happens to be travelling by it or to leave a hotel or an educational institutions if he happens to be eating or studying there. Major social changes have been brought under the Congress Rule. The Congress Government deserves to be congratulated for it. So far as reservations are concerned, the subject under discussion at the moment, I would like to draw your attention to it. At the same time, I welcome the statement of Shri Chidambaram and urge upon him to make efforts to enhance the existing quota of reservation of 15 per cent in the case of scheduled castes and 7 1/2 per cent in the case of scheduled tribes in the Central Government services. This has been proposed in view of the increase in population. As such reservations are made on population basis, therefore, they should

be enhanced on account of increase in population which can be verified from the 1st census report. But it has also to be kept in mind as Shri Shahabuddin has suggested just now that one member of every backward family should be entitled to avail of reservation in the matter of appointments but the same should not apply in the case of promotions. I would have welcome his point of view had there been a change in the attitude of society. Unless there is a change in the attitudes of people occupying senior positions in the country and they realise that everyone is equal, the suggestions made by Shri Shahabuddin cannot be practicable. Because, despite the provision of reservation made in the constitution, a lot of heart-burning is created at the promotions level in the Central Services, although the situation is not the same at the time of fresh appointments and appointments are made in the reserved category as per rules. Whatever our friends in the Opposition have submitted is all right. But they have also said that political, economic and social backwardness should be made the criteria for reserving posts in the Government. The drawing up of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes list has been made on the basis of social and economic backwardness. Perhaps they have forgotten to mention this point. In connection with the economic backwardness and facilities provided to them, I would like to submit that there are other classes of people as well who suffer from social and economic backwardness and are discriminated against but these facilities are not available to them. The practise of untouchability has been abolished by law, still we can observe in our villages that such attitudes have not been changed. In order to remove such attitudes, there should be a uniform law in the country. It should be applicable to each and every citizen of the country. and only then it can be a welcome step. I would like to draw the attention of Shri Chidambaram to the recent case pertaining to the upgradation of a Central Government post. The post of the Deputy Secretary was to be upgraded to that of a Director and accordingly suitable people were to be appointed in that position. A panel of only 15 candidates was drawn up because

the 16th candidate was a Scheduled Caste. That is why the panel was closed after the inclusion of the 15th person. Moreover, as there were no Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidates among the first 15, so that panel consisted of 15 candidates who were to be promoted as Directors eventually and the 16th candidate was denied this post because he belonged to the scheduled caste. This sort of attitude must be removed. I would like to request Shri Chidambaram. that efforts should be made to enlarge the panel drawn up recently so that more names could be included. If the administrative authorities display such attitudes while drawing up the panel, it will not be possible for the officials of the Government to do justice to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So far as promotions are concerned, I agree with Shri Shahabuddin on the point that there is a lot of heart-burning at the promotion level. When one finds that somebody who has been working under you, suddenly supercedes and becomes your boss, it obviously creates resentment. Therefore, it is proposed that the constitutional provision of reservation should be withdrawn and merit should be made the universal criteria. however, before doing away with it, do we not have ensure that we have an equal society? In view of the existing socio-economic disparities, this provision cannot be withdrawn and it will have to remain till inequalities prevail in our society. Until equality is guaranteed in the country, the reservation system shall have to continue. It can be changed only when due social awareness is created in this regard and the people are motivated to launch a mass struggle against the existing disparities in society.

The issue of backward classes has been raised. The Mandal Commission's recommendations have been mentioned in this connection but which are lying in cold storage at present. There are several groups among the backward classes who are worse off than even harijans. If reservations cannot be made for them in the political sphere, it should be made for them in the services and in admissions to different educational institutions. It is not proper to suggest that if a

[Sh. Ram Ratan Ram]

person belonging to these groups gets admission in the reserved quota, he shall not be eligible for similar privilege while applying for Government service. Until such privilege is guaranteed in the services, not a single harijan or adivasi will be recruited in the post of a doctor, engineer, I.A.S. or I.P.S. Keeping in view the existing attitudes of the society, if the Government taken steps in this direction, then we would know as to how far they are earnest in what they have said. The condition of harijans and adivasis is very different from the rest of the society. Some people have perverted attitude. It is not proper to speak of quality under such circumstances. And we will continue to hold this view until these depressed classes are uplifted from both the social and economic point of view. The people of this country would charge that disparities prevail in the country which ought to be removed and the Congress is committed to remove them. The hon. Members belonging to my party have said so rightly. The Opposition parties got the opportunity to set things right for three long years. But they did not make any efforts at any stage to take some measures for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. The people expressed their faith in them but as soon as they came to power they forgot all about it and began mutual bickerings for portfolios with the result that they lost the confidence of the people why they had won. Now, the same people pose themselves as their well-wishers. This kind of double policy will not do. If issues pertaining to the people are to be raised, their welfare should be the primary concern and if you talk of politics and policies, then you should discuss them explicitly. Mere fruitless talking without having any definite policy will not do. So far as the question of liberalisation of reservation and its extension is concerned, the Government deserves to be congratulated. As regards the decision not to resort to de-reservation, and that dereservation will not take place until all reserved vacancies are filled is also praiseworthy. But at the same time, a Central Act should be enacted to provide a legal

safeguard against the violation of rules in this regard.

So far as the question of writing Confidential Reports is concerned, the hon. Ministers also used to write them earlier, which they may have forgotten now...(Interruptions)...I would like to submit in this matter that until C.R. entries are made with due strictness, there will be no fear in their mind. Until powers are given to the court to taken deterrent action in such cases, they will not be afraid of it. By merely giving them relaxation will not do. In spite of reservations which have been made for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they have not been able to get rid of their apprehensions completely. It is a matter of satisfaction that liberalisation has been made in the qualifying marks for admissions etc. and the decision taken to stop dereservation in filling up vacancies of Technical nature where not many suitable candidates are available but I would like to draw your attention to the Civil Services and judiciary where the provision for reservation does not apply. If reservation does not exist at the level of the judiciary, how can we expect the weaker sections to get justice. Judiciary is in the hands of those very people who have not changed their attitudes and have exploited them and treated them unfairly. The scales of justice are in their hands with the result that cases remain pending for years and justice is not available to the weaker sections, of society. Therefore, it is essential to do something in this regard.

Alongwith it, I would like to make one or two points more. Although the issue of revision of lists is not related with the subject under discussion, still as it is connected with the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I would like to raise it. There are many such eligible groups in the country who have not been included in the schedule and which should be done. The Kurmi tribe of Chotta Nagpur is one such example. This tribe was included in list till 1921 but which has since been withdrawn. Their position should be restored so that they can get the opportunity to come up.

With these words, I thank you.

[English]

SHRID.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is one of the rare occasions in which the Opposition is in a position to welcome the steps taken by the Government. I am glad that the Government had taken a decision to put a ban on dereservation.

While welcoming this step, I would request the Government to go to the root cause of the situation which has compelled the Government to take this decision. It is a common experience that though there are reservations earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, some reservations are not being filled, some seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not filled because of certain attitude of the appointing authorities, administrative authorities.

I want to quote from the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for 1986-87 in which a very important observation has been made on p.39:-

"One of the regrettable aspects of implementation of the policy of positive discrimination is that it is generally accepted in a formal way without much regard for the spirit behind it. The result is that even innocuous technical points can be used to deny the rightful due to members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes."

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes people are denied the rightful place due to themselves. Why should it happen? This is happening, not particularly for the last 40 years but since reservation has been made in the Constitution. The backlog has been created only because the facilities which ought to have been made available to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in education are not being provided for. The present position is even though the ban on

dereservation is put here, how far and how long are we going to have ban on dereservation? The ban on dereservation creates a very bad feeling among the people. Instead of putting a ban on dereservation, I would urge the Government to see that there is no backlog at all in the Services. That means there will have to be special efforts on the part of the Government that whatever opportunities are made available to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes they should be made available in the initial stages only when recruitment is made.

This stage can be reached if only all educational facilities are provided to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Again I would refer to the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has been stated on p.483.

"On 1-1-87 the reservation of the Scheduled Tribes in the Services is:

Class I	2.5
Class III	1.92
Class III	4.23
Class IV	5.84"

As far as Scheduled Castes are concerned, even Class III are not fully represented. Class A and B and C are represented on a very low scale.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister within how much time the reservation that has been made for the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes would be fully met. Certain time-limit should be laid down. Until the time-limit is laid down, it will be going on like this and there will be ill-feeling among the people. People will say "Why are you denying that opportunity to them for whom there is no reservation?" But, taking into consideration that reservation has been made for the particular population, who have suffered since long not only hundreds of years

[Sh. D.B. Patil]

but thousands of years, we have nothing to grudge against them. On the contrary, we should welcome it.

It is stated that Government has, to a large extent, fulfilled the mandate of Article 16. I have quoted the representation of the Scheduled Tribes in the services. This indicates clearly that what the Government has said is not correct.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another point. Article 16 requires that special protection should be given to those who are educationally and socially backward. Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are getting protection under the Constitution. This Article 16 Sub-clause (4) provides for protection to be given to the backward people. For that purpose, Kaka Kalelkar Commission was appointed, But the recommendations of that Commission were not implemented. Thereafter, the Mandal Commission was appointed. The Mandal Commission has stated that the other Backward Communities which are socially and educational backward constitute 52 per cent of the population. I would also request the Government that it must provide protection for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people who constitute 22 1/2 per cent of the population. The Mandal Commission has stated that the Backward Class constitute 52 per cent of the population. The Constitution has provided certain provisions for the socially and educationally backward people and those provisions should be implemented. Their interests should be protected. In this connection, I have to point out that though some special provisions have been provided under the Constitution, they are not being implemented. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that 52 per cent of the population has been denied the rights which it was entitled to. They are socially and educationally backward people. The Mandal Commission report has been submitted in the year 1980. Since then, while the then Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi was there in

power, at least the matter was discussed in this House sometime for the purpose of implementation of those recommendations. Committees and Sub-Committees were appointed at the level of the Minister, at the level of the Secretary. But that was done at the time of Mrs. Indira Gandhi. But now under the Prime Ministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi nothing has been said and discussed about the Mandal Commission's Report and recommendations. That Report has been kept in the cold storage. So, I would like to take this opportunity to urge upon the Government that while it is providing for special facilities for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it should see that those provisions are properly implemented. I would further request that the Mandal Commission Report should be taken into consideration and its recommendations should be accepted and implemented.

SHRI P.K. THUNGO (Arunachal West): Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for making the statement on 19th April, 1989, regarding liberalisation of orders with a view to improving the representation of Scheduled castes and Schedule Tribes Communities in Central Government Posts/Services.

Sir, at the outset, I would like to request the Government, through you, not to be deterred by certain sections of the people and certain forces which are against reservation for the downtrodden people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities, for the uplift of socially and educationally backward people. This august House is aware that there are certain forces in our country to destabilise the unity and integrity of this country. There are forces which take advantage of all kinds of bickerings in our society and the slight difference not only to destabilise the Government but also to destabilises the whole country and thus knowingly or unknowingly they get themselves involved in such acts become tools of those people who cannot see India as a united, strong and progressive nation. Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to yield to those forces which are against the

interests of this country. Why I am saying this is, as you are aware, in Gujarat, there were processions and demonstrations against reservations. This is against the provisions of the Constitution. That is an anti-national act. That is anti-constitution. These are certain prognostications and signs where people are trying to thwart the Constitutional provisions to protect the interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. These are the reasons why the ugly heads of destabilisation, ugly heads of rebellion, are rising in some tribal areas like Jharkhand and other places. Therefore, I would like to caution our friend Mr. Shahabuddin when he asks why a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe man should keep on getting repeated facilities in his own life. For thousands of years, such facilities were taken by certain communities in this country right from the Vedic period. Forty years is nothing in comparison to thousands of years. Therefore, I would like to urge on my learned friend Mr. Shahabuddin not to bring out such things which will stir up in the society where we have already enough problems.

India is a country where we have so many communities, so many languages and so many traditions. Some traditions are set up by the people themselves in course of time. But some traditions are settled through certain action of the Government. It may be a democratic Government or it may be a monarchical Government or whatever form of Government. Certain traditions are set up in the society through the actions of Government. This is why, our founding fathers of constitution also considered this problem and provided for this reservation.

I welcome the statement of the hon. prime Minister for extension of the constitutional provisions for the next ten years. I think, by this statement, our Prime Minister has given a hope to the down-trodden people of this country who were thinking they might miss this in the near future. Ten years of renewal of this constitutional provision is going to be completed by the end of this year. There are people in the opposition who, I think, suffer

from jaundice because one who suffers from jaundice sees everything yellow. About this statement of the Prime Minister also they have said that it is a political announcement. And when the Prime Minister has announced giving constitutional status to Panchayatiraj, that also they say is politically motivated. I would like to say that they keep on opposing just for the sake of opposition. The people of this country are not fools. They are not going to gain out of this. Therefore, I would request them at least to support the genuine cause of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who have been suffering for thousands of years.

I have a few suggestions to make. About the reservation, I would like to suggest a time-bound programme. Whatever has not been filled up, should be filled up within a time-bound framework.

About the relaxation of percentage in selection, there is a provision of five per cent reduction for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students in many cases. At times, it is interpreted as reduction of five marks, for example, at the time of admission to IITs or in medical colleges.

This should be 5% reduction. In that way we will be getting more number of SC and ST students.

Since I have no time, I will put my last point which is very important. We have been talking about the revision of the list of SC and ST. My friends have already said about this and I only want to add that for the last about seven years we have been talking about giving tribal status to the people of Ladakh; but the matter had not materialised so far.

I am told that a survey was conducted there and the statutory requirements have been fulfilled. Even after that, the Government has sent back again to the Government of Jammu and Kashmir for consultation. Once the statutory provisions are fulfilled, there is no need of waiting for their reply on consultation. Straightway the Government should declare Ladakhis as Scheduled



[Sh. P.K. Thungon]

Tribes. I am told that in 1983 the present Chief Minister, who was the Chief Minister at that time also, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, himself had written that all those communities who are residing in Ladakh should be declared as Scheduled Tribes because of the remoteness of the area and the problems of Ladakh. I request that this should be considered favourably.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I heartily support the debate regarding the reservation and promotion for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Government services which is in progress in the House. I am doing this because my party has always been espousing the cause of the oppressed and the weaker sections.

We had the opportunity of listening to a number of points. The Government has even been congratulated. However, I would like to put a few questions. In the matter of reservations, even after 42 years the Government still expresses its inability on the plea that suitable persons are not available to fill the vacancies. But for class IV category they are always available. What is the percentage of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in the class IV employees who have been appointed? A number of workers in class III category are educated. They are capable of being appointed as clerks, but they are doing the scavenging work. Yet the Government claims that every possible step is being taken for the upliftment of the weaker sections and the harijans. Who stops you from appointing them as clerks? You are only misleading the people.

The Government had misled the masses in 1971 also by its slogan of *garibi hatao*. This slogan was raised throughout the country but poverty was not eradicated. This is 1989 and not 1971. 18 years have passed and the child born in that year is today a youth of 18. He has understood your trick.

You make such statements only during the elections. Everyone knows that this is merely an election gimmick that the Government is doing something for the welfare of the harijans. How can justice be possible when the protector himself becomes the predator. The Government passed a number of laws viz., the Land Ceiling Act and proposed to distribute land among the poor and the weaker sections. Did the Government implement this honestly? Is it not an eye-wash? The Government cannot do anything against the erstwhile landlords because some of them are members of Parliament? I would like to ask as to who is responsible for the demolition of the 200 harijan houses in Bhagalpur on the 6th of this month. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs should conduct an enquiry in the Sunwarsa area. Everybody is agitating in the Sumkulha village but only the communist Party people are being arrested because they opposed this action. Where have all those people gone who used to advocate the cause of the harijans and adivasis and made tall claims. Rights can not be begged for, one has to fight for them. Therefore, the youth belonging to the weaker sections have blown the bugle of agitation for getting their rights and now the Government is facing problem. What steps has the Government taken for the welfare of the adivasis. Honestly, tell us who has got all their lands which they possessed even during the times of Britishers. Who is the landlord these days? It is your own people who are in possession of all the land and you can not raise your finger at them. you can only deceive people but this is not going to continue for long. Today if the adivasi youth is doing something or raising his voice the Government says that he is drifting away from the national mainstream. How long can he survive in this mainstream as a beast? I would like to ask whether we, the poor people are not human beings? What steps has the Government taken for their welfare in all these years? Had the Adivasis not changed their religion, they would not have got jobs in Government Offices. The adivasi men and women have got high posts after being converted as Christians. What has the Government done for them. I would like to



say that stop this deception. If the Government is keen in their welfare, only harijan and adivasis should be recruited in the class III vacancies so that they may at least get their rights. With their words, I conclude.

\*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): I rise to speak a few words in support of the statement made by Shri Chidambaram, Hon'ble Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in the House on the 19th April, 1989 regarding liberalisation of orders with a view to improving the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Communities in Central Government Posts/Services. We have been discussing the statement made by the Minister for last two days. Many Hon'ble Members have expressed their views on the steps taken by the Government to protect the interest of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by providing them reservation facilities. I would also like to express my views on that subject. At the outset, I would like to extend my thanks to Shri Chidambaram for making the statement in the House. Sir, the entire House is aware of the fact that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lagging far behind other communities. The Scheduled Tribes are more backward than the Scheduled Castes communities. The reasons for their backwardness are known to everybody. The Members who preceded me have already pointed out the reasons of the backwardness of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I do not want to take much time of the House by repeating those points. As the time at my disposal is very short, I would only like to concentrate my speech on the statement made by the Minister. However, I would like to highlight certain problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the matter of employment. I would also like to give some suggestions to the Government in that regard and would like them to be implemented so that the Scheduled Tribe candidates will get due protection.

Sir, the Constitution of India has given certain rights and privileges to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. Certain

percentages of posts are being reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe's in some category of services. According to the earlier practice the posts earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates were being dereserved when suitable candidates were not available from among those communities. As you know, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are backward. qualified candidates are always not available in these communities. As a result of that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates do not turn up for interviews. In those cases the employers keep the post vacant for a certain period and then they fill up the vacancies by general candidates. But in many cases we find some thing different. The employers even fill up the vacancies by general candidates at the first interview itself when they find that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates have not turned up. In some cases some employers even disqualify the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates and inform the Government that the posts earmarked for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates are being filled up by general candidates due to the non availability of suitable candidates from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. However the situation will not remain like that after this announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister. The dereservation system is going to be banned. The posts earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe candidates will be kept in reserve. So, the Scheduled Castes and scheduled Tribe candidates will get justice. I would like to thank the Minister for making the statement in this regard. More and More number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates will now get employment. But, the problem will not be solved only by making the reservation. We will have to pay more attention on making them qualified and suitable for those jobs. For that, I would like to stress upon the point of providing education facilities to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. Necessary assistance should be extended to them right from the primary school up to higher institutions so that they will be able to complete their

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Sh. Harihar Soren]

education. You know the environment in which Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students get education. It is not possible for them to continue their education in that environment. Therefore there is a need to provide adequate hostel facilities for them in schools, colleges and Universities. Sir, in his statement the Minister has said about improving representation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the Central Governments posts/services. But, I would like to request the Minister for making provision of reservations for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in private sector too. If we do not raise the economic status of those communities, they cannot provide education to their children. Without proper education, how can they get the jobs reserved for them? Therefore, I would like to give a few suggestions as to how we can strengthen the economic condition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities mostly live in villages. Agriculture and small scale Industry are their main vocation. Some of them are small and marginal farmers. Rest work in the fields. They are employed as agricultural workers by the big landlords. The Government have adopted land reforms measures. But the landless Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe workers could not get sufficient land. So, I urge upon the Government to provide more and more cultivable lands to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so that they will be able to earn their livelihood from agriculture.

Sir, it is unfortunate that any step taken by the Government for the upliftment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe is being politicised by the opposition. They have been linked with election. As a result of that the real development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not being paid proper attention by the Government officials. Therefore I would like to appeal every section of the House that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes problems

should be kept free from politics. Sir, our Government has realised the genuine problem of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. I thank the Government for making sincere efforts for the socio-economic development of these down trodden communities. I request to the Minister to continue the efforts made in that direction.

Lastly, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a discussion is in progress regarding the reservation and promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government Services under Rule 193. My submission is that this should certainly be made. Chanakya had formulated two policies. One was called *Chanakya Niti* and the other was *Chanakya sutra*, i.e. administrative machinery. If the administrative machinery is good, the administration will also function smoothly. We observe that in the administrative machinery, while some people are quite good, others are not. There are some bureaucrats who weaken the administration. My suggestion is that the administration should find out the departments where reservation has not been done according to the laid down provisions or has not been fully done in respect of promotions. This will enable the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates to be benefited. The Government has appointed an S.C. S.T. Commissioner and a Commission also. Their function is only to prepare the reports. For the fulfilment of reservation, at least one cell should be constituted in the Commission or in the Commissioner's office which should ensure whether the SC/ST reservation has been filled in every department or not. If it has not been filled, the department should be held responsible for it and action should be taken against them. It should be their responsibility to fulfil the purpose for which it has been constituted. I feel that if this is done, we can be successful in this field. I have observed that a pre-condition has been imposed for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates who take

admission in the coaching centres for appearing in the examinations for various posts of U.P.S.C. and I.A.S. and I.P.S. Only those candidates get admission to these coaching centres whose family income is less than Rs. one thousand. Today, even a petty peon in the Central Government earns Rs. 1500 per month. Similarly, a clerk earns between Rs. 2000 and Rs. 25000 per month. How can their children be admitted in these coaching centres? Therefore, my submission is that the Government should remove this restriction and arrange to give admission to the all children of S.C.S.Ts in these coaching centres. Then only will we get candidates from the harijan and adivasi categories in the required number for the Government services. At present due to the limit of Rs. one thousand, seats in those centres remain vacant and students in the required number are not available. The Government spends Rs. 3.5 crore on these centres and Rs. 2.66 crore otherwise also, but this expenditure simply goes waste. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should arrange to remove this limit of Rs. one thousand at the earliest.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have also observed that a backlog of reserved quota has been continuing in the State Bank of India since a long time. No special efforts are being made for filling them up. There is a backlog in every category. The posts which should have been filled by the harijans and adivasis are lying vacant. I am glad that keeping our request in view, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs has given directions for filling up this backlog. However, we find that it is being clearly ignored. The same is true of Jute Corporation of India. Not even a single post has been filled by the SC/ST candidates since 1973-74. My submission is that the Government should view this situation very seriously and find out the total number of employees/Officers in Jute Corporation of India and the percentage of SC/ST employees/Officers. If the Government asks for the list of all the Officers grade wise in the Corporation with name of posts, category-wise with name of posts, division-wise with name of posts for example, in the

marketing division with name of posts, in the finance division with name of posts, and in the personnel and administrative division with name of posts) and their year-wise break-up since 1973-74, it will become very clear since how long this backlog is continuing. The posts reserved for the harijan and adivasis are lying vacant. Although the hon. Minister give orders but it had no impact and instead they are being violated. My submission is that action should be taken against the person responsible for this, after holding investigation. We find that Congress is the only Party in our country which is busy in taking steps for the upliftment of the harijans and adivasis in the post-independent era. The intentions of our hon. Prime Minister and Ministers are very good and the ideology of the Congress leaders and other officials towards these people is also good. However, we find that such a feeling is missing in our bureaucrats. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should implement strictly its policy and make such an arrangement so that the backlog may be filled everywhere. There is resentment today because no attention is paid to filling the reserved vacancies.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM (Nagarkurnool):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that we are discussing an important matter in the House today, but the way it is being treated, is similar to what the Scheduled Castes face. Your direction is that one should conclude within 2-3 minutes and you start ringing the bell if someone takes longer. Will we get the similar treatment here also which we meet at other places? We are getting the same treatment here also (*Interruptions*) Why are you interrupting? Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, my submission is that at least in the discussion we should get an opportunity to speak freely. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has started speaking while I am yet to conclude. This is so important a subject. Here too, we are being treated as scheduled castes. You start ringing your bell after two minutes. What can any hon. Member speak within the allotted two minutes on such an important issue? Nothing substantial.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are 544 Members; if everybody wants to speak, how can you finish?

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Please extend the time

[English]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha): It is an important subject. Time can be extended so that every body can speak on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Upto what time? If you are interested, we can sit after 6 O'clock to discuss this. Mr. Speaker has already announced that the other two discussions under Rule 193 will be taken up at 2 O'clock and 4 O'clock. We can sit beyond 6 O'clock and in that case all of you should be here.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: As you like, Sir.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE DEPARTMENT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): If we can sit through lunch time and the reply can be finished by 2 O'clock, it is all right.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONAL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): I request that the lunch hour may be waived and you may call as many Members as possible as long as I am given 15 minutes to speak before 2 O'clock

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: I request that the Members may be bried so that we could cover as many members as possible. Reply can be at 1.45 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. We will skip over the lunch hour.

[Translation]

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akbarpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on such an important issue only half an hour was allotted yesterday. The other day also, only half an hour was allotted. Is this time sufficient for an important subject like this? Therefore, I also request for extension of time if need be.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Chidambaram is a young Minister and works very enthusiastically. I hope he will take special interest in it and will prove his worth. Though some hon. Members of his party speak otherwise, yet I do not think he and the other two hon. Ministers are in any way against the scheduled castes. This is the allegation of the hon. Members belonging to his own party but I do not agree with them.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL: You name those hon Members. Nobody from our party makes such allegations.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: I hope, Shri Chidambaram will take interest in it and will use his expertise in achieving something tangible. So far as the reservation is concerned sometimes the candidates are called for interview but sometimes even interviews are not conducted for the posts notified as reserved. After interviews, sometimes the candidates are declared unsuitable but more often then not they show that the candidates are not available. A few words are written on the file purportedly for converting the reserved posts into the general posts. This thing is repeated three-four times as the officials authorised to write yes or no are the same. After this, the reserved posts are converted into general posts and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are deprived of the same. This is the reason why the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes fail to get selected for the prestigious posts. A sort of ring is operating which manipulates right from the beginning.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the hon. Minister to go into the depth of the issue because whatever I have said is factually correct. Do not take it lightly only because an hon. Member from the opposition is making such remarks. The hon. Members from the ruling party also make similar statements.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people who manage to get the certificate to the effect that they belong to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes but are engaged in other jobs should be asked to perform the duties of sweeper. Similar views were expressed this morning by Shri Balkavi Bairagi also. Till a person does not get the Scheduled Caste certificate, he behaves like an S.C./S.T. but once he obtains the certificate, he behaves differently. Persons securing admission on the basis of the Scheduled Caste certificate behave normally with ill completion of education but afterwards start behaving like a person belonging to the upper class. This malpractice in issuing the certificates needs to be looked into.

