

Ninth Series, Vol.VI; No. 50

Monday, May 28, 1990  
Iyaistha 7, 1912 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Second Session  
(Ninth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol.VI contains Nos. 51 to 60)*

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

11.04 hrs.

Monday, May 28, 1990/Jyaistha 7, 1912  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at  
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sathe.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Mr. Speaker.....

MR. SPEAKER: He is in mood today.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): We have to go to the other House. There are Bills pending in the other House. Let the papers be allowed to be laid.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sathe, I will call you after Papers are laid. Now papers to be laid.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

**Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to employees) Regulation 1968; Annual report etc. of and Review on Industrial Development Bank of India for 1988-89**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to employees) Regulations, 1968 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1/88-122 in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1988 under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1003/90]
- (2)
  - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India together with Audited Accounts of the General Fund and the Development Assistance Fund for the year 1988-89 under sub-section (5) of section 18 and sub-section (5) of section 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.
  - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the

Government on the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1004/90]

[*Translation*]

**Annual Report and Review on All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Corporation Society Ltd. Delhi for 1988-89 and of National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi and Statement re-delay in Laying these Papers**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): I beg to lay on the Table;

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the All India Handloom Fabrics Marketing Cooperative Society Limited, Delhi, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1005/90]
- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English

versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1006/90]

[*English*]

**Annual report of and review on Govind Ballabh Pant Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan, for 1988-89 and statement re. delay in laying these Papers**

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI NILAMANI ROURAY): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Govind Ballabh Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Govind Ballabh Pant Himalaya Paryavaran Evam Vikas Sansthan for the year 1988-89.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1007/90]

**Annual Report of and review on Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary studies, New Delhi, for 1988-89 and a statement re. delay in laying these papers**

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies,

New Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Institute of Constitutional and Parliamentary Studies, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1008/90]

**Statement correcting reply given on 14.5.1990 to U.S.Q. No. 8472 regarding Institute of material science and Life Science and Statement *re.* reasons for delay in correcting the reply**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): I beg to lay on the Table a statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on 14 May, 1990 to Unstarred Question No. 8472 by Shri Basavapunnaiiah Singam, M.P. regarding Institutes of Material Science and Life Science and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1009/90]

**Annual report of and review on Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for 1988-89**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): On behalf of Shri Bhagey Gobardhan, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, new Delhi, for the year 1988-89 along with Audited Accounts.

- (2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government on the working of the Institute of Applied Manpower Research, New Delhi, for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1010/90]

**Notification under Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act 1963; Review and report of India tea and Restaurants Ltd., Bombay, for 1987-88 and a statement *re.* delay in laying these papers; Annual report etc. of and review on Tea Board, Calcutta for 1988-89 and a statement *re.* delay in laying these papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI AR-ANGILSHREEDHARAN): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:—
- (i) The Export Inspection Agency Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notifications No. S.O. 518 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1990.
- (ii) The Export Inspection Council Death-cum-Retirement Gratuity (Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. S.O. 519 in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1990. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1011/90]
- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government on the working of the India Tea and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88.
- (ii) Annual Report of the India Tea



- and Restaurants Limited, Bombay, for the year 1987-88 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1012/90]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1988-89.  
 (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1988-89 together with Audit Report thereon.  
 (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tea Board, Calcutta, for the year 1988-89.
- (5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1013/90]

[*Translation*]

**Notification under Central Excises and Salt Act 1944, Income Tax Act 1961, Customs Act, 1962, Amendment to regulation 22 of Reserve Bank of India General Regulations 1949, Consolidated Report of the working of Public Section Banks for 1.1.88 to 31.3.89 and annual report of and review on Industrial Finance corporation of India for 1988-89 and Report of C.A.G. of India for year ending 31.3.89—Municipal corporation of Delhi**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): I, on behalf of Shri Anil Shastri, beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:—
- (i) G.S.R. 797(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st August, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding payment of duties of Excise on the Steel Bead Wire Rings used in the manufacture of Cycle/Cycle Rikshaw tyres.
- (ii) G.S.R. 950(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st November, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding duty of Excise on parts of Stationary Batteries for manufacturing/assembly of complete Stationary Batteries at site which was not being levied prior to 8th May, 1984.
- (iii) G.S.R. 1018(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 1989 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding duty of excises on building materials manufactured at the site of construction of building for use at such site.
- (iv) G.S.R. 418(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 162/86-CE dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to insert S. No. 17A in the proviso thereto.
- (v) G.S.R. 433(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 175/86-CE Dated the 1st March, 1986

- so as to specify a ceiling of rupees fifty five lakhs for clearances of specified goods at concessional rate of duty mentioned in the said notification.
- (vi) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 440(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1990.
- (vii) The Central Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 1990 Published in Notification No. G.S.R. 441(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 1990.
- (viii) G.S.R. 393(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt air-guns air-rifles and air-pistols from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (ix) G.S.R. 394(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 47/90-CE dated the 20th March, 1990 so as to prescribe a concessional rate of basic excise duty of Rs. 8.50 per kg. on nylon filament yarn above 750 deniers without any end-use condition. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1014/90]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:—
- (i) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. S.O. 269(E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 1990.
- (ii) The Income-tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. S.O. 319(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1990.
- (iii) The Income-tax (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. S.O. 325(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 1990.
- (iv) The Income-tax (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 1990 Published in Notification No. S.O. 354(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 1990. [Placed in Library. See No. LT.-1015/90]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R. 246(E) to G.S.R. 386(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding Customs Duty changes and exemptions in the context of Budget proposals pertaining to Indirect Taxes announced by the Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on the 19th March, 1990.
- (ii) G.S.R. 388(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 144/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990 so as to delete redundant entry.
- (iii) G.S.R. 396(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th

- March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification no. 49/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990 so as to prescribe basic customs of 100 per cent on all items other than polysulphones.
- (iv) G.S.R. 400(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 137/80-Cus., dated the 20th March , 1990 so as to permit two more specified items at a concessional rate of 25 per cent *ad valorem* for passengers availing concessions.
- (v) The Baggage (Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 401(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) The Transfer of Residence (Amendment) Rules, 1990 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 402(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) S.O. 260(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into indian currency or *vice-versa*.
- (viii) G.S.R. 405(E) and G.S.R. 406(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods temporarily imported under ATA Carnet for display or use in exhibitions, fairs, meetings and similar events from the whole of the basic, additional and auxiliary duties of customs.
- (ix) G.S.R. 419(E) and G.S.R. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt raw materials and components when imported for manufacture of specified products for supply to hundred per cent export oriented undertakings or free trade zones from the whole of the basic, additional and auxiliary duties of Customs.
- (x) G.S.R. 421(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to notification No. 137/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990.
- (xi) G.S.R. 422(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods imported into India against an advance Licence from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.
- (xii) G.S.R. 423(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods imported into India against a Blanket Advance Licence from the whole of the basic and additional duties of Customs leviable thereon.

- (xii) G.S.R. 424(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 1990 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 140/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990. [Placed in Library See No. LT-1016/90]
- (4) A copy of an amendment to Regulation 22 of Reserve bank Of India General Regulations, 1949 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1989 under sub-section (4) of section 58 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1017/90]
- (5) A copy of the Consolidated Report (Hindi and English versions) of the working of the Public Sector Banks for the period from the 1st January, 1988 to 31st March, 1989. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1018/90]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year 1988-89 along with the statement showing the Assets and Liabilities and Profit and Loss Accounts of the Corporation under sub-section (3) of section 35 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1019/90]
- (7) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1989 (No. 4 of 1990)—Municipal

Corporation of Delhi under article 151(1) of the Constitution. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1020/90]

11.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 14th May, 1990, adopted the following motion in regard to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit:—

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted for the purposes set out in the motion adopted by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd March, 1990, and resolves that this House do join in the said Joint Committee and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, five members from among the members of the House to serve on the said Joint Committee."

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above motion, the following members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:—

1. Sardar Jagjit Singh Aurora
2. Shri Anand Prakash Gautam
3. Shri Talari Prakash Manohar
4. Shri Makhan Lal Fotedar
5. Shri Sontosh Kumar Sahu.

11.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT ON THE  
PENDING MATTER OF THE SCALE OF  
PAY AND CONNECTED MATTERS IN  
RESPECT OF THE SECRETARIES-GEN-  
ERAL OF HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

**Report**

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Committee of Parliament on the pending matter of the scale of pay and connected matters in respect of the Secretaries-General of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Mr. Speaker, now the report of the Committee under item no. 10 has been laid on the Table of the house. It is most unfortunate that many Parties and Groups have not been consulted. The matter of Secretary-General's emoluments is the concern of the entire Parliament. It brings in and involves the prestige of Parliament in relation to other services in the country. We are not aware, nor are many of the Groups in the House aware of this. What we want is, before the report is implemented, this should be intimated to all Members of different Parties/Groups (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: The Secretariat cannot be discussed here.

(*Interruptions*)

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11.4 1/2 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBER'S  
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

**Minutes**

[*English*]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): I beg to lay on the Table Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the First to Sixth Sitting of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current session.

\_\_\_\_\_

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Babanrao Dhakne.

Shri A. Charles.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN: SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, I have to say something very important about the statement of the Home Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to you.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Wardha): Sir, I would like to raise with your permission a very important matter relating to the deterioration of conditions in Punjab. Only the other day, we learnt that once again in the Golden Temple, people have gone in with arms. All the holocaust and catastrophe in Punjab mainly began by converting the Gurudawaras into fortresses, if you remember. Armed people go inside and build up so called castles there, from where then the attacks on the people outside get launched and, the most sophisticated arms being collected.

I do not know what is the policy of the Government. Do they want the reversal of the entire process? Is the surrender so complete that openly the leaders of pro-Khalistan elements can go in with arms—as we saw even from the photographs—and the police just stand by? I would really like to know from the Government because the whole country will be concerned now. If this is what is going to happen under your very nose, then what kind of progress or development or normalisation can be expected? You are just now saying that you are going to work towards elections in Punjab.

I would like to know from the Government what is their attitude. What measures are they taking? Will they ensure and promise the country that they will not allow the Gurudwaras to be converted into such fortresses filled with arms and will you see to it that people are not there with arms? Except the traditional sword that is allowed, nothing else should be allowed to be taken. No arms should be allowed to be taken into Gurudwaras and temples. I would like to know the attitude of the Government.

SHRI DINESH SINGH (Pratapgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir with your permission I would like to raise two very important matters this morning. The first relates to the situation in Sindh in Pakistan. As you would have seen in the newspapers today, in the firing that has been going on there, 82 people had been killed including a large number of women who were demonstrating with Quran Sharif on their heads. More than 300 people have been injured. We do not wish to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. But, this is a matter which is of some concern because it happened right on our door step. These are the people who were misled at the very beginning when Pakistan was constituted into believing the two-nation theory and who had gone to Pakistan with hopes that had been generated in the two-nation theory and having gone there, are now in such a position that instead of being accommodated and given a decent life, they are being fired upon and shot at. We are concerned that unless Pakistan does something

to find a peaceful solution, we may have a lot of trouble on our hands, the refugees and others. And therefore without wishing to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan, we would wish to draw the attention of the Government and through this House of the people that a peaceful solution should be found to this problem.

The second matter that I wish to raise is concerning the functioning of this House now in its extended term. It has been a position taken by us and at the very beginning the Leader of the Opposition had made it known in this House, that it is our intention to give constructive cooperation to the Government in the functioning of this House and, also you would have noticed it has been our endeavour to do so and, as a result, a number of Bills have been passed in this House as well as in the other House with full cooperations from us.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Even without discussion an important Bill like the Finance Bill was passed. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Yes. The situation is that on the one hand, the Government wishes to seek our cooperation in the business of this House, on the other hand, they take every occasion to try to have insinuations thrown at us based on half truths. From the very beginning, if you remember, from the Address of the President in this House, we have been asking the Government for certain papers to be placed on the Table of the House. These papers are in the possession of the Government. There is no difficulty in placing them on the Table of the House. Then the country and the world will know what the truth is. If those papers contain names or allegations or anything about us, we would wish to see an early implementation of any judicial or other process that the Government may wish to take. If our names do not come, if the names of people sitting on the other side come, then also we would wish to see that there is early implementation of whatever action the Government proposes to take. But this kind of

[Sh. Dinesh Singh]

suspended insinuations is neither good for the democratic functioning of the country nor for the relationship between the opposition and the Government. And therefore, we have been pleading with the Government that whether it is papers connected with the Bofors, whether it is papers connected with the Airbus, whether it is terms of reference of inquiry on Meham, these papers must be placed on the Table of the House. If these papers are not placed on the Table of the House, the Government can hardly expect cooperation from us in the passing of the Bills that they propose to bring in the House. Therefore, I should like to mention very categorically that the cooperation can be that only if both sides cooperate. It cannot be an expectation from one side without taking into account the demands and the requests of the other side. Therefore, if the Government wish that we participate in this extended term and assist them in the passing of the Bills, then these papers must be immediately placed on the Table of the House. We have already given four days notice to the Government. There is no difficulty in collecting these papers. But if they are not placed in all humility, I would like to mention to the House that they would force us not to cooperate with them in the passing of these Bills. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (New Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I being perhaps the only Sindhi Speaking person in the house, confirm Shri Dinesh Singh's assertion that the developments of Sindhi are very serious.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Advani, Sindhi Language is included its in the VIIIth Schedule of the Constitution, in that way all of us are related to Sindhi Language.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I know that all of us had contributed in the inclusion of Sindhi in the VIIIth Schedule. The Government of India or India would not like to interfere in the internal affairs of Pakistan. But we have to

keep in view that the developments of Bangladesh had greatly affected our country and ultimately we had to involve ourselves actively there. The happenings of Sindh indicate that due to its internal problems, Pakistan is muddling in our Kashmir and Punjab affairs. The Situation is explosive to such extent that within a day 120 persons were killed in Sindh which is a small province. The developments in Sindh may have greater impact in our adjoining regions of Rajasthan and Katch and in the whole of our country. So we have to be very cautious in our approach. At the same time India shall continue its diplomatic efforts to compel Pakistan to prevent it from interfering into the affairs. Kashmir and Punjab. We should give a hint as well as a warning to the rulers of Pakistan to refrain from indulging in his adventurism and making our internal affairs an international issue to cover up its internal problems.

Secondly, I want to say that the Government, should apprise in the Parliament of the situation that has been prevailing Punjab during the last 6 months. In 1984 a white Paper on Punjab was issued. Thereafter, there has been many incidents. I am very sorry to say that the migration which has now begun in Punjab also is a sign of deterioration of the situation. The Government should inform the House of all the facts about Punjab. In the last few days the situation has further deteriorated because of the frequent cases of kid-napping and ransom. I think, these incidents are more disturbing than that cases of murder and violence.

Last week, I myself visited Abohar and met the people of that small Tehsil Zira. The people from there came to meet me. They told me that within a month ransoms of about rupees one and half crore to two crores had been paid to secure release of kidnapped persons in that Tehsil. These are the serious situations prevailing there. the Government should take the Parliament into confidence and bring out a second white-paper which should indicate the facts not mentioned in the fresh white-paper and also details how Pakistan is interfering in Kashmir.

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I associate myself with what has been said by Shri Dinesh Singh Ji and Shri Advani Ji about Sindh our country has always been the staunch supporter of democracy. We have always supported the movement for democracy in every part of the world. Sir, in the Sindh Province of Pakistan a struggle for restoration of democracy has been going on for several months. The Pakistani Government is bent upon to crush the movement which is being piloted by Muhazir-Kaumi-Movement under the leadership of Shri Gulam Mustaba Jatoti who is the leader of the united opposition Party. As our leaders have said in Karachi and Hyderabad water and electricity supply has been discontinued for 13 days. The local Maulavi through the Mike announced that people have come in street to lodge their protest when the people came out on the road in protest, they were crushed by the Army. The Army Killed 135 persons and injured more than 300 persons.

I, therefore, want say that it is our moral duty to support the movement for the restoration of democracy being launched there and we denounce the efforts of the government of Pakistan to crush the movement.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, hon. Member, Shri Dinesh Singh has raised a number of issues. First thing, we have not made any insinuation about their cooperation or functioning in this House. We are grateful to whatever cooperation they are giving-sometimes constructive, sometimes otherwise.

SHRI ZULFIQUAR ALI KHAN (Rampur): Again an insinuation.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Statement of fact. Sir, we had a meeting of the leaders of all parties last week. In that meeting we decided on the business to be taken up this week. In the meeting, the leaders of the Congress (I)

raised the question of placing some documents on the Table of the House which they demanded earlier. And we promised that whatever papers have to be placed or can be placed, the Government will place them before the end of the session, that is, before the end of this week. Particularly they mentioned documents relating to the Bofors deal, the Airbus deal and the terms of reference of the inquiry into the Meham incident. All the three are engaging the attention of the Government. The Cabinet is taking a view today and tomorrow and, as promised by the Government, we will try to place whatever documents can be placed before the end of the session.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: In this connection, Sir, this ambiguous statement made by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is what causes concern. He Says: "whatever papers have to be placed and whatever can be placed." That means, he will select what papers can be placed. This is what our objection is about. We want all papers to be placed so that he does not play around with that. (*Interruptions*) It is this kind of concealing certain papers that shows the intentions of the Government. (*Interruptions*)

I would then suggest to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that he might postpone voting on these Bills till he has taken a decision, if he desires our cooperation on them. If he does not desire our cooperation, it is a different matter. But then the responsibility for the Bills passing or not passing will be his, not ours.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, so far as items 16 and 17 in today's list of business are concerned, one deals with the Amendment of the Constitution relating to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission-statutory powers to be given-and the other relating to land reforms.

I would like to know from Mr. Dinesh Singh whether his party, with or without the papers being laid on the Table, is going to support or oppose the Bills. Let them decide



[Sh. Somnath Chatterjee]

whether they are going to oppose the Bills. We insist that these Bills should be taken up by this House. These are two important Bills. They should be non-controversial Bills. These cannot be matters of a *quid pro quo*. These are types of Bills which cannot be a subject-matter of a bargain. In the name of so-called constructive opposition, they cannot hold the country to ransom.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): While appreciating the demand for laying Bofors Papers on the Table, I would like to appeal to the Congress Party not to make that a pre-condition to the passing of these Bills. *(Interruptions)* These are such Constitution (Amendment) Bills to which they are also committed. Therefore, I make an appeal that these two Bills be passed with the requisite majority.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): This shows the intention and motive of the Congress (I) Party. *(Interruptions)* They are demanding a pre-condition for passing two important Constitution (Amendment) Bills. The Bill to include land reforms in the Ninth Schedule is an important one. This Bill also gives statutory power to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. As stated by the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Government will place all the papers... *(Interruptions)*... We know that they will place all the relevant papers on the Table of the House... *(Interruptions)*... But you should not bring this issue in the way of passing these two Bills, one of which is regarding land reforms. Is it that you do not want the Land Reforms Bill to be passed or you do not want to give statutory power to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission? Kindly inform about this to the House.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): This is just like holding a sword at my throat and then asking me to give my reply. Here are the

Bills which we ourselves were anxious to pass. It has so happened so that they have come in now. Do they want to hold us to ransom? Here are the papers about which we have been worried, troubled and pained for three years. I do not speak only for myself. I myself have been anxious, more than others, to know the truth, the whole truth... *(Interruptions)* ... Mr. Speaker Sir, I went out of my way—Let me take the House into confidence—to ask the highest man concerned in our party, in our Government to assure me that there was nothing wrong on our side and I was given that assurance which I accepted. But nevertheless, they have been saying 'something is there' and my conscience had been at great pain. Now, we want all the papers to be laid on the Table of the House. Why is it that they want to keep them? Still people of this country are wondering as to whether there is something wrong because masses behind us are under the impression that we have done something terribly wrong. Is it not the time that we should face the truth, the whole truth, nothing but the truth? Is it wrong of us to say this? And, we are giving all our cooperation. They have no other right except the right of democracy and our attachment to it. Otherwise, could this minority Government be there? Since we are devoted to democracy, we are supporting them. And they want to do it this way—holding us to ransom? It does not lie in the mouth of my friends in their new enthusiasm for democracy to say like this. ... *(Interruptions)*... Here is the son of a friend of mine.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Nostalgia is good but it does not help us today. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. N.G. RANGA: I want the truth, the whole truth. Let the papers be placed on the table of the House. Is it wrong on our part to ask for that? Should they not cooperate with me, the oldest democrat in this House? We are asking for all the papers. You are the custodian of our rights.... *(Interruptions)*. It is their elementary duty to respond to our demand. We have been waiting for all these years and we have been cooperating with

them. We are at the fag end of the session and we are going beyond the date that they themselves fixed for this session. We are asking them for the papers. Please for God's sake, let us clear the conscience of the people and place the papers on the Table of the House. Should they not cooperate with us? From their cooperators, their allies and themselves, can we not expect this much of minimum cooperation? That is all I have to say.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, I quite appreciate the concern of Shri Dinesh Singh and our great leader, Prof. Ranga to know the truth and the whole truth. Yes, in earlier years we had also been demanding to know the truth.

We have listened to the Government's position in this regard. Government wants to place before the House the relevant documents.... (*Interruptions*) But Sir, I am astonished to see that now these Congress leaders have taken recourse to hold the entire agricultural labour and peasantry of our country to ransom by not agreeing to cooperate with the Government to pass these two Bills. The agricultural workers number about ten crores in our country. They expect that the land reforms should be implemented and implemented as speedily as possible. This is not the Time for me to emphasise the importance of the land reforms. They have failed in a very dismal manner for the last four decades in this respect and now when the people of our country, particularly the peasantry and agricultural workers want that the land reforms should be implemented expeditiously, they want to hold the entire agricultural workers and peasantry to ransom. The country would like to know what position they have taken in this respect.

So far as the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned, they are having a statutory right to get their grievances redressed and the Government want to pass these very important measures which they have brought forward before the House. I would appeal to them in the name of the people of our country, in the name of millions

of agricultural workers and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes that they should agree to pass these two Constitution Amendment Bills at least. At the same time, they should continue their fight for getting the truth and we shall also be with them in the matter of getting the truth. We also want that the corruption should be checked at the high places and it should not be encouraged and must be brought to light.

I therefore, request my friends to cooperate so that these two Bills are passed.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NANI BHATTARCHARYA (Bengaluru): In the all party leaders meeting—I also had the privilege of attending that meeting—S/Shri Singh, Sathe and Kumarmangalam were also there. The leaders of the Congress Party were also there and there was a sort of understanding where it was said that the papers will be laid on the Table of the House. It is a matter of common sense that not all papers—papers which are likely to infringe the defence question, the security of the country cannot be made public. Papers sufficient to reveal truth regarding corruption and corrupt practices—are relevant and can be laid on the Table of the House.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM (Salem): What is relevance? You please define relevance because last time they said relevance has no relevance.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: So, the understanding was that all the relevant papers will be laid on the Table of the House may be on the first day or the last day of the Session. Now, it is surprising that these gentlemen are going back on their understanding and on their assurance.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: We are not going back on any assurance.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Sir, it is surprising that they have put a pre-condition to extend their support to the Constitutional (Amendment) Bills. Let these gentleman.

[Sh. Nani Bhattacharya]

You tell the people of the country that they are opposing the constitutional amendment bill which is intended to safeguard the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, let them also tell the people that they don't want to safeguard the interests of the poor peasants by giving the constitutional authority to the land laws.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I can suggest a compromise formula.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: The Constitutional (Amendment) Bill makes it obligatory on the part of the State Governments to implement the provisions of the relevant clauses. So, I request Mr. Sathe, Mr. Singh and others to see things, to go deep into the affairs.

SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM: Yes, we want to go deep.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: There are papers which reveal the corrupt practices at the high level. The understanding was that they should be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, hon. Shri Dinesh Singh, for whom I have great respect, obviated the need to call for any insinuation. He made it so plain and crude, but...

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: But soberly. That is his qualification.

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): Sir, I can understand if the Opposition takes exception to the passing of the Bills if the papers are related to the bills. They have nothing to do with the bills under consideration. They are absolutely different papers, not related to the bills. I don't know why they are linking up the laying of the papers with these bills which are very momentous bills and for which we have been waiting for a long time. People of this country

particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the landless workers are waiting for these bills. They also raised the question of papers. They have taken exception to my adjectives. Sir, they have been in the Government for decades and they have rendered an invaluable service to the nation. They should understand which papers are to be laid on the Table of the House; what can be disclosed and what cannot be disclosed and also the practical difficulties. I can only take two examples. For example, the terms of reference of the Supreme Court inquiry. As you know, the Chief Justice of India has to be approached for his approval to name the Judge. An approach has already been made. We are waiting for a reply from the Chief Justice of India. As soon as we receive, it will be laid as well as the terms of reference will be announced simultaneously.

As regards the Bofors' documents, we have received the unpublished report. Again, it requires the approval or concurrence of the Government of Sweden to make it public. An approach has already been made to the Government of Sweden also to make it public. I have given two examples of these practical difficulties or the practical problems involved in laying. Here, we are expediting it. We stand by our promise. I told them that before this Session ends, whatever papers can be laid, we will lay them. That is exactly what I said. I will stand by that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow me to say something. We are concerned with the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Items number 15, 16 and 17, all these three items relate to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Please allow me to say something... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chavda, please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, hon. Member, Shri Somnath Chatterjee had made a reference to me. I hold Shri Somnath Chatterjee with great respect.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a personnel explanation.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Both, Sir.

[English]

SHRISOMNATHCHATTERJEE: I said, he is a very sober person. He is a mis-fit there.

SHRI DINESH SINGH: I have watched his performance when he used to sit on this side of the House. But something has changed very much in this transformation that has happened, that is, when he crossed the floor. I am sorry that in this request of ours to place the papers on the Table of the House for a very specific reason he is trying to mix it with various issues to give an impression that we are not interested in those issues. I am sorry that Somnathji has raised the issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He knows very well that much before his party came into existence in the world, the Congress Party, under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, had been fighting for the rights of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please order.

Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH SINGH: Now, there are many so called supporters of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But I remember those days that if you sat and ate with the members of the scheduled castes, you were thrown out of your caste and community. It was then that Congress was struggling. It is very much easy now to sit in a restaurant and eat with somebody from the scheduled

castes. (Interruptions) All that I am trying to say is that, it is not our intention... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): That congress is dead.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH SINGH: All that I am saying is that, we are equally interested in seeing that these Bills are passed. That is why, we are suggesting to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that he should facilitate the passing of these Bills. It is not that we are asking for these papers only from yesterday or today, we have asked for them three months ago. Does it take the Government three months to collect these papers? It is their intention of not parting with these papers or placing them on the Table of the House that is creating concern in our minds. They want purposely to create a wrong impression in the country that they have certain materials and that they will not share them with the House. It only shows that they do not have any worthwhile case and they want to keep this charge going merely to gain a political advantage. And it is not our intention to permit them to gain this political advantage. I have great regard and affection for Mr. Upendra, but I see that he has begun to perform like his leader who combines many roles in one film. (Interruptions)

SHRI VASANT SATHE: Krishna, Duryodhan and Karna-all in one. (Interruptions)

SHRIDINESH SINGH: Sir, he was trying to do the same thing in the House. I would beg of him to remain Mr. Upendra, and not to perform various other roles that are being unfortunately thrust upon him. I can only assure him that it is our intention to assist this House in passing this Bill; but we have limitations and difficulties on this also. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat there is unanimity about SC/ST.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Chavda, Please sit down. We are already discussing what you are referring to.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY: I have only one suggestion to make on what the hon. Minister Mr. Upendra said. He has said that Government has written to the Swedish Government for disclosing the contents of the Audit Bureau Report, which was not published. I wish them success in their persuasion with the Swedish Government. If they fail, then without bothering about what the Swedish Government is saying, they should come out openly with facts.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order? Mr. Soz, please take your seat. He has raised a point of order.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Sir, my point of order is that just now the learned Member Shri Dinesh Singh has said that his party had been struggling for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from the very beginning even when the Communist Party was not in existence. I would like to remind the hon. Member about Jawaharlal's book, "A Glimpse of World History" in which he has written that the Revolution of 1917 under the leadership of Lenin is a beacon for the poor and the down-trodden of the whole world and that it was proving to be very helpful in the Freedom-struggle of India. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. Please take your seat.

[English]

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ (Baramulla): Sir, the Home Minister is not here; and my privilege is involved.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: There is no question of privilege-you make your point.

[English]

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: I have said it, and it has gone on record, that the Prime Minister's impulse regarding Kashmir is very sincere, because I had the privilege of talking to him a number of times. But the Home Minister's statement has misled the House as also the Prime Minister's which he had made on the 22nd in this House. He not only quoted a wrong figure of those who fell dead in the firing that was done by the paramilitary on the mourners on the 21st; and when I quoted the figures, he said that I was wrong, and he contradicted me and said these figures were concocted, wrong, untrue and then he said that I had got the figures from the terrorists.

Now, my list is complete. I raised a question, with this House would you not like to know what has happened? I want to ask the Home Minister to inform this House: how many people died on the spot, and how many people died in the hospitals by that evening? It cannot be less than 50 that day. (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How many officers? (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. There is no point his standing.

(Interruptions)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: In Kashmir, there is terrible heart-burning on the Home Minister's statement here. He has contra-

dicted me. Now 137 officers have appealed to the citizens of the world. It has come in *The Indian Express* and other papers. (*Interruptions*) I have not completed it. He owes an explanation to me, rather an apology. You must hear me because this is very important. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): There is discussion on this under Rule 193. I do not know how have you allowed him to raise this point. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Discussion on this point is listed under Rule 193 today.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: No question of discussion.

He must withdraw the words saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. I will not insist on my privilege motion if he withdraw the words saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. He must withdraw these words. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Why are you raising it now? (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Khurana.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: The Prime Minister should not abolish the Ministry of Kashmir Affairs. (*Interruptions*) The Ministry of Kashmir Affairs cannot be abolished. He must consult leaders of political parties. (*Interruptions*) The Home Minister must withdraw this expression.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not accepted your notice by motion 2 Privilege.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (SOUTH DELHI): I am on a point of order,

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, Sir. Please sit down.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:- Sir, my point of order is that you have not accepted the Privilege Motion and hon. Home Minister has said that discussion on Jammu-Kashmir is listed under the rule 193. My request is that if discussion on Jammu-Kashmir continues we would also like to say something. We have brought all the documents. The way his name is associated with Terrorists..... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order, you please sit down. I have listened to your point of order.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: My request is that we also want to saying something. Will there be only one issue in the discussion?

MR. SPEAKER: There is no point of order, You please. take your seat. You have already spoken about point of order. Mr. Ram Naik, you may raise the discussion about the strike.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He must withdraw this expression that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. (*Interruptions*) My information was not based on the information from the terrorists. I have no truck with them. He may be having it. (*Interruptions*) I will better walk out. (*Interruptions*) He must withdraw that expression and apologise.

[*Translation*]

I will not yield till he withdraws his remarks. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He must withdraw this expression saying that my information was based on the information from the terrorists. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Telecommunication system in the country has been disturbed for the last four days..... (Interruptions) ....

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you standing? I shall call everyone.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The officers of the Telecommunication department are on strike and ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA (Patan): I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI KHEMCHANDBHAI SOMABHAI CHAVDA: On a point of order. Mr. Ram Naik is speaking. Then Prof. Soz is also speaking. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Which rule has been violated. Shri Chavda, Please sit down. There is no point of order.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI (Misrikh):- Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your Point of Order? Under which rule you want to raise your point of order?

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI:- I am going to place my Point of Order Just now, but please listen to my point. Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now, an Hon'ble Member of Bhartiya Janata Party has levelled this allegation against Mr. Soz in the House..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is no Point of Order. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Soz, you take your seat.

PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: He has to withdraw his words. He has misled the House.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER:- Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM LAL RAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want that you should safe guard the honour of the Hon'ble Members..... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There is no Point of Order. You are speaking against the order of the Chair.

SHRI RAM NAIK:- Mr. Speaker, Sir, the whole Communication System in the country has been disrupted which has resulted in total chaos and collapse of the Communication system. People can neither talk with each-other in our country, nor there is any telecommunication link with the foreign countries. Secondly, the computer system has been broken out at all places whether it is Indian Air Lines Reservation system Railway reservation system Fax System or it is a Telex system of Oil Companies. The news have not been coming through Teleprinters in the newspapers, as a result of which information is not being provided to the entire country. Such a serious situation has been created. It has been reported that the employees of the telecommunication system—telecommunication Engineer Service Association and Junior Telecommunication Officers Association have been agitating and launching work to rule agitation. During last November '89, the Government had accepted the recommendations of Telecommunication Commissioner, but the present Government has not been accepting those points, that is why the present agitation has been

launched. It is being said that the Ministry of Finance has been creating some obstacles in its implementation. In the Bombay city alone, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam has been incurring a loss of Rs. one crore daily I would like to say that the Minister of Finance and Minister of Telecommunication should take the House into confidence about the situation and make a statement in this regard today itself. It is my submission.. (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the session has been specifically extended to complete pending urgent Government business and it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee as well as in the meeting of the Leaders, that other issues will not be raised until these Bills are passed. Again, we are spending lot of time on these issues. I request you to take up the legislative business of the House. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, such a mismanagement has not been seen in the Ministry of Communication till today. I come from Nagpur, though the telecommunication system has been completely disrupted in the entire country, but telecommunication system has totally collapsed in the nine districts of Vidharbha region of Nagpur. The services of Teleprinters, U.T.I, P.T.I. and FAX has been completely discontinued to the local newspapers of the state. Industries and Business has completely come to a standstill, because telephonic talk can not be made to other places of our country from Gujarat. Even there is no means of Communication to send messages to Delhi and Bombay for life saving drugs. FAX services has also been disrupted. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the telecommunication, system has been disrupted so much during the regime of present Government that no efforts has been taken to solve it. No talks have been held about the demands of the employees. The communication system may be improved

after holding talks with the employees. Today, such is the situation in Nagpur city... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Kumaramangalam.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that the telephone situation is extremely bad and the telecommunication system is almost completely broken down. Yesterday night we could not make local calls.... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, it is most unfortunate that after I have been called to speak, I note that the Minister gets up to speak and on his own he is trying to make a statement. There is a certain method... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Speaker, Sir, all that he is saying.....

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. I have called Shri Kumarmangolam.

[*English*]

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, this issue has come up earlier. It was settled very amicably by discussing with the Junior Engineers Association, the Telecom Officers Association. Unfortunately, the Government is not taking positive steps to solve the problem. Communication is coming to a halt. Yesterday we could not make even local calls and the reason is because the Government is taking the matter lightly. If only they could call the Association, discuss with them, they could settle the issue within minutes. Unfortunately this Government does



[Sh. P.R. Kumaramangalam]

not seem to take any matter seriously and the whole telecommunication system is collapsing. I would plead with the Government that they discuss with the Association immediately on certain matters. Certainly it is not difficult... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lokanath Choudhary.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpura): Sir, the entire telecommunication system in the country is paralysed.... (*Interruptions*) The Government should come with a statement today as to what steps they propose to take to solve this problem.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, as many hon. Members have drawn the attention to the complete disruption of the communication system in our country, the hon. Minister for communication should make a statement.. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We are also supporting this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Junior Telecommunication system officers and the Assistant Engineers had been agitating on this issue for a long time. They submitted a demand of having time bound promotion in October last. They demand that there should be a promotion in case of Junior officers after twelve years of continuous service and in case of Assistant Engineers, they should have this chance of promotion after ten years of service. This is a long pending demand of a very important section of our telecommunication officers. There have been some talks. I hope, the talks will bring about the desired results. I want that the Minister himself takes up the negotiations and brings about a peaceful settlement of the situation so that the people can be relieved of this problem in telecommunication.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I would like to submit about telecommunication system that you should ask him to make a statement, because telecommunication system has been paralysed there. My telephone has been out of order for four days— (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: On behalf of the entire House, Sir, you can ask the Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not coming in the way. They are there and they can make a statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Keeping in view the atmosphere in the House, you should direct him to make a statement. You should ask him to make a statement in this regard.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NATHU SINGH (Dausa): I make a request that Government should make a statement on the situation which has been created only by the strike of Engineers. Government should make a statement on the entire telecommunication system. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM ( SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): I will convey the feelings of the House to the concerned Minister and request him to make a statement about it.

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to submit only this much that so many members have given their names to ask the Questions. Therefore, first of all, I would like to say that in the beginning that Bill may be taken up for which the sittings of the House have been extended.

12.08 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE**

**First Report**

[*Translation*]

SHRI BABANRAO DHAKNE (Beed): I beg to present the first report (Hindi and English version) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House.

12.09 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*][*English*]

SHRI BAL GOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): I am on a point of order. Zero Hour has been a privilege of the Members to raise various issues concerning the country... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJIT PANJA (Calcutta North East): I bring to your kind attention that in this Session a rule has been made that for raising any point in Zero Hour a written notice has to be given between 10-10.30 A. M. to the Office of the Speaker. I have done so and notice was given exactly at 10 O'clock today regarding the misuse of national TV network and illegal showing of the film of NTR named, 'Daana Veera Sura Karṇa'. This film is not national award winner nor an international award winner, nor selected for Film Festival. No film can be shown in national network on Sunday unless any of these conditions are fulfilled. Secondly, at 10.30 A.M. this film was started showing, although the time was 11.30 A.M. and it went for a longer time than usually given for such films. The result is other films already fixed up during that time

were cancelled unilaterally causing loss to the common men, that is, producers concerned. This is not the first time but in December 1989 and in January 1990 also this Government indulged in such mal-practices. Therefore, the TV has become a toy in the hand of a delinquent child named the Information Minister, Shri P. Upendra. I demand that the Minister must make a statement and no amount of professional charges and fees should be paid to NTR or anybody else in respect of this film, which was illegally shown.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order.

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): Sir, I must say that the matter raised by Mr. Soz is completely different from the discussion under Rule 193. The Home Minister has misled the House. He has given wrong figures about those who were killed by firing on the mourners of Mirwaiz and he must correct himself. The Minister should give correct figures. He has misled the House. He has also said that Mr. Soz has got information from the terrorists. This is also very serious. It is different from discussion under Rule 193.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sulaiman Sait, you have had your say. Now, take your seat.

PRF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, I have decided to walk out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing of what Mr. Soz says will form part of the record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

*At this stage Shri Saifuddin Soz and some other hon. Members left the House*

SHRI M. J. AKBAR (Kishanganj): Sir, the Minister for Kashmir Affairs according to a report in the newspaper has been divested of the Kashmir portfolio. The Ministry has

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\*Not recorded.

[Sh. M.J. Akbar]

been disbanded. The Prime Minister has given a very confusing answer in the House and not informed the House about the status of that Ministry. I think, we are entitled to know whether that Ministry exists or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had given a notice about Bachhawat Wage Board and Hon. Speaker had promised to give me time to raise this matter in the House.. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise two points about Bachhawat Wage Board award. One is related to the Government. Notification in connection with the implementation of the Bachhawat Wage Board award. Second is about the implementation of the report of the Expert Committee for grant of pension to journalists.

Has the Government conducted any survey in connection with the implementation of the recommendations of the Bachhawat Wage Board and how many newspaper owners have implemented these recommendations. According to my information, only 10 per cent newspaper owners have implemented it and 90 per cent have not implemented them. Supreme Court has also not accepted the plea of News Paper owners, but the laws are obsolete. It is my submission to the Government that Government should clear its position in this regard and the newspapers owners who have not implemented the award, should be asked to implement them.

Similarly, the report of the Expert Committee about the pension to the journalists is lying in the cold storage, it should also be got implemented by the Government .... (*Interruptions*) ....

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Hon. Members are following the procedure of making submis-

sion in Zero Hour. Many important matters are being raised under it. The issue of non-implementation of Bachhawat Wage Board award has been raised, the newspaper owners are not very serious about the implementation of its recommendations and these are not being implemented even after the assurances by the Government again and again, because Government is not taken any stringent action against these newspaper owners. Many owners have gone to the court. I and my colleagues had given a notice the by ignoring all the norms prescribed for telecast of films, film of the N.T.R. had been telecast by Television. It appears that Radio and Television have become mouth piece of the National Front and the friends of the members of National Front Government under the leadership of Shri Upendra... (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. Now you have had too much of your say...

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am quoting the rule also Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rawat, please take your seat...

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Bills to be introduced. Shri Sharad Yadav.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Only what Mr. Sharad Yadav says will form part of the record....

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ladhaji, it is not forming part of the record...

(*Interruptions*)\*

12.16 hrs.

[Translation]

JUTE MANUFACTURES DEVELOPMENT  
COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Jute Manufactures Development Council Act, 1983."

*The motion was adopted.*

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

12.17 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-NINTH AMENDMENT) BILL\*\*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED:  
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[English]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for a Bench of Kerala Highcourt and an Administrative Tribunal at Trivendrum (Kerala)**

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, the question of establishing a branch of the Kerala High Court at Trivandrum, the capital of Kerala, is pending for the last more than twenty years. In 1971, the Kerala Legislature passed a unanimous resolution for establishing a Bench at Trivandrum. As no decision was taken, in 1985, the Kerala Government clarified that this will be reviewed along with the decision for setting up an Administrative Tribunal at Trivandrum. But the Administrative Tribunal was also subsequently established at Cochin. As a result, there is neither a Bench of the High Court nor an Administrative Tribunal in the capital of Kerala. This has led to lot of administrative inconvenience. It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may take urgent steps for establishing a Bench of the Kerala High Court and an Administrative Tribunal at Trivandrum without further delay.

[Translation]

- (ii) **Need to construct a Multi-Purpose Dam on river Kosi in Bihar**

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR RAVI YADAV (Modhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Kosi division in Bihar is affected every year by heavy rains and devastating floods in Kosi river leading to disruption of public life. Crops of the farmers are destroyed and a lot of inconvenience is caused due to disruption of transport facilities. Not only this, almost entire North Bihar is affected by the floods in Kosi river. Lakhs of houses, thou-

[Sh. Ramendra Kumar Ravi Yadav]

sands of cattle, thousands of kilometres long pucca roads, crops standing in lakhs of acres of land are damaged and lives of thousands of people are adversely affected by it. Every year Bihar Government has to incur loss to the tune of crores of rupees due to devastating floods in the above river. The people of North Bihar had started an agitation for construction of a multipurpose dam on Kosi river in 1987 with a view to provide protection from the floods in the Kosi river, but Kosi Dam has not been constructed so far. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that a multi-purpose dam should be constructed on Kosi river in Bihar in consultation with Nepal Government at the earliest.

**(iii) Need to set up industries based on Telecommunication network in Bihar**

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bihar is a backward state of our country. During the last 43 years, there has been little development in Bihar in comparison to other States. In regard to telecommunication industries it is very backward. The outlay in the Seventh Five Year Plan was Rs. 9,000 crores. There is a provision of Rs. 19,000 crores in the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Department of Telecommunications has opened its factories almost in all the states of the country. Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Delhi are very much forward in this industry. But Bihar and Orissa are deprived of such industries so far. Keeping in view the backwardness and unemployment in Bihar and Orissa a provision should be made in the Eight Five Year Plan for setting up of telecommunication industries there. Many training centres and colleges connected with this industry particularly in Bihar are running there.

Therefore, the Planning Commission is requested that provision may be made for setting up telecommunication industries in Bihar.

[English]

**(iv) Need to electrify Railway line between Ranaghat-Bangaon section**

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, Ranaghat-Bangaon section covers 33 Km. of distance. Rail service is the only means of communication on this section. Out-dated diesel locomotives run in this section with disruptive rail services. As a result, thousands of passengers suffer regularly and can not go to their respective destinations in time. Railway authority adopts the practice of using damaged and unsuitable rakes keeping the passengers in danger. Moreover, there is neither a shed nor an over-bridge in this section and in some stations there is no platform even.

To remove the sufferings of the people electrification of this section is urgently needed. The local Railway authority (Sealdah) had recommended the electrification of this line in public interest but no action has been taken by the Railway Board so far.

I would, therefore, request the Railway Minister to fulfil the long-standing demands of this section at the earliest.

[Translation]

**(v) Need to provide financial assistance to Bihar Government for boring tubewells in Jahanabad and Gaya districts to cope with the drinking water problem there**

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir persons and animals are dying due to Shortage of drinking water in Bihar. The state Government has failed to solve this problem. People are crying for water, particularly in hundreds of villages of Jahanabad and Gaya district. That area is a rocky area and water is not available even after boring. Children and

animals are dying in Mahadev Vigata, Daulatpur, Akbarpur, Makpa, Parsauna and Lohgarh of Makhudpur Block, Thikrorpur and Aahhit Kusaa of Ghorisi Block, Nadra, Jagdiha, Surjuvigha, Vajna, Balchan Vigha, Vihta, Satamas, Shokhavigha of Block Khi-jar Sarai of Gaya district. I would like to make a demand that the Central Government should provide sufficient funds under special scheme to the State Government and issue instructions for boring tubewells in these village so that water is available.

[English]

(vi) **Need for clearance of the gas based projects to meet the escalating power demands of Madhya Pradesh**

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Gwalior): Madhya Pradesh is facing prospects of serious power shortage in 8th Plan with present availability being only 2115 MW against estimated requirement of 2500 MW—a shortage of 17%. With rapid industrialisation and ever increasing agricultural demand, this is going to escalate even more within a few years. It is essential to create generation capacity to meet the 15% annual growth in demand. Moreover, most power sources being thermal bases, are concentrated in eastern MP resulting in heavy transmission losses the northern part.

In reply to supplementaries by me in Lok Sabha on 10th April, the Energy Minister has stated, I quote from proceedings "I have already taken up this matter with my colleague, Shri Gurupadaswamy and he is also very much in agreement with it. We are trying that at least in future, whatever additional gas is available, priority is given for setting up power projects based on gas." Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals for four gas-based projects of 450 MW each, one of which is proposed to be located in Gwalior/Datia district fed with gas from HBJ pipeline passing through this region. As this is a power project in the northern part of MP where thermal power generation is not possible due to non-existence of coal, it is vital

that it receives early sanction especially since these projects have already been cleared by various central and state authorities, including the Environment Ministry. I urge upon the Government to immediately clear this project for Gwalior/Datia district with utmost urgency, to meet the escalating demand for power in Madhya Pradesh, and especially its Northern region.

[Translation]

(vii) **Need to set up colour photo films unit at Majkhali in Almora (U.P.)**

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Long time ago an announcement was made to set up a colour photo films project at Majkhali of Almora district in Uttar Pradesh. It was announced in this House also. The Ministry of Industry had issued a letter of intent to an organisation named Pikup of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. This organisation had entered into an agreement with an industrialist, but unfortunately no progress has been made to set up this industry so far.