So far as the question of economic condition is concerned, I would like to state that intellectuals can be found in every class. So, what is needed is the change of hearts as the poor are also found among the Brahmins and the Reddys and they are also devoid of the basic facilities. But they are comparatively lesser in number. If a person belonging to scheduled caste sitting among 10 persons discloses his caste affiliation, he has to face awkward situation. His situation can be compared with that of a deflated automobile tyre.

Here, I am reminded of an incident involving washing of idol ordered by the Brahmins somewhere in U.P. only because unveiling of the idol was done by Babu Jagjivan Ram. Such is the equation between the two and therefore, the situation needs to be remedied. The moment one discloses one's scheduled caste affiliation, one loses all credibility, though he may be intelligent, educated and rich. This evil must be eradicated from the society. Many such evils are prevalent in the society. The Scheduled

Castes are prevented from joining the senior posts. Last time also, I emphasised the need for doing something for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, on the basis of their in the total population of the country. If a child commits mistake, his parents can be informed about it, but if the parents commit mistake, then whom to report? Just calculate the percentage of the SC and ST in the Union Cabinet. After my speech, one was appointed Governor and another was appointed a Minister. If such things are happening at the top, who is there to listen to their grievances? This matter should be seriously looked into. Hon. Minister, Shri Chidambaram is quite young and has a right kind of thinking. He must think over the issue seriously and inquire into the whole thing. With this, I also thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, for being a bit considerate.

[English]

SHRITARUNKANTIGHOSH (Barasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as this is a very important matter, I request you to give some time to the Members to express their views. As a matter of fact, to improve the lot of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been one of the main objectives of Mahatma Gandhi's campaign throughout his life. As envisaged in the Constitution, we have to uplift the most downtrodden people. If you go to a village, you will find the poorest of the poor and the most down-trodden people are the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes people.

13.00 hrs.

Any measure to uplift their lot should have the support of the entire nation, irrespective of caste, creed, colour or any other thing. Sir, I would like to tell you that you should see that there are not only reservations but you must also see to it that they are able to compete on an equal footing with everybody. Particularly, I would like to tell Shri Chidambaram one point. It is not enough just to say that the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates could not compete and hence the seats which were re-

[Sh. Tarun Kanti Gosh]

served for them could not be filled up from their ranks. This justification could have been true in 1948 or in 1950 but certainly not in 1990. After 40 years of Independence, it should have been our main effort to improve their standard and by this time we should have given them the necessary education and training so that they can compete with everybody on an equal footing. Not only mere reservation of seats, you should also see to it that they are given all the opportunities with regard to education, training and other matters. So that they can come up to our expectation.

I would like to tell you that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been used as a pawn in political matters. Many people shed crocodile tears for these people. But if we try to find out what their attitude really is, we will come to know that they are not really bothered about the welfare of these communities. We also find that the policy measures of the Government to improve their lot are not implemented down below. Therefore, this aspect must be looked into properly and promptly. As a matter of fact, in an independent and democratic country, right to work should be given to everybody. But till that time such a step is taken, reservations must continue. In addition, there must be training facilities for these candidates so that they can really go ahead in life. During the last ten years if you try to find out, you will see that seats reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates were not filled by those candidates on the plea that properly qualified boys were not available from those communities. This is no excuse at all. When these posts are not filled up by those candidates, you must conduct an inquiry as to why these are not filled up and why suitable candidates from these communities are not available. Acute unemployment and acute poverty are something which should not be tolerated in an independent and democratic country like India.

My request through you to the hon.

Minister is that he must take all possible measures to continue the policy of reservation till the time the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities come up and are made equal to all citizens of India.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH (Phillaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views on the issue of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have been oppressed for a long time. Babu Jagjivan Ram tried his best to uplift these sections. Dr. Ambedkar had said:

[English]

"I was born as a Hindu. but the blame was not mine."

[Translation]

A number of facilities and concessions are being given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes by the Government. To those hon. Members who demand one thing or the other for the upliftment of these castes, I would like to tell that they have to fight this battle on their own.

[English]

No man can get his right by mere requests.

[Translation]

Once elected to this August House, nobody wants to do anything for the upliftment of these castes. For this, we have to wage a full scale war. The hon. Members may go to Punjab and find for themselves the number of officers appointed at my behest. Nobody has equalled me in this endeavour. However, the Government's Rule is very ineffective. Such administrative arrangements have been made by which officers have been transferred at random. The officers whom I had appointed have been posted in insignificant Departments. Those who were ap-

pointed there have been removed. The Government makes big promises but it only suppresses us wherever it is able to do so. When we are elected as M.Ps or are appointed as Ministers it becomes our responsibility to look into the tensions prevailing in those areas. How can the Government get any information in that regard? I would submit that the Government should state that the Ministers should tackle such situations. This is our own fault that we request them for petty considerations. I feel very angry at it since what can they extend to others when they are themselves hungry. I submit that right is taken and not given. I do not want to name anyone but I have seen and am even surprised to find that a number of Ministers are anti-harijan and anti-Congress. I had once even requested the Hon. Prime Minister to give party tickets to the people after due consideration because it gets difficult for me to defeat them. I secured defeat for two such candidates who were anti-harijan and anti-Congress. At that time I had asked people not to vote for them since they are incompetent although they have joined the Congress party. What is the fault of the Opposition Members who have rightly pointed out that people are facing problems. What is the harm in saying so? I feel that the poor and the harijans should themselves fight for their cause. Their representatives have been elected as Members, the Government has taken every possible step for their welfare and even the reservation provision has been extended. But now they say that it is all political which is quite right because this has been done so that the harijans remain in the mainstream what is wrong in it? This is quite right that it is political. Mahatma Gandhi had pointed out that if we isolate the harijans they can not survive. Therefore, such an arrangement was made which has proved to be effective. The Poona Pact was signed after this statement was made by Mahatma Gandhi and concessions were granted to them. Therefore, I feel that the three Members of the Opposition who have expressed their views have made quite appropriate submissions. We need not add anything. But this is what really happens. I would like to submit to the hon. Members that we will have to get all

the concessions. It is not possible that the Government will grant them to us as a silver platter.

Injustice is being done to the officials in Punjab. They have been posted at such places where they have no say. The position there is chaotic. Therefore I would request the hon. Home Minister to pay attention to Punjab since injustice is being committed to the harijans there.

With these words I conclude and thank you for having granted me time to speak.

SHRI R.P. SUMAN (Akabarpur). Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the statement of the hon. Minister of state in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions made on 19th April, 1989, regarding the liberalisation of orders with a view to improving the representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe communities in Central Government Posts/ Services.

In this August House, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister as well for having made some important announcements recently by taking into consideration the sentiments of the crores of downtrodden and the conscious intelligentsia of the country. These announcements related to the extension of the constitutional provision of reservation for the another 10 years and the hon. Minister of State for Law also announced the decision of the Government to ban dere-servation of posts. Besides, while addressing the historic rally in Lucknow, the Hon. Prime Minister announced his decision to establish a university in the name of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and thereafter laid its foundation stone. The Hon. Prime Minister deserves to be heartily congratulated for all these things. The reservation provision gets extended by another 10 years whenever the specified period comes to an end. However, when we make a review of the whole situation, it causes us a lot of distress to find that inspite of the passage of 41-42 years since independence the percentage of the reserved quota fulfilled is very low. Why have we not



[Ch. Sunder Singh]

been able to fulfil even 50 percent of the reserved quota in the Group A and Group B services so far? Only in respect of Class IV and Class III services, we have been able to make some progress. If we go through the figures of the Minister of Welfare, we will find that the percentage of the vacancies filled in the reserved category in different services is very inadequate and it is essential to take concrete steps in this direction. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of State towards the report presented by the Ministry of Personnel and on the basis of that report it can be said that between 1968 and 1988 though there has definitely been some increase in the percentage of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Groups A, B, C and D but it is not adequate. At present in Group A service, we are 8.67 per cent, brought forward in the case of Group B, it is 11.10 per cent, in Group C it is 14 per cent and in Group D it is 19 per cent. On the basis of the figures it can be claimed that there has definitely been some improvement in the position but it is very unsatisfactory. We can observe that on one hand, reservations are being extended and on the other, there are certain forces in the country and I cannot understand as to what name to be given to them who have been questioning the Government's policy of extending the reservation policy. The people who are eligible for getting the reservation facilities are not able to enjoy them. If even after passage of 40 years, Groups A and B have been brought forward by only 50 per cent, how long will it take to fulfill the entire quota. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that some such law should be enacted by which it can be ensured that the officers who are responsible for not filling up the reserved vacancies are penalised.

The Civil Rights Protection Act was framed recently. It has been provided in this Act that strict action will be taken against such an officer who out of discriminatory feelings and under the influence of untouchability, commits injustice to the people belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Sched-

uled Tribes in the matters of appointment, promotions confirmations and transfers. But I regret to say that when I raised this topic last year and demanded for the state-wise details of the number of people penalised under the Civil Rights Protection Act, it was stated that action has not been taken against anyone so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why in spite of the existence of the relevant law, action has not been taken against them? If such arrangements are not made, it will become imperative to extend the reservations for another 10 years and even then, the reserved quota will not be fulfilled. Today there is much resentment among the crores of downtrodden people and which is for ever increasing. Therefore, I would like to submit that it is the need of the hour to remove such resentment and in order to do so, the reservation provisions made in the constitution by its framers should be fulfilled. The Government has made constant efforts in this direction. We have got this opportunity today due to the efficient leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister and we shall have to take advantage of this opportunity and take rapid strides in order to fulfil the reserved quota.

I do not want to go into figures because it will take much of my time but I would definitely like to submit that there are certain things because of which such difficulties are created. The hon. Minister is present here, and in his presence, I would like to mention that a meeting of the members of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was called by the Hon. Prime Minister in the Parliament Annexure and many important announcements were made. We are very grateful to him. Under his instructions three committees were constituted consisting of 20 M.Ps belonging to these sections in each of them. The function of one committee was to look into the issue of reservation and to find out as to how to fulfill the quota. The function of the second committee was to make suggestions regarding the measures which laws be taken for checking the incidents of atrocities committed on the weaker sections and the function of the third committee was to offer suggestions regarding the socio-economic prob-



lems of these section of society. In the report of the Ministry of Welfare, it has been mentioned that all the three committees have submitted their reports. If there is no change in the present state of affairs, it will not do. It will not be possible to fulfil the reserved quota and remove the prevailing resentment

13.14 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Such legal provision should be made under which it will become obligatory for the Departmental to fill up all the reserved vacancies within a specified period and if they are not able to do so, necessary action should be taken against them. If such arrangements are not made, the quota will not be fulfilled

Now I would like to draw your attention towards two or three issues which were raised during the last session of the Parliament. When the Government was asked to appoint trained conductors in the Department of Transport in order to fill up the backlog of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Government expressed their inability due to the lack of the availability of trained conductors. I may submit that about 500 trained persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are available who are unemployed and the Government have not been able to offer them any post. Sir, it is a matter of great regret that on one side, the Government say that trained conductors are not available while in reality a number of such candidates are unemployed.

Quota reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is not being filled even in Delhi. Out of the total 500 stenographers employed in Delhi Development Authority, only 34 belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Out of the total 150 executive engineers employed there, only 4 belong to these categories. It is totally unjustified. Sir, it is a matter of great shame that injustice is being done to them in Delhi itself.

Sir, on filing a suit by scheduled caste and scheduled tribe employees, the Supreme Court directed that time bound promotions should be given to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes employees within 12-13 years and also stressed upon to implement the scheme within 4 months. This matter relates to the employees of P and T and the Ministry of Communication okayed it but the file is lying with the Ministry of Personnel. You can well imagine that how much resentment it can cause. Our Hon. Prime Minister and our Government have to bear the ultimate consequences of it.

I would like to submit that the Government will have to take action against those who work in arbitrary manner, only then they would perform their duty efficiently. You will have to enact such law. Of course, provisions, exist in our Constitution for the purpose but you will have to implement them and punish the guilty.

Look, what happens in banks. 17 officers in Bank of Baroda were transferred at a distance, of 500 miles and all of them belonged to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Why are they being discriminated. From whom should they expect justice if the management itself adopts unjustified attitude towards them and transfer them at a long distance outside Delhi. You should give a serious thought to the matter and take stringent measures to see that people belonging to these categories are not transferred outside Delhi.

It is said that a number of facilities and concessions are being provided to them. This is not true. These are the people who have been suppressed for thousands of years. It is not a special concession for them. The society will have to provide these facilities to them. The Government will have to provide these things so long as people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are exploited.

Without going into further details, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to enforce law in this regard so that atrocities are not commit-

[Sh. R.P. Suman]

ted on the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, their entire quota of reservation is filled and no excesses are committed in the matters of confirmation and transfers. We are grateful to you for announcing the procedure to be adopted in their recruitment. But this is in case of appointments, while in 90-95 percent cases they do not get promotion. The announcement made by you, no doubt is commendable but similar procedure should be followed in the case of promotions also. The concessions in case of appointments only will not serve the purpose. Recruitment has been banned these days. Therefore, same rules should be followed in the case of promotions and there should not be let up in this regard.

As the cases were examined before de-reserving the posts earlier, same procedure should be adopted in this regard.

With these words, I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister and conclude.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kankar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Statement made by Shri Chidambaram on 19th April. The Announcement made by the hon. Minister about the reservation policy is a wise step.

According to the statistics of the Ministry and quoted by Shri Suman, even after the long duration of 40 years, quota reserved for only class IV employees has been filled up so far. Whereas the quota reserved for A.B.C. categories in scheduled castes and A to D categories in scheduled tribes, has still not been filled. It is due to this fact that the Hon. Prime Minister has taken this matter seriously and announced to stop dereservation of posts. I think that its result would be favourable even after 40 years. Similarly, the suggestions given by Shri Suman that we should adopt the same policy in the matter of promotions also, is appropriate. In this manner, there will be improvement in term of percentage as well as in achieving our target.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions to the hon. Minister. First, I would submit that injustice is being done to employees belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and the number of cases filed in courts is increasing. I would like the Government to constitute a separate tribunal to hear and deal with the such grievances so that justice is done to them at the earliest and they can avail of the opportunities of getting promotion.

Secondly, I would like the Government to increase recruitment centres for providing employment. At present, the recruitment centres of public undertakings, Government establishments or Banks are either in State capitals or in big cities like Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras etc. I would like to mention the case of a tribal candidate in particular. It becomes extremely difficult for a person residing in Chandernagore to go to Bombay, or from Chiabasa to Patna, from Bastar to Bhopal, from Kolhapur to Bhubaneswar or from Srikakulam to Hyderabad. It is very difficult for tribal people to visit distant areas for interview. Therefore, I would like the Government to increase the number of recruitment centres and separate recruitment centres should be set up for tribal areas. It would enable the Government to achieve the target, otherwise it is not possible.

We generally observe that on one hand, there are long queues of unemployed persons in Employment Exchanges while on the other hand, the vacancies meant even for class IV employees are not being filled. Even the Bank officials say that deserving candidates are not available. It means that there is some missing link. Therefore, I would suggest that a separate organisation under Central Government should be set up in every State which should prepare the list of candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and feed the Government offices. There is no use of depending on Employment Exchanges of the States.

So far as fake certificates are concerned I would propose to set up a separate investigation agency to check this tendency. In

this regard, I would suggest that as Matric certificate is considered to be authentic as birth certificate another column for caste should also be added to it so that we may know that the candidate belongs to scheduled caste or scheduled tribe and thus this bungling would be checked. Because, generally, after obtaining B.A. and M.A. degrees, people try to obtain fake certificates in order to get employment. So I would like that the Government should make provision to add a separate column in Matric Certificate which should indicate that the candidate belongs to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. It can prove to be the best method to check malpractice. Education standard also requires to be relaxed, particularly, in respect of remote areas. The liaison officers who have recently been recruited should be given intensive training. Their training has been just a formality. Even Government is not aware of many officers. The number of Pre-recruitment training centres should be increased and training should be made more intensive. More and more persons belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes should be posted in Banks, undertakings, Human Resources Development and the department of policy making. SC/ST candidates should be appointed to the post of Director in Undertakings. The Government has taken no initiative in this regard so far.

Even the retired persons belonging to these categories are available and they can be posted. It would prove to be quite beneficial. If my suggestions are taken seriously, they would prove beneficial to provide employment to more and more people. With these words, I conclude and express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

**SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA** (Vidisha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views in support the important subject being discussed in the House today. Though you, Sir, I would like to congratulate our young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He got the matter reviewed and understood the seriousness of the matter through the report submitted by the Commissioner of

scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that the provisions regarding Government jobs to the scheduled castes/scheduled tribes and weaker sections under section 335 and 16 (4) of the constitution are not being implemented. He has taken a firm decision to fulfill the constitutional obligations. He deserves to be congratulated for this. Shri Chidambaram should also be congratulate for he has taken an initiative and made a statement in the House on behalf of his Ministry in this regard. The aforesaid provisions of the constitution provide for 15% and 7 1/2% reservation in Government jobs for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. A detailed study should be made of the report submitted by the commissioner of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes to the President in November '88 and full efforts should be made to implement the recommendations made therein to fulfil the reservation quota which the Government has not been able to fill up so far. To provide social justice to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, a provision was included in the new 20 point programme of 1986 at the instance of the Prime Minister. The members of the opposition parties are saying that it has been done because of the elections. I would like to invite their attention to this fact that it is for the first time, after the new 20 point programme introduced by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in August 86, that the attention of the country is being drawn to the recommendations made by the commissioner of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in his report.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Home Affairs towards the recommendations made in the report. In chapter 8, attention of the Government has been drawn, particularly, towards the recommendations made regarding All India services. A reference has been made to 14 services pertaining to the Ministry of Defence, Energy and Technology, It has been stated in the Report that the number of the candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes selected against the prescribed quota was really negligible. The number of the centres fixed

[Sh. Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

for training was also inadequate. The information regarding the advertisements for the vacancies and the programmes for training was not made available to the candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This is the reason that the candidates in adequate number could not appear in the examination or join the training centres and their representation in the services has been less than one percent. At some places it has been only 0.2 per cent. In the ministries of technology, energy, water resources and surface transport, representation of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in services is almost negligible. It is, therefore, necessary to pay attention in this regard. In Government jobs, they get employment on the post of clerks, they are not appointed on technical posts and on other higher posts, because they are not trained for technical posts. The Government should pay attention towards the posts lying vacant in industries or in public sector undertakings. Bureaucrats say that the vacancies reserved for the candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are not filled up because of non availability of candidates belonging to these communities in adequate number. We should prepare a programme on the basis of the recommendations made by the commissioner in his Report so that we may give training to the candidates belonging to scheduled castes and tribes in advance to enable them to ensure their selection on the higher posts in fields of science and technology. This way, we may have the talented people and they may also have the opportunities to work in these fields. It is also not justified to draw such a limit that only those having an income of less than one thousand rupees will be allowed to join such training courses. The person serving on a lowest post gets Rs. 1000/- today. Therefore, slabs should be fixed in a way where the minimum should be one thousand rupees and after that it should be Rs. 1500 and more so that, besides training, candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes may also get the an opportunity to qualify in competitive examination. I would like to

congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for the initiative he has taken in the matter of filling up the posts reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and would request him to issue instructions to the State Government also to take steps to fill up such posts which are lying vacant. But, the instructions given by the Government are not being followed by the industrial units and public sector undertakings. A detailed study should be made of the report of the commissioner for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Attention of the Government has been drawn various problems. The Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Welfare should issue directions to the State Chief Ministers to take steps to implement the recommendations made in the Report in order to follow the provisions made in the Constitutions to which the builders of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Maulana Azad, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and today the young Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi have been committed. I am sure that through this discussion all the related departments, industries and the State Governments will get a message to clear their backlog regarding filling up the post, reserved for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This work should be completed by the year 1989-90. There should be no problem in that.

In the end, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a burning issue. Why do we find this backlog at different places today? A villager goes back to his village after getting education in the city. Most of the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes depend on agriculture and their economy is linked with the villages. Therefore, they go back to the villages after getting education in the cities. They do not get the information about new posts being created in the Government services. The Government should make arrangements to bridge this communication gap through radio, television and other publicity medias. A number of posts reserved for SC & ST are not filled up because of this communication gap and we do not get suitable candidates belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Arrangement should

be made to that people living in rural areas may get full information in this regard. With these words, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of Home Affairs for the statement he has made in the House and thank him for providing us an opportunity to take part in the discussion which will make its impact throughout the country. I would also like to congratulate him for the initiative he has taken to implement the policies of Mahatma Gandhi.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk):**  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for the opportunity given to me to take part in this important discussion. We are living in four varanas system of society. At a time this system was founded, the authors of Vedas, our Rishi-Munis might not have imagined that this system will prove disastrous in future. No one had imagined at that time that the people will take merely touching as impious. The ancient system of four varanas encouraged caste system in our country. The evil effects of this system are very much discouraging. We have seen that the society has to suffer on this the account in the past also because 25 per cent population of the country has been given no work to do, there were no men as for them to earn their livelihood. They were the oppressed and the rejected people, they were made to suffer and were given menial jobs in the society. The society has been responsible for this all. How can they be held responsible for their miserable lot. This is the reasons of vast disparities existing in the society today. The country has been left to hear the consequences of the system.

Of late, a new era has dawned in the country and there is new awakening. Our Prime Minister has realised that the discrimination on the basis of caste and creed in the country has been an injustice to certain sections of the society and this has made the country to bear its consequences. He, therefore, has taken revolutionary steps to stop such a practice of discrimination. Our leaders have realised the need to ameliorate the lot of the section of society which has been oppressed and suppressed for centuries,

laws have been enacted for their welfare and various other steps have been taken by our Government in this regard. I would like to give one or two examples. The great thinker Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the great leader Babu Jagjivan Ram were born in the same neglected section of the society and they accomplished the jobs with full responsibility they were entrusted with. So I would like to submit that if we want to strengthen the country and want to have full cooperation of the people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, it is necessary to continue the reservation provisions in the Constitution.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Hon'ble Shri Chidambaram for it. He has stated a very good thing about reservation. I feel that in this way he has given an expression to the desire of our Prime Minister in this House and he is quite clear in his mind and heart about it. The people of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are the assets of the nation and they should be given a push in this way so that it may bring in a complete awakening in the society.

Sir, I would like to say that there is a class of educated people who are against the reservation policy. You have just observed in the house that one of our hon. Members was saying it that only one member of a family should be given the benefit or reservation and no other member of that family should be considered for the same. It is a sort of mental depravation. It should be done away with because the facility of reservation for only one person from a family, will not solve the problem of their poverty, backwardness and lower status in the society. Therefore, it is my submission that this should not happen that way. I will go to the extent of saying it that if it is at all possible, it should be extended further because with the provision of additional facilities for them, at least the family as a whole will get an opportunity to go ahead.

Sir, I would like to stress two points in respect of reservation. Whenever, provisions are made for reservations, trade unions and some other people come in its way and go to

[Sh. Banwari Lal Bairwa]

the courts to resist the move and when somebody has gone to court, a lot of difficulty is faced by the administration to decide as to how to go on with their work in a particular direction. Hence the Government should then cover it with reference to various institutions and particularly in respect of public undertakings where the Government move of providing reservation is stalled by the people and the very purpose of provision of reservation is defeated. Hence the Government should come out with a law which may not be challenged by the people in courts otherwise it will be very difficult for the poor and the Harijans to fight for their cause in the courts. It will be very difficult for them and they will never be able to get their rights. Similarly, you should see that the reservations provided by you are in fact implemented. Another thing to be seen is whether this provision of reservation is accepted by them. There is a system in all the departments, public undertakings and in banks that the demands of the employees of these organisations should be conceded. Even for this, the Government should come forward with requisite amendments in the trade union Act to get it granted to these sections of people because that is the only forum where they can raise their grievances in respect of the provisions of reservation. Similarly, it is my submission that in case the Government creates reserved posts and holds interviews for the same but later on says that no suitable candidate was available, the head of the department should be held responsible for the same. If a post against reserved vacancy is filled by General Category of candidate, a provision should be made that salaries of officers held responsible for such recruitments would be withheld. Only then reservation policy will be completely implemented. For this purpose, the Government should chalk out a time-bound programme. I would like to thank hon. Shri Chidambaram Sahib for his statement against de-reservation of vacancies. That is very good but along with it I would like to say that the Government should extend the provision of reservation in the matter of their promotions. In the end, I

extend my support again for what has been stated by the Hon. Minister.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have participated in this debate and proadly welcomed the statement made by me regarding two important decisions taken by Government in the matter of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I am sorry that more time could not be given to our Members, more Members could not be called upon to speak, because we are racing against time, there is a time constraint. At 2 O'clock we have to take up the debate on another important subject.

Sir, let me share with the hon. Members some data. I think it is important to understand this problem in its perspective. The Government is committed to the provisions of our Constitution. And our founding fathers, very wise men with great experience of life and history of this country, provided for reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution. And shortly after the first Parliament was constituted, they did not hesitate, within months after the Constitution was adopted, to amend the Constitution by the First Amendment Act to provide for reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes even in the matter of admission to educational institutions. I was just reading Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech where he said:

"We claim not only a technical or constitutional authority to do this, but a moral authority to do this. We framed our Constitution, we found that in its interpretation some difficulties were placed in the way and we have no hesitation in amending the Constitution."

If that can be said for amending the Constitution, it can be said with greater force for formulating and implementing Government policies. I do not believe that there is any one in this country who can claim greater moral authority to speak for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes than those of us who are on this side in the Congress Party. For forty years we have implemented to the best of our ability our policy of reservation. Sir, we had mixed results. Let me give you the data as on two dates —1.1.1968 and 1.1.1988. On 1.1.1968 the number of Scheduled Castes employees in Group 'A' was only 459 in the whole of the Government of India. Today it is 4,886, not satisfactory because it still accounts for only 8.67 per cent of employees in Group 'A' whereas it should be fifteen per cent. In Group 'B' on 1.1.68 we had 1,083 employees of Scheduled Castes, today we have 8,864 employees, a numerical increase of 7,781. Yet it is inadequate because it represents only 11.18 per cent. In Group 'C' on 1.1.68 we had 1,13,374 employees belonging to the Scheduled Castes, on 1.1.88 we had 3,09,041, a numerical increase of nearly two lakhs, and the percentage is slowly creeping up to the 15 per cent level, it is only 14.8 per cent. In Group 'D' which I never consider a good bench mark, we had on 1.1.68 2,11,115 employees, today we have increased it by another 10,000 the percentage of course is 19.88 per cent.