I would like to request the Ministry of Industry to set up this industry expeditiously otherwise this letter of intent should be issued to Hindustan Photo Film to set up it in Majkhali.

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12.26 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES)  
ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**As Passed by Rajya Sabha—contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up further consideration of the constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill. Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan may continue his speech.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I do not want to take much time of the House. I was thinking to conclude my speech on Friday itself but that was not possible. Therefore, now I conclude it in 5 minutes. It is a simple Bill which has been brought before the Parliament. As you know that Centenary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar is being celebrated this year. The Government of India has decided to celebrate this year as the year of Social Justice. A Constitutional Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister. In this year of Social Justice we shall try to put an end to social and economic inequalities and to bring the people of backward class in the main stream of the country. This Bill has been introduced to fulfill this very purpose. Agitated with the existing social system Baba Saheb Ambedkar adopted Buddhism in the year 1956. Lakhs of his followers also adopted Buddhism. Before and after adopting Buddhism Baba Saheb Ambedkar wished that he wanted to protect the rights of down trodden and Harijans and he adopted it only for this purpose and he made continuous efforts for it.

The persons who belong to Scheduled Castes and embrace Buddhism should also be provided the same facilities which are available to the people of the Scheduled castes. The Government of Maharashtra has already provided them facilities which are meant for Scheduled Castes but these has not been provided by the Central Government till now. An Amendment Bill was passed by the Parliament in the Year 1956 under which those Scheduled Castes who embrace any other religion except Hinduism are not entitled to get facilities which are meant for the Scheduled castes. The provision had been made to give facilities under it for the people of Scheduled Castes who embrace Sikh religion. Now this Bill is before you and this provision has been made in it that the persons of Scheduled castes, who have adopted Buddhism should also be

provided the same facilities which are available to the Scheduled Castes. The Rajya Sabha has passed this Bill unanimously on the 8th May because on 9th it was Buddha Purnima. I am very grateful to you and convey my thanks to the people of all parties. I thank the leaders and colleagues of the Congress Party and particularly Shri Sathe that on that day he said that as far as the issue of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes is concerned, we are unanimous and we will protect their rights. I feel that this Bill can be treated as non-controversial. The hon. Members will certainly draw the attention of the Government and raised problems of Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes through this Bill. I know that our colleagues will say that people of other religions should also be covered under it but I would like to request you that the government wants that this issue should not be given political colour and these problems should be solved cutting across the party lines. This Bill has been introduced here because there is unanimity about it. As I stated earlier that this Bill has been passed by Rajya Sabha, that is why I want that this should be passed in Lok Sabha with unanimity within little possible time. It will be a great achievement for us and for this House. If it passes with unanimity, it will be a tribute to Baba Saheb Ambedkar in the real sense in this centenary year.

With these words I would like to request you to take it up for consideration.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"that the Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950 and the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951 and to amend the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes

Order, 1978, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI K. S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister was informing the House that the Congress leaders also are cooperating in this Bill. There is no denial about it. I understand from several corners that the young Minister Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan wants to be bold in protecting the rights or in going to the rescue of the unfortunate harijans in this country. Initially when the reservations were added to the Schedule, the basis for this was only their economic and social status. If it was only economic status, there were many more who should have been included. Taking into account the poverty position, inferiority and so much havoc that they were subjected to for generations, with the initiative of Gandhiji in those days, basically harijans were accepted and included in this Schedule. When we go to the question of whether some other castes are also to be included, many of them lead to harijans only. But later on, it was said that by virtue of their taking up Christianity or Buddhism, those people were not considered as untouchable in their religion and so they should not be included. I do not find any justification in it. While I commend the hon. Minister for bringing Buddhists into the purview of this Bill, I am unable to understand as to why he could not discuss it in the Cabinet or he could not convince the Prime Minister for including the Christians, who are also in the same miserable state. When we discuss in Parliament or when we discuss with the enlightened citizens, it may not be known; But as people's representatives when we are connected with the rural areas and when we go to the harijan voters, we are unable to differentiate the harijan Christian and the harijan Hindu, in the society. It is only now on paper that we are discussion whether it should be Hindu Harijan or Christian Harijan and whether it should be accepted or not.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI ( Khajuraho): Christians do not have this kind of system (Interruptions)

SHRI K. S. RAO: When we visit our own areas, our own wards which are segregated

from the main village, it is very difficult to identify who is Christian Harijan and who is Hindu Harijan. In the society also, they are called as Harijans and treated as Harijans. There is no distinction between Hindu harijan and Christian Harijan. That is only on record, when he goes for getting admission into school or college that it is written, Christian or Hindu. But when you go to a Harijan ward, all are treated as Harijans whether they are Hindu Harijans, Christian harijans or Buddhist-Harijans.

What I want to convince my colleagues and also the hon. Minister is, while appreciating his initiative to bring neo-Buddhists into the purview, I cannot understand why he could not think terms of convincing the Government or the House or the Prime Minister to include Christians also who are in the same miserable state as what the Harijans are. By any change, if the hon. Minister and my colleagues are of the opinion that some of the Christians have achieved better status in economy or social, then surely there are many Harijans also who are enjoying the same status. By virtue of enjoying these privileges flowing out of reservation to first generation or second generation, some of them could have come out of poverty, some of them could have become rich, could have become self-sufficient or well-placed in society either in bureaucracy or employment or social status or in respect of property. If the House were to think that such people are to be discontinued these privileges or to be deleted from the Schedule, the wisdom lies, the boldness lies in including Harijan Christians who are very poor, who are in the same economy and social status, but to delete those harijans who are enjoying better status or better property in the society. I can understand the reason in it. The hon. Minister must have the courage to say in this House and bring an amendment in this regard.

I explain my own experience in ragged to Harijan Christians who are living in my constituency. When I go to a Harijan ward, irrespective of whether he is Harijan Christian or Harijan Hindu, four families will be living in one house, in one room, a little bigger one.



MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will bring to your notice that I have been given a long list of your Party. If you are not completing your speech within 5 minutes, I would not be able to give time to some other members.

SHRI K. S. RAO: Sir, the main point I wanted to impress on the hon. Minister is....

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Point of order. Dividing the Christians into Harijan Christians and high-caste Christians, I think, the hon. Member has to ask the permission of John Pope Paul. He does not divide Christians into Harijan Christians and *Savarn* Christians. According to the Christian religion, there is no Harijan or no *Savarn*. all are equal. What the hon. Member is telling is against the Christian religion. He is insulting the Christian religion. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Are the Members expected to look across the border and take instructions? (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Do you deny the existence of the Bible? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No point of order, Please. No cross-talking.

SHRI K. S. RAO: We are boasting ourselves with pride. Everyone of us says that our country is a secular country. When it was to be a secular country, is it a crime for any Harijan to take the Christianity in this country? By virtue of taking to the Christianity, should he be deprived of the privileges that were given to him earlier when he was Hindu or Buddhist? On what basis, the Hon. Minister has come to this House to include neo-Buddhists into the reserved list? On the same principle, a mere change of faith or religion, should not be a reason for preventing or for declining the privileges that are given to a poor man or a poor Harijan to enjoy a good status that he was entitled to earlier. If that principle were to be accepted for passing this Bill, the same principle must also include Harijan Christians in this. I do not want the hon. Minister to make a mockery of our policy of secularism by discriminat-

ing between Harijan Christians and Harijan Budhists or Harijan Hindus. I want this to be taken into account and I request the Hon. Minister to include Harijan Christians and Harijan Muslims into this category and to see that they are not discriminated by only changing the faith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Ram Ganesh Kapse, your Party has 18 minutes. I have three names before me. 18 minutes for three Members. Six minutes each.

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): Am I allowed to speak for 18 minutes?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: 18 minutes for three Members of your Party.

SHRI K. S. RAO: From our side, we have obliged your timings.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not know whether all other Members would do that. I cannot quarrel with you all the time!

[*Translation*]

PROF. RAMGANESH KAPSE (Thane): I welcome the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990 moved in the House by the hon. Minister in this birth centenary year of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and the 100th death anniversary of Mahatma Phule. It is true that it is a belated step as it should have been done long back in 1956 itself. But it was deliberately shelved by the Congress leaders at that time and today we are trying to do it. It's better late than never, so I welcome the Bill. I would like to tell the House what was done by the Congress leaders in 1956. On the 14th October, 1956. i.e. on the Vijaydashmi day, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar along with his five lakhs harijan followers adopted Budhism at Nagpur. But some days prior to it on the 25th Sptember, 1956, orders to this effect were issued by the government that the benefits of reservation, etc. would not be extended to Neo-Baudh Harijans. Is it the kind of justice done to Neo-Baudhs by the Congress regime? Does the Congress Party

want to do this type of justice? Does the Congress Party want to do this type of justice? Today, the congress people are saying that the justice should have done to them long ago. Who is responsible for the delay in giving justice to them? It is none but the Congress Party alone which is responsible for it, for which they should beg pardon of the House. We are rectifying their mistakes. They should thank us for this. Half of the total population of the dalits in Maharashtra adopted Budhism without any pressure what so ever or allurement. It was a spontaneous response of the people. There has never been and will never be an instance of the kind in the history of conversion in the world in which such a large number of people might have adopted another religion so peacefully and without any allurement. There is some justification for denying the benefits to the people who converted to Christianity and Islam because their conversion was not peaceful.

[English]

AN HON. MEMBER: That is not a point.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: That is a point which I want to stress.

[Translation]

What benefit did the dalits get from that conversion? All the dalits contained to receive benefits, whereas Neo-Bandhs were deprived of all those benefits meant for downtrodden. Not to talk of any benefits to be accrued therefrom, five out of eight seats of the Lok Sabha reserved for the Scheduled Castes were dereserved in Maharashtra alone. In the Legislative Assembly, they lost many more seats reserved for them. But they were the brave people who opted for this conversion at the cost of losing political power. They are not hanker after power. But this is not the case with the people who adopted Islam and Christianity as that conversions had taken place either under pressure or for pecuniary benefits. Of course, they might have taken this recourse in protest against the evil of untouchability prac-

tised in Hindu religion. Today, we will welcome them back in the Hindu fold as it is a fact that conversions took place out of greed for money or under compulsion. But Neo-Baudhs were denied benefits to discourage the followers of Dr. Ambedkar to adopt Buddhism. They suffered for it. Today, with the support of the BJP and the leftist parties, these benefits are being extended to them again by the Janta Dal Government. Long ago, a committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Sardar Ballave Bhai Patel to identify the beneficiaries of reservation in the Hindu religion. In this regard, some yard sticks were fixed. Sikhs, Jainis and Budhists were all treated as Hindus. No change has been made in this theory. Muslims cannot be placed on the same footing as they are governed by a separate personal law. That is why some people are demanding uniform civil code in the country. So it is very difficult to decide at this stage as to whether the forefathers of people who adopted Islam thousand years ago were downtrodden or not. Our friends of the Congress Party are not prepared to tell this hard fact as they are more concerned for their votes. They are not concerned about giving them justice. But adoption of Budhism by Dr. Ambedkar and his followers stands on a separate footing. He made it clear that he would not accept Islam in which crores of people were abducted by the Nizams of Hyderabad. Nor did he adopt Christianity as it was not the religion of the land, he said. Buddhism is a religion of this land and unlike Islam its religious practices are in conformity with the religious practices of the religion of the land. That is why he adopted this religion of the land. You should think of this also. Just now, they have been talking about the people who are economically bakward. What do they want? They do not want to do justice. Harijans have been subjected to social injustice of immense degree. They do not believe in redeeming that injustice. I do agree that untouchability has been an evil of Hindu religion. We want to build an equalitarian society in the country. We will welcome them if they lend their co-operation in our bid to do so. In the end, I would like to submit this much only that Dr. Ambedkar adopted this

[Prof. Ram Ganesh Kapse]

religion in protest against the evil of untouchability in Hindu religion. He had said that although he had born in a Hindu family but he would not prefer to die as Hindu. His portrait should have been displayed in the Central Hall long ago but it was done by the Janta Dal Government. Before this, the Congress Government did not visualise this idea. Nor did they think him worthy of conferring 'Bharat Ratna'. Today, they are raising the issue of justice for them. Whatever you are saying is all.....\*.....\*..... History is witness to it. So, whether the Congress Party supports or not, they should know that we are going to do this work.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Word will not go in the records.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO: You will support this Bill only because....

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Rao, why do you carry on like this? I think all the Members of the House agree to the provision of this Bill. Hence, it is not, I think, necessary to make long speeches. There are other subjects to discuss. I hope the Members will cooperate. Now, Shri Chand Ram.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Let us stick to the time.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may please ask your Members to do that.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a matter of grave concern. A comprehensive discussion should be held on it. It is being drifted to the wrong direction.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you have some point different from what have already been made, you may make it.

SHRI KALKA DAS: My name has been recommended to speak on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will allow you.

SHRI CHAND RAM (Hardoi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for accepting a long standing demand and bringing this Constitution Amendment Bill. I understand that it is a blot on our society and particularly on the Hindu community that even after so many years of independence, atrocities are still being committed on the people belonging to backward classes. In 1932, the Poona Pact was signed between Dr. Ambedkar and the then Hindu leaders. Under the pact, it was assured by the Coste Hindu leaders that within a span of 10 years, all the scheduled castes people would be brought into the mainstream of the society. But it is regretted that the work has not been done till now. In 1936, Dr. Ambedkar, wrote a book named "A Nation of Castes". The Member who spoke prior to me said that one Dr. Ambedkar had stated that it was not in his hand to be born in a Hindu scheduled caste family, but it was within his capacity to fight against discrimination while staying in the Hindu religion. He waited for full twenty years after that. This speech was made by him in the meeting of 'Sath Path Todak Mandal' held at Lohore. It was chaired by Sant Ram who passed away recently. Bhai Parmenand was the leader of Hindu Mahasabha then and he was also invited in the meeting, but later his invitation was cancelled. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We don't have time for long speeches. Please come to the points.

SHRI CHAND RAM: I would like to say only this much that I would not say anything unnecessary or unimportant, but I would like to express my regrets over the fact that caste bondage loggedly follows a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste, even if he gets converted into some other religion including Christianity. Consideration of Caste and community or that of high or low has no place in any religion, but even in Islam, people are discriminated against on the basis of caste, for if a Hindu weaver converts into Islam, he is called a 'Pansari', and if a person belonging to any other caste becomes a Muslim, he is called a 'Voman' and if a person belonging to any other community converts into Islam, he is called a 'Kabir Sikh'. The very soil of India is such that it divides people on caste and communal lines. Dr. Ambedkar, the founder of our Constitution, had in 1936, called for the abolition of caste system. He wanted the enactment of Hindu Code Amendment Bill and somehow abolish the caste system. Now, with the introduction of this Bill seeking for the Neo-Buddhists, the provision of all those facilities, as are enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes, can I expect this Parliament of India to go ahead with the abolition of caste system. Can I expect from the people of India the establishment of a casteless and egalitarian society? Earlier, in our speeches outside the House, we used to profess too much the extension of reservations to the neo-buddhists. I am glad that now it has been turned into a reality. Further, as he has already stated, Sardar Patel had recognised four groups in the Sikh community as Scheduled Castes, but I would like to mention here that there were no scheduled castes among the Sikhs and caste system was non-existent in that community. In fact, Guru Nanak Dev had vehemently opposed the practice of untouchability and he had said that there would be no untouchability among the Sikhs but it is a matter of great regret that over the years, four sikh communities viz: Kabirpanthis, Ramdasias, Mazhabis and Sikligars have come to be

recognised as scheduled caste sikhs. Now that the Neo-Buddhists too are being provided with the same facilities as are enjoyed by the scheduled castes. No doubt provision of reservation has been extended for another ten years but I wonder whether there will ever be a time, when this caste system would be completely abolished and thrown out lock, stock and barrel? To achieve that end, once, I had written a letter to Pandit Nehru suggesting him to introduce the system of inter-caste, inter-state and inter-religions marriages and to provide jobs to all such couples. In that letter, I had also asked him to abolish the use of surnames like Dwivedi, Trivedi, Chaturvedi, Pandit, Thakur etc, with the name of a particular individual but unfortunately, Panditji did not agree to it saying that it would deprive the individual of his identity and as regards the inter caste marriage, that was one's own choice. Regarding inter-caste, inter-religion, or inter-state marriage, he said that it was a matter of one's own choice and moreover in our country, most of the marriages take place with the consent of parents and they are also arranged by them. Marriages outside the caste or community are resented and they lead to the problem of disorder and disharmony in the society. On several occasions I have tried to get incorporated a provision in the law under which a separate Ministry may be established to look after the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and programmes for the upliftment of these people are undertaken in such a manner that they themselves should come forward to say that they did not stand in need of reservations any more. I sincerely hope that such a step would be taken. Now, as it is in the case of Sikh and Hindu Scheduled Castes, who have been contesting elections from reserved constituencies, the Buddhists too are going to demand separate constituencies for them. Maharashtra has seven reserved constituencies. Now supposing that out of them, two are reserved for the Scheduled Castes, the Buddhists are going to demand more reserved Constituencies, saying that at the time of delimitation of these constituencies, they were not included in the list of Scheduled Castes and also because their popula-

[Sh. Chand Ram]

tion has increased over the years. In such a situation, perhaps you may have no other option, but to yield to their demand, but what if, other communities, including Christians too start raising similar demands? Therefore, I feel that we should find out a solution to this problem. Our countrymen should give a serious thought to this issue.

**12.59 hrs.**

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mor-mugao): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Well, we have heard all these speeches. I would like to say that since almost 1977, I have been urging the successive Governments to include Buddhists and people of other religions into the ambit of these provisions. So, I am happy to the extent that neo-Buddhists are given these benefits. But I oppose this Bill because it further alienates and further marginalises the Muslims and Christians onwards. And it is going to create a lot of problems. It is adding to the problems. I would like to say here that lot of problems would be solved and also my fascist friends, who are around here, would not have a ground if we had admitted....

PROF. RAM GENESH KAPSE: Sir, we are not fascists. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Why did he arise? I have not mentioned.

PROF. RAM GANESH KAPSE: We are not fascists. Who are fascists here? congressmen are fascists.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I will support you. I do not know how far it is taken. But it is my conviction. If you all agree that all people of India are fundamentally Hindus, in a fundamental sense, that is my conviction and what I believe in.

**13.00 hrs.**

As far as philosophy and ethos are concerned, whatever may be our names or

languages, this is my view in this regard... (*Interruptions*) ...It is not necessary of your welcoming it. It is not for you that I am saying this. It is as much your concern which is of mine also. We are all sharing good and had things basically. I am surprised how in our country we do not accept such fundamental truths and a lot of problems could be solved if we realise this fact. Now, we are not on that point. What we are talking about is that this discriminates unreasonably and adds to the tensions and conflicts as far as Muslims and Christians are concerned. Time is limited. Instead of using my own words, let me use some other words, which everybody, in this House will accept. There is a very eminent person who stated thus:

"Conversion from one faith to another did not change the socio-economic status of a person. It was, therefore, desirable that converts from Scheduled Castes to Buddhism, Christianity, etc. should be treated as Scheduled Castes."

This eminent person in Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the Finance Minister. He said that Christians must be treated as Scheduled Castes. He said this in a Report submitted by a Commission set up by his Government and its allied parties, namely, the Mandal Commission Report.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): It is his personal view.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I will come to his impersonal view also in a second. he said this in Paragraph 10.36. Now, let us see what is the view of the Mandal Commission which is not personal.

Paragraph 12.11 says:

"There is no doubt that social and educational backwardness among non-Hindu communities is more or less of the same order as among Hindu communities. Though caste system is peculiar to Hindu society, yet in actual practice, it also pervades the non-Hindu communities in India in varying degrees.

There are two main reasons for this phenomenon: first, caste system is a great conditioner of the mind and leaves an indelible mark on a person's social consciousness and cultural mores. Consequently, even after conversion, the ex-Hindus carried with them their deeply ingrained ideas of social hierarchy and stratification. This resulted in the Hindu converts inadvertently acting as Trojan horses of caste system among highly equalitarian religions such as Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, etc. Secondly, non-Hindu minorities living in predominantly Hindu India could not escape from its dominant social and cultural influences. Thus, both from within and without, caste amongst non-Hindu communities received continuous sustenance and stimulus."

So, this is what the Mandal Commission and Prof. Madhu Dandavate has said. Now, let us swear in by Dr. Ambedkar. This is supposed to commemorate his birth centenary. I am quoting from the Speeches and Writings of Dr. Ambedkar, Volume V, Chapter on Conditions of converts published by Government of Maharashtra. Dr. Ambedkar says:

"Has Christianity been able to save the convert from the sufferings and the ignominy which is the misfortune of everyone who is born an untouchable? Can an untouchable after his conversion to Christianity take water from a public well? Are his children admitted to a public school? Can he enter a hotel or tavern which was not open to him? Can he enter a shop and buy things from inside? Will a barber shave him? Will a washerman wash his clothes? Can he travel in a bus? will he be admitted in Public Offices without compunction? Will he be allowed to live in the touchable quarters of the village? Will the Hindus take water from him? Will they dine with him. Will not the Hindu take a bath if he touches him? I am sure the answer to every one of these questions must be in the negative. In other words, conver-

sion has not brought about any change in the social status of the untouchable convert. To the general mass of the Hindus, the untouchable remains an untouchable even though he becomes a Christian."

This is what Dr. Ambedkar has said on this issue. The point is that I have come here with an amendment and all what I am saying is supported by everyone who has studied this point. The Kumara Pillai Commission, the Elayaperumal Commission, the Satanathan Commission and the Chidambaram Report agree on this point. Whoever has studied this point will agree to this point. This gives benefit in terms of employment. Therefore, I have brought an amendment here to include Muslims and Christians on this Bill. Regarding employment, I must mention that I am not for any particular community like Christians or Muslims. I am always for justice and I will always be so as far as Parliament is concerned and that is what is expected from everyone of us.

As far as the population of minority communities in India is concerned, according to the 1981 census, the religious minority communities constitute about 16.46 per cent of the population of India excluding Assam and the breakup is: Muslims-11.35 per cent; Christians-2.43 per cent; Sikhs- 1.96 per cent; Buddhists- 0.71 per cent, Zoroastrians (Parsees) - 0.01 per cent. Now, look at this in terms of employment; particularly, the position of Muslims is very bad.

Let me mention the last Defence Services Examination results this year. The total number of successful candidates is 272 and out of that there are 2 Muslims, that means 0.74 per cent when the population is 11 per cent; Christians 3, 1.1 percent; and Sikhs 31, that means 11.4 per cent. Forget about Defence Services. Let us take IAS and allied Services results declared this year. There are 17 Muslims out of 835 declared successful candidates, though they have a population of 11 per cent and it is just two per cent.

I do not want to take much time; I would

[Sh. Eduardo Faleiro]

just quote from what a very eminent columnist Shri Prem Shankar Jha says in today's times of India under the caption: Roots of Kashmir's Alienation. We are now trying to find out the roots of Muslim alienation there. In the column, he says:

"In Kashmir militancy is not born out of poverty or economic deprivation, but of the despair of a small, select group of young people, who form a new but disinherited middle class."

Then in terms of employment. What he says is that it is lack of employment opportunities. He says:

"Every one cannot become an entrepreneur, much less a successful one. Thus there has also come into being growing class of job seekers that is looking specifically for salaried employment."

He continues further:

"Particularly galling to the young educated Muslims is the fact that the offices of the bank and the private sector companies in Kashmir are also staffed overwhelmingly with people from outside Kashmir, and Kashmiri pandits. Kashmiri Muslims have obtained jobs, but these are concentrated at the lower end of the scale. Accusations of Indian colonialism are rooted squarely in this employment pattern."

The basic problem is employment. Please do justice. It is a problem for every Indian; I know that. There is lack of employment opportunities for everybody; we must understand it. But there is particular lack of employment opportunities for minority communities, particularly certain minority communities.

When I was in the banking, I was very happy to see that we were able to do something. I had not done anything, my officers did that. This was because I took the Chair-

man of the Minority Commission to Kashmir and we had a meeting. I must say that cutting across all communities, the people of India are against discrimination. This is because all of us have suffered discrimination ourselves. In the clonial rule, none of us, whether Christians, Hindus or any other community were offered opportunities at par with the colonialists. We were also under the boot of the colonialists. We are against discrimination against anybody.

In view of this, this Bill is good in parts, but it is going to create more problems than it would solve. This is because this is a discrimination of as far as the Muslims and Hindus are concerned. There is unreasonable discrimination. I hope, the Supreme Court Strikes it down under Article 16 and other provisions, because it is unreasonable.

With these words, I urge the Government and I demand that justice be done. Do not be populist, do not try to get vote banks here and there. Do justice, work on principles, which you are not doing. I will, therefore, abstain on this Bill. I say, neo-Buddhists must be given, but unless you give to the Muslims and Christians, I will abstain, unless, of course, Government accepts my amend, which, if they are fair, they will do, or bring their own amendment.

AN. HON. MEMBER: That means your support is conditional.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: My support is not conditional. I am abstaining; I am not supporting this Bill, I will abstain unless they include Muslims and Christians also at par.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to extend my whole-hearted support to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1990 and alongwith it I would like to express my gratitude to Shri Ram Vilas Paswan from the core of my heart, for his untiring efforts

which has resulted in the introduction of this Bill, which should have been brought forward long back.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the facilities being provided to the Scheduled Castes are in fact, a compensation for the humiliation they had suffered as untouchables for hundreds of years in the Hindu Society and the obstacles that had blocked the way of their development over the centuries. Like a beacon light, Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar showed them a way to come out of that darkness. In 1935, he declared that it was not within his powers to take birth as a Hindu, but it was certainly within his control not to die as a Hindu. That is why, In 1956, he alongwith his five lakh followers crossed to the fold of Buddhism at the Deekshant Ground in Nagpur. It is a historical fact, that hitherto nowhere in the world such a mass conversion had taken place in a single day and that too in such a peaceful manner and this historic step was taken by nonelse but by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. Secondly, even in the past the people had turned to the fold of Islam or Christianity but those who became Muslims or Christians were converted to the religion either at the gun point or far certain material temptations from the Government and they were given the promised comforts but all those persons of Scheduled Castes who stayed back to the fold of Hinduism, continued to remain an oppressed and exploited lot.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now my friend was saying that the story of even those converted to Islam or Christianity is in no way different from others. But here, I would like to ask whether any untouchability is practised in the churches, where Christians assemble for prayers and sermons? I would like to know from my muslim brethren whether untouchability is practised in Mosques and Dargahs.

[*Translation*]

[*English*]

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: I would

just like to clarify, Sir. Every Christian, either here in this House or else-where, has got some or the other caste. Caste is still prevalent and it is an unfortunate fact.

[*Translation*]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what I want to say is that these facilities are being provided to the Scheduled Castes as a compensation for the possession, that was unleashed on them over the centuries. What is disappointing is that those who are demanding the same facilities and privileges, as are being enjoyed by the Scheduled Castes within the Hindu fold, for Muslims and Christians, have all long been working against the interests of the Scheduled Castes and now they want to get all these facilities diverted towards this section of people. I believe that if these facilities are extended to those who are convent-educated, well-organised and have all along been enjoying the benefits of conversion, it would harm the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the neo-Buddhists, who have though made a lot of sacrifices are presently not getting the benefits of these facilities. I would be prejudicial to the interests of the Scheduled Castes. I would like to submit that those who have got converted into Buddhism have not gained anything, despite their immense sacrifices. Though the sufferings that they had to undergo as Scheduled Castes have slightly mitigated after conversion, they have been deprived of the facilities that they were enjoying earlier. Unlike those, who got converted into other religions, the neo-Buddhists were not provided with any incentives including one in respect of the admission of their wards into convent schools, to pave the way of their upliftment. From that I understand that the main reason and prime objective of this Bill is to provide facilities to the neo-Buddhists, who still continue with these age old political, social and economic conditions and all those who are not provided with any incentives despite their conversion, should be given these facilities. That is the purpose of this Bill and those who are demanding the extension of these facilities to Christian and Muslim converts are in fact



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harming the interest of the scheduled castes and they are doing injustice to them because if these facilities are extended to them, I fear that the educated christians and muslims, who were brought up in an egalitarian atmosphere would corner all the benefits and the scheduled castes and the Neo-Buddhists would continue with their miserable lot. Naturally, it would be prejudicial to their larger interests.

I would like to submit that even now the Scheduled Caste Hindus are being ill-treated. They do not have any respect in the society. Buddhism is an inseparable part of Hinduism. Gautama Buddha was also a Hindu prince. He wiped away the dirt of evil practices and customs, superstitions and conservative and obscurantist dogmas from the augean stables of Hinduism and established a refined and reformed Hinduism. I believe that it is one of the religions of this country. At the time of his conversion into Buddhism, Babasaheb Ambedkar explained the reasons for his turning to the fold of Buddhism. In his lectures and books he has broadly enunciated the reasons for his conversion to Buddhism alone and not to any other religion because Buddhism was an Indian religion. Christians and Muslims asked him to come to the fold of their religions. The Nizam of Hyderabad even went to the extent of offering him rupees 8 crore for the upliftment of his community provided he turned to the fold of Islam but he rejected the offer saying that it was not a question of money, but that of the country. It was a question of nationalism. He said that he would adopt only that religion which had sprung up from the soil of this country. The feelings and sentiments of Dr. Ambedkar would be realised only when these facilities are extended to the neo-Buddhists. Had he not understood the importance of Buddhism, its Indian identity and its inseparable links with Hinduism, he could have embraced Islam or Christianity, but he did not turn to any foreign religion. He got converted into Buddhism because it had its roots in the soil of this country which was also the cradle of Buddhism.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that this Bill introduced by the Government is the most appropriate one and all the facilities enjoyed by the Scheduled castes should be made available to the Neo-Buddhists also. This bill is in complete conformity with the vision and aspirations of Babasaheb Ambedkar. It would be improper to make any amendment. It will be an injustice towards this section.

Some hon. Members have given many suggestions in this regard. But I would like to quote these lines about their action.

'Woh Qatl bhi karate hain to charcha-nahin hota

Ham aah bhli bharate hain to hojate hain Badnam'.

Thus though they have committed a grave crime by misguiding a section of masses, but they donot confess it and are trying for amendments in this bill so that they may malign us and the Government.

Mr, Deputy Speaker, Sir, I heartily support this bill on behalf of my party and myself and oppose the move of Congress to distort it through amendments. They would have to reply for it to the people. Now these persons are bent upon harming that very section which has been voting them to power. They would be held answerable for it. I would like to emphasise it once again that this bill should not be tampered, at all or it would be a great blow to the interest of Neo Buddhists and scheduled caste people.

With these words I support the bill.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give some suggestions regarding Constitution, (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendments) Bill.

It is well known and as has been stated by several earlier speakers that Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar had declared that though he was born as a Hindu he would not die as a

Hindu. After having so declared he might have changed his religion at that very time. But he thought that he must study all the religions before embracing any one of these because he felt that he must lead his followers in a right path direction. Therefore, he began to study all religions During that time he was allured by many religions preaches. But Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was not swayed away by them. And lastly on 14th Oct. 1956 he embraced Buddhist religion with lakhs of his followers. He did so as he felt that this was India's indigenous religion and not a foreign one. I would like to point out one more thing in this connection. Just now, brother Kalkadas ji has said that Buddhism is a part of Hinduism. I oppose it. It is not so. Perhaps, he has not go through the Buddhist religion deeply. Had it been so, Baba Saheb Ambedkar would not have been forced to change religion. I have a suggestion regarding the Bill. This bill mentions all those who embraced Buddhism on 14th Oct as the Neo-Buddhists. I would like to say that by virtue of its excellence Buddhism has spread in foreign countries also. Therefore presiding Neo to these Buddhists may create confusion and the foreigners may ask about their identity. They would be told that these neo Buddhists are the suppressed and down trodden people of Scheduled Castes. and it may give rise to casteism as racism is already on rise all over the world. It will strengthen the precepts and the concepts of maner. Therefore as per my suggestion the prefix Neo should be scrapped as only 'Buddhist' is sufficient.

Secondly, many earlier speakers have said that the National Front Government has done that work which should have been done by the Congress much earlier. Though, I support National Front Government, I do not agree with the opinion that you have done what was not done by the Congress. You should not think that the down trodden and suppressed people would be swayed away by your such words. I dont think so. I would like to fell the National Front Government that, I and my party welcome and support their decision. But you have given these concession as you felt helpless before

rising power of the people of scheduled caste and suppressed and down trodden sections on a largescale. The upholders of Hinduism are today worried at the fact that these people may become Muslims or Christians if they are still tortured and denied their rights you are speak all this in a bid to save Hinduism as the people of scheduled castes have risen up on a large scale and organised all the down trodden and suppressed people as a third force in the name of Bahujan Samaj all over the country.

These are the points which I wanted to place before you and hope that you would surely consider my suggestions.

With these words I conclude my speech while supporting the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRIG. M. BANATWALLA (PONNANI):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill expounds a very sound principle namely, that mere conversion of a person from one religion to another does not overnight change his social, educational and economic position and status. The Statement of Aims and Objects also concedes the fact that such conversions have failed to alter the social, educational etc. status of the converts. As such, the Bill seeks to extend the reservations and concessions enjoyed by the Scheduled Caste Hindus and Sikhs also to the Buddhist Scheduled Caste converts. So, the Bill, as I said, is based on very sound principles.

I must point out, with respect to the soundness of the principle, that it is unfortunate that the hon. Minister has stopped in his track, and has failed to do justice to all the sections of the people affected in the same manner. The Bill, therefore I must say, is a reluctant and half-hearted measure. We all wish that the hon. Minister had not stopped short in his own track, but would have done justice and would have been true to the principle expounded by him in the Aims and Objects of the Bill.

I must draw the attention of the hon.

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

Minister and this House to what Gandhiji had said. Gandhiji wrote in 'Harijan' dated 26.12.1936:

"Whether the Harijan is nominally a Christian, Muslim or Hindu and now Sikh, he is still a Harijan. He cannot change his spots inherited from Hinduism so called. He may change his garb and call himself a Catholic Harijan, or a Muslim Harijan or Neo-Muslim or Neo-Sikh, but his untouchability will haunt him during his life-time."

We, therefore, find that it is a fact that mere change of faith does not overnight bring about an alteration in the status of the person-social, educational or economic status. Therefore, there is every logic in asking the Government to see that these facilities or reservations or other concessions are given to all the Scheduled Castes irrespective of the religion to which they get converted. A forceful plea has been made that Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity, and Scheduled Caste converts to Islam should also have the same benefit. I have also come before the House with an appropriate amendment, and make a fervent plea that Scheduled Caste converts both to Christianity and Islam should be included within the purview of the Bill, looking at the injustice that is there today.

There is an interesting book by Prof. Kande Prasad Rao, under the title 'Freedom of Religion for Harijans in India'. He has done a lot of work. He says at page 8:

"As per the law in force, the status of a Harijan varies with the religion he professes. A Harijan is at the maximum advantage if he professes the Hindu or the Sikh religion; at a lesser advantage if he professes the Buddhist religion; at a lesser advantage if he professes the Buddhist religion, and no advantage if he professes the Christian religion."

This also holds true to a Muslim. I have,

therefore, made a strong plea that both the Scheduled Caste converts into Christianity and Islam must be brought within the purview of the Bill, and they should also be entitled to the reservations and facilities available for the Scheduled Castes. I may point out here that the law accepts Muslims among the Scheduled Tribes. There can be a Muslim and there are Muslims among the STs. The Supreme Court has also recognised this particular law. There are several judgments to this fact. Time is short. Therefore I am not quoting from them.

SHRI KALKA DAS: If he becomes a Muslim, will they treat him as untouchable?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: It is an interruption and I have yielded to the hon. Member. Let the hon. member be on record and I shall meet the point that he has raised in the hope that sooner counsel will prevail upon him, though I know that this hope is going to be belied. There is no doubt about the fact that Islam does not recognise any caste. A Christian will speak for his religion. I will take his words. As I understand, the Christianity also does not accept of recognise caste. The question is not whether these religions like Islam or Christianity or Buddhism or Sikhism, accept caste or not; that is not a question. The fact remains that SC converts to these religions continue to be under the wrath of those who profess untouchability. Those who profess untouchability, they continue to oppress and suppress and ill-treat the SCs irrespective of his being converted to some other religion. The life is made intolerable despite conversion.

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Morugao): He is an oppressor of all religions.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: The original SC man, despite his conversion, continues to be under the suppression and oppression of those who practise untouchability. They make his life difficult. He goes to draw water from a well. He may be a Muslim, but, originally, he was a SC. Those who practise untouchability, they oppress and suppress him. That is a fact of life which has to be

understood. We here must not close our eyes; we have to see that social justice is done to every section of our society.

I have also to say that the hon. Minister, while extending the reservation and other facilities of SC to Christians, to Buddhists, to Muslims and so on, must also correct the various other anomalies from which the SC people suffer today. Time does not permit me to speak more. I have already referred to a book written by the hon. Professor. I have quoted him here. There are several examples. For example, take the question of children. the children of a Harijan woman who marries a higher caste Hindu Now despite a fact that a SC woman marries a higher caste Hindu and despite a fact that she goes in a higher caste Hindu environment, she continues to be treated as SC member, and rightly so. But then the question of her children comes up.

Executive orders make very arbitrary discriminations, that if the children of such a woman are accepted in the higher society, they may not be treated as Scheduled Castes but if any child is not so accepted, he will be considered as a Scheduled Caste. Now, all these are very arbitrary discriminations and they discriminate between one child of the parents from another child of the same parents. Such discriminations must also come to an end.

Before I conclude, I must say, that there are many people, a large number, especially the Scheduled Castes themselves who do not like to be called 'Harijans'. They take the word 'Harijan' as very derogatory. We must respect their sentiments and the word 'Harijan' should, therefore, be avoided and we must always use the word 'Scheduled Caste' for them.

I must point out that sometime back, perhaps in 1967 or 1968, the Government of India itself through various orders instructed the departments not to use the word 'Harijan'. Let that be followed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: It is not so word 'Harijan' is unparliamentary and the correct words are 'Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribes'.

[*English*]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I thank the hon. Minister very much. But despite the fact, the word 'Harijan' continues to be used.

So, my point is that even in Parliament the use of this word in the record must be banned and the proper word, "Scheduled Caste" should be used. I may refer to you a decision of the Press Council of India that was reported in the publication, "The Press Council of India: Review" dated October, 1989 at page 145 and the Press Council was pleased to say,

"The use of the word 'Harijan' should be avoided."

Now, Sir, you are very very impatient and, therefore, I would conclude. I would only point out by saying that it is rather unfortunate and very agonising that one of the hon. Members here has deemed it fit to inject dangerous communal overtones in his speech here before the House. He tried to discriminate between conversions to Buddhism and conversions to Islam and so on and so forth and made sweeping and baseless allegations that all conversions to Islam etc., have been by force. If that should have been the situation, the Muslims have ruled over this country for a thousand years and after a thousand years, Muslims would not have remained a minority, as they are today. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, please control them. I heard them with rapt attention and they must also listen to me. They must also know the facts. This is how there is an upsurge of communalism in our country. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO (Mormugao): Sir, I am on a point of order. I want to seek a clarification. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKA DAS:- They used to be converted by force. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIBHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): I have a point of order....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: You must have patience to listen.

SHRI KALKA DAS: We won't listen incorrect things.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I would like to request that we all express our view as we are free to do so but unfortunately he.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. M. BANATWALA: He is not ready to listen our views despite the fact that we have listened to than.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKADAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, the country's History is a witness to the fact that during the reign of Allauddin Khilji and Aurangzeb the Hindus were converted to Islam forcibly. ....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA (Koderma): Mr. Deputy Speaker, It cannot be tolerated it is our direct insult...( *Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER:- Mr. Deputy Speaker, he is a ..... \*\* ..... that is why he is talking like that.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALA: Aha! You have not got the courage to listen. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed only Bhogendra Jha. The interruptions will not of on record. (*Interruptions*)

(*Translation*)

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order.

[*English*]

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): Somebody called Shri Banatwalla as..That should be expunged.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already expunged it. Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALKADAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he is trying to ignore the bitter fact that Hindus were forcibly converted during Aurangzeb's time. (*Interruptions*)

SHRIDAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Does he know that foreign money work millions of rupees is being pumped into India is he aware as to how and for what purpose that money is being used?This money is being used for religions conversions. (*Interruptions*)

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not make provocative speeches as may result in making allegations and counter-allegations from both the sides. It is true that both the parties have a right to freedom of expression and speech but nobody should speak anything aimed at hurting the feelings of the other party. Shri Banatwala was saying something in reply. He too enjoys the right to speech. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JHOSHI: He was causing provocation rather than giving a reply. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Objectionable words, if uttered by and person, should be expunged from the records. What is bad in it? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down otherwise it may give opportunity to others to comment. This should not be done when things have settled down in the House.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Sir, I want to raise a point of order, every Member has a right to put forth his view in the House. There can be difference of opinion and should be there. There is nothing wrong in it. We arrived at a conclusion only after assessing everybody's point of view. But there are certain remarks that should not be made in the House because they are not in continuity with our constitution or the decorum of the House. Restraint should be exercised with reasons to these in the House. Some such remarks have been made from both the benches. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: What objectionable remarks were made from our side?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I said that these were raised from both the side-still, I can repeat your remark if you are very particular about it but such remarks have come from both the sides. These have come from this side too. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Banatwalla, take your seat please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not go too deep in it. Keeping in mind all that has happened here, I have said what I had to say. Now, do not stretch this debate too far please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No nor, Mr. Jha. Please be seated.

*[English]*

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): Sir, I am grateful that the objectionable remark had been expunged. But this is not the first time that such a remark has come here. Two

days before also the same remark was made here and then the honourable Mr. Advani himself stood up and expressed an apology. I would only request you, Sir, as you are the custodian of this House that it is not only enough to expunge such remarks but those Members who raise such remarks should be admonished by the Chair.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Sir, I am on a point of order. According to my understanding you had not removed or expunged any remarks so far as this debate is concerned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have expunged.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Which remarks?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Reference to certain objectionable things.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KALKA DAS: My submission is that the hon. Member has stated that a person enjoying some respect only can be insulted, as if nobody commands respect here. What can be more callous and shallow remark than this? This too should be expunged from the records. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In this House, We should express our views in a manner that does not hurt the feelings of others and one's argument can be more fruitful and forceful only when one does not speak in a language that hurts other's feelings. You can present your argument without taking recourse to it and I am sure, all the Members are quite capable of doing it. I understand that this should be stretched any far now. I have stated that the objectionable remarks have already been expunged from the records. Now Shri Banatwalla may speak for a short while more and conclude.

*[English]*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: It is unfortunate that there has been communal exploi-

[Sh. G.M. Banatwalla]

tiation of history. But I will abide by your ruling and will not go into the untruth that these people tried to.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have made that point.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALKADAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now he is resorting to the same overtone again.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is well within his right to rebut it.

(*Interruptions*)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except Mr. Banatwalla's speech, nothing else will go on record.

[*Translation*]

Please be seated. Look, disorder is created as and when you try to control the Members from there. Leave that task to the person sitting in the chair. He can well maintain order. Four persons rise to counter your argument when over you try to speak and then there are replies and counter replies from both the sides. It is, therefore, better to allow the chain to do it. Everything will be set right. There will be no debate on this issue non onwards. Only Mr. Banatwalla will speak.

[*English*]

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Every Member before filing his nomination has taken the oath for National integration. But, here, after becoming the Members of the House they are speaking in a communal overtone. So, it is the duty of

the House to prevent them from doing so. Nobody will be allowed to subvert our secular Constitution. Our Constitution is based on secularism. So anybody speaking with a communal overtone should be prevented and their speeches should not be recorded.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, first of all, you will not prolong this discussion. If you prolong the discussion on the side issues the main issue will be side-tracked. So, I will seek the cooperation of all the hon. Members not to raise any more points of order and not to raise any more discussions on the side issues. Now, with the spirit which is contained in your statement, the entire House would agree. It would be for all the Members to speak in such a fashion that not only the feelings of the Members are not hurt but a situation is not created because of which the national integration or the unity aspect is also not hurt. This applies to all the Members. All the same, sometimes advertently or inadvertently if somebody has said something, it is good for him to withdraw. If he does withdraw in we can take care of it. In many cases it is not good to dwell upon such issues in fashion that it is emphasised, too much. But, with the spirit which is contained in your statement, I think the House will agree. Now, no more discussions on the side issues. Mr. G. M. Banatwalla to continue.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while making a strong plea that Muslims converted and Christians converted from Scheduled Castes be included in the previews of the Bill. I must also say that there need not be apprehensions that the Scheduled Castes persons will suffer in matter of their reservations. An attempt has been made here to create an alarm among the Scheduled Castes that if all these Scheduled Castes converted into Christians, Scheduled Castes converted into Muslims are also brought within the purview of the Bill, then the reservation and facilities of the present Scheduled Castes Hindus and Sikhs will suffer. An attempt has been made to provoke them. I am sure that such

attempts will be in vain. We can always have schemes to take care of the fact that the extension of the purview of the Bill does not rob or does not eat into the reservation, as at present are enjoyed by the present sections of the Society. Detailed schemes can always be worked upon. We are here discussing the principle on which the entire matter should be looked into. And the principle propounded by the hon. Minister, as I had said at the beginning of my speech here, is a healthy principle. It is a sound principle. But, let him not be a reluctant person to do social justice to all the sections of the people. Of course, I have my own amendment which I shall be moving at the appropriate time and I hope that the Government and the House will extend its approbation to that particular amendment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Jagpal Singh.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Sir, I fail to understand why you are not calling Mr. Prem Pradeep.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you take that I am not calling him? What makes you say that? I will call him when his turn comes. Please sit down. Don't worry, I will call him.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: According to party strength, we are fourth, Sir.

DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not like that. I will call him. Please do not make this unnecessary statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: You have first called the Members of the B.S.P. and the Muslim League.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, they are also Members. You can not have any objection is that.

[Translation]

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH (Hardwar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the constitution Amendment Bill, 1990, brought in for such Harijans and Scheduled Castes who got converted to Buddhism some 26-27 years ago, of course, with some suggestions and amendments; and would like to thank Shri Paswan for taking a timely and appropriate step by bringing into shape the age old demand of the people of the country that Neo-Buddhists should be given all such facilities and concessions as are enjoyed by Hindu-Harijans. With the introduction of the Bill, one thing has become clear, and for that I would like to address the men from B. S. P. in particular, that casteism and untouchability are the only attributes of the Hindu Sabha. This is the reason behind the advent of Christianity and Islam in our country and casteism and untouchability crept into them as well.