Sir, we are moving forward, in fact we are moving upward.

AN HON. MEMBER: You have not given figures for Scheduled Tribes.

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: I would come to that. We are moving forward, we are moving upward, but the climb is very slow, the climb is painfully slow.

The hon. Member wanted figures for Scheduled Tribes. I will rapidly run through the figures. I shall give two figures the first figure is for 1.1.1968 and the second figure is for 1.1.1988. Accordingly,

Group 'A' .. 128 and 1,295  
 Group 'B' .. 144 and 1,668  
 Group 'C' .. 15,665 and 93,627  
 Group 'D' .. 41558 and 67,869.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara): Mr. Chidambaram, will you give percentage-wise figures for 1968 and 1988?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am giving it. You patiently wait. Unless I finish that answer how can I give answer to you? I have noted down. Let me finish.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Then the cat will be out of the bag.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, nothing will be out; in fact your charge will be proved wrong. The charge that you made that it is an election gimmick, I think, is a hopelessly unfair charge. It is a charge which is being made only because you sit on the opposition benches.

Sir, while the numerical increase in considerable, I said the goal has not yet been reached. Percentage increase increases are significant. In Group 'A' in Scheduled Castes the percentage increase between 1968 and 1988 is 964.5 per cent, in Group 'B' it is 718.5 per cent, in Group 'C' it is 172.6 per cent. Mr. Thampan Thomas wanted to know the percentage-wise figures for 1968 and 1988. I will give the Scheduled Caste figures.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: I am trying to make you understand me. You give the pro-rata basis, i.e. the job opportunities available in 1968 and percentage for that and those in 1988 and percentage for that. Then only a comparative study can be made as to how much improvement is there.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, he cannot approach this with a pre-judged mind. He has made no effort to look up the figures before he made his speech. At least, he should wait after he made his speech and listen to the figures. These are all figures which are available and which are published.

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

If he had taken the trouble of looking into these figures before he made his speech, I would have been greatly benefited.

Sir, on 1.1.1968, in Group 'A' we had only 2.11 per cent, today it is 8.67 per cent; in Group 'B' it was 3.11 per cent, today it is 11.18 per cent; in Group 'C' it was 9.22 per cent, today it is 14.80 per cent; and in Group 'D' excluding sweepers who are not counted for this purpose it was 18.32 per cent, now it is 19.88 per cent. The overall for all the groups it was 13.37 per cent, today it is 16.30 per cent. Yet I will be the first to admit that we are not happy with the slow climb towards our goal. Now, we looked into this matter. Why is this climb slow? I was convinced that one of the reasons why we are not reaching our goals is because of this whole theory of de-reservation.

Sir, a comment was made that his is only an academic exercise. I believe Mr. Ayyapu Reddy made this comment. That is not so. As on 1.1.1987, in Group 'A' we had in the year 1986, 752 vacancies, out of which only 461 were filled and 10 vacancies have lapsed after three years of de-reservation. In Group 'B' we had 842 vacancies out of which only 751 were filled and 25 have lapsed. In Group 'C', we had 22,409 vacancies. We filled them but 498 vacancies of previous years had lapsed. In Group 'D', we had 7,881 vacancies. We filled them but we had 307 vacancies of previous years which had lapsed. This de-reservation had become a handle, had become an instrument in the hands of people who had no commitment to the policy of reservation to find a way to deny benefits to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

13.54 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

SHRI AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): May I just know on what basis you are giving the facts and figures? Because I quoted from the

Union Public Service Commission Report That is the only available data from which I was able to quote.

SHRIP. CHIDAMBARAM: From UPSC Report you were quoting only in respect of Civil Services Examination. You were unfortunately confining your quotations to the figures of the Civil Service Examination. Civil Service examination is perhaps the only examination where Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are filled every year. It is because, we select only about 800 to 900 people in Group A services. We are not talking about Civil service examination alone. It is very easy to find 20 boys or girls for IAS, 15 boys or girls for IPS. But that is not an answer to the problem. What we are talking about is the board spectrum of recruitment, running from Group 'A' Group B, Group C and Group D throughout the Government of India. Unfortunately, your attention has been focussed on one page which deal with only the Civil Service examination.

I have got the figures for three years of this Government. I am sure the figures were worse earlier. I am giving you the total figures, total number of reservations lapsed during the period 1985, 1986 and 1987, which means, dereservations started much earlier. In Group A, Scheduled Castes 30 and Scheduled Tribes 46 which lapsed. In Group B, Scheduled Castes 50 and Scheduled Tribes 39. I do not accept this; at least, I understand this. In Group C, Scheduled Caste vacancies lapsed were 1817 and Scheduled Tribes 573. Coming to Group C, I neither accept it, nor do I understand it. In Group D, 446 Scheduled Caste vacancies lapsed and 315 Scheduled Tribe lapsed. Tell me what is the justification, what is the justification to say that in this country, you cannot find a suitable candidate to fill a Group C vacancy. I understand about an isolated vacancy in Group A, which calls for some special qualifications. You can perhaps get away with argument that I cannot find a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidate. I understand it, though I do not accept that argument. But for Groups C and D, I neither understand, nor do I accept it.



**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurhost):** By implication, you are attributing to your officers who are responsible for recruitment of these candidates.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** I am not saying anything by implication. I am saying about the system of which Mr. E. Ayyapu Reddy is a part and I am a part of which you are a part for a longer time than I have been. There is the in-built bias in the system against recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It may not be conscious. But it is sub-conscious. It is not only there in the Central Government services. It is there in the public sector enterprises; in banks it is there and more so in State Governments. Time has come to revolt against this kind of system which keeps out Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under one pretext or other. I am answering your question. You said, this is an exercise of academic irrelevance. I deny it. This is not an exercise of irrelevance. This is not an academic exercise. This is a burning problem. This is a serious problem, the problem about which we must feel ashamed. We must deal with it not by cosmetic changes, not by persuasion, not by appeal—well, all that is necessary, but we must change it, by changing the whole approach to the question of recruitment to the civil services. This is the reason why we announced that henceforth dereservation is banned. We recognise there may be some grave situation arising in Group A. We have reserved that right. That part is now centralised in the Ministry of Personnel for which the Prime Minister is the Cabinet Minister and we will not allow dereservations even in Group A, unless we are absolutely satisfied that you cannot find a suitable Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe candidate for that vacancy.

In Group D, Group C and Group B, let me make it very clear we do not accept the argument. We reject the argument that you cannot find suitable persons from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to fill group B, Group C and Group D vacancies. We shall therefore, require every Department of the Government, we therefore, re-

quire every Ministry of the Government, every Secretary and every officer who is charged with recruitment to go out and find the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates in whatever manner he wants to do consistent with the recruitment rules to fill these vacancies.

I wish to make one important announcement in this connection. The Government have decided to launch a special recruitment drive to fill the backlog of vacancies earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

**14.00 hrs.**

"The Prime Minister has directed that to the extent that these vacancies fall within the purview of the Government, the Ministries and Departments concerned will commence the special recruitment on the 1st of June, 1989 and complete the process within three months, i.e., 31st August, 1989. To the extent that the vacancies are to be filled through the UPSC, yesterday I wrote to the UPSC on the direction of the Prime Minister requesting the UPSC to make a special effort to fill the backlog of vacancies within the same period of three months from the 1st June, 1989 to 31st August, 1989."

I have had a meeting with the Chairman of the UPSC and he has kindly agreed to accelerate the recruitment processes so that Government's policy in this behalf will be fulfilled and achieved before 31st August, 1989.

"The filling of this backlog of vacancies would go a long way to satisfy the aspirations of the members belonging to the SC/ST communities."

A question was asked by Shri Shahabuddin and Dr. Rajhans how long we are going to persist in this policy. Our answer is very clear. We shall continue this policy as long as there is social discrimination and backwardness among SC/ST. We do not

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flinch from taking this decision. 40 years in the life of a nation is not a long period. 200 years after America became independent, they still have to have, what they call, affirmative action programmes for the blacks. What we call protective discrimination, special reservation for SC/ST in the matter of employment, will continue as long as Parliament and as long as Government feels that there is discrimination against SC/ST and they continue to suffer under discrimination and conditions of backwardness.

Mr. Tarun Kanti Ghosh and other Members asked about training. We have 96 part examination coaching centres. I have taken note of the comment made by some hon. Members that the income ceiling for entry into these coaching centres must be raised upwards. I shall convey this to the Minister of Welfare and see what can be done.

As far as coaching of such candidates is concerned, I have with me a letter from the Ministry of Welfare which says that the total number of SC/ST candidates who were given coaching during the years 1986 and 1987 for the various competitive examinations was 5,525 and 7,398 respectively. This is not enough. I have written to the Minister of Human Resource Development and I am trying to see more coaching centres are set up and more SC/ST candidates are admitted to these coaching centres.

A question was asked why not dereservation in promotion. We have examined this. There is no need for dereservation in promotion because promotion is from the feeder category. We have made strict rules about the zone of consideration and the multiple to be employed. We know who is in the zone of consideration and very few can really tinker or tamper with the zone of consideration. As long as we know that there are SC/ST candidates within the zone of consideration, no one can pretend that you do not have a qualified candidate and, therefore, propose dereservation. Today, the power of dereser-

vation in promotion vacancies is delegated to the Ministries and Departments. But, we are monitoring the situation. If we find that the delegation is being abused and if within three months period the backlog of vacancies is not filled, we may have to consider centralising this power in one Ministry. But, I do not think that will arise. The Prime Minister has given a very categorical direction and I am absolutely confident in my mind that within three months, the DPCs will be convened and all backlog of vacancies for SC/ST in promotion quota will be filled before 31st August, 1989.

Some one mentioned that we have not yet appointed Directors from SC/ST of public sector enterprises. I am very glad to inform the House that we have just started the process and some names are in the final stages of approval to appoint official and non-official directors on the Board of public sector enterprises from SC/ST.

Finally, I would like to say that a point was made about this that this is an Election gimmick. I believe only Mr. Thampan Thomas made the point. Since no one else made the point, I assume that everyone joins me in rejecting the point made by Mr. Thampan Thomas. But I wish to tell Mr. Thampan Thomas that the question of reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been a question which has been agitating me ever since I joined the Ministry of Personnel on the 7th of October 1985. As far as banning de-reservation is concerned, after seeing the figures, in my own Ministry, I took the decision that we should propose to ban de-reservation on the 10th of June 1988 long before any one was thinking of election. A Cabinet note was submitted to the Prime Minister on the 22nd of August 1988. The Prime Minister indicated his approval on the 29th of September, 1988. We have constituted a Committee of Members of Parliament to look into the matter. They gave their report in December 1988. We finalised our views on the first of January 1989. The revised Cabinet note was sent to the Prime Minister in the end of January 1989 and the Prime Minister approved it in February 1989.

So, this can hardly be described as an election gimmick. We have seriously considered the matter and after careful deliberation and after taking into account the views of the hon. Members, we have taken this bold step to ban the de-reservation. It is something which was available to the previous Government but it is something which the previous Government did not do.

Finally, I would like to make one very important announcement.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, I have raised another point and that is about the converted people and their fate. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what is his policy on that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, Mr. Thomas, as a lawyer, knows the answer but yet he would like to get the answer from me. I have no objection in obliging him. It does not fall within the scope of this debate. There is a Constitutional bar. The Constitution only recognises the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among the Hindus and among the Sikhs. That is the Constitutional provision. This point cannot be answered in the short span of time available to me. It is a larger question. The Constitution would have to be amended to provide for recognition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people among the people who are converted. It is very well known to Mr. Thomas. He should raise it at an appropriate time. I am sure the Government would give an appropriate answer.

Sir, finally I would like to make another important announcement. This is a major decision that we have taken with the approval of the Prime Minister. This again is a matter which caused me considerable concern and I have recorded my first note on this on the 14th of October 1986 when I found that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates were being adjusted against the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes quota in a particular manner and I felt that this was wrong. I know the practice followed in some States. I thought that the

practice followed in the Central government was not quite in conformity with what I thought was right. It has taken of course considerable time to persuade everyone to see the correctness of our reasoning. I am supported by recommendation No. 64 of the 25th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Recommendation No. 78 of the 26th Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I must convey my thanks to the Prime Minister. This was brought to his notice and the anomaly was pointed out. He readily saw the point and said: "Yes, go ahead. There seems to have been an anomaly." Successive Ministers dealing with the subject had felt that this was a correct practice. But I took a different view. It has taken a long time to reach this position. But I am glad that I am able to announce the decision today. Hitherto in direct recruitment, an SC/ST candidate selected on his or her own merit, without any relaxed standard, was adjusted against a vacancy reserved for Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes as the case may be. The remaining reserved vacancies were filled by duly selected SC/ST candidates in accordance with the scheme of reservation. A question was raised whether an SC/ST candidate, selected on his or her own merit, in competition with general candidates, should be adjusted against a reserved vacancy. In some States, such candidates are not adjusted against the reserved vacancies but are allowed to take their place in the order of merit along with the general candidates.

I am glad to inform the House that the Prime Minister has decided to modify the policy in this behalf. Hereafter, SC/ST candidates who are selected on merits without relaxed standards in competition with candidates belonging to the general category, will not be adjusted against the reserved vacancies. They will not be adjusted against the reserved vacancies. They will take their place in the merit list along with the general candidates. The vacancies reserved for SC/ST communities will be filled separately by selecting suitable candidates from the SC/ST communities in accordance with the scheme

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of reservation. This policy is intended to recognise that among SC/ST candidates there are candidates who are selected on their own merit and, hence, they should not preempt any of the vacancies reserved for the SC/ST communities. By this measure, it is expected that the number of candidates eventually selected will exceed the percentages of reservation. I am sure that the House will welcome this decision.

Finally, let me conclude by saying that we have lived for thousands of years with this scourge of discrimination against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Social discrimination against these groups of people continue in society today. It is our hope that one day all members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will enjoy such equality in education, opportunity and advancement that we can definitively place behind us the sad and heart-rending story of centuries of discrimination. Till that day comes, we in the Government are pledged to protective discrimination and to affirmative action in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Thank you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B.D. PATIL (Kolaba): What about Mandal Commission.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is not the subject today.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

14.12 h. s.

ATROCITIES ON WOMEN

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up discussion on the atrocities on women.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOW-

ALIA (Sangrur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of this House towards atrocities being committed on women.

[*English*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I do not find the Minister for Social Welfare here.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Home Minister will take note of it. And, Sheilaji is also here.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I am the one on whom atrocities are committed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: She represents women and I represent atrocities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOW-ALIA (Sangrur): Sister Sheilaji is such a nice lady that we cannot even think that the atrocities might be committed on her.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I consider myself to be fortunate to have an opportunity to raise such a serious matter in the House. It is a matter of great regret that atrocities are committed upon women in a country where mother Sita is worshipped and they talk of paying highest regards to women in the Mahabharata and where there have been many great women in this country, there has been Rani Jhansi who took part in struggle for freedom and where such noble ladies were born, who brought in a complete and radical change in India. In such a country it is a matter of great shame and regret that such things happen here. India is a country where Guru Nanak Dev said in Guru Granth Sahib:—

"Eas Kyon Manda Akhiyai, Jis Jame Rajaan."

why should this land of ours be called a barren land? Which has produced innumerable number of kings and great devotees? It is a matter of great shame that there have been the incidents of atrocities on women which are moreover on the increase. I would like to refer to the following in this connection:

[English]

In a written reply to a question of Mr. H.B. Patil, Shri P. Chidambaram said that the number of cases of rape were 7308 in 1986 and it has risen to 12036 in 1988.

[Translation]

Shri Chidambaram has stated in his statement that such incidents have increased. As I feel it, the atrocities committed on the women have been heart rending. It has been stated about Jahanabad in Bihar:

[English]

The raiders raped the women several times over at gun point. Those who tried to resist were beaten. After the heinous crime, the men looted cash and other belongings of the poor labourers. They went off firing in the air towards bigha village. The guard of the kiln Hardev Yadav of Mustichak who attempted to check the gangsters was killed.

[Translation]

Such is the position there that even the D.I.G. and the police did not help, though the Government has got immense power of law given to them by the people and there are Lady Ministers in the Government itself and lady members are there even in the legislatures and a number of women officers in the administration and we are known for guarding the honour of womenfolk all over the world. We have respect for the ladies and we stand for it. In spite of that such atrocities are being committed on women in this country. What can be more shameful and unfortunate than these things here. We bow our heads in reverence to the women in India. What is

their role here in this country? When she is mere a child, she prays for her brother, in her youth she prays for her husband and when she has attained motherhood, she sacrifices her body to keep the humanity alive. In spite of this, I would like to make a mention of this period of injustice and atrocities through which we are passing and where undue advantage is being taken of the weakness and poverty of our women folk in the name of dowry.

[English]

75% of the crime against women are committed by the police and anti-social elements. They are protected even by the political forces.

[Translation]

All these things, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister. Politicians protect those people who commit atrocities on women. This is against the traditions, prestige and accepted norms of morality of our country. Atrocities are committed on the ladies. There are incidents of their murders and illegal detention and also the cases of rape on women who are sexually exploited and face physical harassment. Not only this, even the cases of atrocities on expectant and nursing mothers are there in our country. I would mention it here in the House that the ladies are put to humiliation through different advertisements which are definitely against the accepted practices and prestige of female. Whether we, the people of this country, will allow undesirable display of the female body for the purpose of increasing the sale of a soap or some oil, or to promote business activities or for our profiteering object which is against the prestige of our country and the human-values held in high esteem in this country. Hence there is need to pay attention to it. It is everywhere that the ladies engaged in small jobs are being exploited. I take 'sati' system as the barbaric murder of women. Such criminal tendencies like 'sati' should not find a place in the noble traditions of our great country. That was the creation of a few exploiters who had their

[*Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia*]

hold on the society. They made it binding on the widowed young wife of a man to take a plunge into fire bedecked all over her body in ornaments and with a suhaag mark on her forehead. They must have thought that having taken a plunge into fire, the girl would turn into ashes and they would collect all the gold from her ashes. That is also a form of looting. Government should pay attention to it.

[*English*]

Dowry deaths which were reported to police had risen from 999 in 1985 to 1787 in 1987.

[*Translation*]

There have been the cases of dowry deaths in Gujarat. Though this House, I would like to tell the whole country that the women belonging not only to poor classes but also to the rich families have died on account of dowry.

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja): It is the rich people who kill them. The poor people do not kill them.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: It is correct.

[*English*]

Mr. D.P. Sena of Gorakpur University said that dowry system is not an ancient practice in India. But the increasing incidence of dowry disputes, leading to domestic violence and deaths of women has comparatively risen in urban middle and lower middle class phenomenon. Another important factor is that dowry victims were, generally, found in tradition-ridden high-caste families, which observed the pattern of marriage within the caste and overwhelming majority of the dowry deaths that is, 60% were in Brahmins; 20% in Vaishnava Community; 20% in Kshatriyas and 0% in Scheduled Castes.

[*Translation*]

Sir, that is the position. I would like to say one

thing more. Mr. J. Vergeese of Kerala University has conducted a study in this regard on the basis of which he has claimed that

[*English*]

I.A.S. and Central Services Officials, Doctors and Chartered Accountants fetch the highest price in the matrimonial market.

[*Translation*]

This is the factual position.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip): This is the position only in respect of Government employment. It is not so at other places.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I would like to mention that these people despite their occupying very high positions in the Government drawing the highest amount of salaries, are priced highest even in the marriage market. They also command highest respect in the society because of their power wielding positions. That is the position. There is a famous female singer in our area named Narindra Bibi whose daughter was burnt to death by her son-in-law who was an M.B.B.S. and the girl was also an M.B.B.S. but in spite of all these facts, she was burnt to death. Hence it is a matter of serious consideration by us as to how to get the women have their due rights in the prevailing circumstances.

[*English*]

The Union Home Ministry has issued a number of circulars regarding rise in crimes against women. Unfortunately, laws and circulars by themselves cannot solve the problem.

[*Translation*]

As at present, there are a number of laws to that effect and orders are also issued from time to time in this connection. It is, therefore, a matter of serious concern for us and we should find out the reasons for which the problem is not being solved. What is the present position of women in our society?

The basic thing which comes to my mind is the attitude of the criminals who are not afraid to commit such crimes against or atrocities on women. I would like to place all those reasons before this august House. Till date not a single ruffian involved in molesting hundreds of girls in St. Stephens and Hindu College of Delhi on the occasion of Holi festival in 1988 has been punished. Same thing had happened during Delhi riots. Has anybody been punished? Women are the worst victims whenever riots break out in any part of the country. In riots of November 1984 in Delhi, nearly 2200 Sikh women became widow, but till date nothing has been done for them except the 200 widows rehabilitated. Nobody took an initiative for them. The Punjab police is committing atrocities on women as is reported by the newspapers daily on the charge of giving shelter to terrorists. Can the sleeping women confronted by terrorists armed with A.K. 47 Rifles on the farms at night refuse to cook food for them. In view of all these things the Government should be rational. The condition of women in the age group 18 to 25 years is the worst. Nearly 80 percent dowry deaths are reported in respect of this age group and rest 20 per cent from the women in the age group up to 35 years. A very good thing has come to my notice that there is no incident of dowry death in case of intercaste marriages. For rooting out this evil, to my mind, intercaste marriages should be encouraged. I would like to state one more thing. It is also the responsibility of society to safeguard the rights of illiterate poor women of the rural areas as well as those of the urban areas, besides ensuring the security of a few English speaking highly educated women and those in the top ranking positions.

Sir, in this connection I would like to give 5 or 6 suggestions. My first suggestion is for the setting up of an independent authority to inquire into all type of cases of atrocities against women and cases of dowry deaths to file cases in the courts and arrest the persons found guilty therefor. Police, the prosecution authority should be independent and vested with all the powers required for the purpose and there should be sum-

mary trial in special courts in the cases of rape, molestation and dowry deaths. Secondly many persons take recourse to the change of their religion to humiliate their present wives and to marry for the second time after their conversion as a muslim. There have been many such cases where people changed their religion only to marry for a second time.

[English]

While a second marriage is not considered an offence under the Muslim Personal Law, a marriage by conversion should not be held valid in a court of law, unless a husband has divorced his first wife. No less a person like the Shahi Imam of the Jamma Masjid of Delhi has stated that he would not convert a Hindu to Islam if his purpose in becoming a Muslim is to marry again.

[Translation]

Most of these cases are reported from the educated class. Easy method evolved for second marriage is the conversion.

My third suggestion is to file damages suit of Rs. 5 lakh to 10 lakh against the persons committing atrocities on women to help the victims along with the imposition of heavy penalty on such persons. The Government is requested to refer to the guidelines issued by the Chief Justice of the Punjab High Court to the lower courts to give punishment in addition to the imposition of heavy fines on the accused and out of the heavy fines so collected, larger part of the amount should go to the victims.

Here I may ask the Government to cite the name of even a single officer who was awarded for his commendable work and initiating action in the cases of atrocities against women and dowry deaths in his district, area, tehsil or subdivision adding a grace to the name of that place where he was posted or to cite an instance of rescuing a person from the clutches of atrocities. But till this day no such award has been given. Contrary to that the officers whosoever

[Sh. Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

steps against the persons committing atrocities on women were transferred before the completion of their term. Therefore as a fourth suggestion I would like to request the Government to evolve a mechanism for appreciating and rewarding the officers for the valour they show in taking action in such cases. The Government should give incentive to such persons.

As regards the cases of dowry deaths, I would like to say that if a girl after her marriage writes a letter complaining of the demands of dowry by the in-laws, the Police Officer incharge of the respective Police Station should open a file for the purpose of record immediately after receiving the very first letter from the girl in that regard. As the in laws demand dowry in the first instance and then they continue to demand something or the other and last of all, these things culminate into the death of the girl. Therefore, in cases of dowry deaths, the police should maintain the number and date wise record of the complaints to present the same in the court as a proof. Under the terrorists Act, all the family members on the in laws side above 18 years of age should be convicted for harbouring the criminals responsible for killing the daughter-in-law. For checking dowry deaths, the family members should be convicted up to 3 years of imprisonment for being a party to the killing of the daughter-in-law by the mother-in-law. With these words I conclude.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Shri Ramoowalia who has raised this discussion in this august House.

We are proud of our Indian women who have played a great role throughout our past history. If you go through the early Indian history, we will find that Indian women like Sita, Savitri, Damyanti, Khana Leelawati, Sati Arundati and others left a mark behind.

If you see the medieval history, ladies like Jahanara Begam, Roshanara Begam, Nurjahan Begam and other eminent ladies played a great role. In our present day history, you will find that Kamla Nehru, Basanti Devi, Matangni Hazra and Indira Gandhi played a great role. We are very proud of Shrimati Indira Gandhi, late Prime Minister of India, who lost her life for the sake of the country.

Sir, women in India constitute the single largest group of backward citizens. It is a fact that atrocities on women are increasing day by day. Sometimes, it may be because of dowry, sometimes molestation, sometimes rape and sometimes other atrocities. Our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been trying his best to uplift the women. He feels strongly about the rights of women. He has also said that our march into the 21st century would be seriously undermined if women are left behind.

What do we find in reality today? It is a fact that the lives of those women who are involved in political life are not safe. I know that from my experience being in the political field myself. The life of those women who are in the administration is not safe. I am not blaming the lower, the middle class or the illiterate people, but the fact is that the atrocities on women are coming from the rich and from the educated people, from the administration, and from the high officials. I, therefore, strongly condemn those who exploit the women. That needs to be put an end to immediately.

As the time is limited, I would not elaborate on the points that have already been touched upon by Shri Ramoowalia.

The hon. Minister, Shrimati Margaret Alva, is aware that in the last session also in this House, we had raised the issue of murder of Supriya, grand daughter-in-law, at the residence of one Chief Minister. Why I am telling this is because these things happen even in such responsible quarters. It is not a matter of opposition or the ruling party. Sir, I fight for the genuine cause. Dr. Phulrenu



Guha is a senior Member of the Parliament. She is an ex-Central minister also. She had one major accident and when she went to the hospital, she was not allowed to enter into the hospital. If it is not atrocity, it is injustice which is equivalent to atrocity.

Regarding Ms. Jayalalitha also, you know how she was humiliated and assaulted inside the legislature. You know the circumstances under which the resignation letter of the leader of the Opposition in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly was unauthoritatively and illegally seized by the Police under the instructions of the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. After that the police denied the fact and the Police Commissioner said that this was—the zerox copy and they did not get the true copy. Sir, I have this document and I can lay it on the Table of the House after my speech. This is a genuine document. This is a document from the Police Mahajan. The police has written: "A blue letter pad in a sealed cover addressed to the Speaker was found. When it was opened a letter written by Ms. Jayalalitha, MLA dated 15.3.89 was found." This is the letter and if you want I can lay it on the Table of the House. I can challenge that if my grievance is not genuine, then anybody can bring a privilege motion against me. I would request the Minister to suspend this Police Commissioner. I would like to know as to why the Police Commissioner told like that. This is the document which I have got from the Police file. When I got it from there, how can he say that he only received a zerox copy? So, my request is that you should suspend him. I would say that the police is on the back of these atrocities.

Madam, I have a newspaper with me. It is not Hindustan Times or National Herald or Times of India or the Statement but it is the Indian Express. They have published the photographs of Ms. Jayalalitha. How she was humiliated inside the Assembly. I am not raising this issue for any political reason. I am raising it because Madam, as you know, sari is an ornament of a woman. In our Bangla we say, 'Shri Nari Abhushan', i.e. sari is an ornament of a woman. But how did the

PWD Minister... (*Interruptions*)

How allegedly he tore her sari... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please order, order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, is it the forum to raise this point?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please order, order. Take your seat.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, maybe she is an actress, but she is a public representative and no Minister can humiliate her like this. Every woman in this country has her respect. A Minister is a responsible person and he just cannot tear sari of a lady. The PWD Minister roughed her up. It is not a party matter. I agree that the Chief Minister never agreed with it but he did not even take my action in this regard. She is a politician and if her life is not safe and if she is not allowed to attend the Assembly, then what would be the position for other women. If an AIADMK Leader, who is a lady, is not allowed to attend the House, where is the question of protection to other women. We have discussed atrocities on women in this house several times.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister, who is also a woman, to conduct an inquiry regarding assault on the AIADMK leader. You should take proper action so that not only Miss Jayalalitha but also women like Shrimati Goswami, Mrs. Guha and others are protected. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister to see that the honour and life of every women of this country should be protected. Secondly, I want to raise another very important issue. We have got the Dowry Prohibition Act. It was amended in 1984 and also in 1986 in order to make it more stringent. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and also the Indian Evidence Act were amended to deal effectively not only with the dowry deaths but also to deal effectively with cruelty on women. It is a fact that this august House has passed so many laws

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

but there is no proper implementation of those laws. The fact is that mostly the atrocities on women are committed by the high class families, the family of judges, the politicians' family and so on. Because of their influence, the people are not getting justice. Therefore, I would say, "Good money-good law, good money-good justice and good money-good barrister." That is why, these things are going on.

One Swedish woman came to Calcutta. She was raped by two BSF Jawans. In a village in Bihar, the police people have gang raped the woman. I do not know why such things are going on. In Assam also, the Bodo Agitation has started. You know how the police are torturing the women. Even there the lives of women are not safe. So, this is the position. I would request the hon. Minister to see that proper justice is given to the women of the country. Wherever proper justice is not given, the Government should come forward and see that they get proper justice.

Now I want to cite one particular case. One lady by name Mrs. Soma Chatterjee was married on 5.12.88. After four months of her marriage, I received a letter from her father that she was murdered. She was married in Allahabad. The police says that according to postmortem report, she has committed suicide. But when her father pressurised that it was not a suicide case but it was a murder case; then, the second postmortem of the body took place. Then it was made clear that that was a murder case. Now what happened? It came to the notice that her husband had murdered her. His name was Shri Ram Chatterjee. After four days, due to influence of his maternal uncle who may be a judge, he got a bail from the Court. So, what I want to say is that this young woman was murdered only after four months of her marriage. She was only 20 years old. What I want to bring to your notice is that if anywhere the relative of the victim is a judge or the police or for that matter if the Government is involved, then people won't get proper justice.

I would request the hon. Minister to introduce a forum where the Government of India can directly investigate the case, where the Government of India can directly intervene or where the Government of India can take action against such people. You have got the Dowry Prohibition Act wherein it is mentioned that if any woman is killed within seven years of marriage, the Government can punish the in-laws.

There is a law but it is not implemented properly.

I had mentioned this case of Rajasthan Congress MLA last year also. One Congress MLA killed his four children, four daughter because of infanticide. This man should be expelled from the Party. I am not saying about Congress or Communist, but this is a matter of concern. Madam, you can see that report, being an MLA he should be a responsible person. You see the report that it is confirmed, "Infanticide by Rajasthan MLA's family". What is this?

(Interruptions)

Why are you laughing? This is a serious matter.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is a serious matter.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Because it is female infanticide they are laughing.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if anybody laughs when Kumari Mamata Banerjee is speaking it will also tantamount to atrocities on woman..... (Interruptions)

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: If this is their attitude here then what can we expect from the opposition? What can we expect? If

their behavior is like this, in this august House, what will they do outside, I do not know. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): I appreciate their sentiments. But whatever has happened in Tamil Nadu Assembly, cannot be discussed here in Parliament..... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, order.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Even the Assembly is not safe for women. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Women are not safe because of the Opposition people. (*Interruptions*)

Madam, you see the Rajasthan MLA's case. Please do not disturb. This is not your matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mamataji, you address the Chair.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: They are not having any specific case. But I am having a very specific case here. So, I am giving the specific documents. If you are ready you can see. The police confirmed infanticide by a Rajasthan MLA's family. As the Police have confirmed it action should be taken.

My party always protects the rights of minorities, and my party always protects the rights of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, and my party always protects the rights of women. We should take proper action against him. I would request that the Party may expel this member. This type of member should not continue as a Congress (I) member.

I do not want to speak anything more, but I want to give some specific suggestions.

I want to point out about Shri Khilanand Jha. He was working in Bihar; he married a Harijan lady. The Government said that if an upper caste man marries a lower caste lady, he would get some credit. After that he married her. What is the harm? We welcome it. But after he married this Harijan lady, he was dismissed. That is very bad. I would like to request that his services should be restored or he should be reinstated immediately.

I would also like to request you to see that proper implementation of laws takes place in our country. Secondly, proper publicity through the media should be given. Because TV and Radio are popular media they should be used to give publicity. The Press also is doing very well. But there should be a constant endeavour to strengthen these media.

Thirdly, to create consciousness among the women we have to eradicate illiteracy in women.

I suggest that a lady Police Officer should be appointed in every district to look after the grievances of women.

Our Government is setting up so many committees like the Parliamentary Committee for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes, and other committees also. I would like to request you to set up a Parliamentary Committee for Women, to look after the women and to look into the grievances of women. Women are also minorities now. Somebody may be treating women as a weaker section, though we are not weak. We do not even want any undue advantage from men. Sometimes people say that women are the poor class, they are the neglected class. But I think that as a woman I am proud. We do not want any help from men. But we want equal opportunities to work with men in the field. I do not discriminate between men and women. We are equals, we are the same people. We should have equal rights, we should have equal opportunities. We want to work together in the field. But there should not be any discrimination between men and women in this country. If this discrimination

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

goes on, then our country will not improve. We are going towards the 21st century, we are looking forward to the 21st century. But if our attitude does not change, this country will not survive; and that is why I also believe sometimes that women are also responsible for this situation—some women; I am not speaking about all women, but some women. That is why I believe that it is the women who have to come forward to solve these problems; and they have to take part from the grassroots level to the decision-making levels, to solve their problems.

SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH GOSWAMI (Nabadwip): Sir, I would first entreat you not to ring the bell, because I would be as brief as possible, and I will not take much time.

I am glad that this issue has come to Parliament, because we rarely get a chance to talk about women's issues. But discussion alone is never enough. More important is action and implementation of the laws, and the consensus arrived at in this House. Therefore, Government seems to be very long on rhetoric, and very short on actual implementation at the ground level. In fact, non-implementation of existing laws, however inadequate they may be, is a reflection of the lack of political will on the part of this Government.

Take the case of Delhi. This is the capital of India, the citadel of the ruling party, the place where our Prime Minister lives. Why is it that right here in Delhi, we have by far the largest number of cases of eve-teasing, and one of the highest number of cases of dowry deaths? It has got a small population. But in 1986, according to Government statistics, there were 64 dowry deaths; in 1987, 79 dowry deaths and in 1988, 84 dowry deaths. Despite its small population compared to other States, the cases of kidnapping of women, rape and molestation were also abnormally high. Why is it that one hardly sees women in Connaught Circus after 8 p.m.? Very few women would dare to board a bus alone at night, or go to the

cinema show at night. If the Government has failed to provide security to women in this capital itself, then how can we take seriously all the things that are said from the Treasury benches regarding uplift of women, regarding how they will not leave us women behind while going to the 21st century and regarding that wonderful piece of high-sounding nothing which is called NPP—National Perspective Plan for Women?

One might legitimately ask how much of this talk is sincere and how much is merely populist propaganda during an election year. Even according to Government statistics, crimes against women have registered a sharp increase in all aspects, both within and outside the family. These include dowry murders, widow-burning, rape, wife-beating, female foeticide and infanticide, witch-hunting, virginity test, Devadasi system, prostitution, increasing desertion etc.

I have got the figures that are available here. I refer to Unstarred Question No. 4434 dated 3.4.1989.

15.00 hrs.

Now, I am not going into the statistics, I am taking them for granted because it will take more time. If we take a close look at the statistics on various types of atrocities on women for different States, we find that such atrocities tend to be highest in five States of the country, all of which share some common features. I am not shielding the other States because this malady is pervading in all the States all over the country. These five States are Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Maharashtra.

Is this an accident that all these five States also figure at the top when we look at the figures released by the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes regarding atrocities on scheduled castes and tribes? These five States together account for 85-90 per cent of such atrocities in the whole country? Is this also an accident that, barring Maharashtra, the other four States which are in the Centre, that is North-

ern Hindi belt, are also among the most backward in terms of a wide range of social and economic indicators? Are these also not the States where female literacy is the lowest, infant mortality is the highest, and female infanticide is so high that it would put even the most shameless male chauvinist to shame? These are not accidents. This is not a mere coincidence that in these very States the performance of the State Governments in the field of land reform has been the poorest. We still hear about landlords with thousands of acres of land—which, of course, are kept illegally with the full knowledge of the authorities, who would not dare to touch them? We hear about private senas to terrorise their tenants and agricultural labourers, and to suppress them when they demand implementation of their legal rights. We hear of mass murders and gang rapes repeatedly from these States. What we saw in Deorala, that is widow burning, or the gang rape at Pararia in Bihar are expressions of decadent semi-feudal culture of the sixteenth century. Now very little has been done so far to rectify these abuses by the ruling party and their Government as they depend on the patronage of the very same people who perpetrate such crimes. Is it an accident that all these five States plus Delhi are ruled by Congress? May I ask what measures the C.Ms or M.Ps from these places have taken to put a stop to these practices? Why are the rapists of Pararia still at large? Why is it that immediately after the ousting of the Left Front Government in Tripura, gang rape by military occurred on tribal women in Ujan Maidan and other places? Why is it that the offenders in most cases are either men of the landlords or the custodians of law and order themselves—police and military? As I have mentioned on an earlier occasion, rape by custodians of law is not an aberration but has become an instrument of class or political vendetta and it has been possible because Government lacks the political will to punish the culprits. If the Governments is unable to control its own men, what guarantee is there that the police personnel would maintain necessary vigil against such atrocities?

What action has been taken against

Mohan Lal Pawar, ASI living in Model Town, Police Lines, here in Delhi who beat his wife Geetanjali so that both her hands were fractured? The Kingsway Camp Police Station refused to record her complaint and only after the Janabadi Mahila Samiti staged a mass demonstration of women that they took some action. But whether the action was only for show or for real remains to be seen.

Now I come to the case of the Rajasthan MLA about whom Kumari Mamata Banerjee has already mentioned. She has also referred to the reports in the Press. It is said:

“The MLA himself was charged with killing two of his newborn daughters, including one who was born after his election to the Vidhan Sabha in 1986.”

What action has been taken against him? Why has he not been put behind the bars and convicted of murder? Now, according to the reports the Chief Minister is backing him all along.

Now, with your permission, I would refer to the remarks of a senior Minister of the Government of India, which puts the question of credibility of this Government in question. I am talking about Shri Vasant Sathe. We are used to all kinds of statements coming from this gentleman. But his one exceeds all limits. The reports says, I quote from *the Statesman* of 21-2-1989,

“He told a shocked audience in Nagpur that there was nothing wrong with sex determination tests, and compared them with abortion which is now legal and enjoys a degree of social sanction. The Union Energy Minister went on to add that since the sex determination test was carried out to ascertain whether the foetus was of an unwanted female, it amounted to aborting a child that is not wanted... Mr. Sathe went on to argue that if men outnumbered women, the “latter would be in demand and offered dowry”. In other words, organized female foeticide would

[Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami]

change the existing man: woman ratio and promote the concept of bride price."

Now, if this is the argument, why not kill half the women and thereby further increase the demand for the remaining half in the country?

I would request the Prime Minister to clarify whether this is indeed the view of the Government or not. If not, Shri Sathe must resign from the Ministry and from Parliament. The ruling party and the Government at the Centre and in the States are squarely responsible for the present escalation of atrocities on women in this country. Atrocities on? Women have become an integral part of atrocities on the downtrodden masses of people.

The ruling party and its Government have failed to carry out land reforms, free and compulsory education, especially education for women. They have refused to enshrine right to work as a Fundamental Right in the Constitution, thereby denying women the most important factor in raising their status which is economic independence. Their economic policy is throwing thousands of women out of job thereby rendering them totally and utterly helpless and prey to atrocities. Their policy of compromise with all sorts of fundamentalists, communalist, revivalist and obscurantist forces is responsible for a sharp increase of crime against women in the name of religion. They cannot take action against the landlords and their men as these are their 'vote banks' and they are responsible for the continuance of the semi-feudal values and culture which deny equal rights to women and see them as beasts of burden and objects of lust.

How are their media depicting the women? In conclusion, I say that, in order to fight the atrocities on women, women have to fight the Congress (I) policies and Government. The status of women cannot be restored or raised by this Government or along with this Government. It can be restored only

by fighting against this regime, fighting it out of power and our only hope is in the unprecedented awakening of democratic forces including women in this country to attain that immediate goal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Sir, if the hon. Member has tried to observe that there have never been any atrocities on women in Bengal, I can give the statistics. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order. Do not waste the time of the House. We are having hardly one hour.

Shri Brajamohan Mohanty.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Sir, at the outset, I am constrained to observe that the cause of women is not only sacred to women but it is sacred to all the people of the country. I am sorry to say that political partisan spirit has been introduced into the movement, which is very much harmful for the ultimate success of the women movement.

On 13th March, 1989, in reply to the question, whether the offences/atrocities on women have increased, the Minister replied 'Yes'. The Minister has said that dowry deaths, rape cases, molestation of women/girls, abduction of girls/women, and kidnapping of minor girls have increased. Further the Minister observed that the increase in population and rapid changes in socio-economic conditions are mainly major reasons for the increase. The increase in population means increase of women also. Why does it affect adversely the women? And why is it that rapid changes in socio-economic conditions adversely affect the women? My submission would be, let it be examined in depth as to why such adverse effects are taking place.

I would like to submit one thing about West Bengal because my hon. friend from CPM said that if the Congress Government goes out of power, there will be no women problem in the country (*Interruptions*) I do not know why the leadership of her party has put these things through her. She is nice and uncontroversial.

Sir, in West Bengal, Women's Grievances Redressal Cell, South 24-Parganas has been set up in the year 1987. The Cell primarily deals with the offences against women in South 24-Parganas District. It has recorded 185 rape cases during the past three years. If in one district there could be 185 rape cases during the past three years, then what will be the state of affairs of the rest Districts. Only twenty per cent of the rape cases are being reported to the police station and the rest are not reported to the police station. That is the figure. With that background, the dimension of the problem we can imagine..... (*Interruptions*)

Now I tell the House about a case of rape. Justice Krishna Iyer has observed that from top to bottom the judges are not sympathetic in handling cases involving women causes. I am placing before the House Suman Rani case i.e. a rape case. The High Court gave the punishment of ten years but in the Supreme Court it was reduced to 5 years because of her past history. So far as past history of the lady who has been raped is concerned, it is not a material consideration. The material consideration is that she had been raped without her consent. Will the hon. Minister consider examining the statute so that judicial discretion is not exercised in favour of the culprit?

Now I come to the international dimension. In Malaysia, a very stringent law against rape was debated in Parliament. But unfortunately MPs there talked loosely. They said that if women dress decently, there would be no rape case. Revealing clothes and sexy walks are invitation. This is unfortunate. Mrs. Irina Fernandes, President of All Women Action Committee said that they were disgusted by their behaviour. Male chauvinism

reflects thereby. I do not say that this is the order of the life. Women may not be decently dressed. But what about men? Somebody said that widows can commit sati voluntarily. But what about men? If the wife dies, is husband supposed to commit sati?

It is a very complicated dimension of the problem. Recently an analysis in Soviet Union showed that out of 100 cases of marriage, 56 cases ended in divorce. This is the reason why juvenile delinquency is increasing. They are now thinking of glorification of marriages and glorification of parentage because that would be the ultimate solution of the problem. In Hungary now competition is going on in the name of 'best breast of Budapest'. This is degradation of culture particularly in a communist country. Recently in an Id prayer in Peshawar in Pakistan, the kazi bemoaned that the Head of the State of the Islamic State is a woman. So, this problem is there all over the world. Recently one lady Harris Barbara was elected as a Bishop of the Anglican Church and all over the Christian world there has been a lot of protest against that. So, this problem has got international dimensions and we have to fight against it. We should build up women consciousness, we should build up women awakening all over the country so that we can fight it out. It is not a party programme, it is a national programme and all parties should be committed to it, and I believe, as Indians we are committed to it.

So far as the figure of unemployment is concerned, comparatively women are more in number. So far as the discrimination in wages is concerned, the women are suffering from that. There has been a recommendation for amending the Inheritance Law, particularly with regard to Hindus. Same is the case with Marriage Laws. So, we have to do something to see that women are brought at par with men. Unless we do that, we cannot achieve the results.

I am very happy that the Prime Minister is taking personal interest to see that women are brought at par with men and he is trying his level best for that. But ultimately it is the women who have to fight for their own cause.

[Sh. Braja Mohan Mohanty]

So, they must unite and fight against it. We have even amended the Constitution also. In the Chapter on Fundamental Duties, we have said that we shall not indulge in practices derogatory to the dignity of women. So, for that we have amended the Constitution itself. But all the same, there must be women consciousness and they must have the strength and unity to fight for their own cause. The Government should take adequate steps for their economic independence, for improving their social status and for giving them political representation. Then only we can go some steps ahead. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I congratulate Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia for raising a discussion on the atrocities on women in the House. One of the Manus said long long ago that 'women do not deserve freedom'. But it is a saying of the past now. This dictum does not apply to the modern day society. It is redundant and rejected outright. Now women are competing with men in all spheres. Many of them are now highly educated. Women are enjoying equal positions in various walks of life. In legislatures, and other fora, administrative Offices, be it any sphere or walk of life, they are there and proving their mettle. But, Sir, unfortunately, like men. This advancement of women is limited to only a privileged few. Still majority of the women are very backward. The atrocities are being committed mostly on the women who still remain backward. It is very unfortunate. Atrocities are being committed on women day in and day out. We come across many dowry deaths every day. A civilised society hangs its head down in shame for these atrocities. Even in those days when it was said that a women does not deserve freedom, no dowry death had taken place. Sir, this country enjoys a glorious past. Civilization touched its zenith on this sacred soil. We were in the forefront of all the civilized nations on the earth from time

immemorial. Today, we feel proud of the past, and claim that we are a very highly advanced society. We feel proud of our achievements. But, alas, along with our advancement the civil practices like dowry deaths are on the constant increase. Shri-mati Indira Gandhi rules the country some-time ago. Now here son is in the saddle. Dowry deaths are on the increase even since they started ruling the country. We claim ourselves to be a civilised society. But are we behaving in such a dignified way so as to do justice to our claim. Or are we behaving in a monstrous and barbaric way quite contrary to our claim? To what an extent the Government is responsible for such atrocities? How is that the Government has failed in controlling those atrocities. On self intraspection, it will become clear that the failure of administrative machinery is mainly responsible for the growing atrocities on women. They have a tendency to look down upon women. They do not treat the women the way they ought to.

Sir, one of the main reasons for the dowry deaths is the economic dependence of women. Women do not enjoy economic freedom. Women are denied inheritance rights in their parents property. If a father has three sons the property will be divided into four parts and each one gets 1/4 of the property. Of his 1/4 share, father gives, if he desires, some share to his daughters. Hence, 2/3 it is clear how an woman is deprived of her right over property. It is this absence of the right to property to right, which is making the women remain economically dependent. Since they are economically not independent, they remain weak and atrocities on them take place more and more. Atleast now, when we are claim that we are marching ahead and are about to enter 21st century, should try to confer property rights on women. A man and an woman should enjoy equal rights over property. If this is done, atrocities on women would come down automatically. Hence I request the Government to take measures to confer equal rights to property for men and women through a legislation. I am proud to say that, the Andhra Pradesh Government has already provided

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.



such a right by passing a bill four years ago. After much dilly dallying consent was given by the President to that Bill very recently. The step of Government of Andhra Pradesh should serve as a model to the entire country, and the persons who are at the helm in the centre should emulate Andhra example by conferring equal right to property on women.

Though the women were denied freedom, they were held in high esteem during the past. Both Indian and Greek epics reflect the status of women during those days. Homer in his epic "Odessey" says "the beauty of the women that launch thousand ships into war". This shows how much they adored the women in those days. In Mahabharatha, 18 akshowhinis of soldiers had to fight a war. The reason, the humiliation of an woman. Ravana and his Rakshasa clan had to pay penalty for ill-treating Seetha. Such instances are too many to quote. These innumerable instances show what a pride of place an woman occupied in those good old days. Women enjoyed great respect even in those days when the society was not that much advanced as it is today. Lord Krishna could not kill demon Naraka. His consort Satya who had followed her husband to the battle ground, comes to the rescue of Krishna by killing Narakasma. Lord Krishna appreciating her mastery over the art of war and wonders whether there is any art or skill which is beyond the comprehension of an woman. If it is taught to her in nice way. It amply clear the that there is no sphere activity which is beyond the capability of an woman. I wonder where that glory of the woman has gone today? On one hand we find woman handling every kind of profession, be it a typist or an administrator or an able orator, on the other hand we find the women who are gullible and subjected to all sorts of atrocities. Sati was in vogue centuries ago; An attempt is being made to revive this practice. But is surprising that Sati is getting enough encouragement in congress ruled Rajasthan. Much publicity is being given there for Sati. Sati is an evil practice and should be condemned by one and all. It is a slur on a civilised society like ours.

Strongly, the Central Government has remained as a silent spectator. In fact it is not in a position to take a definite stand. The reason is that Rajasthan is under Congress I rule. Had it been an N.T.R. Government or Jyoti Basu's Government, it would have been dismissed immediately. This kind of double standard would only contribute to growing instances of atrocities. Wherever and whenever the Sati takes place, the concerned persons and states should be punished severely. If the Centre remains indifferent if this practice takes place in Congress ruled States, then the action of the Central Government deserves to be condemned. I am ashamed to see the helplessness displayed by the Central Government in this respect. It is not merely sufficient to say that atrocities on women are being committed. We have to work resolutely in order to see that these atrocities come to an end. These atrocities are more in Congress-ruled States like Rajasthan, U.P. and Bihar. There are several legislations already which ban the evil practices. Yet, they are not being implemented in letter and spirit. Who is responsible for the failure in implementation? Atrocities are more in Congress ruled states than in Opposition ruled States. The Congress Party claims that it is taking the country to 21st Century. Quite contrary to it we find the barbarian practices being committed in their own States. There is no use in saying that the 21st Century is being ushered in as long as such evil practices like Sati continue to exist. They should stop shedding crocodile tears. If Government is really interested in the upliftment of women then the women have to be given the right to property on par with men. Then only the imbalance between man and woman can be removed. When women become economically independent, naturally the atrocities on them will diminish and the country can surge ahead into the 21st Century.

Once again I thank and congratulate Shri Ramoowalia for raising this discussion in the House.

I conclude my speech thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Rajhans may speak. But before he speaks, I would like to state that we started this discussion around 2.15 p.m. instead of 2 p.m. Therefore, to that extent we will continue the debate up to 4.15 p.m. Afterwards we are going to take up discussion on drinking water problem at 4.15 p.m. Madam intervenes at 3.00 p.m.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): I need only 15 minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Then you start at 3.45 p.m. because afterwards one Member will be left.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV: What about us?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call you. It is only intervention. We will continue afterwards. We will take it up again on Monday.

Now, Dr. Rajhans may speak.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the seriousness of the hon. Members on such a serious issue of atrocities against women is reflected by the attendance in the House.

Really it is sad to discuss the issue of atrocities against women every year in the House. After having a discussion in the House the hon. Members feel satisfied and think that they have done their duty and thereafter there will be no incident of atrocities on women. My friends in the opposition got very annoyed when an hon. Member of the ruling party raised the issue of Ms. Jayalalitha. I

would like to know why the issue of Ms. Jayalalitha cannot be raised here in the House. Has she not been meted out an injustice? Mere this fact that she is an actress does not permit us to put her to humiliation just by tearing her clothes.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: The ex-Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was an actor so also is the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: What I mean to say is that Ms. Jayalalitha incident which took place in Tamil Nadu is a sad reflection on the country as a whole and especially on the ruling party in Tamil Nadu. My colleague showed the Indian Express with pictures of Ms. Jayalalitha in tattered clothes, the newspaper which is often quoted in the House is not any other newspaper but the Indian Express. What happened to Ms. Jayalalitha is known to whole of the country. To inform her party, family members and public, she expressed on a piece of paper her desire to quit. But later she handed over the sealed envelope to a family friend..... \*\* ..... for safe custody. The Intelligence Officer of the D.M.K. came to know about it and he arrested ..... \*\* ..... After arrest the officer manhandled the person at his residence and asked him to produce the letter. Having received the letter he handed it over to the Assistance Commissioner of Police who in turn handed it over to the Police Commissioner. The Police Commissioner sent it to the Home Secretary who further handed it to the Chief Minister and he declared that Kumari Jayalalitha has resigned. This is extremely regretting.

I quote here from the magazine "The Week", which is not a Government magazine but a very reputed magazine which is published from Madras. It has been stated in this magazine.

[English]

"According to sources in the State Intelligence, as soon as the letter was round, the Assistant Commissioner sent it to Commissioner Durai who in turn handed it to Home Secretary R. Nagarajan. By 10.30 p.m. copies of resignation letter and the four page appeal to partymen had reached all newspaper offices. It is said that policemen in plain clothes took them to newspapers."