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjeri): There is no such thing like casteism etc. in Islam.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: I shall give you an examples. whether it is Islam or Christianity, they cannot remain untouched by it. The most important characteristics of Hindu religion are Casteism and untouchability... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It you want the speak without interruptions, please address the chair.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: An evil him been polluting our Society for the last several thousands of years. Mayawati is present here. I would like to tell the people belonging to B.S.P. that with the introduction of this bill it has become clear that. conversion is no solution to Casteism and untouchability. Conversion is no longer relevant for bringing about economical and social development. It this bill is supported by the parties like the B.S.P. then it becomes clear that the economic and social status of harijans cannot be improved through conversion though sup-



[Sh. Jagpal Singh]

port this bill. Yet I would say that Shri Paswan is also a part of Hindu religion and his Hinduism is clearly manifest in his moving this bill he has love for harijan convert but no love for those harijans convert Christians. for harijan convert Muslims. He should have brought this constitutional amendment bill much earlier. In one of the Articles of the constitution it has been stated that Hindu religion well comprise of Sikhism Buddhism and Jainism and of no other religion. He should have given equal status to all the Harijans whether converted into christianias, Muslims or Buddhists otherwise this bill is meaningless.

The neo-Buddhists launched an agitation demanding that they should also be provided with such facilities as have been extended to Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The South Indian Harijans who have converted themselves into Christians and those of the North Eastern region converted in to Christianity have also been agitating for the past twenty five to thirty years demanding similar facilities. Such demands are reported in the press daily. It their social and economic conditions have not improved despite converting into Buddhism, what it is the guarantee that they will improve now. This Bill does not contain any provision which may help eradicate the casteism and untouchability prevalent in the country. Can he guarantee that the level of social and economic development of Neo Buddhists should be brought at par with other people in the society. After extending a few facilities to those Harijans. He has kept no such provision in this bill. If you extend these facilities to lakhs and crores of neo-Buddhists then you should also think in terms of increasing the reservations quota for Harijans, otherwise it will affect the prospects of harijans. Paswanji, I request you to pay more attention towards their development of this community after bringing this bill. At present, despite working for twelve to eighteen hours, wearing torn clothes and facing starvation we are not given due respect in this country. The need of the hour is that we should be

given due respect in the country and you will succeed in extending this respect only when you are in a position to bring about economic development of 22 crore people belonging to Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes. Presently a sense of hatred not against any individual but towards whole Harijan community has developed in the Hindu religion, whether he is a Christian, a Buddhist or a Hindu, hatred for them is deep rooted in the blood of Caste Hindus. Paswanji, I had asked Shri P. Upendra to cancel the transfer orders of one Shri Shiv Kumar who is a Deputy Director in A.I.R. and is a heart patient. Four days ago he fell down from a bus and received injuries but his transfer was not cancelled whereas Shri Upendraji has himself cancelled the transfer of four such persons wh had been permited as Directors. As such, I want to say that this is the root course. We tell the Ministers that atrocities are being committed on Harijans, but your Ministers are not prepared to listen to us. (*Interruptions*) The need of the hour is to improve the economic and social status of these people.

I am completing my speech but before that I wish to say one thing exploitation by feudal still continues in the country and the worst affected are the people belonging to weaker sections, the Harijans. The Government must take adequate steps to chec feudal exploitation. In the rural areas it needs to be ensured that people get their full wages, and land reforms should be undertaken. This can help in bringing about social and economic development, merely moving a bill would be of no use. As such I would urge upon Shri Paswan to ensure that all Harijans get similar facilities irrespective of the fact whether they are Christian convertly Muslims or Hindus. So that all of them can be brought at par with other communities.

[English]

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Manjari): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the word 'Harijan' should not be used. It is unparliamentary. It cannot be used. They should be called as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The hon. Member has been using the

word 'Harijans'. It should not be used. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I personally hold this view that the word Harijan should not be used and in case I have used it is wrong and should be expunged.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Withdraw it and say Schedule Caste.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please resume your seat. Mr. Jagpal, are you to deliver a speech or answer their questions. You please continue with your speech.

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: At the end, after making a demand that all Harijans should be treated at par and irrespective of the religion which they have adopted, they should get similar facilities and you should bring such a bill and at the same time you should not get the bill passed in a haste. You please withdraw this bill and reconsider it. All the people belonging to Schedule Castes should be given equal status.

My other demand is that in case you provide all these facilities to crores of neo-Buddhists then you should also think in terms of increasing reservations in favour of Schedule Castes and Schedule Tribes.

With these words I thank you for having given me time to express my views.

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Bijnore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say one thing to Bhai Jagpal Singh. It appears that he is not aware of our party's ideology. He has said that I have Supported this bill and that he was surprised that parties like B.S.P. had supported this bill. I would like to know from him as to what is wrong in this bill? It aims at benefiting the oppressed and downtrodden Community. As regards the convert Muslims and Christians, we are not against them. B.S.P. will be the first party to support reser-

vation young for these converts. Sikhs, Muslims, Parsis, Christians and Buddhists all are contributing their milk in building the Bahujan Samaj Party. Do you want to mis-leading the people of the Bahujan Samaj Party in this manner... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not permitted you please Sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: I have referred your name because I feel that after bringing this bill if conversions take place, they will not help in improving economic and social conditions of the Harijans.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

.....(*Interruptions*)\*.....

(*Translation*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this going on. We cannot have a discussion in this manner.

[*English*]

The House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet at 3.00 p.m. and after Lunch Mr. Prem Pradeep will speak.

1407 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fifteen of the Clock.*

15.00 hrs

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.*

[SHRIMATI GUTA MUKHERJIE *in the  
Chair*]

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES,  
ORDERS (AMENDMENT) BILL

**As passed by Rajya Sabha Contd.**

[*Translation*]

SHRIPREMPRADEEP (Nawada): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I use to support the constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990. This Bill has been introduced in connection will the status of neo-Buddhists, on it and a discussion is going on before speaking on the Bill, I would like to say something about Dr. Ambedkar

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar was a learned person and a legal luminary. He was a great thinker and the community in which he was born had been the target of tremendous oppression exploitation and discrimination. During his schooling, he was made to sit outside the classroom. Even when he went to practise at the bar or was in the midst of religious people he met with stiff apposition. Ultimately he got recognition only when the points raised by him attracted public attention.

The people whom we call scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are actually 'Adivasis'. These are the original inhabitants of India although today they are counted among Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to give the definition of a Scheduled Caste. It is a well known fact that Hindu Society does not account equal status to Scheduled Castes who are treated as untouchables. There are 2-3 reasons for this. As I said they were the original inhabitants of this area and it is quite possible that they were living in tribes. But when other people came to this area some of them went to the jungles and are today called Adivasis. Others who stayed in the area are called Scheduled Castes. These people were made slaves and everyone knows what type of work they were compelled to do. Even today these people carry right soil on their heads.

It is said that people are converted from one religion to another by coercion, whichever be the religion. At that time Islam was a new religion with a new spirit. When a Scheduled Caste person converted to Islam he was accorded an equal social status. He could read 'namaz draw water from the same well and sit in the company of others. The founders of our Constitution, particularly Dr. Ambedkar, were disturbed over the oppression faced by these people due to absence of economic means, lack of social recognition and non-availability of educational opportunities.

When the constitution was being framed, special provision were made for Harijans, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But even 43 years after Independence their problems have not been solved although such a length of time is more than sufficient to bring about a sea-change in any situation. Even today they are landless, uneducated and socially backward. This is a reality. I don't want to go into details but when a Harijan entered a temple, the temple was later washed to restore its sanctity. What does this prove? In these changing circumstances, we have introduced a Bill to amend the constitution with view to providing all facilities to neo-Buddhists. We will, of course, support this Bill but at the same time we cannot ignore these various points of view which have been expressed in this context. It is not that Dr. Ambedkar suddenly changed his religion and switched over to Buddhism. Perhaps the idea struck him when he was framing the Constitution. Later in 1956 some special circumstances made him change his religion. But the essence of the debate on this subject is that Harijans remain unprotected whether they change their religion or not.

There have been plenty of arguments on this subject in this House. For the sake of argument we say that if a caste Hindu marries a Harijan girl their child would be treated as a Scheduled Caste person. After some time it is possible that all castes will be treated as one. Every State does not have a common yardstick to classify various castes.

If some castes have a Scheduled Caste status in West Bengal they may not have the same status in Bihar or U. P. So the question arises regarding their social status and economic condition. I have received letters from many religious leaders stating that ours is a secular country and that other religions should also get the same facilities which the new Constitution Amendment Bill proposes for the followers of Buddhism. I think other M.Ps. also have received such letters.

The religious leaders have appealed to the M.Ps. to raise this issue in Parliament. Now we are discussing whether to support this Bill or not. We cannot ignore the fact that there have been many people who have converted to Buddhism since the time of Dr. Ambedkar. But this does not mean that we should not support this Bill. We are in favour of this Constitution Amendment and would like all Members to pass it with a voice vote. If such a Bill is brought by the other side or by as religious leader, be it a Government Bill or a Private Bill, we shall definitely consider whether such a provision can be included in the Constitution or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please finish in two minutes.

SHRI PREM PRADEEP: All Members are free to express their views in this House. It is remarkable to note that in 1956, five lakh persons converted to Buddhism alongwith Dr. Ambedkar. But no facility is available to them. Dr. Ambedkar, one of the founders of our Constitution, has clarified certain points and I suppose neo-Buddhists have also been mentioned by him I whole-heartedly support this Bill. With these words, I end my speech.

[*English*]

SHRIM. SELVARASU (Nagapattisum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I whole-heartedly welcome and support the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1990. I congratulate the Government and the Minister for bringing this timely measure.

It was in 1956, Scheduled Castes who

were oppressed and suppressed converted to Buddhism under Babasaheb Ambedkar. They were called Neo-Buddhists. These Neo-Buddhists though liberated from the social taboos of being called Harijans, could not be liberated from the economic backwardness. This economic backwardness is the main cause of their social backwardness and, therefore, the Minister has rightly brought forward the Bill for including them in the Scheduled Castes List. I welcome the measure.

Similar grievance exists in the case of Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity. Convert Christians should also be included in the Scheduled Caste List. Convert Christians are still economically backward. Their lot can be improved only if they are given concessions. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to move an amendment to this Bill for inclusion of convert Christians in the Scheduled Caste List.

In Tamilnadu, a large number of Nari Kuravas are in poor condition. Nari Kuravas lead nomadic life. Their condition can be improved only if they are included in the Scheduled Caste List.

Dhobies and barbers also belong to poor and downtrodden sections of the society. In some States, dhobies and barbers are oppressed and insulted. In villages, they are not allowed to draw water from wells; they are not allowed even to walk in the streets where high caste people live. For small errors, these poor classes are punished severely by village panchayats dominated by higher castes. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to include both these communities in the Scheduled Caste List.

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Are barbers and dhobies suffering from untouchability?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI M. SELVARASU: I also like to make an appeal on behalf of blacksmiths.

[Sh. M. Selvarasu]

Blacksmiths are the weakest section of society in villages. They should be rehabilitated with special concessions. For this purpose, they should be included in the Scheduled Caste List.

Sir, we have passed several legislations to curb atrocities on Scheduled Castes. But these laws are not being implemented properly. I request the Government to constitute special monitoring cells in every District to watch the implementation of the provisions.

We are very proud that this Government has constituted special courts to try offences against Scheduled Castes. I request the Government to place on the Table a quarterly review of the functioning of the special courts in each State. That would keep us always informed and we can suggest improvements in the matter.

We should also see that while naming national monuments, public places, Government buildings—whether State Government or Central Governments—streets etc., we should, in no case, mention the caste along with names. Existing caste names from the names of streets, public places and monuments should be dropped by an executive order.

Not only that. To help the State Governments to formulate and implement special programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, special grants should be provided to State Governments. Also, it must be seen that a specified percentage of State Plan allocation should be compulsorily spent on welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI HUKUMDEC NARAYAN YADAV** (Sitamarhi): Madam, I thank hon. Shri. Ram Vilas Paswan for bringing this Bill, which may not look exhaustive but the points being expressed in this context are of great importance

"Sat saiyan ke dohre jon navak ke teer Dekhan mein chhote laage ghaon karer gambhir"

This Bill will have a serious impact. This implies that even after people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes convert to another religion, they should get the same facilities as before.

I shall not level allegations on anyone because we do not understand the true meaning of religion. I don't believe that the religious devout do not have disparity, duality and discrimination in their minds. We are communal and are involved in petty communal matters, that is why we see duality in everything and our existence appears to be in danger. I would like to say that if anyone adopts a religion with genuine faith he renounces worldly desires because it is a question of faith. If he converts to another religion because of money lust, cravings for world fame and desire for male issue then he is constantly obsessed by the apprehension of a fall. On the other hand, adoption of another religion based on faith frees him from such fears and helps him make progress. The meaning of religion is to strengthen the bond between fellow human beings and remove discrimination. There would be no tension if we build a society where there is no discrimination. It is pleasing to note that even hon. Shri Banatwalla and hon. Shri Faleiro have demanded that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people who converted to Islam or Christianity be given the same special facilities that were being given to them earlier. Now we have reached that stage. But what are reasons for that? The persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get special opportunities because of the Constitutional and other provisions made under various laws by the Government and the House. Today every person is trying for his inclusion in the category of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and a number of applications have been received in Bihar for this purpose. This is so happening because persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been given special opportunities under the constitution. But why were

they given these special opportunities? Just because of the fact that earlier, the persons belonging to the upper castes had concentrated all powers in their hands who fully exploited it to their pleasure but on the other side there was also such a category of people in society which had no power. I would like to submit that the Government should bring an end to these inequalities and create a society based on equality instead of providing special opportunities, as stated by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan. We will have to keep a check on those who have been enjoying power for the last millions of years and we should uplift the backward and the oppressed, it is only then that we will be able to create a society based on equality. For setting up a classless and casteless society which is also called an egalitarian society, we have to uplift the backward and keep a check on upper classes because there is no comparison between the two who are in the race. Even if both the categories of people are given equal opportunities, the disparity will continue. The aim of our constitution was to built a classless and casteless society. We have not taken any steps in that direction. We are just moving ahead and giving petty concessions to the backward, which is nothing but a drop in the ocean. This will not meet their requirements. Therefore, I would like to submit that this will not do anything and we will have to enact a legislation in this House and speak about it courageously. We should come out of our illusions. If we resolve to help the poor and to provide food to hungry, clothes to the naked, water to the thirsty, education to the illiterate, medicine to the sick and shelter to the homeless, we should try to achieve that objective through our constitution with all sincerity of efforts in that direction today itself. We have great respect for Dr. Ambedkar who had adopted the Buddhism. But I would like to say that some religious persons are creating communal feelings in the country in the name of God and religious persons. The political parties are doing the same by discarding their ideals, principles and values. While on one hand the number of religious communalists is increasing in the country. No community wants to do away with the other community because they think

that the existence of other community is necessary for their progress. It is for this reason that the religious and political communalists are not trying to bridge the gap of inequalities. Instead, they are working to maintain it. I would like to make a demand that a law should be formulated to cover up the loss which our country has suffered due to caste system. Shri Chand Ram has expressed the same views. In those days when we were working under the leadership of late Ch. Charan Singh, he told us that he had written a letter to Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. He had also told me with a heavy heart that his suggestion had not been accepted. Please think about its reasons. Nobody considers Sh. Hukumdeo Narayan, Shri Chand Ram, Shri Ram Vials Paswan, Shri Mufti Mohammad Sayeed or Shri Arif Mohammad Khan as the leaders of Harijans. Everybody says that Dr. Ambedkar was the great leader of Harijans and if a leader is as intelligent, dynamic and capable as it was Dr. Ambedkar, he will be called the leader of the Harijans. Choudhary Charan Singh was called the leader of the Jats, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh is considered to be the leader of Thakurs and Hukumdeo Narayan as the leader of Yadavs. In this country only a few families enjoy the privilege of producing National leaders and none else can reach those heights. We can never think of becoming the leaders of the National level just because of our caste and the trend of ignoring our intelligence so we will continue to fall a victim to exploitation. In case we are really interested to free our country from this exploitation, we shall have to break down the barriers of caste and class which has undermined our intelligence, knowledge and dynamism. Unless and until we pull down these barriers, we won't be able to build a new society and bring an end to the inequalities existing in our country. Afterall, for how long, all this will continue. Even in 1977 when I was elected to this House for the first time I had said and I repeat it even today that it is some thing unfortunate for India that since independence we have been providing the facility of reservation to certain castes but none of us has ever thought as to why these castes have not been able to produce such

[Sh. Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav]

a leader to this day who could rise to the rank of a Cabinet Minister, right from the days of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru to the present regime of Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh. In spite of that facility reservation if these castes have not been able to produce a leader of that stature. We shall have to think in a new direction to analyse as to why the talent of this class of people could not see its full bloom in spite of the facility or reservation and where lies the basic fault. (*Interruptions*) That is what I am saying. However the question is as to who is responsible for it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Yadav, please conclude.

SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV: I am just concluding. I am saying who is responsible for it.

"Papi kaun manuj se uska nyaya churane vala,  
Ya ki nyaya ko khojate vighan ka sheesh udane vala".

The Government shall have to identify those who are responsible for it. Is it not our misfortune? I would like to request Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that now it is the Government of Janta Dal and it should not confine reservation to the Government jobs only. The Government has not been able to provide full benefits or reservation to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for whom there are already provision under the law while on the other side, where reservation is not restricted by law, the Government does not adopt a liberal attitude towards them. Please tell me if any political party adopts a liberal attitude to offer seats in the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes? We the caste Hindus, claim to be the worthiest people and think others to be unworthy of becoming the Member of the Rajya Sabha and the State Legislative Councils. What will they get by these policies? Even in other committees constituted

under the various Departments of the Government from time to time, there is no provision of reservation for these categories of people so the office of the Chairman and the Members is never offered to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Then what is the use of this reservation?

Madam Chairman, I am just concluding. A leader carries with him the ideas and impressions he inherits from his caste, varna and the society where he was born, and developed. All these trails which contribute to the shaping of his personality become binding on him and he can not see beyond it. So we have to free our country from those evil ways and to inculcate new ways to enable this country go ahead on the path of progress. Therefore a Bill should be simultaneously introduced with this bill, seeking the reservation for the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes not only in the Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the Government jobs but also in the cabinet because you should see to it that five to ten persons of a particular caste may become Ministers but even two persons from amongst the Harijans and tribal cannot be given that prestigious place. A person of Scheduled Tribe can not become a cabinet Minister. I would like to request the Government to provide special opportunities to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward classes minorities and women in the policy making committees and the recruiting and appointing agencies such as Public Service Commission, University Service Commission and the Railway Board. Without it, the country will not progress. The Government can console themselves by making a few laws but like his forfathers the youth of new generation are not to be swayed by false temptations of the Government. We want to know if he is seized of their dubious ways of exploitation of the Government because genuine intentions need not be substantiated by laws. Being it otherwise no law is going to give us our rights. Therefore what is required at the moment is to create among the persons belonging to those categories,

the traits of leadership and to bring them in the front line of the leaders. I would like to beg your pardon to say that very few persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are sitting in the front row of the House and the persons of Backward Classes are not to be found there. It a leader of these categories is not to be here, who will care for them? I would therefore like to call upon the person of upper castes to give up their seats power on their own. I would also warn that being of otherwise the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities and the women will come forward to capture it forcibly from them. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berpampur): Madam Chairman, I wish to make two specific representations in connection with the Constitution (Scheduled Casts) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990 moved by our dynamic hon. Minister for Labour and Welfare, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

There are certain backward classes of different religions, who since ages, continue to be a deprived and under-developed lot, in significant numbers of over three lakhs, in the Districts of Ganjam, Koraput and Phulbani of Orissa State.

Further, there is also another class of fishermen on the coastal regions of Ganjam District of Orissa State predominantly in the Gopalpur and Chatrapur Assembly segments. These poor and oppressed lot of fishermen, depend on fishing for their livelihood. However, they are being subjected to a lot of hardship by the big industrial houses, who have taken to fishing as a major business activity using deep-sea trawlers. The hapless fishermen, with their small country boats, are no match vis-a-vis the industrial giants and are thus under constant oppression for their basic livelihood.

These backward classes and the fishermen are treated as untouchables and are given inhuman treatment. Even now, they are being offended at public places like hotels, schools, shops rivers, wells, etc. Basic

needs like education, health facilities, jobs electricity, water supply and other social amenities are not provided to them. They are thus denied equality and social justice. Till date, they are landless, bonded labourers and as a result, their hopes, aspirations, skills and potentialities are dashed to the ground.

It can be seen that till now, no religion, party or government has been able to help free the backward classes and fishermen from economic bondages and accord them socio-economic development. Programmes and schemes should be formulated for economic rehabilitation of the under-developed lot. Laws against untouchability should also be strictly enforced to enable this section of deprived people to live like normal human beings.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government, through you Madam Chairperson, to enact necessary legislation for recognition of the under-developed backward classes and also the poor, oppressed fishermen of Orissa State particularly during the current birth centenary year of Baba Saheb Ambedkarji.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN (Bapatla): Fro a long time I could observe in this House the anxiety and concern that is expressed wherever there are atrocities on harijans and Scheduled Caste people. And, I am greatly indebted and grateful to those people who have shown a great concern for the well-being of the Scheduled Caste people who are spread from Himalyas to Cape Camorin. There is on place in the history to tell for what reasons this untouchability has come into being. We have no such authority to speak of course. We are the aboriginals of this country as an hon. Member has expressed and several people came to this country and invaded it. Perhaps a greater number of people have come from the Hindu side who thought to be the majority of this country land. But, we are the natives and we are the patriots. There is no doubt about our loyalty so far as our patriotism is concerned.



[Sh. S. Benjamin]

It so happened that we were driven out from our grounds and abodes. The professions that were given to us made us, even to this day, as if we are living almost below the poverty line. The professions that were left to us are miserable. We have to be the guards of cremation grounds. We have to remove the carcass. We have to remove the night soil. Those are the professions that were given to us as if they were doing a great mercy. Under such circumstances, it so happened that we were reduced almost like beggars of the State. In that condition, a question has arisen: 'If religion can be taken as a ground, first discrimination has to stop.' As beggars of the State, we have approached at the temple, we have approached at the mosque and we have also approached at the church. But who is responsible for this condition? I must say, the communal difference that was shown, the discrimination that was shown to us, must have been responsible for all these things. So, while going to temples also I am discriminated. But from centuries back—I can say a millennium—I was discriminated and untouchability was practised. So long as untouchability is practised, to which community I belong to it, will not be a matter for consideration. But fortunately, the Government has brought about a Bill, the Objects and Reasons of which were clearly stated, as a pre-concept for consideration. What is the concept? Religion has not in any way brought about a development or a change in the economic and social conditions of the depressed classes or to the untouchables. Perhaps this conception must have to be revised and re-thought of.

The true nature or the religious conception is not social or economic but something else and that is, a communion with God, consciousness development and a clear perception of the creator is the meaning of the religion. So, through religion, we communicate for the salvation of the soul and not for the social or the economic development of the country. The criterion or the main object of religion or the end of the religion is transmutation of life. A transmutation of life is

inherent in the religion itself. That is why religion taken as an objective or reason for this stratification is not good at all because this stratification before long was made by *Manu*.