[English]

What else could be more regretting? We sympathise with Kumari Jayalalitha because she was our colleague and we used to share views while sitting in the Rajya Sabha and the Central Hall. What right does anyone have to insult an ex-M.P. or an ex M.L.A. in this manner. When a lady of Kumari Jayalalitha's Calibre can be insulted in this country, and is not allowed to speak and forced to resign, then how can the honour of others be safeguarded? Even today, she is scared of coming out of her house, she was virtually beaten up and a P.W.D. Minister even tore her clothes. Has this ever happened in our country? We feel satisfied with these words that she was an actress. People should just think how they would feel if the ladies of their own family are treated in this manner...

SHRISYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Say something about Papi Posh also.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: How can you talk of Papi Posh when your party has also done the same. How can you justify the ill-treatment meted out to Kumari Jayalalitha? This is extremely regretting. Just because she has joined hands with Congress and has merged both the groups of A.I.D.M.K. due to which the position of Shri Karunanidhi is threatened, and because of that you people will recourse to violence and will then justify the same. This is very sad and regretting. My submission is that the Tamil Nadu Government should be dismissed. I submit that a

C.B.I. enquiry should be got conducted into it, the Tamil Nadu Government should be dismissed and it should make a public apology. This is so because this incident took place in Tamil Nadu Assembly and it may be repeated in any other Assembly, or even in this very House. How can you tolerate and justify this. This is a matter of great concern. A thorough C.B.I. investigation should be got conducted into this incident. Whenever the question of atrocities on women arises, our attention is completely diverted to the Supriya case, in which no action was taken even when the grand-daughter-in-law of a Chief Minister was shot dead. The Chief Ministers talk of morality but what could be more regretting than the fact that we accept atrocities quietly. That Chief Minister and those who give protection of such people should have been arrested and a C.B.I. enquiry should have been got conducted against them. But the entire action has been kept lying pending. My submission is that no matter how much we criticise the atrocities on women, the entire thing ends merely with a discussion and is not proceeded any further. We read in newspapers everyday about bride burning and we simply ignore it by being contented that this mishappening did not involve us. This may happen with anybody. A very good slogan was given during one of the *dhamas* in the Supriya case that "Daan do dahej do, aur bahu ko maar do." Otherwise also, the brides and these poor girls are burnt alive.

SHRISYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Tell us about the Papiya Posh.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: Why are you feeling some, difficulty? We are already speaking about you only.

SHRISYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: Tell us about the Papiya Posh in Bihar.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: I am just telling about it that those who were responsible for it have been punished... (*Interruptions*)... Both you as well as I understand this... (*Interruptions*)... This has happened in the family of your Chief Minister but why does his

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

son justify it here? ... (*Interruptions*)... I will not let you speak unless it is your turn. Let me speak... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH: Demand the dismissal of the Chief Minister of Bihar also... (*Interruptions*)

DR. G.S. RAJHANS: It is my turn so please let me speak. You may speak on your turn... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to make 2-3 submissions. This may take place in any family and should therefore be taken seriously. My submission is that just as the photographs of terrorists are shown on T.V., similarly the photographs of the culprits found responsible for burning a lady or a girl in a family should be shown on television. The media of doordarshan is the mightiest one these days. As such the Government publishes the photograph of culprits in the newspapers. Apart from this, just as the photograph of a mission people is shown on T.V., similarly, the photograph of these criminals too should be shown on T.V. so that their relatives and friends may know about their misdeeds and may socially boycott them.

I will conclude after making one more point since the hon. Minister has to reply. People who have been on a visit to the Western countries, must have observed it at least I have, that woman is given great regards. This is so because in those countries from the very beginning everybody in a family is trained that the status of female is higher than that of the males. In those countries whenever even the poorest woman happens to travel by a bus, the richest persons sitting in the same bus will offer her their seats. Even in queue men give priority to the female. In winter, season when there is snow fall, men and women often wear overcoats. If a lady visits somebody's house, the head of that family howsoever rich he is, will pick up her overcoat to hang it on the peg. Therefore, the question is that of the mentality. If nothing else, we should at least take the

lesson from the West of respecting the woman. This training may be imparted from the very childhood. In this regard, I would submit that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has taken a very good step by making a reservation of 30 per cent for women in the Panchayati Raj. The Government should spend maximum possible amount on education of women so that they may raise their voice against any misdemeanour. The entire problem will get solved when they become economically independent and for this the Government should educate them. I would like to submit that this is not a matter of just one party or society or a village but that of the whole nation. Recently, a girl in my neighbourhood in Delhi had to face atrocities. Her parents were not in a position to give dowry and therefore her husband, her brother-in-law and even father-in-law used to beat her, but she did not get justice. I took her father to the Police Commissioner who took an immediate action and set all the things right. But how many of such people I can take to the Police Commissioner to get them justice. Or to what extent you can do the same. The need is change of mentality. We all should change this mentality in our own way. We deliver exhaustive speeches for speech sake and people also say that gods live there where women are adored. Someone has said that this is only just for making statement in the same way as a dishonest person says "Satyamev Jayate" i.e. truth always triumphs. Similarly, if we say so only in our speeches, it is meaningless. This will not serve any purpose, unless we practice it ourselves in our life with a determination to bring about a change in our society. We will have to take a pledge in this regard. Atrocities on women will not stop unless we take a pledge in this regard.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Home Minister will reply

to the debate at the end of it. I am only intervening.

You are aware that the implementation machinery is not with the Department of Women and Child Development. It is the Home Ministry and the State machineries which have really got to be geared to implement the legislation which we monitor through Parliament.

I have noted the many points which have been raised in the discussion. There are a few of them which I would like to reply to, at this initial stage.

One is that we do have legislation. We have been from time to time receiving your support for amendments there in order to plug the loopholes.

Very often suggestions are made by women's groups and by various experts in the field.

Efforts have been made from time to time to collect the figures of atrocities committed on women and those figures have been given by the Home Ministry to this House. The cases of atrocities on women are recorded in police stations. But, as has been rightly said, many many cases are not recorded at all because generally there is a feeling of nervousness among women about going to police stations and coming face to face with the police machinery at the grass root level, for various reasons which I will explain. But, I do want to say that awareness among women in the country has grown tremendously over the last decade, particularly after the UN Decade; and with the general awareness that has come about among Indian women, the women's movement has really been strengthened. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order please. We are discussing a serious matter. Why are you laughing all of a sudden?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: The second reason for improvement in the position of registering of crimes in police stations

by women, of crimes committed against them is the plugging of the loopholes in law through amendments, as a result of which many many more crimes are now registered, which were not registered before. Women who were afraid of talking about many things are now talking about them; and they are going in for this sort of registration for justice to be done to them. Take the question of rape, for instance. Just a few years ago, no parent or family would allow a rape victim, the girl, to ever talk about it or even to go to a police station even though she was the victim because society always looked down upon her as she has become the victim of such a crime. But, today things are changing, and it is a good sign that more and more of these are coming to light and are being recorded and the machinery is being geared up to meet it. But, I do agree and I admit that the implementation machineries need to be strengthened and sensitised and made to be responsive to the changing needs of women in this country. Many many more women are coming out to work and are travelling alone in public transport, and they have to face various challenges. Strangely, society always tries to take undue advantage of women. Whether it is the girl going to college or whether she is travelling in DTC buses or she is at work. We have so many cases which come to us of harassment of women even in Government offices, or in private offices. Various demands are being made on women and if they do not fall in line, then either their records are spoiled or they are transferred to far-away places, away from their families; or other kind of harassment takes place at work. These are probably many unrecorded atrocities of another kind which women face also within their families. Here, I would like to ask as to how many of us are not discriminating in our families between our sons and daughters when it comes to property, when it comes to education. When it comes to education, we feel that a son even if he gets a third-class, must always get the best of education, even if he has to go to Karnataka to a donation college and pay donation to get him in. But a girl, even if she gets a first-class, after a particular point, we take it.

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

[*Translation*]

It does not matter, let her sit at home since she is to get married.

[*English*]

There is always this social discrimination which parents themselves and very often mothers within the family practise and this naturally reflects itself in various ways in various fields.

Sir, it is the normal practice for Members to make charges and walk out, and not to listen to the replies. I am sorry that my friend and colleague Mrs. Goswami has not waited to listen to the reply. She seems to suggest that a change of Government changes society's attitude towards women. I am sorry, I do not agree. Nor have I seen, from experience of statistics, that the spirit of education changes it. Every speaker agrees that in spite of education, in spite of the urban impact of the so-called developmental process, atrocities on girls and women in cities are also increasing. We talk about dowry. We have a law: We have the rules for Government servants. We have all such things. All such things have been done. Yet, it has been mentioned that the highest dowry paid is for the IAS Officers. The hon. Home Minister is here. I do not know what he would like to say about it as far as his Ministry is concerned. But here I am speaking about the dowry for IAS Officers, for IPS Officers etc. We have the most educated demanding the highest prices as if they are bridegrooms on sale and when they come back with green cards and with foreign degrees, the price goes up. It is a shame that with all their degrees, Ph.Ds, they become bridegrooms on sale to their girls at home when they come back home.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Their degrees should be taken back.

[*English*]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I have already mentioned that they fetch the maximum price in the matrimonial market.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: It is true, somebody had said that the mothers were responsible. Yes, the mothers-in-law are responsible. But why do the educated sons fall in line with the demands of their mothers, when they come back with all their degrees? All that I am saying is that these crimes are not limited to a particular section, to a particular social strata or to the uneducated or to the particular economic groups alone. This seems to be something which we accept.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot): If 50 per cent tax is imposed on them, the number of such cases may be reduced to some extent.

SHRIUTTAMRATHOD (Hingoli): What is the position in respect of the Members of Parliament?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I would like to tell this also.

[*English*]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: If it is a session of question and answer, then I will be drawn away from my own speech. I am coming to a point about which somebody raised a question. It is generally said that the politicians have the lowest dowry premium because their careers are the most uncertain.

[*Translation*]

God knows where will they be after a period of five years and who knows what happens next.

(*Interruptions*)

[English]

So, they are not very much in demand. So, I must say that our hon. Deputy-Speaker got married last year.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why are you bringing me in?

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): At that time, he was in very good demand. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I am only saying this that this is not a political issue. Members may sit on that side or this side. You may be in a State where any Government is running this system. I don't think that this changes the statistics or changes the situation very much. I would like to point out that Members spoke about making the implementation system more effective. We passed a law in 1984. I have been repeatedly mentioning in the this House and in my letters to the Chief Ministers about the Family Courts Bill. It was hoped that the Family Courts would attend to a number of legal and other problems faced by women in the family, which could be in a different atmosphere outside the law courts. I am sorry to say that West Bengal, about which the Member spoke so much, has not yet set up a Family Court even in Calcutta. They say that there are no problems in West Bengal; probably every man in Bengal is a saint. But I do not know. Their experience might be such. But I would like to say that only five Family Courts have been set up since 1984 in Jaipur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Madras and Bangalore. None of the others has set up a single Family Court. Therefore, the enforcement of laws is going on in the normal process which takes years for a matter to be heard or to be settled. I would appeal to all the Members who think that everything is the responsibility of the Central Government to please have enough pressure put on their own State Governments and see that the family courts are established as early as possible.

Somebody spoke about the question of Sati. It is true that there was one incident and the reaction of the Government was immediate. I must say here that both in Rajasthan as well as here, the Government acted immediately to see that it would never happen again. Well, you can say: why should it have happened? Yes, it should not have happened. But the point is, we immediately got into action including campaigns in this area, to tell the women that they do not need to die. We are prepared to look after them. I am glad to say that the first Home in one of the most Sati-prone areas in Rajasthan, in Sikar, for widows, was opened as a joint project just last month and 15000 women turned up for the inauguration, and the whole town of Sikar was up with slogan: "we are not to die, we will live and we will fight." This is a changed atmosphere in this very district. A holiday had been declared for the schools and colleges and girls, children and everybody participated in this big programme. We had *Pad Yatra* through the streets appealing to the people: "if you cannot look after your widows, send them to our homes and we will look after them." We have 33 of them with their children already in this Home. And I am getting requests for more Homes to be opened in Jhunjhunu and other districts where there are these problems. So, social awareness and this kind of campaign will produce the result because after all Indiraji used to repeatedly say: "these are not women's problems. They are social problems and they have to be handled by society as a whole." Therefore, I appeal to all sections particularly to my friends on the other side, that the discussion started very well on a general note. But then, we start saying: "if you have CPM Government, you have no atrocities, and if you have the Congress Government, you have the atrocities." Then it comes down to a level where the real discussion and sorting out of this problem does not become possible. I would, therefore, appeal that we stick to the problem as it stands because all of us, as a nation, as a community, have to sort it out.

A question of inquiries has been raised. I want to say here that whether it was the

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

case of Supriya or any other matter, without the consent of the State Government, we cannot directly interfere in investigation. The Home Ministry has issued directives from time to time particularly about the need to have a post mortem by two doctors, if it is within seven years after marriage. And various other safeguards are there, namely, that the body cannot be disposed of unless a family member of the girl is satisfied that they have looked into everything and seen the body before it is burnt or buried, and so on and so forth. But as I said, unless there is a commitment to implement it at all levels—and if senior and very important people feel that they are beyond the law, whether it comes to a *post mortem* in a hospital or to other rules being followed, it becomes very difficult for me to stand here and say that everything is all right. I do not think anybody can be above the law. The dowry laws must apply to everybody—political and non-political persons, official and to all. As far as Sati is concerned, you probably... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja): How can it apply to a Chief Minister?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: This is where I am saying that it becomes very necessary to create public awareness. I do not want to go into details because time is limited. I went, after that incident of Supriya, to Haryana. I had a public meeting with women. They had invited me. They said: "We want to know the truth. Here is a daughter of Haryana and we have the right to know the truth.": I had agreed to help investigate it. I do not want to go into greater details as it is now in the court.

The other thing is about the decision-making processes. It has rightly been said that women have to be brought into the decision-making process. They must have a voice in implementing programmes for them. And I am glad that in the Panchayats—now that the Prime Minister has announced it, we are hoping and because of the commitment made in the party forum and otherwise—30

per cent of the seats would be guaranteed to women in the villages, in the block, as well as in the district panchayats.

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no support!

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: You may not support; but the women of India are not looking at it as an Opposition or Government issue; they are looking at it as an issue which will bring women into the grassroot level decision making process. We have been kept out for very long. I think the time has come when their voice at the grassroot must be heard. Uptil now the male-dominated machinery decided as to what is good for us, they have decided how much money should go to us, they have decided how it must be used and they have also decided that women must be happy with that much. So, they have remained where they are.

I think things are changing and I am certain that with this change, you will see more and more women emerging, who will come into your Assemblies and into the Parliament to take many of your seats in the coming elections.

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN (Jalgaon): Does it apply to women in the Government service also?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I will come to that also.

There is one more aspect about women coming into this Chamber. It was again raised. The question is not of Opposition or Government. But women need to be secure even inside legislatures and inside the elected bodies. It might be somebody else today, it might be me here also. The question is, if we cannot stand as equals in an Assembly or if we are to be attacked simply because we are women and our modesty is to be outraged in public, then no woman can stand up and fight like this. I think all sections should condemn it. Whether it is a man or a woman in a House he or she has a right to be there; and whoever the Member is, she has a right



to be treated as an equal citizen. We look with dismay at some of the trends which have recently come. Women, I want to say, cannot be shut out simply by threatening them or frightening them. The more we are threatened, the more we will stand up and fight back.

We have spoken about the need for having more women police officers. I agree that in every police station we need them and I hope the Home Minister will respond to this plea. We have been repeatedly making the plea that we need to recruit more women police particularly at the point where the public especially women come into contact with the law enforcement machinery in the police stations.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): What about women in the Armed Forces? When a Bill was introduced, it was the Government which opposed it.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Yes, I suppose in the Armed Forces they are afraid of many other things

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: There are women Armed Forces in Canada, United States, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, England, etc.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: At least we should start with the police. There are two levels; one is the police and the second is the lower judiciary. I think we need more women magistrates, judges and so, on who are sensitive to the needs of women who come before the lower courts.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): Why don't you reserve 30% of seats in those jobs also?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I will come to that. I must say that I have recently seen it and I don't know how the Home Minister will respond to this. The way some of our women police officers have been treated before Commissions of Inquiry and others, I don't think any woman wants to

come into the police after that. I think women police themselves are in need of protection these days!

I must say that the need to sensitize the administration has been felt very strongly. We have introduced several programmes, from our Department, for sensitizing our implementation machineries, the media, the police, the law enforcement agencies and every group that is needed to be sensitised to women's issues. I am glad that the Department of Personnel has responded to this and we have now for all IAS and IPS officers, in service as well as at the beginning, special training capsules on women developmental issues as part of their training, so that right from the beginning they know what is the problem and how they have to respond in the changing situation.

Social welfare organisations and women's groups as I said have become very much aware of all this. We have now provided that lists of women would be given to police stations from these registered bodies who would help with the enforcement processes, with the police, if necessary for investigation, helping in registering of crimes and so on, and to help women in need. We also, have a programme of 'Homes for Women in distress'. We have made a special provision for reservation of 10% accommodation in Working Women Hostels, for widows, in need of accommodation. We have changed the rules to allow women with children to come into these Homes, so that no widow or woman is kept out of the Working Women Hostels because she has little children on her hands. We provide for day-care and other such supportive mechanisms for women, that were needed. The need, of course, is for employment and training for employment and we are in the process of working out many schemes, through the New Educational Policy and through the non-formal sector, to help them, particularly those who need to stand on their own feet. The Prime Minister announced in the House that very soon, we would be appointing a National Commissioner for Women's Rights.

[Smt. Margaret Alva]

This, I think, is what everybody has been asking for,—an independent machinery that would come into operation, to see that the States and other agencies follow up correctly the investigative processes and do not allow these crimes to go undetected and unpunished. This would be of a great support to women who are the victims of various types of crimes. We are in the process of setting it up and before we meet in the next Session, I am sure, we will be able to make the official announcement about the details of the Commissioner for Women's Rights.

Sir, I have put the various points together and I have dealt with them. The question of female infanticide has been spoken about. We have condemned it and in fact, I have written to the Chief Minister of Rajasthan. Necessary legal proceedings were also launched at that time.

When it comes to crimes against women, I am sure, you will agree with me that no politics and no status should come between justice and the crime that has been committed. If we are committed to this, I do not think, there would be very many problems.

Sir, I am just answering the points which have been raised today. But I would like to say that as far as the enforcement is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Home Ministry and I would on behalf of all of us, request the Home Ministry to see that the laws which have been passed by the Houses of Parliament are implemented more vigorously and more conscientiously and that the police become more conscious of their responsibilities as protectors of women and not as their exploiters. thank you, Sir.

**SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli):** I want to ask only one question. The law differentiates between women of different character. i.e. women of good character and women of bad character.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister has spoken. It is not that the debate is over.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** The debate is not over.

**SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam):** Sir, with regard to this discussion, I am very much thankful to the Chair, because, such a discussion is very very necessary at this juncture.

Sir, with regard to the social discrimination against women, even now, it is still persists and the Government has taken so many legal measures in order to remove that. Equality and equal status to women must prevail in the country. The Government has brought in so many amendments to various Acts. The Government has made amendments to the Dowry Prohibition Act, Immoral Traffic Prevention Act, Indian Evidence Act, Indian Penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and so many other Acts. In order to make them effective, a machinery must be brought in. There is a gap which persists between the policy pronouncements and their implementation. The gap is being widened. In order to reduce the gap, a monitoring agency must be there. So, the Government must take it up immediately in order to implement the laws strictly, in letter and spirit.

Sir, a new provision has also been introduced in the Indian Penal Code. Now, the onus of proof has been shifted to the accused. Usually, in criminal cases, the onus of proof always, lies with the prosecution. Now, the Government has come forward to shift the onus of proof to the accused. So, in cases of cruelty on married women, the onus has been shifted to the accused in the Dowry Death Act. Two new enactments have been brought in in the statute book recently, namely, Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 and Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987. Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986 aims at prohibiting the portrayal of women in

indecent, derogatory and denigrating manner through books, pamphlets and advertisements. Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act aims at preventing and glorification of Sati.

The law and other aspect rests actually with the State Governments. Unless the State Governments take an effective step with regard to implementation of these Acts there is no possibility of the security to the women folk. At this juncture, I want to point out that there are so many State Governments in this country but here is a State Government in Tamil Nadu where actually women-folk has no security at all. Here I want to tell the House that in 1975 when this very DMK Government was in power, then there was a district conference at Coimbatore where one of the members who is a Minister now spoke with regard to Madam Indira Gandhi. This very Chief Minister was also present there. From the dias he said that he wanted to bring a Widow Re-marriage Act in order to help Madam Indira Gandhi. You please think of it. That very DMK government is in power now. The very same DMK Chief Minister, ...\*\*.... who tried to attack Madam Indira Gandhi when she came to Madurai and Madras is there. At that time there was a blood-stain on the saree of Madam Indira Gandhi. The DMK Ministers and also the Chief Minister, ...\*\*.....pointed out about the blood-stain on the saree of Madam Gandhi. After attacking her by means of stones when there was a blood-stain, she was criticised and they wanted to take it as a laughing stock. Is it correct, Sir? They very same Ministry is in power now. That is why I want to say to this august House and I also seek protection for the women-folk in Tamil Nadu.

On 25th March, 1989 a violent incident took place inside Tamil Nadu Assembly. Nowhere in the country such an incident has taken place. The Opposition leader in Tamil Nadu is AIADMK leader, Miss Jayalalitha. In order to dis-lodge her from the position of Opposition leader actually there was an attempt to outrage her modesty by DMK Ministry. I would like to know whether such an

incident should take place and that too when we give so much respect to women. Even this country is named as Mother India. We can rivers after the names of women, that is, Yamuna, Ganga, Kavery, etc. We are giving so much respect to women but here is a government which instead of giving protection to women are insulting women like anything. That is why we request the Government to take action immediately against that government for breach of privilege which took place on 25th March, 1989. Action should be initiated against the Ministers who involved themselves in outraging the modesty of the Opposition leader there. Sir, so far we have given so many memoranda to the Prime Minister, President and the Home Minister but they are of no use. The incident which took place on the 25th March, 1989 is a black mark not only in the history of Tamil Nadu but also in the history of India. Under the very nose of the Chief Minister, such an incident took place and what action has been initiated by the Chief Minister so far? What action has been taken against the Ministers or the officers concerned? So far, he has not taken any action against them. When such is the case, why did not the Central Government go to the rescue of the Opposition Leader and thus to the women folk of Tamil Nadu in order to take prompt action against the Chief Minister and against the Government of Tamil Nadu? Actually, the Members of the Opposition were brutally assaulted, mercilessly attacked and indiscriminately abused. Miss Jayalalitha was abused in such a manner which cannot be described. No woman is safe in the hands of Tamil Nadu Government. I think that the women folk of not only Tamil Nadu but also of India will never forgive the sinners, i.e., the Chief Minister and other Ministers. The women folk will not forgive the sinners in the ruling DMK Government. Sir, it is was a pre-planned attack in order to dislodge her from the leadership, with a view to cripple the voice of democracy and to malign the Opposition with the active support of the Chief Minister and other Ministers. I am talking of the incident which took place on the 25th March, 1989. Even the Congress (I) Leader, .....\*\*....and Deputy Leader, .....\*\*.....and

[Sh. P. Kolandaivelu]

other Congress Member were also attacked on that day. Actually, chapels, paperweights and mikes were used as missiles inside the Assembly. Such was the incident which took place on the 25th March, 1989. On the 25th, the wife of late Dr. MGR, MRS. Janaki went to the hospital to see Miss Jayalalitha who was under treatment. After seeing her, Mrs. Janaki returned home. Immediately police personnel was sent to the house of late Shri MGR and the house was raised on that day. Not only that.....\*\*.....brother's shop was ransacked and thousands of rupees had been taken away and properties had been satched. There is no democracy at all in Tamil Nadu. Even thousands of our party people had been taken under arrest and even now, agitation is going on everyday. Even now public meetings are taking place everyday in order to condemn the incident which took place on 25th March, 1989.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue your speech on Monday. We will now take up the next item.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. I seek your protection. I wanted to speak on atrocities on women. My name was on the top, but I have been left out. I may please be given time to speak on this subject.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When we discuss this subject next time, I will call you. You can speak on the drinking water problem if you want.

16.20 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[*English*]

**Acute Shortage of Drinking Water In  
various parts of the country**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion on the situation arising out of acute shortage of drinking water in various parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government in that regard.

Shri Harish Rawat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most parts of the country are either reeling under drinking water crisis or are likely to face it soon. The Government had made an announcement in 1980 that drinking water would be provided to all the 5,07,000 villages in the country by the year 1990. But it is regretted that the results have not been in commensurate with the money and energy spent on this. It was also said that under the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade Scheme, we will provide potable water to about 90 per cent of the villages and 50 per cent rural population and 100 per cent urban population will start getting clean water. I do not say that the Central Government did not provide funds for it. So far as the position of funds is concerned, a lot of money has been spent under this head and a lot of money has also been released for this purpose. If we go by the figures available in this respect, a huge sum of Rs. 2700 crores was earmarked for this purpose during the Sixth Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 3535 crores was earmarked during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

16.22 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I understand that if we make an assessment of the expenditure that has so far been made on this head it will be revealed that by 1990 more than Rs. 4000 crores would be spent for this purpose. Even after spending such a huge amount if you look at the situation prevailing in the States, either you take the case of Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan or Karnataka or Tamil Nadu or Bihar, in almost all the States especially in the rural areas, the people are reeling under the grip of drinking water crisis. If the rains do not fall immediately or there will be no good rainfall this year, it will be a most difficult year for the village so far as the problem of drinking water is concerned.