That stratification was existing even before *Manu*. From that time onwards, because of this stratification being implemented in our case, we have become so untouchable and so poor that we approach everybody for alms—because in creation there is an unsatiable hunger which is responsible for this. I am hungry; I beg you, this man and everybody who comes my way. You find beggars in the church, temple and the mosque. Will you discriminate against me because of the particular religion to which I do not belong; will you not give me alms? That is what I am asking. Under the secular Constitution, religion has been taken into consideration. (*Interruptions*)

I am now coming to the pragmatic part, and not to theory. I am giving the facts; based on them, I say that these is an one sided approach. Even the Constitutional provision was not accepted. It was negated by the courts also. I am a Harijan, and my father is also a Harijan. I am a Harijan Christian. My father is entitled to benefits, whereas I am debarred. What difference is there between my father and myself? Do I not share the same blood. Have I not been educated, with the sweat of this agricultural labourer that is who has given me this education? Is it a sin that I am born as a Harijan or a Scheduled Caste?

Unfortunately, the courts also have given a different verdict, as if proselytisation is the property of one community. I am giving an example viz. the case of *Devarajan vs Ambalkar*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you have to step.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN: Madam, this is the first time that I am speaking. I had not accepted offers made to me by my party to participate earlier. As such, I should be given more time. (*Interruptions*)

I will not touch the theoretical aspect. Previously, you know, Buddha was taken as one of the *Avatars*. So, in the name of the Constitution, secularism was accepted. Nowadays, in the name of Buddhist religion, the same process is accepted and adopted. The hon. Minister knows that a consensus approach is made, to every problem. In this case also, we have got clear indications from Ambedkar, Gandhiji, the Finance Minister and several other people who have given their opinion on the Scheduled Caste Harjians. May I request that a consensus may be arrived at after due consultation? The cause of the minorities and the poverty-stricken must have been taken into consideration by the Leftists a long time back.

But unfortunately, you have let us down and our cause is not taken up. Therefore, sectarianism and secularism cannot go together. But secularism is taken as an advantage to make Hindu propaganda. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. BENAMIN: Now Buddhism is also part of the Hinduism. because they have taken him as another *Avtar*. Previously, in the name of Constitution, you had proselytised the people. Now, you are proselytising them in the name of Buddhism. So, there is no secularism, but sectarianism. Our nation is considered as a united country even though there are variations. That is why we enjoy unity in the midst of diversity; and to maintain that, the minorities must be given adequate protection. Otherwise, the country will go sectarian. This is not the idea of the Constitution. Secularism is reflected in the Constitution. To maintain the dignity of the nation and secularism, you have to treat those minorities on par with others. Otherwise, it will be construed that you are treating us as guests only to serve the nation, and not as patriots or natives of this nation. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your please conclude.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN: We are the patriots and the nationals of this country. We love this country; we breathe in this country; we die in this country; we have no other loyalty. You have to treat us on par with others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You support, I understand, Mr. Faleiro. Now you conclude.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN: We, the people of this underdeveloped country, are approaching the nations of the world and the World Bank for help, not because of any other thing. That is why I request you to treat the minorities, those who are deprived for centuries, on par with others. You had discriminated us for centuries. Now also we are being discriminated. Why do you want to discriminate us? You do not want secularism to prevail; you want sectarianism to prevail. Otherwise, you should have included these people in this Amendment. You should help these people in getting the benefits of the developments that are taking place in this country for the unity and integrity of the nation.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): Madam Chairman, I beg to move that discussion on this Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 1990 may be stopped here itself. The Minister's reply and voting on this Bill can take place tomorrow.

After that, we may start discussion on Constitution (Sixty Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1990 relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which may last upto 5.30 P.M.

Later on, we can start discussion under Rule 193 on cyclone that has hit the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Hon'ble Members of various Parties, who did not get an opportunity to speak on this issue, can now speak, as the subject matter is almost same and is comprehensive.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I agree with you. But there is a problem for us. There are two or three speakers from our side who want to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to take my permission. This is a proposal made by the Government. I would like to know your reaction and then we shall conclude it accordingly.

SHRISARYNARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Its continuity should not be disturbed.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Our problem is this. Otherwise, we do not have any other difficulty. I agree with the hon. Minister. But we have three more speakers who will take only two or three minutes each. Either they may be allowed today or they should be allowed before the Minister replies tomorrow. On this condition, we can agree with hon. Minister.

16.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Government has not proposed that the discussion should be finished.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: Discussion should be finished.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. members, please understand what the proposal is. The proposal is not to close the discussion altogether. There are many speakers. Even if, all cannot be allowed, definitely, some can be allowed.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Madam Chairman, before you give your

decision, we would like to urge upon you that though we wanted this Bill to be passed today itself after concluding the discussion on this issue today, but since the members of the Opposition Parties and others expressed the opinion that as voting on this Bill is to be held tomorrow, discussion on this Bill may be finished by 3.30 P.M. today and after that we may take up other item, which is in regard to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission and discussion on this issue also should be finished today itself so that voting on both the Bills may be held tomorrow at the same time. Yesterday, the time for discussion on this issue was fixed upto 3.30 P.M. We do not have any objection but due to lack of time an agreement was made, under which it was to be finished by 3.30 P.M. but now it is 4 O'clock. Therefore suggestion has been made by the Minister and by the Government that discussion on this subject may be stopped now and we may take up the next item of the Agenda. Tomorrow, after that reply will be given, and if any of the members wants to seek clarification chair may give him one or two minutes. But discussion on this issue may be finished today. Voting on it may be held tomorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted is finished. It can be extended. But the Government has made an appeal that they want to include the next Bill at this stage. That also deals with more or less the same subject.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Would you let me finish or not? If you interfere like this, I cannot complete. Please listen. This is the Government's proposal. My understanding is that the hon. members belonging to those parties, whose members have not spoken at all will be allowed tomorrow. I hope that the House will agree with this proposal.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: On our side there are only two more speakers. Not necessarily today, but tomorrow before the hon. Minister replies, they may be allowed to speak.

SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK: That is agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With this understanding, I believe, everybody agrees. I have already spoken that the members of those parties who have not spoken will have an opportunity to speak, very briefly.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): I want to make brief submissions. If any speech is allowed today, that will be of the members of those parties who have not yet spoken, not of those who have already spoken.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have not listened to me. This is the proposal of the Government.

SHRISATYNARAYANJATIYA (Ujjain): My name is there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are many names, not only yours.

SHRISATYNARAYANJATIYA: Whenever my chance to speak comes, the debate ends there. Please allow me to speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): Madam, it is a coincidence that it is always happening in his case. So, I request that he should be given more time to speak as others are given... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have given my ruling. It is the prerogative of the Chair. The Chair tries to accommodate all Parties and as far as possible the Members. Therefore, I have heard all of you. Tomorrow when it comes, whoever in the Chair will try to satisfy as many Members as possible.

Now, if the House agrees, then we shall take up the next Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the unanimous consent of the House, I now call upon Shri Ram Vilas Paswan to move that the Bill

further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration.

16.08 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SIXTY-EIGHTH AMENDMENT) BILL

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): I beg to move:

"That Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration".

[SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

16.08 1/2 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, many Hon'ble Members have expressed their views on Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1990. Some of the Hon'ble Members will get an opportunity to speak on it tomorrow also. This Constitution Amendment Bill is also a very important Bill. (*Interruptions*)

All the Hon'ble Members of this House are aware that there has been a long standing demand to provide constitutional status, constitutional powers and statutory powers to the Scheduled Castes-Scheduled Tribes Commission and this Constitution Amendment Bill was presented in this House during the year 1978 also, but unfortunately it could not be passed at that time. Later on, in 1979 this Bill was presented again and discussion on it was to be held on 19.7.79 but again it could not be passed due to the downfall of the Government. Today after 11 years, this Constitution Amendment Bill has been brought in the House and I would like to say only this thing to the Hon'ble Members that the present Government is determined and I would like to say it clearly that if the Hon'ble

[Sh. Ram Vilas Paswan]

Members and leaders of all the parties give their cooperation on these issues, I can say it with certainty that whatever suggestions they give in regard to the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, weaker sections of the society, will be implemented. Because, on such policy matters, especially, on the matter of weaker sections, it has already been delayed very much. The period of 43 years is not a short time and it is not proper if after such a long time the people feel disappointed on this account. I think that it is dangerous not only for the Government but for the entire country if the people of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, minorities, downtrodden deprived of their rights and their is feeling of disappointment among them. Therefore, when discussion on this issue was held in the morning, and Prof. Ranga tried to link it with the other issue, that I felt all that time there has not been any change in the tradition of the Congress Party Particularly in regard to the people of these communities. But I feel happy...

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: We have made it absolutely clear....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. You will have your say.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am giving my thanks for this only. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was giving thanks for this. In the morning, when an effort was made to link this issue with the other issues I was little apprehensive. But the Government is happy that all the Members of ruling and opposition parties are unanimous on the issue of Schedule Castes and Tribes and weaker sections of the society. Therefore, I have stated that if all of you have been cooperating with the Government though I consider this thing that the Government do not have 2/3 minority, the Government will fulfil the promises made to the people by passing these Bills in the

House. There are two points, many of our friends are saying the points about which law has not been enacted. There is a need to enact the law. Secondly the law, that has been enacted, is not being implemented. So, it should be implemented. Thirdly, there is a need to bring about a comprehensive change in the view point of our society, about which our friends have stated that problem will not be solved only by enacting a law, rather our social outlook should be changed. The issue of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and the weaker sections of society is not just an issue concerning their welfare, but it is a problem for the nation, it is a stigma on our society. We should see such problems in this prospective only we had promised in our election manifesto that if our party comes to power, constitutional status and statutory powers will be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. When the issue to extend the reservation for 10 years was raised in the House for the first time, I had stated at that time also that the Government if firmly resolve to implement it I can say this thing that whether present Government have a five year's time or one year time, as a Minister of Welfare, Minister of Labour and as a part of the Government of India, I would like that we may fulfil the promises made to the the people within a year. I can count them one by one. We have submitted that reservation may be extended for 10 years, it has been increased by the cooperation of all of you. We seek the advice of Ministry of Law to enact Prevention of Atrocities Act for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They have advised us that the Central Government is not under any obligation to consult the State Governments, the Central Government can issue Notification. The Central Government house issued Notification. On 30th January that constitutional status may be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission. The Government have brought this in the Parliament and it would be passed if all of you Cooperate with the Government. Many of our friends are saying that reservation quota has not been fulfilled during the period of 43 years because none of the officer is afraid of any action. Eligibility

criteria is changed. Some times it is said that the height should be 5 foot 6 inches but the boy is of 5 foot 10 inches; the chest should be 32 inches but a boy having chest of 36 inches is available. Then they say that education Qualification should be matriculate but a boy having M.A. qualification is available.

Even after that it is being said that he is not suitable. It is also being said that he is not reliable and capable.

[English]

If the suitable candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will not be available, the seat will be treated de-reserved.

[Translation]

I had said in the morning also that Dr. Ambedkar's birth centenary is being celebrated this year. While making an announcement to this office. We had made a resolve that no reserved vacancies to what even categories they might belong to, will remain unfilled by 14th April. We are bringing forward a Legislation which will specify that officers who will try to, de-reserve reserved vacancies' will be punished. Provisions relating to land reforms should be included in the Ninth Schedule. Poor people who are being given land deeds do not get the possession of the land. In order to check such propositions this Bill is being brought forward to amend the constitutions and incorporate the provisions in the Ninth Schedule. Once this Bill is passed the land will not be able to take recourse to the courts. The people will get the ownership of the land along with the land deed. Any problem in this connection will be looked after by the Government.

SHRI JAG PAL SINGH: I, would like to suggest that after giving the land deed to the poor man, it should be the responsibility of the Government to fight the case, if any in the court of Law and ensure that the poor people get the possession of the land in the right earnest.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We will look into that point also. We will consider all the good suggestions which would come up from various quarters in this connection. We will implement the suggestions. Under the Prevention of Atrocities Act we have written to the State Government's to set up special courts in the 12,500 districts and there should also be separate courts at places where atrocities are committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We will see that special courts are set up in the remaining 30 per cent of the districts in Rajasthan by 15th June. We will set that special courts are set up in each and every district. Dr. Ambedkar has been honoured with "Bharat Ratna". It has upgraded Government's status. It is surprising that Bharat Ratna was not awarded for 43 years to the most deserving person who framed the constitution of India. It was the first and foremost duty of the Government and we did it. Dr. Ambedkar's portrait has since been displayed in the central Hall of the Parliament. We will accept the suggestions made by the hon. Members during the course of their speech. The safai Karmacharis are being addressed as bhangis in an abusive manner. They have not so far been given the status of Safai Mazdoors. They are still carrying night soil on their heads in all the 3900 cities in the country. After 43 years we have made a resolve to engage them in other jobs in the next three years. Even after this if there is still some menial work which they are required to do, we will stop that practice also, we will ensure that flush latrines and 'Sulabh Souchalayas' are built in all the places. We will root out the very cause for which they were made untouchables. One can see in Karol Bagh that the Shoe makers get only Rs. 25 for a pair of shoe they make. Out of this amount, the leather costs Rs. 12 and the remaining amount is their labour charge. But the same pair of shoes costs Rs. 150 in the market. Then who takes the difference of Rs. 100. In order to save the shoe makers from such an exploitation, we have decided to form co-operative societies and ensure that the actual profit reaches the pockets of the labourers and no middleman takes the lion's share. This will also help people in getting shoes as

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reasonable rates.

Similarly, tens and thousands of people are working in the cottage industry. But they are working there as labourers and not as owners. Government's intentions are very clear in this regard. We had made some commitments to the people. If we had the least intention to consume time, we would have taken six months to fulfil one commitment and in this way could have taken another 6 months for fulfilling the next item. Instead of doing that we are making all our efforts to fulfill the commitments at the earliest possible. For this purpose we have brought forward three Bills at a time. The Bills relate to granting of certain facilities to Neo-Buddhists and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Land Reforms. Besides, these Bills relate to welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and those sections of the society who have been subjugated for thousand of years, who have been bound by fetter and whose voice has been suppressed. It is the labour class which has been denied the dignity of labour and have been made downtrodden with the result the growth of the country got hampered. We have, therefore, made a resolve that we will give them the dignity of labour. We stick to the slogan that people capable to earn will earn and people who indulge in exploration will totally be wiped and a new era will come. That is why this constitutional Amendment Bill has been brought forward which should grant statutory status to the commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I had mentioned this very point in the House in last December also. Now two things are under consideration, one is the Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other is the office of the Commission of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But nothing substantial is being done. Though reports are being prepared honestly, the report is not being submitted to Parliament on time. Even if the report is submitted in the Parliament, no

discussion is being held on the report. Even if a discussion is held, the Commission has no powers to implement the discussions. For example a thief before proceeding to commit a chest, takes some chappatis with him. In case he encounters a dog which might bark at him, to divert his attention he drips some pieces of the chappatis before it. This helps the thief in committing the theft easily. Similar is the case with spending huge sums in the name of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A sum of Rs. 1000 crores was spent in the Fifth Five Year Plan followed by Rs. 5000 crores in Sixth Five Year Plan, Rs. 10,000 crores in Seventh Five Year Plan. Even after spending Rs. 16,000 crores during these Plan periods, we have not been able to list 16 lakh Adivasis above the poverty line. As such, we have decided that benefits of money being spent. On development work for Adivasis should reach them direct. I would like to give one more example. In the national highway project, though there are ample avenues of employment, but the Adivasis cannot avail any such opportunity. Similarly, electricity is being supplied to Adivasis, but they do not get it. It is being diverted to other places and the Adivasis are being shown as beneficiaries paper only.

There is no dearth of leaders and policies in this country. But what is lacking, it is the intention. As long as intentions are not clear, nothing can be done. Now I would like to request the speakers to come up and count the achievements of the Government and thereafter make their suggestions. We will welcome them. With this thing in view we came with the Bill for making the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes more powerful. We have proposed to give the Cabinet Minister's status to its Chairman. Earlier it was only of the rank of a Secretary. Similarly we have proposed to give the status of a Minister of State to its Deputy Chairman. The Commission will not only enquire into the complaints, but also examine them. It can summon the parties. It will also send its representatives to participate in the meetings held by the Planning Commissions of various states and the Central Planning Commission while prepar-

ing plans for their respective spheres. We have already said that before taking up any major planning or project in the interest of the Adivasis, the proposal of the projects to be taken up will be discussed with the Adivasis and they will be duly consulted before taking a final decision in the matter. It should not be so that major projects will be taken up in various Areas like Dhanbad, Hazaribagh etc. and the Adivasis will be displaced from there in order to provide land for the projects. Neither they are being paid any compensation nor any employment. The people who land whose acquired became homeless. Such major project have become a course for them. The Commission has been given full authority to go into cases viz. Cases of atrocities, socio-economic matters, matters relating to reservation or other such discriminations. Some rights which have been left and have been listed and the President, from time to time.....

SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF (Bangalore North): We are happy to note the various right. Being granted to them. I want to old that they should be given the right to write confidential reports so that they can work better.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: All right you have said a right thing and I said the same thing before you came. At the same time we are making provisions for taking punitive measures against those officials who violate these instructions. Apart this a Committee has also been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. A committee has also been formed at the Secretaries' level. This Committee will monitor progress after every three months. We want to see that not a single seat is left dereserved on 14 April, 1991, the day of Dr. Ambedkar's birth centinory. Not a single backlog should be there. We are proceeding with this objective in view. The previous Government had claimed that they would fill up the backlog within 3 months. If the backlog could have been filled up within 3 months, why that work could not be completed during last 43 years? We have no apprehensions to your intentions. When we learnt that this work can be done within 3 months, our moral

get a boost and we set a target of 1 year to accomplish the task. Quarterly reviews will be made one after the another for class I, class II and class III posts and the number of employees in each category vis-a-vis the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes among them will be worked out. If the back log of posts in each category will be worked out and action will be taken to fill up all the reserved vacancies in each category.

There are a number of other castes also which have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As you are aware, earlier the laws were being enacted by a notification from the President specifying that such and such castes in a particular States belongs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For a subsequent amendments or for making any addition or deletion in the Parliament.

Due to some reasons the previous Government had taken decision that there was no need of it. But when I took charge as a Minister, I received many representations from various states stating that the condition of such and such castes was worst than that of the scheduled castes in their area and they had discriminated on the ground of caste. It was stated that although these caste belonged to Scheduled Tribes but due to some reasons they have not been included in the scheduled list. There is a general complaint of the people that some castes are included in scheduled caste in a particular district but not in other districts. Similarly, tribes in a particular district have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes but not in other districts. The State Government have recommended to include them in the lists of S.C./S.T. and the same has been approved by the Registrar General of India. We are preparing the list and before finalising it, we have asked the Chief Minister of the States to reexamine the matter and furnish the lists of the castes which have been left out in order to facilitate us in taking decision in the matter. Besides this, if hon. Members have any additional information with them in



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[English]

respect of castes which deserve to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes, their names should also be sent. We will definitely look into it as I promised earlier.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Do you propose to complete this task within one year?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We propose to complete this work by the end of December this year but it can be done only after receiving your suggestions in time.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : All official machinery is in your hands. I want that it should be completed under a time bound programme. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARBHAJAN LAKHA (Phillaur): There is a general complaint that their confidential reports are written by the officers belonging to caste Hindi such as Brahmins who are never fair to them in giving reports. It is, therefore, suggested that a provision should be made in this Bill to the effect that officers belonging to none other than that of S.C./S.T. should write the confidential reports of the employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have already taken decision in this regard that appropriate representation would be given to the people of the weaker sections of the society and scheduled castes and scheduled tribes at the places where policy matters are dealt with and appointments and promotions are made. We have already taken this decision. Even then, it is not the end of our goal. Now I beg to move the motion for considerations of the Bill. Discussion has to be taken on it also. If hon. Members continue to raise their individual queries then there will be no end of it. Hon. Members of all parties will speak on it and express their views. I will reply the points raised by them.

There is a reply to the debate.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Now, I beg to move the motion for consideration of the Bill in the House.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL (Morena): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation has assumed such a pass that the people of Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes are not getting reservation in the Rajya Sabha, Legislative Councils and in legislative Assemblies in proportion to their population. Reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not being filled up even in the Lok Sabha Secretariat, the President Secretariat, the Vice-President Secretariat and the Prime Minister office. When this is the situation in the offices located in the capital city of Delhi, how can you ensure reservations in other offices located at other places in the country?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, similar views, as expressed by the hon. Member, have been expressed by some hon. Members belonging to the Congress Party and hon. Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav. There are no two opinions about it that the Parliament is the supreme body and the Government has no objection in bringing a Bill on the same as suggested by the hon. Members provided all the political parties approve the proposal unanimously. So far we have moved forward taking all the political parties in confidence. Our position is just like that of a cricket player who has to make run as well as save the wickets also. So we have no objection. The hon. Members are requested to take up the matter with their respective parties and obtain their concurrence. If all the political parties, be it the Congress Party or the leftist parties or for that matter any other political parties, agree to the proposal, the Government has no objection to bring a bill providing reservation for the people belonging to S.C./S.T. in the Rajya Sabha and the Vidhan Parishads. We

are of the opinion that reservation should be provided in private sector also and all organisations which receive Government aids and assistance. But in order to do it, unanimity among the political parties is required.

**SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL:** There seems to be no basis of the announcement being made by the hon. Minister in the House. There is no provision for reservation in the Rajya Sabha and other bodies. (*Interruptions*)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, no. You please sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** You have to sit down. I am on my legs, you please sit down. There should be no more interruption. He will also reply to the debate. If all the questions are answered right now, there will be no need of any reply. Do you want like that? Right now there should be no interruptions till he concludes his speech. After that Member will be speaking, many questions will arise and the Minister will give reply.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL:** I want clarification on one point only.

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** No, you please sit down. Not like this.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the feeling of the hon. Member. His expectations are very high and should be high also. But it is not possible to set the things right in one stroke. It is only six months ago we came in power. How do you expect from us to set the thing right within such a short span? The Government has open mind in this regard and we are prepared to take action on the suggestions of the hon. Members and various political parties. We will implement all our promises made in our manifesto bit by bit. This bill is

aimed at providing constitutional status to the Commission so that it could work more effectively. With this hope I urge upon the hon. Members to express their views rising above party line and offer their concrete suggestions as also lend their support to the passage of the amending Bill. This bill was first introduced in 1978 but at that it was not carried. Now after a gap of 12 years, we have brought this bill in a new form. I hope you will oblige us by lending your support to this Bill.

[*English*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** There is an amendment in the name of Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. Is he moving his amendment?

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA:** (Jaipur): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 31st August, 1990."

**PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister made some reference at the very beginning of his speech. I am afraid, he was under a misapprehension. It should not be understood that we are opposed to these Bills, the last one or the present one. We were opposed to the change in the programme. The Session was supposed to have ended by Friday last. We had to agree with the Government for its extension so that these Bills also could be considered and passed. They were expected to have been considered and passed earlier and it could not be done. Then, they wanted more time and we had to agree with them. We did; but subject to certain conditions. We stated here one of those conditions. We asked them to place those papers on the Table of the House and make it possible or make it cashier and convenient for us all to cooperate with the Government for the extension of the business of the House and its duration for the consideration of all these Bills. We were not supposed to be opposed to these Bills. It is wrong for him to say that.

I did not say that.

**PROF. N.G. RANGA:** So far as the Bills are concerned, we are generally in favour of them. That was the reason we were prepared to cooperate with them. But, it is a matter of extension of the Session beyond the stated period. Therefore, we stipulated this particular condition. This condition is nothing new. Earlier we have been making these demands. We wanted all those papers to be placed on the Table of the House. The Government said: 'relevant papers.' We said: 'no'. Then, they said some papers were missing. Alright, make up those papers whatever they are. But, please for 'God's sake, place the whole lot of them on the Table of the House. It is still possible for them to do so. Otherwise, you would make it very difficult for us and you you make it impossible also for us, we do not know. But, we have given them a prior warning. That is the idea. Therefore, I do not want my hon. friend or the House to be under the impression or to away with the impression that we are opposed to the extension of the various privileges which the Government wishes to extend to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and so on.

So far as this Bill is concerned, we are all in favour of it. It is a pity that he has been going on saying that so much time has been lost. Who have been elected as members of the backward classes, members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission till now? Most of those members belong to and hail from the backward classes, Harijans and the Scheduled Castes. Other people were being kept away or they had themselves abstained from going into it. But in spite of that, the Commission did not have sufficient powers. That is the reason why although they had been conducting very many useful studies in regard to all those places and all those incidents where these unfortunate people were being treated very badly, atrociously, in spite of those reports and surveys having been made and reports having been submitted to the Government, the social condition of the unfortunate crores of our people, tribal people as well as Harijans have not improved. The recommendations made by this Commission have not

been implemented satisfactorily, either by the State Governments or by the Government of India. That is the reason why my hon. friends—so many of us on this side and so many on that side—have been clamouring and making the demand that this Commission should be given statutory status with necessary powers. And with the cooperation of the State Governments, in most cases, and if need be, in certain cases, they would be able to take necessary steps to redress the grievances and also to minimise the sufferings of these unfortunate crores of our brethren in our country. We have been making these demands. But somehow or other, our Harijan MLAs, our tribal MLAs and our different political parties—in spite of their best possible intention—because of various reasons including the pressure of work in this House, we have not been able to take the decision or the initiative. Now all the credit goes to my friend, Shri Paswan. He used to be here on this side, on the side of the Opposition earlier. I used to admire his passionate advocacy for the cause of these people and I am glad he has found the very important position in this Government. He has come forward with this Bill. We are all in favour of this Bill. We would like it to be passed. But that does not mean that we are too optimistic about its capacity to render the needed services and to provide the needed protection to these unfortunate people. Their conditions can be improved provided there is a revolutionary change, salutary change in the minds of our masses. We have to carry on that constructive work, that Gandhian work. We are also Gandhians; they also claim to be Gandhians. But we have not been able to work in a Gandhian manner, with Gandhian spirit and earnestness in order to raise these people.

What is more unfortunate is, even those educated people who hail from the tribals as well as from Harijan community have not been able to compete with us, if not to surpass, at least to work in step with us, in working for the uplift of their own people. There have not been many *Ambedkars* or *Jagjivan Rams*.

It is very unfortunate. We hope for their emergence in larger number in times to come and we hope those people who come to be appointed as Members of this Commission, when the statutory status comes to be given by Parliament through this Constitution Amendment, they would also be able to work in the foot steps of Dr. Ambedkar, Shri Jagjivan Ram or so many of our own public spirited Harijan leaders and tribal leaders. There used to be Shri Jaipal Singh who used to provide leadership for the tribal people. We live in that hope and we hope other Members hailing from other communities also would be able to help our country to remove this blot on our society and on our history. We condemn that apartheid there in South Africa. There has been apartheid here in our own villages. These people have been condemned for such a very long time and we have got over it. It was Mahatma Gandhi who roused the conscience, who tried his best effectively to rouse the conscience of our people here in our country. Not that there were no earlier people. There were people like Dr. Ambedkar, Swami Vivekananda, Brahmos, Arya Samajists and to many other national leaders. But it was Mahatma Gandhi who made the salvaging, the upliftment, of these people, a national problem and, what is more, he made it a condition precedent for the achievement of our Swaraj. Many of those Congress stalwarts in those days used to be unhappy about Mahatma Gandhi's attitude in regard to this matter. In spite of it all, even today, there are areas where not only these Harijan and tribal people, but even backward class people are being ill-treated and are being kept down. We have to rise above all these things. It needs a social and economic revolution and political revolution also. Somebody has been saying this morning, "If you do not hasten to improve the conditions of these people, they would themselves come and take up positions." A time would come when not one, two or three Paswans or Ambedkars or Jagjivan Rams would be occupying the Centre's front benches but those people themselves would push the front benches and drive the rest of them into the other benches. I would welcome that but provided it is done in a non-

violent manner. It can be done in an institutionalised manner, non-violent manner, only through this kind of a revolutionary yet evolutionary legislation and also attitude. Mere legislation is not enough. According to our Constitution, they are welcome to come to this House and to become Ministers. In spite of it all, their condition continues to be just as unsatisfactory as it has been for a very long time. Therefore, the mind of the people, the approach of our people, has to be changed and can be changed and ought to be changed by Parliament as well as the public and their leaders.

I welcome this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN ( Sasaram): Mr. Chairman Sir, with your permission. I would like to put some question .. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now the regular debate will continue. Shri Santosh Bhartiya.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram): Since my name has been called, please allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called you. But I substituted Prof. N.G. Ranga in your place. Thank you.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: He has made some observations. I am the initiator of the debate. You must allow me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does he not belong to your Party? Please sit down. You have to understand this. Please understand this.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH BHARTIYA (Farukhabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ranga is the senior-most Member of this House and in this sense, he is the 'Bhishma Pitamah' of

[Sh. Santosh Bhartiya]

this House. Today, the way he took the budget in support of the policy of the previous Congress Government in respect of S.C./S.T., I am reminded of the agony and inner conflict with which Bhishma of the Mahabharata might have suffered. Shri Ranga is a living example of honesty and self-less service. For the last few years, he has been in the ruling party but for the most part of his life, he had been in opposition. Even after 43 years of independence, the situation has not improved in the villages where the people belonging to Scheduled Castes still cannot sit on a cot before a person belonging to Caste Hindu. They are not allowed to draw water from the common wells and separate tea-pots are kept for them at village tea-stalls and they are asked to wash the tea-pots themselves despite making payment for the tea served to them. In this society, which we have inherited from the old generation like Shri Ranga, atrocities are still being committed on the women folk of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes. Everybody cases of atrocities on the weaker sections are reported in the newspapers. When the people belonging to S.C./S.T. go to lodge FIR to Police Station, reports are not lodged. On the contrary, they are lodged in the police lock up and sent to jails. There has been practice of sending the people belonging to weaker section to jails without any rhyme or reason so that their services could be utilised for cleaning the jail premises. For the last 42 years, this has been continuing in our society and still we do not have much hope of improvement. I think there is no need to take more examples to show how the people belonging to upper castes have exploited the weaker sections for their own interests.

Besides this, the funds released from the Centre during the last 41 years for the Scheduled Castes and weaker sections have not reached to them. I would like to know where the funds have gone. Who have been benefited from the schemes launched for them. How many of them have got scholarships. Who got benefit of the facilities granted to them and employment provided under

those schemes? Will anyone else ever made accountable for it? Who will bear the responsibility for this. But one day we will have to reply these questions. When I hear words of praise from a senior Member of the House, like Shri Ranga, I feel distressed. I start thinking whether I am sitting in the 'Kaurav Sabha'. I am distressed because such things have been uttered by a person who had been a freedom fighter. May be I sound bitter, but I am just trying to convey it through you that the backward and the weaker sections do not even enjoy facilities like drinking water, roads and hospitals which are our basic requirements. As many as 99% of them do not have houses to live in. Who is responsible for this situation? Even today, the evil practice of carrying night soil on head has been continuing in our country. The previous Government did nothing to eliminate this evil practice. Who is responsible for this system? In many parts of the country, the people belonging to weaker section are not allowed even to take out barat processions. Not only this, there have been cases in which the brides were prevented from consummating their marriages and enjoying honeymoon with their husbands. I would like to ask who is responsible for all this pass. It has afflicted to our society like leper to the body. Had they ever supported a single movement launched during the last 40 years to fight against these social evils?

Sir, the harijans were disposed of land for which 'Puttas' were granted to them. When they tried to resist, they were not only beaten but mass killings were made. Their villages were burnt down and police helped the criminals. I do agree that this exploitation has been going on for centuries, but the fight against this social injustice, which should have been started after the independence, was not started. Instead of repenting for the atrocities committed by them, the people who were instrumental in perpetrating such crimes on them are now saying that they don't have any hope from this Bill. The ego of superiority and feeling of high and low nurtured by them over the centuries make them to utter such words. I would like to tell you that the bonded labourers generally

come from the people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections only, not from the caste Hindi such as Thakur and Brahmin. I do not want to say anything more in this regard as it may agitate them. We have to atone the sin which has been committed by others in the last 40 years. Today, through this Amending Constitution Bill, we are trying to rectify the wrong done over centuries. This social injustice could have been fought back long long ago. In this speech, Shri Ranga has repeatedly stated that we had to carry out a social revolution in this regard. He is the senior-most Member of this House and is almost at the fag end of his life. I would like to know why he did not start this social revolution in these last 40 years? To whom you are saying this? It is true that I am not narrating all the facts, as I do not intend to hurt anyone. However, if persons like Bhajan Lal felt hurt, this made me happy because these are the people who are responsible for the victimisation of the weaker sections. I know that this Commission is not going to bring any revolution, but it is a small step in giving boost to the down trodden to fight for their rights. This Commission may not prove the sun or the moon, but it will certainly prove a flickering star to give some light to the downtrodden in groping their way in the darken.

The way he tried to justify the thin in the morning pained me very much. They are blackmailing us on a matter concerning the welfare of Harijans. This attitude on their part is not understandable. If you do not agree to it, you are free to say so. You are in opposition, you have every right to obtain papers which you like from the Government, but it is not proper to disrupt the proceeding of the House which is engaged in a discussion on a matter concerning the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ..... It is a sheer blackmail on an issue concerning the poor and the weaker sections. It is the worst kind of blackmail ever seen. It means that you are in favour of continuing the atrocities being

17.00 hrs.

perpetrated on them for the last forty years.

I am happy that the whole House and for that matter the whole country and the press are a witness to the worst kind of black mail being practised by them. They should know that blackmail is an offence under the constitution of India but they are openly blackmailing us on this issue. Sir, I am pained to see it.

Before I conclude, I would like to submit that I have a high regard for the veteran parliamentarian to whom I referred to above as the symbol of the previous regime. I or he may not be in the next Parliament but a tradition should be created for the guidance of our future generation that on the occasions like this, one should speak the truth rising above one party affiliations. Truth is always a truth, it does not belong to one or the other party. I, therefore, urge upon the Members of the Congress Party to let this Bill passed without putting any condition whatsoever. With this request, I resume and beg pardon of the hon. Member whom I symbolised as the symbol of the previous regime.

SHRI RESHAM LAL JANGDE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Constitution came into force in 1950. Dr. Ambedkar and sponsored the Bill on reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, at that time and the policy was to remain in force for a period of ten years. Unfortunately, though forty years have passed since then, we have failed to achieve what should have been achieved within ten years. So far, Rs. 20,000 crores have been officially spent on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and I feel that not even Rs. 1,000 crores out of that amount has reached them. This is the reason why districts like Bastar, Sarguja, Palamau, Kalahandi and Bolangir even today remind us of the days of yore.

17.03 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Even today, the people in these districts roam around in scanty clothes. Their own resources are being misused to exploit them. Large scale migration from rural areas is taking place and a majority of the migrants

[Sh. Resham Lal Jangde]

belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They dwell in Jhuggis alongside the city's sprawling and glittering roads and one can find thousands of them working as bonded labourers. The Labour Ministry is playing hide and seek with them. Untold stories of their sufferings and misery are hushed up and we are kept in the dark about them. Thousands of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes coming from the Chattisgarh regions are leading hellish lives as bonded labourers in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi.

I want to say that we talk a lot about the upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, but when it comes to practice, even the presentation of the reports of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission is delayed by three-four years. In the last forty years, not even a single State Assembly took up this report for discussion. Leave alone the State Assemblies, even this august House has never taken up for discussion the report of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission since 1950. I have to say this with utmost distress. From 1952 to 1962, I was a Congress Party M.P. of this very House. Even during those days, this report was never taken up for discussion. Though repeated assurances are given by the Union Home Ministry about checking the oppression, harassment and atrocities unleashed on the Scheduled Castes the Scheduled Tribes, when it comes to sharing the blame, it passes on the buck to the State Governments. The State Governments treat us contemptuously. As a result, incidents of atrocities and harassment and increasing day by day. I do not want to dig old graves, but I would like to bring to your notice certain things. More than half the expenditure incurred on Tribal Sub-plans and Harijan component plan is met by the Central Government, but no attention has been paid regarding the proper utilisation of these funds by the State Governments for the implementation of these plans. Has the Scheduled Castes Commissioner even given a report with reference to the utilisation of the funds

allocated for Harijan component plan? After all, as the hon. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has said, what are the reasons for the diversions, delay and lapse of crores of rupees kept apart for Harijan Component Plan, in almost every state? Shri Paswan is a personification of the values and principles that Babasaheb stood for and I sincerely hope that his services would take him to new heights and he would excel Dr. Ambedkar. The need of the hour is that the Central Government should be made accountable for the implementation of Harijan Component Plan and Tribal Sub-plans. The State Governments, whether they are headed by the Janata Dal or the Congress Party are most unreliable, when it comes to the implementation of the Welfare Schemes for the Scheduled Castes. For the past forty years, we have been observing that the Central Government is not at all accountable for the implementation of the Harijans Component Plan and Tribal Sub-Plans, even when it involves central funds. Henceforth, the Central Government should be made accountable for it and the Members of Parliament should be allowed to raise questions in the Parliament regarding the implementation of the Harijan component plan and Tribal Sub-plans, irrespective of their being Central or State subjects.

To give an example, no steps have been taken in any district across the country to implement 'Jaldhara Scheme'. Though crores of rupees kept for this, have been diverted, no one has paid any attention to it so far. Similarly, even today, hundreds of Harijan villages across the country do not have water enough to tend this fields. Harijan villages do not have motorable roads and the money allocated for this purpose by the Central Government do not reach them. In this regard, I would like to ask you to take effective steps in this direction. Mere presentation of Scheduled Caste Commissioner's report would not do. The upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are possible, only if you find ways and means to solve their manifold problems. I would like to say here that poverty cannot be alleviated by reservations alone.

Migration to cities are still continuing. What steps do you propose to take to check the monopoly of trade and industry by a handful of multimillionaires business houses, which is proving to be a bottleneck in the development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes? Poverty alleviation is impossible unless and until job reservations are made in the industrial sector, whether they be private or public sector. Such provisions should be made so as to help them escape from the clutches of poverty. It is said that the bigger fishes eat the smaller fishes. Similarly, the well-off among the Scheduled Castes and also among the general category exploit their brethren for their personal advancement. Well-off people among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Communities like the Kevats and Dheemars, who hold high positions in the Government, corner all the benefits kept aside for backward classes. There are many such Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes whose conditions have not changed even after forty years of independence. Even today, they are treated like slaves and no one seems to be concerned about them. I would like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission to look after the welfare of such Scheduled Castes and the backward classes as it would enable us to walk together on the path of socialism, otherwise the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes would remain a distant dream.

Regarding suppression and atrocities, I would like to state that the Scheduled Castes Commissioner should be given the authority to investigate under the Commission of Enquiry Act. The Commissioner should be given the authority to collect evidence, conduct enquiry and present its report to the administration and the Home Ministry should take the necessary initiative and act as a co-ordinator. I am not bothered about the creation of a separate Ministry for this purpose, but strong and effective measures should be taken to check the atrocities perpetrated on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and also improve their standard of living. It would serve no purpose if a separate Ministry is created and if Home Ministry does not

co-ordinate with it. It would prove beneficial only if there is effective co-ordination between the two ministries. After this, I would like to say that the Central Government should make special provisions for the development of districts like Bastar, Koraput, Mandla, Sarguja, Palmau, Kalahandi, etc., which have remained backward for centuries. Although, they are not centrally administered territories, the Union Government should pay special attention towards it as otherwise, these areas would remain backward by centuries, while the rest of the country makes progress. While we would be enjoying the fruits of development, the people in these areas would be leading a hellish life. Irrespective of the pace of development, those who toil would continue to toil, continue to be oppressed and would remain backward, while those who have made progress would make further progress.

In this regard, I would like to say one more thing, that is, the presentation of the report of this Commission every year in the Parliament and the State Assemblies should be made obligatory. The State Government should furnish the necessary information and reports sought by the Commission, within a time bound programme. Today, the situation is such that the State Government do not furnish the necessary information upto three or four years. It should be made constitutionally obligatory on the part of the State Governments to furnish the information sought by the Commission. At the moment, there is no such provision. Secondly, the report of the Commission should be presented every year and it should be taken up for discussion. The 1990-91 report should be taken up for discussion in 1991-92 itself. It would serve no purpose if like stale food, the report is presented and taken up for discussion after four years of its preparation.

I would like to mention one more thing here. There are many drawbacks in the existing reservation policy—Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes get their interview cards four days after the interview. There are many other loopholes too. The confidential report



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of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees are deliberately spoiled without any rhyme or reason, just in order to debar them from further promotions. While those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are sent on loop line, other employee after sent on stream line. Who is going to be accountable for all this? The State Governments do not realize their responsibility, rather they take it as their liability. To make speeches on it is one thing but to put it into practice is something else. How many of the Members of Parliament and State Assemblies have got the cases registered against practice of untouchability at their own initiatives? There is hardly any Member who has done so. They think that if they do so, they may lose the votes of the people belonging to general category. So they are afraid of taking initiatives in the matter. If they have courage, they should take initiative to get the cases registered against practice of untouchability and challans issued against the offenders. They should fight against such elements. But very few Members of Parliament have courage and conviction to do so. I would like to appeal all the Members of the Parliament to take initiative in this regard. I would like to know the number of cases registered in this regard during the last 40 years after independence. I think that there will be hardly any village in the country where untouchability has not been practised. So long as the politics of vote-catching is there, things will not improve.

\*SHRI MATILAL HANSDA (Jhargram):  
Sir, I rise to support this Bill which has been brought forth by the Hon. Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. While supporting it, I will like to place a few things before this House. The progress and improvement of the Condition of our SC & ST people is very necessary in the interest of the over all social, economic, cultural and political development of the whole country. One

class of people of our country are trying to move forward by trampling upon these unfortunate people. But that is not possible. In the language of poet Tagore I will say, "he whom you have thrown down, is pulling you down too; and whom you have kept backward is also pulling you back (preventing you from making any progress). The progress of the country means the progress of all the people living there in. It does not mean increasing enjoyment of all types of benefits by a handful of people of the upper state of society, who have already concerned all the benefits.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, I know that in many States like Bihar Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa etc. beastly atrocities have been committed on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and they are continuing even now. In 1989 the number of barbaric atrocities committed on the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people all over the country were 12,687 and 3404 respectively. These atrocities were committed by a large by caste Hindus. The anti-social elements perpetrated many heinous crimes against them and even robbed the honour and chastity of their womenfolk under the instigation of rick land owners. The houses of these poor people were burnt down and they were dispossessed of whatever little land they had. Such heart-rending incidents are known to all the Hon. members of this House. Whenever stern administrative action were sought to be taken against these anti-social elements, who had the secret support of some political parties like the Congress etc., efforts have been made by these political parties to hush up the cases. This is very despicable. I strongly condemn such acts. Everybody should condemn such two-faced policy of the Congress and their political parties.

Sir, the adivasis the tribals the so-called low-caste people raged incessant struggle against the British imperialists sacrificing their own lives. Heroic stories about them are heard all over the country. But after

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\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

independence these hopeless people have not gained anything, there has no been any improvement in their condition. As a reward of their sacrifice they have got only disappointment, exploitation, deceit and hatred. The Govt. of India has enacted some legislations against the practice of untouchability. Under Art. 17 of the Constitution untouchability is prohibited. Anybody practising untouchability shall be punished. The protection of civil Rights Act was passed in 1955. That was further amended in 1976. The objective was laudable, no doubt. But a legislation only symbolises a good intention. A marked lack of enthusiasm and good intention has been observed in all the States among those whose duty it was to implement and enforce these legislations. For instance, the Indian Succession Act was passed in 1956, but in spite of that many people are reluctant to give a share of their property to their daughters. Similarly many law enforcing agencies do not show any duty-consciousness to enforce the Protection of Civil Rights Act. Hence what is needed, is a committed administration and a committed leadership can be built up by the political leadership. As an Adivasi myself, I have found a shining example of that in West Bengal. It is admitted by all that the people of West Bengal are politically advanced. Under the leadership of the left front there people do not create barriers among themselves on the basis of caste, creed, religion language etc. They look upon every man as a human being. As a result of such committed political leadership, there the Government officers entrusted with administrative responsibilities have to work as protectors of the law and not its destroyers. But we have not seen such instances in Bihar and in other parts of the country in the past. Whenever atrocities were committed on the SC & ST people there, the Government officials made a deal with the perpetrators of such crimes at the cost of the victims. Hence I believe that a socially conscious, strong willed and political well intentioned leadership only can create a socio-political culture in society which will be able to bring about an upliftment and real progress of the unfortunate SC & ST people. In West Bengal the so called high caste

people do not have a feeling of separation towards the SC & ST people. They are not looked down upon. For creating such a situation what is needed is education and social and political consciousness. I request all the hon. members to make efforts for the spread of education among these people and for the creation of a social and political culture. Otherwise the mere enactment of legislation will not solve the problem. That is why even after the enactment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of atrocities) Act, in 1989 the atrocities on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people are continuing in different parts of the country. Only the other day in U.P. a Scheduled Caste family was attacked and some people were killed. The Hon. Prime Minister was saying that day that on the day of the Lok Sabha elections in 1989, a Scheduled Caste person was polling agent in a booth in his constituency. But he was killed the very next day. This type of misfortune does not befall any SC & ST person in West Bengal. There not only male adivasis are in position as village Pradhans and Chairmen of Panchayat Samitis, but women adivasis are also found holding the position of village Pradhans.

With the improvement in their economic condition, the atrocities on the SC & ST will come down and not only that, they themselves will be more conscious about their rights and freedom. The funds given by the Centre to the States in the Five Year Plans for the welfare and upliftment of the SC & ST people, have not been fully spent by most of the States for this purpose. When want of funds creates obstacles in the process of developmental work, I fail to understand why available funds are remaining unspent. This is because either the states do not have adequate machinery for the purpose or they lack good intention of actually benefitting these weaker sections. I, therefore, support the proposal of setting up a National Commission as provided in the Constitution (Sixty-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 1990. I hope this Commission will be able to monitor whether the States are properly spending the funds provided to them for the welfare of SC & ST. Moreover the members of the Commission

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should be able to make new suggestions in the light of their practical experience in the field for making the welfare measures more effective.

For real welfare of the SC & ST people, they have to be given actual right to land. For all the land, that has become vested, the landless SC & ST people shall have to be restored full right and control over that land. I will urge all the Hon. Members to look to the achievements of West Bengal. Sir, the amount of land distributed among the landless poor in West Bengal is half of the total land distributed in the whole country only Kerala and Tripura has shown some progress in the distribution of vested land. Other States have fallen behind. This is due to lack of good intention and political will on their part. I will request the Hon. Minister to arrange for a strict watch on the State Governments by the Centre. The National Front Government has expressed its good intention of carrying out land reforms by amending the Constitutions. I am very happy about it. I demand that this may be expedited.