Just now we are holding a discussion on atrocities on women. This too is a problem that women have to face. Today this problem is no acute in my area that people have to cover long distances to fetch water. There are villages stop hills. Women from these villages come 6 kilometres down to carry water. The entire family is engaged in carrying water. They cannot look after any other work. The State Governments release funds under the crash programme to solve the problem of drinking water, but God knows how this money is utilised. The condition of most of the schemes of drinking water run by the Water Corporation in Uttar Pradesh is very deplorable. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an instance in this context. A few days back I had the opportunity of attending meetings held in some blocks. If the meeting runs for 6 hours, 4 hours out of 6 are devoted to the problem of drinking water. There were complaints that either drinking water was not available or the schemes which were launched become defective. The Gram Pradhans and the people are in more grief. The reason is that once the scheme was put into operation, people did not pay attention to conventional sources of water such as rivulets, springs and wells. For one or two years the people get water through these schemes and thereafter the schemes become defunct. The pipes dug in the earth are left at the shallow layer and their utility is left to God. Though there is a provision to dig pipes three feet below the surface, that is not

done. The tubewells installed are defective. The distribution tanks are also defective. Cement is swindled away. A thin coat of cement is applied on the outer surface. The scheme hardly runs for a year. After one year the villagers are asked to pay tax. Tax is collected from the people, but the drinking water scheme never works. The taps run dry. If somebody makes a hue and cry or if he comes in contact with an M.P. or an M.L.A. and if the M.P. or M.L.A. comes to his rescue, the water supplying agencies spend some money and re-arrange water supply. But no attempt is made to find a permanent solution. I would like to remind the Government that it is a matter of national pride for us. We were a party to the conference that was held at Vancouver. We had made pledge in the said conference that we would provide potable drinking water to all the villages in the country within the International Water Decade. If we are not able to do so and if after 1992 and 1993 we come to know that the problem of drinking is still there in 1/3 or 1/2 of the villages in the country, it becomes a national challenge for us. We have since accorded top priority to it under the minimum needs programme. It has been accorded priority in the 20 point programme. Even after that if this problem continues to be acute, the Central Government should not only come forward to help the States, but also exercise proper check on them. It should evolve a system under which proper monitoring could be done after releasing the funds. If it is not taken proper care or proper monitoring is not done and the money goes waste, what reply would you give to Parliament in this regard and to the country as well. What will be the assessment of the people about the Government and about the Members of Parliament. The situation is not only that all the sources have dried up but also water does come in the taps. The water whatever is available is defective. It is not treated properly. There is no provision to treat the water with chlorine etc. There is no permanent machinery to look after it. The machinery that is there is only in name. Today we are thinking of devolving powers to Panchayat. In this connection I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister or Rural

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Development and hon. Minister of Urban Development that the maintenance of drinking water schemes should be entrusted to Panchayat. They should be empowered to levy taxes and utilise the tax money on the maintenance of these schemes. At the same the villages should be provided fixed amounts annually to take care of drinking water schemes. The Government cannot reach everywhere. If the Government machinery is not set up everywhere, I am afraid, this problem can never be solved. I was going to tell that clean water is not available to most parts of the country. Out of total children taking birth in the country every year, 127 children per thousand die of consuming contaminated water. About 122 lakh people in the country suffer from goitre. In Hindi it is called 'bhonga'. I do not know its English equivalent. The main reason of it is that we are not able to provide them clean water, treated water. I would like to request the Government to evolve a system in consultation with the State Governments so that the water to be made available is fit for drinking.

The situation is also acute in urban areas. A number of major schemes have since been introduced in the urban areas after the introduction of integrated drinking water scheme in these areas. But due to tremendous increase in urban population most of these schemes have become useless. What I want to say is that the population has increased manifold as compared to the number estimated at the time of preparing schemes earlier. I have been observing the population position in Delhi for last 20 years. During these years the population of Delhi has increased manifold. Definitely the earlier estimate of providing drinking water has fallen short of the present requirement. It will be of no use if some addition or deletion is made in it or any effort is made in it or any effort is made to control the supply. A few days back there was a report in the newspapers that by the turn of this century Delhi would be experiencing acute drinking water problem. We will not be in a position of supply 1/4th of water that we are supply to

them now. The situation is very acute in Madras. As compared to that, this crisis could become more serious in Delhi. The hon. Minister of Urban Development is present here. I would like to request here to prepare a long term plan in regard to drinking water problem in Delhi. A system should be so evolved that problem of drinking water would be totally eliminated in Delhi, the capital city of India. If it is not done, you will be required to install hand pumps as it is done in trans-Yamuna areas. Due to use of water from hand pumps gastro-enteritis disease spread in the area and a large number of children died premature death. Due to that our heads were hung in shame. The situation is not that good in Delhi. The condition of a number of colonies in Delhi is worse. There are hues and cries in M.C.D. meetings in Delhi that water did not reach to this and that colony today. There is no question of getting water as much as it is required. Even the pressure of water is very low in M.P.S quarters. We are not getting water in the required quantity. When we are experiencing such a situation, you can well imagine the situation in other areas. Similarly, the situation is very acute in outer Delhi. A number of people working here requested me to raise the point of non-availability of water in their colonies during debate on water being held today. If I prepare of those localities it would be very long and it will consume time. Therefore, I would like to request you there should be a general review of the existing situation at that time and besides, a long term scheme should also be chalked out to solve the problem of water. We cannot meet our full requirement of water from Yamuna. Therefore, we have to go on a bit far away. Therefore, I would like to request you to tell Delhi Administration that Uttar Pradesh Government is going to construct Tehri Dam, Delhi Administration should contribute some amount for Tehri Dam. Some money should be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, so that some cause water can be obtained for Delhi. At present you will not contribute and at the time of crisis you will ask every State Government to release some water. At that time the State Governments would be under pressure. Some State may

supply water and some States may not supply and the people of Delhi will have to suffer. I would suggest that negotiations should be held with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to make arrangements well in advance. The question of providing funds should also be discussed with them.

Besides, out of the surface water available in our country, about 70% of it has become polluted. If not fully, it has been polluted partly. I think leaving aside Ganga and Yamuna, the water of small rivers has also become polluted. A long term scheme should also be formulated as to how to treat and utilise ground water for drinking purposes. Some arrangements should be made so that after negotiating with the State Governments and the Planning Body of district level, a scheme is chalked out at district level so that we may implement the same and get it executed by releasing funds at district level.

I would like to submit to the Minister of State for Rural and Urban Development that at present the maximum number of problem villages are in Uttar Pradesh and among them the villages of Hilly areas are suffering the most where there is dearth of drinking water. Because in their case the question of taking out ground water and utilise the same for drinking purposes does not arise. In plain areas if the well becomes dry, we can sink a tubewell and install handpumps. We can take water from these sources. But in hilly areas, we have to utilise only the available sources. I would like to submit that special assistance should be provided to the Uttar Pradesh Government for this purpose. The State Government has prepared a list. Last year some assistance was sought for drought programme. But very meagre amount was allocated, 1.50 part of the amount asked for was released. Similarly not even 1/100 part of the amount asked for repair was made available. I would urge the Ministry of Agriculture that the amount may be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh according

to their requirements to enable them to solve the existing problem of drinking water in the State.

Some schemes have been forwarded by the States to the Ministry of Urban Development for World Bank assistance. A good number of schemes have been forwarded by the Uttar Pradesh. But action being taken in respect of these schemes is very slow. There are two schemes of sewer line and drinking water also. These schemes are being processed at such a slow pace that sometime a meeting takes place at State level and sometime at the level of Delhi Administration. Work is confined to convening of meetings only. During the last five years I have already raised this issue 6-7 times in the form of questions but everytime it has been said that the matter is at a particular stage. But when the amount would be released and when the matter would come to the execution stage, nothing can be said at present.

Some of the schemes which were implemented with the assistance of World Bank, have been left incomplete. The funds are required to complete them. I would like to ask the Minister of Urban Development that the proposals of those schemes which involve world bank assistance may kindly be sent to the World Bank authorities and get them approved and funds should also be made available for execution of these schemes.

The amount which Central Government provide to the small and medium cities in the form of assistance or loan, a very small amount has been released for the cities of Uttar Pradesh. For the last then years. I have been requesting to take up work in Pithoragarh. The problem is that I am tired of making requests for the past ten years. It is quite possible that as many as ten Ministers must have changed within this period. I have addressed about 200 letters to the Ministry of Urban Development, but of no avail. That city has not been taken up so far. At present, the number of medium and small cities have gone very high in Uttar Pradesh. They have become slums. If you go by National Highway No. 24, you will find that a number of

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new towns have come up which do not have any sanitation facility. The entire garbage of the city spread over and damage the National Highway. The vehicles passing through the road also suffer damage. The effluence of factories takes the shape of a pond adjacent to road and it become a problem for the passers by. The adjoining villages also face this problem. In this connection, the Central Government should formulate some scheme in consultation with the State Government so that these small and medium cities can be developed. More financial assistance should be provided for this purpose so that the towns may develop rapidly.

At last, I would like to request the Central Government, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Urban Development through you that it is a human problem, it is a question of nation's prestige, we must take it accordingly. It is not a matter of centre-state or a matter of one state to the other, it is a problem of the whole of India, it is a problem of entire rural areas, it is a problem of women who have to spent their maximum time in fetching water. I would like to submit that a long term scheme should be chalked out to solve this problem. The list of those problem villages is with you, you should make available funds for those villages. Where the drinking water projects are incomplete, State Government's should be provided with funds to complete them. Where these schemes are not operating efficiently, funds should be made available to make them viable. A long term scheme for the entire nation must be chalked out and should be implemented with the cooperation of State Governments to provide fresh and safe drinking water. With these words, I move this motion before the House for consideration

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of drinking water supply is a national problem. This problem is required to be solved not on state-level but on national level. Keeping in view the human needs, drinking water is a basic requirement for the existence of human being. Constant

efforts right from inception are being made to meet this requirement. The Government of India and State Governments have made special efforts in the region. Efforts are being made to solve the problem of drinking water through National Technology Mission on Drinking Water, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Minimum Need programme and foreign collaboration is also being sought to deal with the problem of drinking water supply in urban areas, but in spite of this, lot of money is still required. The result of huge investment is not upto the mark. I would like to request the hon. Minister that first of all this thing is required to be looked into. A huge amount has been sanctioned in the budget, lot of money has been given to the States also, yet the result is not more than 75-80 per cent in any State. What is the reason behind this? Whether any monitoring has been done to find out the reason?

Sir, as has been mentioned in the Annual Report, a provision of Rs. 7000 crores has been made for Technology Mission. 130 desalination Centres have been identified, which are situated in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal and other States. As far as their progress is concerned, details of their progress have not been seen in the Annual Report or anywhere else. After doing so much work and investing a lot of money and talking the services of experts in this field, success has not been achieved in the Plants of desalination Centres so far. What is the reason? Kindly look into it. You have identified 55 sub-Missions under the National Technology Mission on Drinking water. As far as I know, three sub-missions have been identified in Rajasthan. These are in Barmer, Nagaur and Churu. The performance of these mission is commendable. The function of these missions is to find out as to where the water can be available and what arrangements can be made. But there is a need to make them more dynamic and expand them. Till now, only some States have been benefited. Whether you will expand it further? I would thank the experts of Technology Mission, especially Mr. Sem Pitroda, because he has accorded highest



priority to drinking water in the Technology Mission. Four fields are covered under this Programme. These are Telecommunication, Immunisation and Literacy Programme and the fourth programme is also very essential in view of the necessity. The results could not be achieved according to the expectations of the nation with regard to drinking water supply. I would also like to ask the reason as to why the amount sanctioned during the year for this purpose and the amount released as mentioned in the Annual Report is not being actually utilised? Would you get it examined? During the year 1985-86, a provision of Rs. 11 crores was made under Minimum Need Programme in Rajasthan but the actual expenditure has been only Rs. 9.51 crores. Similarly, in the year 1986-87, a provision of Rs. 16 crores was made, though the expenditure of only 14.48 crores has been shown. During the year 1987-88, a provision of Rs. 23.80 crores was made while the actual expenditure was only Rs. 21.03 crores. Similarly, for the year 1988-89, a provision of Rs. 27.03 crores has been made and out of which only 24.36 crores has been spent so far. What is the reason that after sanctioning so much amount, it has not actually been spent. I want to know whether there is a shortage of drilling rigs and experts or the State Government does not want to spend the money. What is the reason that the money has not been utilised even in a State like Rajasthan? There are 35 thousand villages in Rajasthan State out of which 30 thousand and 400 villages have been provided with drinking water supply facility so far. Arrangements for drinking water has not been made in 4 thousand 5 hundred villages. Drinking water is not available within the circumference of 2 k.m. There is a target of supplying drinking water in every village by 1990. What concrete steps you are taking to achieve the target. Rajasthan Government has been demanding drilling rigs and money continuously. They have submitted Contingency Plan also. Money has not been made available so far for the Contingency Plan made for 201 towns and 35 thousand villages. Study Team visited Rajasthan. According to the Study Team, water level in some places has fallen below fifty-sixty feet.

When this is the situation of ground water and the water schemes started by the Government have stopped providing water, why does not the Government take steps for deeper boring of tubewells? What hindrance is the Government facing due to which it is unable to fulfil the demand of Rajasthan Government? Is it correct that even U.S.S.R. had extended an offer a few days back to help the Indian Government in solving the problem of drinking water? Earlier also, 6 drilling rigs had been sent to India by Russia, some of which have been sent to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Since Russia wants to give assistance from expertise and financial point of view, has the Government formulated any plan or project in this regard so that special equipment or technical assistance could be imported from that country? I would like the hon. Minister to give this information while replying to the debate in the House. There are many such villages in Rajasthan, where water is absolutely brackish. It is essential to de-salinate it. Will the hon. Minister name the plant in our country which are meant for de-salination of water? Has the Government identified those places in Rajasthan where the Government is going to de-salinate the brackish water? On an average, the groundwater level in every State in India has gone down by 50 feet. This is the view shared by both the hydrologists as well as the States. What steps is the Government taking to tackle this problem especially in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal? Besides, what special schemes have been formulated to solve this problems in other States affected by the same problem? One lakh 50 thousand villages in India are such where drinking water is not available upto a distance of 1.6 kilometer. In this direction, the Government should give special priority to those villages and solve their problem through special projects and with the help of the State Governments. The U.N.O. has adopted the decade from April 1, 1989 to March 31st 1990 under the International Water Supply Programme. Under this programme, some financial assistance or technical assistance may be received from the U.N.O. Will India get that assistance? The hon. Minister may kindly give detailed information as to what

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

programmes have been formulated in this regard and what special action has been taken in this field. Further, have the State Government been helped on these lines? I gather that in order to solve the problem of drinking water, the Rajasthan Government has spent Rs. 621 crore during the past 40 years. They have taken up two schemes namely Beesalpur scheme which is meant for Beawar, Ajmer and Kishangarh and the other is Indira Gandhi Canal scheme which is meant for Jodhpur. It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 64.37 crores on the first scheme and nearly Rs. 42 crore on the second scheme will be spent. The work on both these schemes is going on at a low speed due to shortage of funds. How much funds will the Government allocate for these schemes in the current year? Will the Government take steps to accelerate them? A study team was sent to examine the problem of drinking water and the members of this team visited my constituency, Alwar also. The team found that there are in fact such villages, especially in the southern and western parts of Alwar which are facing the acute problem. Alwar town itself is suffering on this account. Will the Government provide the maximum number of rig machines and financial assistance in Rajasthan in accordance with the report presented by the study team in order to solve the problem in Alwar and adjoining rural areas? I know the hon. Minister takes keen interest in this area and both he as well as his department have done commendable work. However, in the coming two-and-a-half months, i.e. from May to July 15th, till the arrival of monsoons, this problem takes a serious form in Rajasthan, Gujarat and other parts of the country. Keeping that in view, the Government should not hesitate in incurring expenditure and provide maximum financial assistance to the State Governments, so that they could solve this problem. A few days back, we, the M.Ps of Rajasthan met the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for having given the assurance during his visit to the State, to provide technology mission to Rajasthan. Today, three drinking

water technology missions are functioning in Rajasthan. The work in all the three missions is commendable. I thank the hon. Prime Minister for having taken the help of technology mission to solve this problem. Especially the efforts made by him in this field in Rajasthan, not only during drought but also in solving the problem of drinking water are exemplary. When we the M.Ps met him on Monday, we requested him that it is essential to allocate funds worth Rs. 45 crore for urban areas and Rs. 75 crore for rural areas in Rajasthan during the year 1989-90. We also presented a memorandum to him. I would like to reiterate that in accordance with that memorandum, a total of Rs. 120 crore, i.e. Rs. 45 crore for urban areas and Rs. 75 crore for rural areas, should be immediately allocated to the Government of Rajasthan. The hon. Minister should take the request of the M.Ps seriously and send the approval to the Rajasthan Government immediately so that they are able to solve the problem of drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of drinking water is serious in the whole country and almost every state is affected by it. My submission is that Government should take it seriously and should make efforts to find a solution to it by formulating projects with the help of the State Governments. With this hope and confidence, I express my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in respect of drinking water shortage not only in villages but also in towns and large cities in this country. It is really unfortunate that though we are at the fag end of the 20th century, we still seem to be facing acute water shortage and especially in the summer months, we find a large number of people in villages as well as in large cities queuing up near water taps, hand pumps and tanks to collect water for drinking purpose and other utility purposes. This has become a national phenomenon. The reasons for this problem are

many. One of the main reasons for this problem are many. One of the main reasons that can be attributed for inadequate supply of water is silting up of river beds, dams and tanks due to soil erosion caused by excessive deforestation. And this has led the water table receding considerably and in the summer months, there is a great deal of pressure on the population for drinking water. Hence, I would strongly submit to the Ministers for Urban Development and Rural Development that the rivers, tanks, etc. which are silted up should be desilted on a large scale so that the water table which had receded does not recede further. Also see pages in tanks, river beds, dams, etc. can be prevented by taking adequate measures, such as undertaking regular repairs and maintenance of dams, tanks, etc.

Further, a massive water distribution system has to be undertaken in villages, towns and in large cities. A massive afforestation scheme has to be undertaken, especially in the catchment areas so that perennial water supply is assured.

17.00 hrs.

De-silting of rivers, tanks and pumps has to be undertaken. Maintenance of handpumps and water taps has also to be undertaken on a regular basis and water has to be provided throughout the day. In bigger cities, we find that water comes only for two or three days in a week. There are various rivers which overflow during the rainy season and most of the water flows away into the sea. This water can be channelised into watersheds to be utilised in summer when the water table generally recedes. There is also great need to expedite the plan of de-salination of brackish water so that potable water could be provided to the people. Then the urban water supply system has also to be undertaken on a war footing as in most of the urban areas we find that there is a great shortage of water supply. Especially the city of Bangalore has been facing a great deal of water shortage. Though there are two stages of Cauvery water supply scheme that have been introduced and the third stage is

also under way, unfortunately, there is still inadequate supply of water. Hence I urge upon the Minister to kindly see that these projects are expedited as early as possible.

Villages and Taluka headquarters in the northern districts of Karnataka are in a very bad shape. Even district headquarters such as the districts of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar do not have adequate drinking water facilities. There is plenty of water in the southern parts but unfortunately due to the fact that it is not harnessed properly most of the water goes waste. Most of the tanks and rivers are also polluted. This causes various diseases like encephalitis due to high content of chlorine in the water. Hence I urge the hon. Minister to kindly see that adequate measures are taken in this respect.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he is proposing to do to prevent the receding of the water table in the country as a whole and does he propose to declare the water resources as a national grid so that the water which is in excess in one State could be diverted to States which do not have adequate water and then supplied to them.

I would also like to know whether the Minister would seriously consider undertaking the desilting of water tanks, dams and river-beds in the country and would take measures to prevent pollution of rivers and tanks, which is also causing various problems to the local population. Especially certain districts of Northern Bihar and certain districts in Madhya Pradesh have acute shortage of water. Hence, surplus water from other parts should be diverted and stored in watersheds to be used in these States.

In Northern part of Karnataka, especially during summer, there is acid content in the water that is available. So, I would like to know from the Minister what steps he would take to see that this problem is eradicated.

There is a National Technology Mission on Drinking Water and there are also various schemes under the 20-Point Programme.

[Sh. Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar]

So, I urge the Minister that these schemes be implemented and the various bore-wells, taps, tanks and mini water supply schemes be renewed so as to provide adequate water, especially to the people of Karnataka.

I would also urge upon the Minister to complete the various water supply schemes that have been on the plan of the State Government of Karnataka. The third stage of Cauvery is incomplete. It has to be expedited. Schemes for water supply to Bangalore city and also the extension of the water supply to Mysore city have to be completed as the new extensions do not have adequate water supply system. This is causing great strain on the population.

I would also request the Minister to kindly see that the various canals that have been undertaken are completed so that in future this problem could be prevented.

There is also a large number of old canals which once used to serve as canals for supplying drinking water. I feel that in the present context these canals should also be renewed so that adequate supply of water is provided to the people who are affected by these canals.

Urban water supply system has to be undertaken on a war footing and a longer-term plan for utilisation of excess water, especially during floods, has to be undertaken.

Industrialisation has caused a great deal in strain and has also been using a great deal of water. Hence, without the industries suffering, we should also see that adequate water is made available to the people.

I would also urge upon the Minister to kindly undertake the programme of afforestation because this seems to be one of the major causes for inadequate rainfall and also for soil erosion which has greatly contributed to the silting of various tanks, rivers and dams. This has led to receding of water

table in most parts of the country, especially in Karnataka. Sir, I would also urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to prevent pollution of rivers and tanks in Karnataka. I hope the hon. Minister would kindly look into the points made by me and tell us what he would do in this respect. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI GOPALA KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after forty two years after independence, we have failed to provide drinking water to our people living in the villages. It speaks of the failure of the Government in proper utilisation of water. Eighty percent of the water is still going waste. It is time for the Govt. to properly assess its performance. The Government should at once try to identify the defects in the policy and take steps to rectify them. Proper water management is essential for the development of the nation.

Water is very essential for the survival of not only human beings but also for every living being. Man requires water. Chattels and other animals also require water. It is the prime necessity of a living being. Water is equally essential for agriculture. Even for generation of hydro-electric power, water is the essential component. Such is the importance of water. Industries do need water. Hence providing water to human beings and cattle, agriculture and industry is very important. It calls for a proper water management. The progress of the nation is very much dependent on proper utilisation of water.

Dr. K.L. Rao and some other eminent engineers have suggested in the past various schemes for utilising the water properly. Dr. K.L. Rao suggested a garland canal system for the country. (*Interruptions*) Almost everyone is aware of the benefits of this scheme. Ours is a very big country. While some parts of the country get washed away in floods, some other parts reel under acute drought conditions. Floods and droughts are a recurring phenomenon. somewhere it is too much of water and some where else it is acute shortage of water. Hence in order to

\* Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Telugu.

save the country from these natural calamities. Dr. K.L. Rao has proposed garland canal system linking the northern rivers with the rivers in the extreme south. If implemented, this scheme will provide to be a boon to the country. We can tame the rivers like Brahmaputra which over flow every year causing lot of damage and divert the excess water of these rivers to other parts which starve of water. Hence the entire country will be benefitted by this scheme. But this scheme still remains only on paper. This scheme of linking up of major rivers still remains a distant dream.

Sir, only two districts in Andhra Pradesh were identified under technological mission on drinking water. At least 8 districts in Andhra Pradesh constantly reel under drought. All these eight districts are acutely drought prone. All these eight districts should be selected under the programme. Andhra Pradesh is widely known as the state of rivers. But the tragedy is that though we have many rivers, there is a constant scarcity of water. In fact scarcity of water in Andhra Pradesh is much more than in other States. Godavari is a very big river. Unfortunately no effort was made by the Central Government to harness the Godavari water. In addition to the river water, there is a plenty of underground water in adjacent areas according to the opinion of scientists and engineers. This underground water is yet to be exploited. The exploitation of underground water in this area is the primary responsibility of the Central Government. Much of the Godavari water is now flowing waste into the sea. Polavaram and Ichhampalli projects are two important projects on river Godavari envisaged for better utilisation of its water. But unfortunately these projects have not been cleared as yet by the Central Government. More than seventy percent of Godavari water is flowing waste into the sea. The same water could be utilised once these projects are executed. Hence I plead for the early clearance of these two important projects. These projects would benefit not only Andhra Pradesh but also adjacent states. Hence the clearance of these important projects should be delayed any more. Sir, these important

projects should be taken up and executed as national projects by the Central Government. The State Government is too poor to execute these projects on its own.

Now two thirds of the money of allocated is being spent on utilisation of surface water only. This is not proper. Money available for exploiting the underground water resource is quite negligible. As everyone knows, we have a plenty of underground water which is yet to be tapped. Hence more money should be allocated for tapping underground water. This may we can help the people in the areas where there is no surface water. Towns and cities in the country are expanding too fast. Urbanisation is also going on very rapidly. Municipalities, Municipal Corporations and Panchayats do not have sufficient money to supply drinking water to the people. As a result the drinking water problem is becoming more and more acute. Hence sufficient funds should be allocated to them for providing drinking water. In all the municipal areas the population is double and sometimes Trouble to the population they had at the time of independence. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide drinking water to the increased population continuing with the old schemes. They need rapid expansion. There are plenty of water resources. yet they do not have money for taking up any new scheme for supplying drinking water to more people. Hence I request the Central Govt. to provide sufficient money to the municipalities and Panchayats for taking steps to provide drinking water in accordance with their population.

Finally, Sir, I request the Central Government to set up a National Drinking Water Board which can properly monitor and coordinate various activities undertaken to provide drinking water to everyone in the country.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

SHRIMOHD. AYUBKHAN (Jhunjhunu):  
Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to express my view on the problem of drinking water. The whole

[Sh. Mohd. Ayub Khan]

of Rajasthan is reeling under the acute problem of drinking water. The crop has been good in Rajasthan this year but barring a few areas, the rains have not been good enough to let the ground water level rise and, thereby relieve the people of the problem of drinking water. The problem of drinking water has been most severe in Rajasthan this year and the people are pining for water. My submission is that if a scheme for 35 thousand villages and 210 towns is not prepared right now and if the funds requested by the Rajasthan Government are not approved and allocated, the people of Rajasthan will have to face a big problem. The Indira Gandhi canal passes through the neighborhood of my constituency, Jhunjhunu. If the Central Government does not take this work in its own hands, the Rajasthan Government will never be able to complete the work because this is a very big project and the Rajasthan Government is already short of resources. Drinking water can be made available to Jhunjhunu through the Indira Gandhi Canal. The problem of drinking water is particularly severe in that area. There are some areas in my constituency where people have to go as far as 6 to 10 kilometres to fetch water due to the problem of brackish water. If water of this canal is made available to Jhunjhunu for drinking purposes, this problem could be solved there. The Khetri Project is operating there which draws 2.5 million gallons of ground water. The Hariyapa Canal is a distance of 13 kilometres from there and if water for this project is taken from that canal the present practise of fetching ground water will be stopped. Its benefit, thus, will be that the water level of wells will rise and people will get some relief from the problem of drinking water. Khetri and Udaypurwati are hilly areas and the water level there has receded and use of drilling machines is a problematic affair there. It being hilly area, the problem of drinking water is very acute. I would request that keeping in view the problems of the hilly area, a scheme should be formulated for it at the earliest and drinking water should be made available to the people. This will be possible only when the water of Indira Gandhi

Canal is made available there. During machines should be sent in my area at the earliest so that people could be benefited. Some people have sunk tubewells by using motors. At places where people use motor, the flat rate is Rs. four thousand. A person pays this amount, but he can get water for hardly 2-3 hours. This rule should be amended and the flat rate should be charged in accordance with the time for which the motor is used. A survey should be conducted to find out the cause of leakage of ground water in our area. The people associated with the technology mission say that the flow of water in that area is in the reverse direction. A survey should be conducted for this as well. Deep tubewells should be installed at places where ground water is available so that the people could get water. The problem of water is very acute in Rajasthan. Live-stock is the mainstay of the people of Rajasthan and if the cattle itself drink saline water, it faces numerous problems. The problem of drinking water is particularly severe in my constituency Jhunjhunu. A dark zone has been declared in Chidava and Udaipurwati, meaning thereby that there is no ground water there. However, the fact is that water is present there. In this situation, they should get the facility of sinking wells. So far, they are deprived of this facility. My submission is that they should be relieved of the dark zone so that the farmers there could get assistance from the Government to sink wells. Ponds and bunds should be constructed at places so that the rain water could be stored. Approval for constructing bunds over the nullahs should be accorded especially in Udaipurwati and Khetri which are hilly areas so that the water level could rise. There is a village named Bagoli in my constituency. As the land in that village is under the forest authority, bund cannot be constructed. This has created acute water crisis in the area. If the Government sanctions its construction, the problem of water can be solved and water can be made available for irrigation purposes as well. I would like to urge that the Central Government should take over the Indira Gandhi Canal project and also accord early sanction to the demand amounting to Rs. 130 crores put forward by the Rajasthan

Government. Rs. 45 to Rs. 55 crores have been demanded to tackle the water crisis in the urban areas and Rs. 75 crores have been demanded for tackling the same in the rural areas. This demand should be met at the earliest. The survey team has already submitted its report and Government should make arrangements accordingly so that the people of Rajasthan could be saved from the acute drinking water crisis prevailing there.

Rajasthan is in the grip of severe famine conditions. The people of Rajasthan will for ever be grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for having granted an amount which is unprecedented during the last 40 years. That is why, it became possible to save the livestock as well. If due attention is not paid to the water problem, the situation will take a critical turn. Therefore, the Central Government should meet the demands of the Rajasthan Government at the earliest. Water of the Indira Gandhi Canal should be supplied for solving the drinking water problem in my constituency and for irrigation purposes in Jhunjhunu. Some other districts of Rajasthan such as Barmer and Jaisalmer are also reeling under acute shortage of water. If work is not undertaken in every district in a planned manner, the livestock of those areas will be affected by water shortage. Therefore, I would urge the Government to pay attention in this direction, so that the water problem could be solved.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me time to make my submission.

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa): Sir, a very serious situation is now prevailing in the country due to shortage of drinking water in many parts. If you have seen various Press reports, then the picture becomes very alarming. I have before me the *Hindustan Times* of 8th May, 1989. They have given a report as to in how many States, the crisis has become very severe. I find, Tamil Nadu as one among them. Several parts of the State are reeling under

shortage of water. They say, with the rainfall being 3% less than normal the ground water level has gone down considerably. They have also referred how in Madras city and Madurai, the supply of water is for alternate day and not daily or for the whole day. It has been there for many years. It has been a perennial problem. No solution could be found over the years in the past.

There is a report about Orissa also. The whole of Orissa is under the kind of drought-like situation. Districts Bolangir, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Sambalpur, Sundergarh and Phulbani are affected. There is no water. Rivulets have no water; ponds have no water. From the tubewell, you cannot get water because the depth has gone down. All the cities and towns are affected. People are living in a very serious situation.

In Bihar also, the situation can be gauged from the fact that the State capital, Patna is reeling under water crisis. According to official sources, against the daily requirement of 840 lakh gallons of water, the supply is 350 lakh gallons. The report suggests an acute water shortage in Dhanbad, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Dharbhanga, Saharsa, Kathihar and Purnea districts.

In Kerala also, the crisis is there. This is the third year in succession that they are not having any rain and people are suffering. About Rajasthan, the other hon. Members how have preceded me have spoken. Rajasthan also has this perennial problem. What steps we have taken in the past to see that, when there is failure of monsoon, there is provision to meet the minimum requirements of the people for their drinking water. I will come to something where the Government can play a vital role of safeguarding the interests of the people and providing the people with drinking water. Even in the failure of monsoon, we have the role. Due to deforestation, it happens. We should not do that. How would you motivate the people to go for afforestation? There are many schemes. But that are not being implemented sincerely. When we travel across the coun-



[Shri Saifuddin Choudhary]

try, we can find many trees which we planted have dried up and leaves dried up. No life is there in dry land. It is just a sign of death. Why is this kind of thing happening? Who planted those saplings and plants? Who are the authorities and agencies who are supposed to water them? You can get water at least in certain parts. But nobody is to look after the trees and they die due to this kind of neglect. Due to less concern about environment, due to lack of culture also, some times we are suffering from our own mistake making.

In Uttar Pradesh, also the report is there. Kanpur is getting only 270 million liters of water a day, compelling the people to consume water unfit for drinking purpose. Himachal Nagaland and some other states are affected. In my State also, in West Bengal, I have a report that most of the districts in West Bengal have been affected by severe kind of water shortage this year. In some districts, the deficiency in rainfall has been to the extent of 90%. Water level has gone down up to 20 feet from normal level at many places. Most affected districts in Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore, Burdwan, Malda, West Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Hooghly and North Bengal. 120 lakh people in 1,471 villages or 196 blocks, 32 municipalities and four notified areas are severely affected. The rabi crop is now severely damaged due to the non-availability of water. We have confidence in the State Government there. They have taken up the issue very seriously. The Ministers in the State Government are going to the villages. The Administration there has been toned up. There is a panchayat which is also acting to provide drinking water. Where the normal tube wells are not working, they are planning how to dig tube wells deep there to get water and they have allocated money. I find that Rs. 11 crores are being released for augmentation of drinking water resources. The Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs. Some more money has been given. It is not a political question. They want the Central Government to help them in meeting the crisis and they have requested the Central

Government to release their share of marginal money amounting to Rs. 11.87 crores. This is a very human question. No politics are there. Both the State Government and the Central Government should see, how in this peculiar situation, they can stand by the people. There may be serious crisis in many areas where you just cannot have water, even deep tube well. There you have to meet the problem differently. There may be certain areas where if you have deep tube well, then water can be available. But the money is the question. Is there any plan by which we can immediately recognise acute water shortage area where deep tube well can solve the problem there? We must then sanction money to meet the situation.

We are facing this problem of water shortage due to various reasons. Everybody has referred to them. 75% of the water runs away. We cannot use it. Why can't we use it properly? How are we trying to augment our capacity to use it? In earlier days, may be thousand years ago, there was a system in our country whereby in every village, we were having tanks for drinking and for cultivation. Now that tradition has gone. We are now talking of many schemes like NREP, RLEGP and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. I want to know in how many villages the new ponds have been dug. In how many villages in our country the old ponds were deepened? This is a very vital question. These ponds not only give drinking water and irrigation water but they help you in economic activity. We can have fish culture there. Certain unemployed people can get jobs. I am sorry that I find in many places ponds which have lost their depth. Just in the beginning of summer they dry up. Here we require a kind of motivation. It is very important. In that panchayats can play an important role.

We have our canal system for irrigation in certain areas. There are suggestions given by experts that this water management outlook has to be changed in certain areas. We have to undertake a different kind of irrigation system, the sprinkler type of system in order to avoid wastage. The concept of



economic use of water has to be put into the culture of our people. When we find that many parts of our country reel under severe drinking water shortage, we have to think as to how to create the habit among our people to be very careful in using water and not to waste it. We have to study carefully all these systems and see as to how to face that situation.

Sir, there are certain failures on the part of the Administration. Certain projects are undertaken. They are all time-bound projects. But they are never completed in time. There are delays. These projects can be used for drawing drinking water also. But they are not at all completed in time. There is criminal wastage of funds. 10-12 years are wasted. The people continue to suffer. The Hon. Minister knows as to how many projects are not completed in time. Just before me, the hon. Member from Rajasthan spoke about the Indira Gandhi Canal. Is there any urgency on the part of all of us to see that that Canal work is completed? Rajasthan is known as a water-shortage state. The completion of the Indira Gandhi Canal would help them very much. Everybody knows that. What kind of urgency do we attach to it? We have to see that that project is completed in time.

Sir, I would say that it is not only due to failure of monsoon that we suffer from this water shortage but there are other reasons. Of course, last year we had suffered very much. There were six severe droughts from 1966 to 1988. In some states drought continued for three more years in succession. But after a certain period of time, we get rains. But what kind of water management we should have whereby we can meet that situation? What kind of contingency plans can be made whereby we can adequately store or reserve the water when we get rains? This aspect is a very important one. There are many ideas given by experts like linking of Ganga and Brahmaputra. I do not know what happened to those suggestions. Nobody can hear anything about that. There are so many ideas of linking many of the North-South rivers. Of course, there is the question of resource. But then we have to

have the resources collected. This is very important. After 42 years of Independence people do not get drinking water, what to talk of having a safe drinking water for everybody by 1990! How can we claim providing all these things to the people? I am not going into the statistics given by the hon. Minister. How many villages are problem villages? How many villages are not having any source of drinking water? It has been mentioned that 1,50,000 villages are there where people have to go more than 1/1/2 KMs. to get drinking water. We must know how the people are suffering to get water. Can we maintain ourselves when there is no water? Let us leave the animals for the time being. They die when there is no water. Even now also people are taking contaminated and polluted water. So, these are very important issues. Of course certain scientific aspects have been mentioned. It may be for Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan that they have said. We have got our water technology mission. In the Television it looks very live. The question of desalination is a very important question. What kind of research is being done in this country? How will you make it cheap? A large quantity of sea water can be used after desalination. I do not know about it. Many other countries are doing it. Technology means what? How to make it cheap? We have to renovate technology. If that is required, then how do you do that? We have to consider this aspect our variously. In many areas, with a certain amount of initiative and with more allocation, this drinking water shortage can be met and immediate steps have to be taken. If we want to get rid of this kind of a situation, then we have to have very concrete long-term planning. I have no grudge against the Water Technology Mission. I wish them all success that they go in a right direction and they succeed in providing drinking water to the people. We have all the good wishes for them. But then the question is that in many areas, we have to have the participation of the people and particularly in the field of afforestation. This is very important. I believe, in this emergent situation that has occurred today, there may be State Governments who are trying to meet the situation. They may make some demands to the

[Sh. Saifuddin Choudhary]

Central Government. You should not waver in helping them.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): We should have a permanent Drinking Water Board.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Shri Ayyapu Reddyji has suggested that we should have a permanent National Drinking Water Board. Well, that is a very good suggestion. Maybe, they can coordinate with Water Technology Mission. That is a very good idea. We can think of this kind of an idea. But the main question is that we have to use our resources effectively. Otherwise, where you have a drinking water crisis, do you understand how the economy is harmed, how the agriculture is harmed? You do not talk about irrigation. The crops are damaged. And that has its effect on the industrial production and ultimately the total economy will be in the shambles. When we talk about drinking water, we do not talk only about the drinking water but we talk about the vital question of economy. With the cooperation of Central and State Governments, I believe, we will take certain steps that will help in tackling the situation and fighting the crisis that has emerged in our country. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drinking water problem is gradually taking a critical shape throughout the country. Rainfall is gradually decreasing as compared to what it was 25 to 30 years ago. In many areas either there has been no rainfall at all since the past several years or it has been scanty. That is why, the areas which were completely dependent as on rain-fed irrigation system some 30 to 35 years ago have to depend on tubewell, handpumps etc. today. Within these 30 to 35 years, the number of tubewells has risen to 35 lakhs in the country and the number of wells and handpumps has gone up to over 50 lakhs. Thus, our farmers who used to depend largely on rainfall previously are

more dependent on ground water now. One reason behind this phenomenon is the increasing silt deposits on the river-beds which has resulted in the reduction of the depth of the rivers. The example of Yamuna river can be cited in this regard. The present depth of this river is 12 to 14 feet less than what it was in 1950, and the river's water holding capacity has been reduced thereby. It is common knowledge that rainfall graph has been showing downward trend during the last few years and it may slide further in future on account of the rapid deforestation. The rainfall pattern has also been affected. There is heavy downpour for 3 or 4 days and thereafter, we experience complete dry weather for months together. Besides, the rains also do not come on time. I think, there is only one solution to the problem. You may go around the world and you will find only one solution to this problem. If you go to Africa, you will find that the Britishers built dams on the rivers in the countries which were under their combination, and in contrast, wherever the French ruled, they constructed rapids which we call *Stock dams*. The Congo river which flows through five countries, can be taken as an illustration in this connection. More than 40 rapids have been constructed on the Congo river alone and I have myself seen them. We call them *stop-dams*. Today it is essential to construct such rapids on the French pattern. The construction of dams on all the rivers in the country is a difficult proposition and will give rise to many problems. Of course, they serve a useful purpose but a lot of funds are required for constructing dams and, besides, lakhs of poor people have to be displaced and they are rendered homeless and without any means of livelihood. It is always assured that they will be rehabilitated somewhere and funds, land, etc. will be provided to them. But sir, I have seen at many places, right from the Bhakra-Nagal project to small dams that they are not rehabilitated anywhere but are simply ousted. No one is able to appreciate the problems of those outsees. The only way to solve this problem is to construct a large number of dams on the pattern of the Congo river. The construction of *Stock dams* on big rivers will require heavy expenditure whereas such

dams on small rivers will involve expenditure in the range of 3 to 5 crores depending on the span of the river. This is less than what is required for the construction of dams. 25 to 30 or 40 stop dams can be constructed on each river. It will not only check the rapid decline of water level but will also raise the level of water. In addition, in view of the large scale silt deposits due to land erosion and other factors, it has become essential to set up an organisation such as the Dredgers Corporation of India for clearing the river beds on the lines of the one set up for dredging the Suez Canal. It is essential to set up a similar organisation for the Calcutta Port so that constant dredging and clearing of the river-beds is ensured so as to check their silting and sedimentation. Therefore, the Central Government should take the responsibility of constructing Stock dams on every large river. I know that the setting up of the Dredgers Corporation of India will involve a vast expenditure running into thousands of crores and besides, it is also a very difficult task but it will be comparatively cheaper than that is spent every year on tackling the drought or the water shortage problem and for providing relief assistance to the people. At the same time it will remove their difficulties. This can be illustrated by expenditure incurred to tackle the drought situation last year. It was the worst drought of the century and there can be no doubt on the point that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been a very far-sighted person in extending maximum financial assistance to every drought affected States, be it Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. Funds were liberally granted wherever it was felt necessary. I cannot give the exact figures but according to my estimates, about Rs. 5,000 crores were provided as relief assistance by the Centre last year. This enabled the State Governments in saving the people from starvation and from the horror of near famine conditions. When arrangement can be made for providing Rs. 5,000 crores in one year, then Rs. 1000 crores can also be initially spent for the setting up of the Dredgers Corporation of India which can be expanded gradually. I would like that similar corporation should be set up in every state and

particularly in Madhya Pradesh whose topography is such that the central part of the State is quite lofty as a result of which most of the rivers emerging from there flow into the adjoining 7 States. It is good that water of all these rivers is utilised, but if the Dredgers Corporation is set up and dams are constructed on all these rivers to hold back water, it will help considerably in solving the drinking water problem in the States. In Madhya Pradesh, only 17 districts were affected by drought earlier but now the situation has deteriorated so much so that 20 to 22 districts are reeling under the water-shortage problem and in some districts it has taken a very critical turn. I cannot state the position of other States accurately because I do not have proper information but it is a fact that 20 districts in Madhya Pradesh are seriously affected. The State Government had demanded Rs. 40 to 45 crores or perhaps 50 crores to tackle the situation, so that the drinking water problem could be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit through you and through the Minister of Rural Development that the Centre should not delay allocation of required funds for tackling the drinking water problem in the State. The sooner this is done, the earlier will the people get its benefits. The people will get relief within this year itself and they will not have to suffer acute crisis of water during the months of May, June and July. You are not aware as to what type of water people are drinking in the rural areas these days. They are drinking the worm-infested water of the ponds. The hon. Minister of Rural Development is also present here today along with some of his other colleagues and I would like that the Central Government should provide funds immediately to the State Governments which have demanded the same for tackling the water crisis irrespective of whether the Ruling Party or the Opposition is in power in the respective States. One thing which I would like to point out, in particular, is about Madhya Pradesh. The State Government as well as the people want that a big dam should be constructed on Indiravati river in Bastar district. Similarly, a big dam should be constructed on river Narmada.

[Sh. Chandulal Chandrakar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in connection with proposal for constructing major dams on Indirawati and Narmada rivers, I would like to submit that if you want to convert Madhya Pradesh into a desert in the next 50 years, you may go ahead with those projects and if not, they must be shelved. In place of dams, large Stock-dams may be constructed. It will help in storing water and water can be supplied to the people through the lift system. Besides, Sal trees are grown in large numbers in the Narmada delta. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may be aware that the Sal trees are found only in 3 countries in the world namely Thailand, Bangladesh and India. A 70 year old Sal tree has the capacity of water storage equivalent to a well. What is special about it is that it collects and stores water during the rainy season and release the same during the summers.

Trees as old as 150 years are there in that area. It is easy to fell the trees, but nobody bothers to plant them. I don't want to get into a controversy by pointing at those who fell them or those who reap the benefit. But I would like to submit that the poor people suffer heavy loss due to the felling of trees.

Sir, 20 to 40 years ago people believed that one could easily get pure water and air, but these two things are likely to become the most precious things in the near future.

I would reiterate to constitute Dredging Corporation of India and construct a stop dam on every river. With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the problem of drinking water. There is no doubt that the population of Delhi has increased rapidly and at present the total population is more than 80 lakhs. DDA acquired land in rural areas and developed residential colonies like Rohini, Vikas Puri, Paschim Puri and many others, but the water supply remained as it was before. Therefore, the people residing in these colonies often

face the problem of water scarcity. I would like to Government to get Delhi's share from Bhakra and a new plant should be set up at Haiderpur at the earliest which should get more water from Yamuna and that water should be supplied to fulfil the requirements of people. Similar, Sir, you may be aware that Ganga water is also supplied for drinking purposes in various parts of Delhi like New Delhi, South Delhi, Mehrauli etc. DDA has developed a number of residential colonies towards Babarpur and the people of those areas often complain of water scarcity. A plant should be set up in that area and more Ganga water should be brought so that the requirements of the people in these colonies is fully met. However, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for installing a number of tubewells and handpumps during drought last year; which is helping the people a lot at present. Water is supplied also through tankers in those areas which are running short of water-supply but inspite of all these measures the increasing population in Delhi is putting heavy pressure on the existing water supply. Resettlement colonies developed during the reign of Shrimati Indra Gandhi get half the water supply these days due to the shortage of drinking water though earlier they used to get uninterrupted water supply. Many tube-wells were installed in a number of J.J. colonies and unauthorised colonies but the water from these sources is not as good as that of Ganga and Yamuna. My submission is that Haiderpur Plant should be set up at the earliest and another plant in rural area-either near Gohana canal or Nangloi should be set up on order to provide adequate water supply to the growing population. We want that they should get sufficient water to meet the basis necessities like bathing, cooking etc. Sometimes it happens that the taps go dry and we are deprived of even a bath. Persons like me, keep on waiting with a hope, that, I will go to Parliament only after taking bath.

Adequate funds should be sanctioned to Delhi Administration and labour should be arranged so that the work is taken up immediately there. Water is the basis necessity of

life. Animals in rural areas also need water to survive.

You know there are no rains these days and the ponds in rural areas have dried up and there is no water for the animals. My submission is that the water supplied for irrigation purposes from canals in Haryana, should also be supplied for ponds so that the animals can take more water and give more milk.

I have made these requests so that the hon. Minister of water Resources allocates more funds to Delhi so that 4 more plants can be set up. Besides, water supply should also be increased and a separate quota for Delhi should be fixed to meet the water scarcity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. We should make immediate efforts to meet the scarcity of water in Delhi.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): Sir, since many hon. Members want to participate in the debate I request that the time of the House may be extended by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one hour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that we are discussing a very important and one of the burning problems of our country because the common man wants to know whether this august House is concerned about his welfare. Drinking water is the basic necessity of every individual, animal and plant which has life. We have adopted a national water policy but, unfortunately, we do not have a drinking water policy for our country. After 42 years of independence and

after seven Five Year Plans nearly one-third of the villages in our country are reeling under water scarcity.

18.00 hrs.

It is necessary that this should be tackled on a national basis. We are discussing this subject here because it is not a State subject or a Panchayat subject; it is a national subject. Drinking water is a national problem. Therefore, it is very appropriate that we discuss it here. We should have a national drinking water policy.

One of the solutions for drinking water problem is that all the pending irrigation projects should be completed at the earliest. Many of the irrigation projects in our country could not be completed for want of funds. The State finances are very very limited and they cannot complete these projects out of their own finance and that is why many of the projects which were scheduled to be completed within 3-4 years could not be completed even after 20-30 years. My suggestion is that all the major irrigation projects in our country should be treated as national projects and the Centre should take that responsibility.

Nearly one-third of the villages of our country do not have drinking water. In many of the villages, people have to walk many kilometers to bring water particularly when there is drought situation. We have been reading about that in the newspapers as also seen in the media, television etc. The situation in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka particularly during drought is very very bad. This is a problem which should be tackled on war footing.

In Karnataka, for four consecutive years, we had drought problem. Similar was the situation in Maharashtra. I would be failing in my duty if I do not remember one person, who was the Rural Development Minister in Karnataka, Shri Nazir Saheb; he died very recently and Shri Poojary also knew him. He did yeoman service in providing drinking water to 25000 villages of Karnataka. Most

[Sh. V.S. Krishna Iyer]

of the villages got drinking water supply due to this untiring efforts. He is otherwise called *Nir* Saheb; *Nir* means water in our language.

This problem of water scarcity becomes acute when there is no underground water; and the water level goes down. It is a very serious matter. Borewells are also of no use. There is no other source of water. When the water level goes down, what should be done. We should try to conserve water. The only course would be that they have to depend on Monsoon and the rain water. The question is how to conserve rain water. There is so much advance in technology. I am sure, the hon. Minister Shri Poojary will give his special attention to this problem. Rural water supply is very important. When the water level of the underground water goes down, what should be done, that needs to be seriously considered.

Sir, I come from a hundred percent urban constituency. I was also Minister of Rural Development in my State for some time. It appears that the Rural Development Ministry at the Centre is a Ministry for Rural Development for Delhi alone. Thirty percent of the population is in urban areas. Will you kindly quote and example of any city or town, which is self-sufficient in water supply? I find that every town, every metropolitan city or other city is suffering from water scarcity, particularly when the summer sets in. In Bangalore city, we are facing that scarcity. Though we have three water schemes there, Thippa Gonda Hali and Kaveri, State 1 and 2, yet in many areas we do not get sufficient water. There is a lot of disparity in our country; while some people get 100-150 liters per day, there are others, who do not even get one litre per day. The State Governments are doing better in this regard but their hands are very tight. They do not have enough funds. The Hon. Minister for Urban Development must pay his attention to every town and city in our country. I would say that the top most priority should be given to the drinking water. For the rural areas, the Rural Development Minister is taking care.

In Bangalore City hundreds of crores of rupees are spent on the water schemes. We have been requesting the Central Government since long time, I think I myself have made several requests, even in the time of Nehru several requests were made for providing adequate funds but unfortunately not a single paise has been accorded from the Central Government for the Bangalore water scheme. In Bangalore we have so many industries and so many defence establishments are there. Now, we have taken up the Cauvery- III project which requires crores of rupees but for that also the Central Government is not providing any fund. It is the responsibility of the Central Government. Drinking water is one of the basic necessities. Man cannot live even for a day without water.

My last point is that Sir, we are wasting a lot of money on the development of beautiful parks. I am not saying that parks should not be developed but what I am objecting to is that the filtered or treated water should not be used for this purpose. I have seen water flowing like the tanks in the parks. I would like to know whether it is treated water or just raw water I think you should have a separate line for watering the park.

I am sure the Minister will give attention to these aspects. He should take up all the big cities and solve the drinking water problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Though my name should have been called much earlier in the serial still I am grateful that you have done justice.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, I have a point of order. One hon. Member said that the Chair is following some serial number. I want to know from you what is the meaning of the serial number. As per rules,

it is the discretion of the Chair to give a chance and call a member to speak. It is the whips who intimate the names to the Chair. How can there be a serial number? Is the Chair bound by some numbers? To know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are right. The list is for the guidance of the Chair. Ordinarily, we follow it. But we have got a discretion.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Regarding changing man into women and *vice-versa*, up to that extend I hope your discretion is not extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not claiming that.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: From his own experience the hon. Member has spoken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: It can be proved that nature provides 100 times more water than the actual requirement of man. We are getting 100 times more water than our actual requirement for irrigation and for drinking purposes both for man and animals but unfortunately PHED and flood control department have not succeeded in meeting the water scarcity. So far our Bihar is concerned, floods occur every year in Bihar and after two months the people face drought. Water comes and flows away. There are many rivers and dams too but the dams cannot stop the flow of water. Therefore, I urge the Government to make such arrangements that water is available for drinking, for agriculture and for the cattle and that there remains no scarcity of water.

So far as question of sinking tubewells is concerned, there are many villages inhabited by Harijans, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes where the Government have installed a good number of tubewells. But we cannot blame Government for this because there are such officers who sink tubewells at places where they are not required and do not sink them where they are needed. They

have been installed at the places where big people live. Therefore the Government should issue instructions that such arrangements should be made at the places where they are required. Bihar is facing drought at present too and our Harijan ladies have to go to distant places to bring water in our area. So far my constituency is concerned, it is a flood prone area but even then at present there is drought. There are floods in Raosera, Haseenpur, Baheri, Sangthi etc. even now. When we visit our areas people complain that they do not get water. Sanctions have been given for sinking tubewells but they have not been installed. This is the condition and money is not being properly utilised. If such condition prevails and the scarcity continues, villagers will not be able to bear it for long. Water should be available there at all times. In the past water used to remain clear in ponds and rivers. Water of the wells also used to be clean. This is a permanent solution but after installation of tubewells the situation has deteriorated. No body fetches water from them now. Earlier water of the wells used to be hygienic. In the drought prone States the wells should be repaired and made deeper and silt should be removed from ponds and rivers, only then there can be a permanent solution. So far my constituency is concerned, there are 2-3 schemes. There will be no scarcity of water for irrigation as well as drinking if they are completed. They are very important schemes. There are two rivers named Kamlabalam and Bagmati and also Gandak too which cover long distant but then become dry. If they are made deeper, the scheme is there, money has also been sanctioned but no body knows as to why they are not made deeper. The water is so clean there that it gives much relief after drinking. But they are not being made deeper. They are deep at some places and shallow at others. I urge that Kamlabalan river which dries up at certain places, should be made deeper. Similarly there are Gandak and Bagmati rivers which pass through my area. There are floods, droughts heavy rainfall, scarcity of rainfall, all things happen there. If the problem of the drinking water is to be solved, the rivers will have to be made deeper. Ponds

[Sh. Ram Bhagat Paswan]

should also be made deeper. The distant places look like a fair where ladies from Harijan and scheduled caste settlements go to fetch water. You will have to look towards such places. Our Government has done a lot of work for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and had paid much attention to them. But arrangements should be made at all places where water is required.

I will also like to say that there are certain areas like Gurudwara Rakab Ganj, Pant Marg and Talkatora road in Delhi where water is supplied by Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking. There too, water is supplied for two hours in the morning and one hour in the evening. Complaints are made regarding non-supply of water, they are noted and left unattended. Water supply is not made. This problem should also be solved.

The level of underground water has gone very low in our South Bihar. There is a necessity of making immediate arrangement for water. The authorities should be asked to purchase tubewells and make the rivers deeper so that water continues to be available at all times.

With these words, I am grateful that I have been allowed to express my views.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): There is drinking water crisis all over India. Orissa is facing the worst drinking water crisis in recent years. There is no pre-monsoon rainfall in some districts. It is less by 80% to 90%. There is a remarkable decline in the water table in the rivers. There is no flow of water in the river Mahanadi and other rivers. The small, shallow tubewells are not working at all. The lack of rains and all-round water scarcity are affecting the crops, as well as power generation.

In some districts, water is not only not available; but people drinking polluted water

have died in large numbers, because of disease. There is the spread of diseases in some districts, and the news has appeared that at Paradip, a bucket of water is selling at Rs. 2/-. There has been a serious water scarcity, due to scanty rain during the last seven months. I would tell Mr. Poojary this: because Government has taken the responsibility of supplying drinking water to problem villages, they should not now be satisfied with dealing with problem villages along. A situation has occurred when there is scarcity of drinking water in all the villages. The policy of the Government is this: during the 7th Plan, it envisages that efforts would be made to cover the entire rural population with the provision of safe drinking water during the Plan period. I give stress on three phrases, viz. 'entire rural population', 'safe drinking water' and 'during the Plan period.' So, these three words are very important. Of course, the provision for the rural water supply sector in the 7th Plan is Rs. 3454.74 crores. For the Minimum Needs Programme it is Rs. 2253.25 crores, and for the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme it is Rs. 1201.22 crores. Besides these, there are other normal programme also. It is said that during natural calamities like drought, funds are given on for sinking wells. But why has this condition arisen throughout India, inspite of heavy amounts said to have been given to all the States? For example, it is said that from 1981 to 1986, the total amount given is Rs. 1,19,171.11 lakhs.

The Minister has stated on the 14th March, 1989, as follows:

"A target of full coverage of 32698 problem villages with safe drinking water facilities has been kept for 1988-89. In addition, 18500 partially covered problem villages will be fully covered in 1988-89.

The National Technology Mission on Drinking Water has been set up.."

When all these measures have been taken, why there has been a scarcity of water



through out the country? It is for this reason. When we sink a tubewell, it does not reach that depth with the result that when underground water level goes down, it becomes defunct. The tubewells are not sunk upto a particularly level from where the water will start coming, though huge amount has been spent. It has been stated in the reply that a huge amount has been given by the Government. In spite of all this, the crisis is arised. The tubewells do not reach that depth from where the water starts coming; they stop sinking tubewells before the water starts coming. The contractors and others take away money without doing anything. During summer, when the water strate goes down, the tubewells become defunct. So, steps should be taken to see that wells are sunk upto that depth so that during summer also water is available.

It seems that the Government of India has stopped the programme of supplying drinking water to villages through pipes. Though rivers and rivulets pass near the villages, the policy being to have tubewells only in villages. When we have tubewells alone, at present, sweet water could not be supplied in some villages. But if we supply water to the villages from rivers and rivulets, sweet water will be available and the sand bed can be utilised as a filter also. So, I would request the Minister through you to re-consider not only to have tubewells in the villages but also the pipe system for supplying drinking water.

For the development of the semi-urban area, the schemes are framed by the Central Government to give the necessary aid. But not a single town in N.A.C. has been benefited in my constituency, Aska under this scheme; not a single N.A.C. has been recommended by the Orissa Government to Central Government to implement any of the schemes under the development of the semi-urban area. In reply to my question, the Minister has said that the demand should come through the Orissa Government. As representatives of the people in Parliament, we urge, we request the Minister to see that injustice should be done to any State. We

speak here for the benefit of the people. Government should take the initiative. When I am speaking on the Floor of the House, it should be, taken into consideration. The Government should not say that the recommendation should come from the State Government and only then they will implement the scheme. By saying so, they are putting the cart before the horse. We speak on behalf of the people whom we represent and no further application or petition is necessary. When we speak in the House, the Minister concerned takes note of our points; the officials in the gallery also take notes of our points. They should see that all the central schemes are implemented not only the recommendations of the State Governments but also at the request of the Members of Parliament also. Or else, there is no use of our speaking here; Lok Sabha is not a talking shop. So, necessary steps should be taken.

I once again request the Urban Development Minister to see that sufficient funds are given under this scheme for semi-urban areas to Aska Parliamentary constituency. Tanks have dried up in Orissa—pardon my repeating—and shallow wells have become defunct. Tubewell water is not coming and so also in the other wells there is no water. There is no water in the rivers. Under these circumstances the situation should be tackled on a war footing. People have died because of drinking polluted water. Diseases are spreading. Under these circumstances I would like to request Mr. Poojary and also the Urban Development Minister to provide sufficient funds to the Orissa Government to meet the situation and to see that drinking water is made available for renovating the tanks, sinking tubewells, giving water through pipe system to the villages situated on the side of the rivers. If such steps are not taken on a war footing, the situation may be very grave and will go out of control. There may be many more deaths and it must be averted at this juncture, giving priority.

SHRIPIYUSTIRAKY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drinking water problem is a national problem and many times it has been

[Sh. Piyus Tiraky]

discussed in this House. It has come up once again now.

One thing I should like to mention in the House. As election issues we have been taking so many issues such as 'Garibi Hatao' and eradication of poverty etc. But why do we not take up this issue also as an election issue. "Fresh drinking water to all"—this must be one issue for elections and it will have a good effect on all the people, to have drinking water at their place.

Another names for water is life. And if you say that we cannot supply our population with fresh drinking water, it is bad. Number of diseases are also spreading due to dirty water being drunk. We in our country worship the rivers, especially the holy Ganga. But we never bother about the pollution of our rivers. There are burning ghats by the side of our rivers, drainages are there which empty the sewage into the rivers. We always forget that the holy Ganga is also polluted and that there water is not at all fit for drinking. There are also many industries and the refuse is going into the rivers all over India. All the rivers are getting polluted. So, there must be a check on the industrialists who are throwing that refuse into the rivers to see that it does not reach the river without any treatment. There should be some check on the industrialists also so that they also show some interest in the matter.

Also, essentially it is a problem all over India in the cities and in the villages also. We have a number of villages. It is mentioned in this report that there are 5,82,971 villages. Surely, it can be known as to how much money is required to supply drinking water to each of the villages. An estimate of the money required can be made. It is mentioned in this report that there are 3,347 villages which are problem villages and their main problem is provision of drinking water. So, very easily it can be checked and it can be found out which village has not yet been provided with fresh drinking water. If there is a political will, it can be easily solved be-

cause many problems have been solved when the political will has been shown. I ask: is this an election issue as in the case of 'Garibi Hatao programme'? Why do you not say that by such and such date we will be able to provide fresh drinking water to all the people in the country? Many Members from both sides of the House have expressed their desire that our poor people must get fresh drinking water.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

18.31 hrs.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that most of the districts of West Bengal have been affected by severe drought. Worst-affected districts are Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore, Burdwan, Maldah, West Dinajpur, Murshidabad and Hooghly. 129 lakhs people in 14717 villages of 196 Blocks, 32 Municipalities and 4 Notified Areas are severally affected. The West Bengal Government had asked for immediate release of their share of margin money amounting to Rs. 11.87 crores. The amount is not much. The Government of India should be liberal in this regard and should provide drinking water to the people of West Bengal. The West Bengal Government has only asked for immediate release of Rs. 11.87 crores. All the resources are with the Central Government. The State Governments do not have their own resource or cannot raise money as they are not controlling banks and others. Every time, it is the Union Government which releases the funds and the Ministers are visiting the drought affected areas. A liberal attitude should be taken by the Union Government and it should see that the money should reach in time especially in hilly areas because to fetch water, one man is employed everyday. Our country is a vast and a big country. We should not be afraid about it since the resources are also vast. Ours is a rich country with poor people. Many resources are there in our country. We have to exploit the resources. For instance, much has been talked about Brahmaputra Ganga project. A huge amount of Brahmaputra water is going into the sea and we are unable to

exploit the water for the purpose of irrigation or drinking purpose or any other purpose. So these projects must be taken up so that we can utilise Brahmaputra water for drinking, irrigation, navigation and other purposes. We have not yet exploited enormous resources of water. Our river bed is going up because of the indiscriminate cutting of trees from hills and hillocks in the country. Social forestry and other schemes which come under other Ministries should be encouraged. The people should be taken into confidence. They should be given the charge of villages where afforestation is being done. Unutilised land must be brought under forestry. Then only we can escape from drought and other vagaries of nature. But the most unfortunate part is that we are polluting our rivers without bothering how much harm we are doing to the nation.

Once again, I request the hon. Minister to release funds to the States so that they may be able to go on with the projects that are in hand for implementation.

[*Translation*]

\*DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Sir, I will not take more than five minutes. We are today discussing here the shortage of drinking water in the country. Water and air are the two most important things in the life of man. A man may live for some days without food but he cannot live without water. He falls ill without water and in most cases he dies. Without water we cannot cook our food, we cannot take bath and clean ourselves, we cannot clean our houses, filth accumulates, boils and various skin diseases develop on our bodies and we fall sick. For want of water, tanks, rivulets and even rivers dry up in some places. About tubewells Sir, I do not know about the condition in other places but in the area where I come from most of the tubewells do not work. After working for a few days only, most of them go out of orders. As a result, very little water is available during normal times but at the time of drought not a drop of water is available. In my constituency, Sir, there are some places which have been called 'Non tubewell areas'. In

those areas I have not been able to do anything for supply of drinking water in the last four and a half years in spite of all efforts. Those who came before me also tried and failed. For non-availability of water goats, cows, bulls, buffaloes and other domestic animals suffer and perish. As the tanks and rivers get dried up, crop production is affected. Crops wither away for want of water and a very serious situation develops. The farmers face a miserable situation. Vegetable production also suffers. Whatever little is produced becomes so costly that the common people cannot buy them. It is beyond the purchasing capacity of the common man, who suffers in every way. For the last two days I read in the West Bengal newspapers that the relief minister has said, "I have not declared drought in West Bengal". But the Finance Minister said that there is drought. Really there is drought in West Bengal. I do not know why the relief Minister has said that there is no drought. I do not want to go in that question either. But I do know that there is drought in West Bengal. I will request the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal to hold talks immediately on this issue and to take all necessary measures expeditiously to combat the drought situation.

Sir, when there is shortage of water, the worst sufferers are the women folk. They have to bring water from long distances with great difficulty. At the time of drought, their condition becomes unbearable. What sufferings they have to undergo is only known to those like me who have worked without them. It cannot be described in words. It is not necessary to speak at length on the problems of shortage of water. India is a country of many rivers and rivulets. Ponds and tanks exist all over the country and we have a very long coastline with the sea washing the shortages. But I regret that in spite of all this we are facing drinking water shortages all over the country. Therefore, as I have said many times earlier, I repeat that we shall have to frame a national water policy to solve this problem. I request the Hon'ble Minister to consider this seriously and to take all steps to formulate a national

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

water policy at the earliest. Unless and until that is done this problem of shortage of water will come before the country off and on and the people will suffer. With that Sir, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, very important subject is being discussed at present in this House. In fact, problem of drinking water is causing worry throughout the country. Scarcity of water is being felt every where in the villages as well as cities. I want to draw your attention that a slogan of food, clothing and housing was raised in our country after independence. There is no doubt that food, clothing and housing are necessities but pure drinking water and clean air are greater necessities. Less attention was paid to this problem otherwise the present situation would not have developed which we are facing. In spite of constant efforts made by the Government, drinking water in required quantity has not been made available.

Increase of population is the main reason for this problem in cities. No apparent result of the efforts made by the Government is visible in the cities owing to increasing population. Population of Nagpur city, my own constituency, which is situated in the centre of India, was 4 lakh 40 years ago, it has increased to 20 lakhs now and every thing has gone astray. Water is not being made available to the people. Our Finance Minister visited Maharashtra recently, he was to attend some programme, people came to know that the Minister would pass through their area. The ladies surrounded the Minister's car holding empty pitchers in their hands and Minister was shown black flags. This incident indicates the severity of the problem. You can assess the seriousness of the problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, nine districts of my area are most affected with the problem of drinking water. These districts are Nagpur, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldana, Amravati, Garhchiroli, Chandrapur, Bhandara and

Wasim. All the small cities and villages under these districts are facing scarcity of water and there will be critical situation in next three months. Therefore, I urge the Government that something should be done on war footing. I may say that the hon. Minister has visited Nagpur four times and I had made a request three months ago that in summer season the problem of drinking water would become more critical in our area. The same situation is prevailing now. The schemes submitted by the State Government have not been completed so far and there may be some bottlenecks. Sometime a mention is made about world bank and at some other time some other reason is given. Therefore, I urge that a telex should be issued today to the Chief Secretary and the Urban Secretary of Maharashtra Government to report immediately and ask them to start work on war footing to make arrangements for supply of water to the aforesaid area.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, it was proposed to supply water through tankers from distant places to the areas where water was not available. But this promise has also not been kept by us and the supply of water has still not commenced. In this connection, I urge that the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister should be asked to explain the reasons as to why the work has not been done so far. If they lack funds, kindly provide them funds, from the centre because it is a serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government provided 50 percent of funds for the installation of tubewells in the remote areas and villages for meeting their requirement of water. But these tubewells large not working. These tubewells had been installed at a very low cost. The resources meant for this purpose have not been properly utilised. The contractors did not drill the earth to the required depth. The engineers too who were entrusted with the work of quality checking of the drilling did not do it properly and sanctioned the bills of the contractors. That is why that today these tubewells are not working. I would, therefore, request the Government to

blacklist the contractors who did not do the work properly even after getting the full amount paid to them and also to take action against the engineers who did not carry out the test check properly. The matter may please be enquired into and the defaulters should be punished. I would go to the extent of asking you to conduct an enquiry in respect of the tubewells installed during the last 5 years and take strict action against the defaulting contractors and engineers.

Secondly, I would like to know as to what has happened to the Garland project proposed by Shri Rao Saheb. We have not been able to implement the said project. We have been spending in crores of rupees on relief works for the last 25 to 30 years. If we calculate the total amount spent hitherto on this account, it will be a very huge amount because all these years, we have been providing funds to the areas that come under drought. Had we spent all this amount in lumpsum a little earlier, the problem could have been solved with the expenditure of much less an amount and the problem would not have become so acute now. It, therefore, calls for serious afforest on our part. It needs to be considered seriously and you will have to launch a major scheme at the national level to meet the requirement of irrigation and drinking water. There is no other way out for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an instance. In the U.S.A. once a situation had arisen when the water level of certain lakes such as Superior, Michigan, Erie and Ontario Lakes, which were navigable earlier, had gone down by six inches. Though the U.S.A. was not in a position to bear the expenses of construction of an ambitious dam, it constructed the dam and tried to maintain the water level of these lakes. Then why cannot we do that? So far as the question of resources or funds is concerned, the Government can take money from the public. The people in this country are prepared to give for it. Every citizen of India will give money for this purpose. I would like to request the Government to do something or the other in this regard.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are holding a discussion on the shortage of water. Due to this shortage of water and supply of dirty water where it is being supplied, people will fall ill and die. The hon. Minister of Urban Development is present here. I would like to draw here attention to this problem. The water being supplied by the N.D.M.C. to general public as well as to M.Ps will cause people fall ill and die. Yesterday when I opened the tap at my resident at 31, Canning lane, I found that in place of water mud was coming through the tap. There was not a single drop of clean water. Due to this we were not able to take bath, prepare our food or clean the utensils. If this deplorable condition is there with the M.Ps, it cannot be imagined what difficulties the common men in Delhi would have been facing. May I ask the Government if they have no control over the N.D.M.C. Does not the N.D.M.C. fall within their jurisdiction? Has the situation in N.D.M.C. gone out of their control? The Government should pay attention to it. If the Government is not in a position to pay attention to it, the Members of Parliament would themselves think about the measure to put the functioning of N.D.M.C. in order.

Just now it was stated that the ground water level all over the world has gone down. If you make an assessment of the situation prevailing in the world, you will come to know that the level of underground water is going down throughout the world.

Just now, the point of tubewells was raised here. Our able hon. Minister, Shri Poojary is present here. He has very skillfully organised loan melas in the country. I would like to request him to display his capability in this field also. Let him conduct a survey and assess how much groundwater is available there in our country. Drilling for tubewells should be undertaken only after a survey has been conducted in this regard as crores of rupees have been spent up on the installation of tubewells, but 50 percent of them are lying out of order. The reason is that tubewells were installed without assessing the quantum of underground water available.

[Sh. Aziz Qureshi]

Besides, water got through the tubewells is not drinkable. I would like to say that action should be taken against all of them who are responsible for this, no matter if he is a Government officer or a political leader. Let them be made accountable as to why crores of public money were wasted. Such a situation should not be allowed to repeat in this country.

I would like to make a submission about my constituency, Satna. It is a very poor and backward area where there is no industry in the public sector. There are the factories of Tatas and Birlas only. In the last meeting of the Planning Commission as well as in the meeting held on the 20 point programme, I had got a decision taken that the water being supplied to Birla Group of factories in Satna should now be supplied to the general public. The factories of the Birla Group of Industries can meet their water requirement by having their own separate tubewells. But it is unfortunate that upto now no action has been taken in this regard. Water is all along being supplied to Birla Group of Industries and the people have been facing hardships. I would like to say that the Government should pay attention to it and lay down a policy under which all the big industries in the private sector having a large capital investment and resources would not be supplied water and they would be asked to make their own arrangements for water. The entire water will be supplied to the general public so that people could get some relief and may tide over the problem of water crisis.

Similarly, a scheme to supply water to Bhopal from river Narmada is also lying pending since long. I would like to urge upon the Government to pay attention to it and provide water to Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to express my thanks to you for allowing me the time to speak.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no time. But I would tell you how the planning has gone wrong. After the demise of Jawaharlal Nehru we should have re-allotted priorities on the close of Third Plan which we did not do and in my opinion Jawaharlal Nehru was right. He had lived longer, he would have reviewed the whole structure and re-allotted priorities for the future plans. We have gone wrong, we have done a patchy development, a lot of credit goes to the Government, whosoever was there, as we have achieved a lot in various fields, but when we see the list of priorities, it is a national shame that after 41 years of Independence we are just discussing how to provide drinking water in the rural areas or even in some urban areas to solve this problem. The basic needs are food, clothing, shelter, health care, education and drinking water. Even energy comes after drinking water. So, something has gone wrong. We wanted to achieve everything possible under the sun and therefore, a lot of money had been wasted. I had a chance to go to the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, and I understood the dimensions of wastage of our water resources. There is no time to explain that. So, I must, Mr. Chairman, straightaway come to my constituency which is Baramulla consisting of two districts, Baramulla and Kupwara, and I want to inform this august House that 65 percent of the people in these districts Baramulla and Kupwara—have no drinking water, pure water, which you call 'safe water' not because of the negligence of the State Government, but because of paucity of funds, appeal to the Central Government through you, Sir, that a special scheme should be devised for my constituency because there are dry areas where 65 percent population has no drinking water. And there is another justification because the Government of Jammu and Kashmir or the people of Jammu and Kashmir have not received adequate share from the funding so far as your entire public sector is concerned. We have 0.07 percent. So, we deserve a better deal.

Secondly, I want an All India survey for the whole country. There should be an all India survey to determine, to indicate the

status of various States so far as drinking water is concerned. It is not that there is imbalance. That is at the national level. Some States have got more funds because some men and women came to Parliament and became Ministers from these areas and they have been selfish, nursing their own constituencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your constituency is also a part of India.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, imbalance is there. But within a State there are areas where there is no drinking water, in urban areas people have been served better. Somebody was pleading for urban areas, I must say our rural population is suffering because of pollution and all kinds of things. Now, Sir, on the basis of an All India survey, kindly consult experts. I do not know whether the Ministry is taking note of what is happening in this country, how we are deficient in water resources, how water is being wasted. On the basis of that All India survey, I request the Government of India to issue a White Paper on this problem and explain to the country as to what the Government will be doing within a decade. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the drinking water problem. It is really a matter of great concern that many parts of India are faced with severe scarcity of drinking water. Many Hon'ble Members have pointed out about the drinking water problems in different parts of the country. As time at my disposal is very short, I would not like to go in detail. I do not wish to say about all over India. I would like to confine my speech on drinking water problem in Orissa.

Sir, the drinking water scarcity has posed a serious problem in Orissa. Almost every part of Orissa is faced with this problem. The hilly areas of the State like Keonjhar, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Balangir and Sundargarh

are faced with this problem every year during summer. But this year, the drinking water problem has become very acute in coastal districts of the State too. The Government of Orissa has made various arrangements to provide adequate drinking water in the villages. We have tube wells, shallow wells and deep wells etc. in our state. Besides, there are certain areas where people depend on river water. Despite all these facilities we are facing acute drinking water problem this year. There are various factors responsible for the acute shortage of drinking water in Orissa during the year. The first reason is that we have no rain in the state since last 8 months. Prior to that there was scanty rainfall in some areas only. The ponds, the ponds, rivulets wells etc. are dried up. In many areas the water level has gone down. The wells which were dug long ago are not being maintained by the people. Deep wells were dug by the Government in different villages during the second and third plan period. Now, the State Government is not taking any step to renovate those wells. Most of those wells are filled with silts. Similar is the condition of the village ponds. The Govt. had indemnified problem villages in each state including Orissa. All the problem villages have not been supplied with potable drinking water so far. Tubewells were installed in many villages during 6th and 7th Plan period under centrally sponsored schemes. Proper care was not taken to deepen the soil while installing tubewells. As a result of that water is not coming through those tubewells even in pre-summer.

Sir, the situation is worse in my constituency. I come from Keonjhar district of Orissa. It is a mineral rich hilly district. It is necessary to make the soil very deep and then the tubewells should be installed. Because the water level is somewhere at 40 ft. to 50 ft. or even more than that below the surface. Most of the tubewells installed in that district are not functioning. The drinking water is coming through some tubewells and as a result of that it is not fit for human consumption. Therefore the people are depending on other sources for drinking water. The Government have made certain criteria for installing tu-

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.



[Sh. Harihar Soren]

bewells. One tubewell is to be installed in every revenue village where the population is between 250 to 300. Sir, in my district the situation is different. All the villages are not thickly populated. The population is not even 250 to 300 in some villages. As it is a hilly district the people are scattered here and there. The distance between one village to another is somewhere 2 to 3 Kms. In such cases one tubewell does not cater to the need of 2 to 3 villages. Moreover the people have to walk 2 to 3 Kms to fetch a bucket of water. So the criteria should be relaxed. One tube well should be installed in every revenue village. One tube well should be installed in every ward or Basti. Then only we will be able to provide drinking water to every people. There are many villages in my district which are located in inaccessible areas. We have not been able to instal tube wells in those villages. They do not have wells So, they depend on spring water for drinking purpose. The spring water is not hygenic as it is very much polluted these days. The people who consume spring water suffer from different water-borne diseases. The tribals are mostly the victims of the water born diseases. Therefore it is very necessary to ensure potable drinking water in those villages. It is very necessary to install tube wells in those villages on priority. There are many villages where the people from all the communities live. Both uppercast people, Harijan and Adivasies live in the same village. Suppose a tubewell has been installed in a ward where upper caste people live, but it is not installed in the area where Harijan or Adivasis are living, in such cases the people do not get drinking water agitate over the issue. So it is necessary to install tube wells in all the basties, where Harijan Adivasis or upper caste whosoever live there.

Sir, if the present dry spell continues and there is no rainfall till June, the people will not be able to tolerate the summer. If proper arrangement is not made to provide drinking water to every village they will die like insects. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make immediate arrange-

ments to repair the tubewells and shallow wells which are defunct. I request to the Government to provide adequate fund to the State Governments so that they will be able to ensure potable drinking water supply to everybody. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, without giving an expression to the feeling of concern of the entire country, I would like to express my own concern here before the hon. Minister Shri Poojary who is a responsive person. I am fully confident that he will fully release my agony, and take suitable measures to ameliorate it. Though there has been rainfall all over the country this year, the Raipur division of Madhya Pradesh, which I represent here, has unfortunately been experiencing the worst ever famine of the century this year. In the entire division, there was drought throughout the year. Some people have migrated from the area. Even today, the situation is very critical there. Of course, drought relief works have been launched on a large scale in the area, but the drinking water crisis is very acute there. Our hon. Prime Minister had visited that area where the people apprised him of their deep concern for water. They explained that with the launching of drought relief work their problem of earning livelihood has been solved, but the position of drinking water is very grim. Our hon. Chief Minister Minister has also made a request to sanction Rs. 45 crores for this purpose. The amount will be spent not only in Raipur but also on the adjoining districts where the problem of drinking water has assumed such dimensions that it needs attention. I, therefore, request the Government to pay attention to it. Water available in the dam in that area is being supplied to Raipur which is expanding very rapidly. Its population has now touched the mark of 10 lakhs. The water from the local dam is supposed to meet the requirement of this vast city as well as one of the largest steel factories of India at Bhilai. We demand a sum of Rs. 22 crores to meet the water requirement of Raipur city. I also request you to ask the Ministry of Steel and also convey our request to them that they should make



their own separate arrangements whether constructing a separate dam for it or in some other ways to meet the water requirements of the steel city. I would also like to request you to arrange rig machines and send them to my area and also give money for the purpose so that water could be made available for the cattle dying for want of water in that area and save them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 15th, May 1989 at 11.00 a.m.

19.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 15, 1989/ Vaisakha 25, 1911 (Saka).*