The proposed national commission should ensure that the SC & ST people who work as daily wage labourers in different States, get the just and minimum wages. The workers themselves are not very alert and conscious in this matter. The Commission should assist them. In West Bengal the adivasis and landless labourers have been able to bargain for somewhat higher wages through agitations. But in other States such agitations and movements are not very strong, and in many places there are no such movements at all at present. Therefore the National Commission should keep a watch and see that with launching of such agitations for better wages in those places they may not be tortured mercilessly as we find in Bihar, Orissa, U.P., M.P. etc. Vigilance is the key, to the establishment and protection of rights. The Govt. of India should declare minimum wages for the labourers engaged in agriculture and construction work etc.

where mostly SC & ST people are employed. The Adivasis live in forests for generations and find their means of livelihood from the forest products. They have been deprived of their income from the forests in many cases. At many places they have been deprived of their land also. unscrupulous people have purchased their land through fraudulent methods. The Govt. should consider how the land can be restored to the SC & ST people through enactment of special legislation etc. For higher education of the SC & ST people special provisions like grant of scholarships etc. are there. But along with this more importance should be given to their primary education. Many superstitions are prevalent among these people and many of their activities are based on superstition. These should be removed. For freeing them from these superstitious beliefs, committed and devoted teachers are needed. It must be ensured that nobody remains illiterate. In our Constitutions, in the Directive principles of State Policy, provision has been made for compulsory education of boys and girls upto 14 years of age. The Central Government should follow the Constitutional provision in this respect and try to educate all our people at all levels. I will like that maximum stress may be put on primary education for success in this field.

I will request the Govt. that in the appointment of the members of the National Commission, priority must be given to their sense of duty, dedication, sense of social values and their commitment for the progress of the society. They must not be appointed to this important position due to the support of any political party. In fact a provision to this effect should have been made in the Bill itself. However, in the matter of appointment these things should be kept in mind.

I once again extend my support to this Bill and with that I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ram Saijwan, your party has been allotted four minutes time.

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN (Banda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for providing me time for four minutes. I rise to support the Constitutional (Amendment) Bill for the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people. Only this much can be said in the time at my disposal. But I am to make some more points. No doubt, a number of good legislations have been made for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes but their implementation is not effective. We apprehend that the present legislation may also meet the same fate. Still we hope that with the tempo with which hon. Minister has brought this Bill, a new era is expected to herald and these laws would be effectively implemented. Therefore, with this belief in minds, we are to move forward and support it. However more expeditiousness is required in the matter. The reservation quota meant for them are not fulfilled. The hon. Minister has said that he would get it filled within one year. It is a good thing because by doing so he would be completing a task which was not completed by them in 40 years. The hon. Minister deserves to be congratulated for this. Due to faulty land reforms laws, people belonging to weaker sections are not given possession of the land for which pattas are granted to them. Even if possession of the land is given to them, crops raised on the land are destroyed and they are even dispossessed of the land given to them for constructing houses for them. There sorts of atrocities are being committed on them. In order to check these atrocities, you have to take stern measures and I hope you will not find yourself lacking on this score. You have to fight against the powerful sections of the society who put hindrance in the development and upliftment of Harijans, as this is the main problem. Hence you have to make more vigorous efforts for this. The other day, a discussion was held in the House about the number of Indian Ambassadors abroad belonging to the Harijan community. I would like to know the number of persons belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes appointed as Ambassadors and Governors. If a legislation is made providing for 20 to 25% reservation for them in matters of appointment of Ambassadors and Govern-

nors, we will welcome such legislation. If you have guts and are interested in ushering in new era, you bring such legislation. How many Vice-Chancellors of Universities have been appointed amongst the persons belonging to SC/ST? That is why I am laying stress on connected efforts to improve the lot of these people. There are educated and honest persons in our community. They are capable of shouldering such responsibilities. At present, Mr. Paswan is in a position to do such things through constitutional changes. We will support him if he takes steps to usher in new era in the country. But in order to achieve this goal, he is not to contend with trivial changes only but he will have to bring revolutionary changes in the Constitution.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: If you have some idea, please elaborate it.

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: The people belonging to SC/ST should be appointed Vice-Chancellors, Governor and to the other high posts as also reservation of seats in the Rajya Sabha and the Vidhan Parishads be provided for them. All of use including the C.P.I., will support it. But if you don't do all this, we would be forced to expose you. You should boldly take such measures. There are many persons on your side who are bent upon the retrograde it. Therefore, I would like to emphasize that the Harijan will get justice only if you take firm, honest and revolutionary steps. They could do little for Harijans during the last 42 years. How are you saying that you will do all things for them in one year? It is good if you do it even within five years. We will continue to support you. We would not let you fall. We too have to see whether you do it or not. Words alone are useless. Therefore, I would like to warn you that you should take some firm steps. Whenever any atrocities are committed on Harijans in any state, a report is obtained. The report is prepared by the concerned police Inspector who tries to hush up that case. This report is submitted to the Central Government through State Government. What action is taken by you on the report?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What can we do when the laws are so?

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: What for you are sitting in the Government when laws are so? Laws are violated, this what I am saying.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Better ask Basu Sahib in this regard.

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: First of all, you should get prepared and the entire House, the majority would be with you, if you come forward courageously. This is all I am to say, and now I conclude while supporting it.

17.33 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### **Situation arising out of the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the relief measures undertaken by the Central Government and Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the relief measures undertaken by the Central and State Governments concerned.

Shri PC Thomas—not present.

Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at least, I think, after 20 days after the serious devastation that occurred in Andhra Pradesh—it occurred on the 9th of this month—that this House could give us some time to discuss the matter. (Interruptions) After 20 days, we are discussing it. Four days back, I was insisting on discussing this matter under Rule 193. In fact, all the members from Andhra Pradesh

were aggrieved that this matter could not be discussed for 20 days. There is a saying that unless a child cries for milk, the mother does not give him milk. We have been giving notices right from the 10th of this month. But it could not come to the mind of either the Business Advisory Committee or the Government to allow this matter to be discussed in the House. The Government should not take into account how many members are there in the Congress Party from Andhra Pradesh; the Government must take into account the feelings of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Had the Minister taken serious note of the devastation that had occurred in Andhra Pradesh—He himself had expressed it in the note that he gave the other day—I am sure, every member of the House would have understood how serious it was. I will quote only one. If the newspapers and the Government were to give the number of deaths, they started with 30, then it went on to 409, 50 and so on up to 1000 now. After 20 days, obviously, we can understand that there are still areas which are inaccessible and the number of people died could not be accounted for, till today. The cyclone was there for only one day. If it had continued for some days I can understand their going on increasing the number of deaths. There is some meaning if such reports go on coming. But the cyclone was there of only one day and the reports of deaths are continuing to come even today.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY (Jagatsinghpur): That is the State Government's work.

SHRI K.S. RAO: The gravity of the cyclone and the pathetic situation of the people can be well imagined by the fact that several areas were inaccessible for quite a long time. That is why we were making an uproar in the house on the other day. I therefore request the hon. members not to misunderstand us.

I do not want to repeat the statistics given by the hon. Minister himself. More than a crore of people have been affected by it. Almost all the coastal districts have been

affected completely, and people along 1000 km of the coast line have been affected. The loss of property is, even unimaginable and even on governmental account it has been very heavy, which is possibly unheard of in the history of this country. About the property lost, it is pathetic state to see it.

The worst affected by the cyclone were the people who were living near the coast, especially the poor people in particular, and those of the farming community. The poor people have lost what all they have got, their household articles, utensils etc. I do not know how many years it will take for them to cover and procure the small things which they have lost now. The Government should never think in terms of rupees when it comes to the question of providing help to the affected people—whether it is the utensils or whether it is shelter or anything else because it may take months and years for the poor people to recover from the loss.

It is of course the duty of the State Governments as Mr. Loknath Choudhary has said. When the hon. Prime Minister himself, having seen the gravity of the situation was asked in my constituency, Machilipatnam to declare it as a national calamity, he said that, having seen the devastation caused, "I do not think that there will be any other calamity which can be called a national calamity." So, we do not have to emphasised that it is a national calamity and it has been accepted by the Prime Minister himself and the disaster has been total. There is no point in saying that the State Government has to look after all these people. Everyone of use knows that when it comes to our State, our own constituency we turn to the Central Government for help and we will say that the Government of India should help them. But everyone of us will also agree that the devastation caused is so vast that it will not be possible for the State Government alone to come to the rescue of the entire people and the Central Government must help them in every respect including providing financial assistance to the State Governments.

We are certainly grateful to the Prime

Minister who has announced a relief of Rs. 86 crores. But all we wanted to impress was that this figure is according to the report of the Ninth Finance Commission. This recommendation was made by the Ninth Finance Commission in their report. But that is only a provision made not taking into account the seriousness of the national calamity it is a normal figure provided when a normal cyclone or flood or drought occurs. But such assistance should not be limited to the provision made by the Finance Commission's recommendation only. So, while we thank the Prime Minister for the assistance that is given, having come to the rescue of the people, I want to say that it is no place to the people. We request that the whole House should come to the rescue of the people affected by the cyclone and to bring pressure on the Government to come to the rescue of the affected people and to provide them their essential and basic requirements. Every one of us know the pathetic conditions of these poor people.

I would like to make a few points in regard to the farming community. The farming community in the coastal belts invariably is far from the civilised society. The accessibility is much less in some of those parts. They live almost in seclusion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much time do you need? Your Party has 41 minutes. I have a list of ten people to speak. You have already taken eight minutes.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I will take a little more time. The farming community has lost everything there, and particularly in my area. There are two crops of paddy which is being cultivated. The first crop was also lying in ten fields as a he ap and the second crop has come. Later the cyclone had come before they took away the paddy from the fields. So, they lost both the crops. In some parts, paddy is lying after harvesting in a bad shape which is to be taken by the FCI or some millers. As the FCI had not come forward to purchase their paddy, they could not oppose it of. Also they did not have enough time. so, they lost both their crops. The condition of

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the farmer in that part is, if you were to get 30 bags of paddy or two tonnes of paddy, one and a half tonnes goes towards expenditure and the net income to the farmer is only one third of total crop yield. That means, if one crop goes, he will become bankrupt for two crops. It takes two years for him to recover. In one year if he loses two crops, then it will take four years to recover for him. This aspect has to be looked into. He should not be treated like a businessman or an industrialist. So, the farmer must be understood properly. He is not getting the crop insurance properly. Crop Insurance also applies one if the crop fails. There is no provision for such calamities in the crop insurance. The Crop Insurance Act must be amended in such a manner that the people who lose the crops like this also must be compensated. We had requested the FCI to open local centres immediately for purchasing some of these paddy, which is discoloured, wet and even germinating sometimes. With the hope that FCI will come and purchase their paddy, they are still keeping the paddy in their fields. FCI, though promised but not in a substantial way. So, more promise, as I said last time, would not help the farming community.

Similar is the case of poultry people. Sixty lakhs of poultry were dead and the insurance people had not gone there. The poultry farmers are keeping the dead birds under the fear that if they are not physically shown, to the insurance people they will not repay. This is leading to epidemic. The smell is unimaginable and it is stinking. Nobody can go anywhere near it. Fortunately or unfortunately the dead cattle were removed. But these are lying there causing health hazards. So, I want the hon. Minister to direct the Insurance Companies to go to the rescue of these people and make a survey immediately.

In regard to self-employed personnel, I do not want to emphasise once again the same condition.

Drinking water is not available in the

villages today. It is polluted. They do not have water. Water is being carried for miles together. So, immediate arrangements have to be made to get underground water for drinking purposes at least, if not for other purposes.

I want to suggest some permanent measures which are to be taken immediately so that this can be tackled. The Government must find out the reason why cyclones are coming continuously, particularly in coastal areas. Almost every year we are getting cyclones. This is the experience for the last several years, particularly for the last ten years.

To save the human lives, every village must be provided with three or four cyclone shelters so that human lives can be saved in such an eventuality.

There is another thought. If at least 300 to 400 metres wide area adjacent to the sea coast is developed with tall trees, then the devastation due to cyclone which comes at a speed of 250 kph can be minimised.

Similarly, there is proposal on the part of the Government of India to construct coastal roads. This coastal road can be of use if it is constructed at least 6 to 10 metres high to prevent tidal waves or sea water entering into the villages of the coastal areas.

If these permanent measures are to be taken, though we cannot prevent cyclones, at least, we can save the lives of human beings, property, cattle and other things. So this may be given a serious thought.

Finally, I once again request the hon. Minister to be declared immediately—though the Minister has told me personally, it is not officially declared—as a national calamity and assistance must be given treating it as a national calamity and the State must be given immediate assistance so that the people have immediate relief.

As several of my friends are there to tell

other points, I conclude by saying that the one Ham Radio which has helped to a very great extent in reducing the calamity. It is a professional radio and not a governmental organisation which is doing almost free service. It does not cost anything. But the service rendered by Ham Radio is enormous. I wish the hon. Minister to go into the details and assist that Ham Radio, those professional who work voluntarily in such eventualities, go to the villages and warn all the villages through wireless and other things.

[Translation]

\*SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclonic storm on 9th and 10th of this month has affected very badly the state of Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu and Orissa have also suffered to some extent.

At the outset I express my deep gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister who visited the cyclone affected areas of Andhra Pradesh on 12th and again on 19th of this month to study the situation personally. He was kind of enough to release Rs. 84 crores as grant immediately. He also released Rs. 2 crores from Prime Minister' Relief Fund. Cholera vaccine and bleaching powder etc. were also supplied in time. The people in the State will ever remain grateful to him for the sympathy and understanding he has shown. He has shown personal interest in the rescue and relief operations.

Also, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Meteorological Department of India for its timely warnings which averted a major loss of life and property. Similarly all the army, airforce and navy personnel who without caring for their lives rescued marooned people, provided them with food and drinking water deserve my special thanks for their services. The Hon. Minister of State for Agriculture has given particulars of loss. I do not want to waste the time of this House repeating the same. In view of the unprecedented loss the Govern-

ment should take the following steps to rescue the people.

1. All the insurance and comprehensive crop insurance claims should be settled immediately.
2. All the areas upto 20 to 25 Kms from the sea have been submerged by the sweater. The tidal waves ranging from 6 to 10 feet height have wasted these away everything. The loss is total Even now all areas are submerged under salt water to a depth of 1 ft. to 2 feet. These tidal waters have deposited thick layer of saline earth in the fields detrimental to soil fertility. The Govt. should help the farmers in removing the salinity.
3. In thousands of acres the paddy stacks still lay under 1 to 2 feet water. The paddy stacks have been completely soaked in the continuous heavy rains. The Govt. should purchase this discoloured paddy or rice by relaxing the specifications through Food Corporation of India and Andhra Pradesh Rice Federation as they have done in the case of Punjab in the past.
4. Pucca buildings should be constructed for the people who have lost their houses in the recent cyclone with part of the money as grant, balance as loan from the National Housing Bank.
5. (a) The outstanding crop loans should be written off.  
(b) Fresh loans must be sanctioned for the coming Khariff season.
6. In respect of the Poultry Farms, the present outstanding loans should be converted into long term loans



[Sh. Bh. Vijayakumar Raju]

and fresh loans should be sanctioned to undertake repairs to the structures.

7. Immediate steps should be taken to supply drinking water in tankers. Steps should also be taken immediately to supply fodder to the surviving cattle population. The entire responsibility should not be left to the state, government alone.

Sir, I want to make few suggestions which will help in averting the tragedy in coming years. Experts have predicted that the sea level might go up by 3 or 4 feet in the next coming 3 or 4 decades. In such a case the entire area will be submerged in the sea water. The adjacent agricultural lands will lose their fertility. Lakhs of people have to be evacuated to safer places. All of them have to be rehabilitated. One can well imagine the huge expenditure involved in this. Hence an expert Committee should be appointed to study the entire matter thoroughly. Appropriate steps should be taken to avert the predicted calamity. Following steps will help in averting the future danger.

Kolleru is a world famous lake. Many artificial lakes have come up in recent years to boost fishery. New Roads have been laid around it. Many new farms have sprung up. In fact, Kolleru is not the Kolleru once it used to be. As a result the waste water is not flowing out freely, quite often resulting in the inundation of adjacent areas. Krishna, Godavari Districts are receiving floods mainly on this account.

Hence to serve Krishna and Godavari Districts from this danger it is necessary to dig Perantala Kanumu canal to take such water to Upputeru at a faster pace. Also a regulator should be constructed to save the area from the back lash of sea water.

The Government should also take up the following works in order to avert inundation due to heavy rains and floods:—

a) Bickavolu should be diverted to Eleeru

b) Kovvada Canal should be diverted to Godavari and a reservoir should be constructed on it.

c) Erra Kaluva should be diverted to Godavari;

d) Thammileru protection bunds should be raised and strengthened.

e) A parallel drain to Enamadurru drain should be dug up. The old course of Gontheru drain should be repaired immediately to drain out waste water into the sea. Otherwise sea water may flow back causing enormous damage to the entire area.

Sir, I do agree that the works mentioned above should be taken up by the State Govt. Since the State Govt. has no money to undertake these works it has been postponing the work indefinitely. East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna Districts of the delta region are suffering year after year on account of heavy floods. Hence I appeal to the Central Govt. to take up the above mentioned works as a part of the strategy to combat floods. Budameru protection bunds should also be raised and strengthened.

A portion of Gunderu and Battiprodu drains should be diverted to river Krishna.

All the major, medium and minor drains should be widened and deepened in the delta area. Bunds should be also be strengthened and widened so as to utilise them as coastal roads. Sufficient number of regulators should be constructed to prevent sea-water entering the land. Sir, both the State Govt. and Central Govt. should team to undertake the above mentioned works. We, the farmers of the area are also ready to contribute our might for the execution of this gigantic task. We are prepared to pay betterment tax if necessary. Only by taking the above-mentioned measures, we will be able to avert inundation of these lands by sea water in the coming decades.

I hope the Hon. Minister would consider my suggestions seriously. I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you have provided me to speak.

**SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY** (Amalapuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that hit the coastal districts during 7th, 8th and 9th of this month, was the first of its kind in this century because I had the opportunity to see the losses of previous cyclones. I was the first Member of Parliament to visit the cyclone-hit areas when the cyclone and tidal waves struck Diviseema in 1977. The loss of life was more but the overall loss from this cyclone was very much compared to that 1977 cyclone. In fact the State Government this time had taken certain steps that minimised the loss of life. We are grateful to the hon. Prime Minister also who has shown a positive gesture in visiting the places twice personally and also for announcing reasonable amount of assistance.

Sir, I would not make a long speech for want of time, but I would like to make some observations. In 1977, I had visited the cyclone devastated places and had also gone through Dr. Kotesam's Report which was submitted in 1955. In that Report, Dr. Kotesam had made certain recommendations. He had specifically recommended to construct cyclone shelters and also to raise a green belt on the coast line. He also suggested about the development of drainage system. At that time, I had raised this issue and had also represented to the hon. Minister at that time Mr. Kaushik was the Minister. The Government had taken a serious note of it and 828 cyclone shelters were constructed on the coastline. My friend made an observation that in every village three or four cyclone shelters will be able to help the people if tidal waves come. Certainly it will not be so, because each time the tidal waves come they take away lakhs of lives. After spending twenty days in the cyclone hit areas and discussing with the local people—most of them in the coastal belt—I could find out certain things. The Government has to take two important steps. One is that in the

cyclone affected areas they have to construct the coastal road; the second is to raise the green belt and that way the speed of the wind could be controlled. In the tidal-prone areas the Government has to take serious and sincere steps to construct a cyclone shelter in miniature for every family—I am repeating, Sir, a cyclone shelter in miniature for every family in the form of a terraced building because all the people of the village cannot be accommodated in one or two cyclone shelters. I visited a place near the sea coast where thousands of families were there. Only one cyclone shelter was there where about four hundred people were accommodated. Had there been tidal waves, almost two thousand people would have been washed away. In the entire coastal belt in my constituency, lakhs of inhabitants are there. Therefore, a few cyclone shelters will not serve the purpose. Once you provide the cyclone shelters in miniature in the form of terraced buildings, it will not only save the human lives but we need not spend thousands of crores of rupees for reconstructing the houses also by way of relief. In the long run, we can save thousands of crores of rupees. This is an important aspect and the Government should make a note of it and they must cooperate with the State Government. It should not be treated simply as a State subject. I am happy that the Prime Minister made an important observation and treated this as a national calamity. The second equally important aspect is that the people there must be provided road network...*(Interruptions)*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is six o'clock now. What is the desire of the House? Should we continue or should we take it up tomorrow?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Tomorrow, Sir.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Let us finish it today, Sir.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** O.K. we will continue up to seven o'clock.

**SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora):** Sir,

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

there is no request from the Treasury Benches. It least the Minister should make a request.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): We have no objection, we are ready.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: If the hon. Minister agrees to take it up tomorrow, it is O.K., otherwise we can continue today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are prepared, it all depends on you. We can complete it today itself.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go up to seven o'clock because there are so many other matters to be discussed tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Since it is a serious matter we should finish we today.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we are discussing a very important issue. Let us discuss it in such a fashion that something comes out of it. It is a fact that the cyclone has hit the area and people have suffered. There is no dispute about it. There are certain things which are done by the State Government. There are certain things which have to be done by the Central Government and the State Governments need some assistance

and all that. Let us classify that and discuss it. There is no point in repeating the same thing what other hon. Members have said. Something should come out of the discussion.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURHTY:

Sir, I will give the suggestions instead of narrating the situation there. Sir, during the time when cyclone occurred last time, I also requested then to instal a radar system at Machillipatnam and they did it. That was set up, but it has been totally damaged in the present cyclone. During the cyclone, our experience is that one radar system will not be enough to help the people in warning about possible occurrence of cyclone. Therefore, there should be two more radar systems. Apart from one at Machillipatnam there should be one at Kakinada and another at Amalpuram and the radar system in Masulipatnam should be repaired because it has been heavily damaged in the present cyclone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true that the entire eastern coastal area is covered with the cyclone warning system through Satellites. This is done through the Space Department.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

Sir, apart from that, this time the communication systems have completely broken down. The installation and improvement of wireless system would go a long way in helping people in the coastal areas, specially during the cyclone.

Sir, the farmers have lost everything and the Central Government have given relaxation in the matter of purchasing paddy from the farmers there by the F.C.I. whether it is discoloured or partially spoiled. The State Government made all possible arrangements and the District Administration has also come a big way to help the F.C.I. Sir, I have been there for about 20 days and I have seen the problems faced by the farmers there. The F.C.I. is not at all responding in purchasing their paddy. I would like the hon. Minister to take this matter very seri-

ously. In spite of the fact that the Government has given relaxation, F.C.I. has not responded to help the farmers and they are always insisting on their own norms, instead of responding to the relaxed norms. They are trying to look after their own interests instead of looking the interests of the farmers. This is a special situation of its kind and it is a national calamity. Therefore, I plead with the Central Government that they must immediately instruct the F.C.I. to help the farmers by purchasing their paddy. Coming to the assistance, I may point out that declaring the assistance in a routing way by the Central Government is not sufficient. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh made it clear in the recent interview with the World Bank team that the Central Government's assistance of Rs. 86 crores will not be sufficient to provide food and reasonable shelter even in the two districts. Therefore, the Centre should respond in a big way. I would request the Central Government to bear at least 50% of the total loss occurred in the recent cyclone. Besides, there are number of areas where assistance has not reached properly because there are big breaches on the National Highways. Even today most of the affected places are unapproachable and there are number of breaches on the roads. Even for me it has taken 20 days to reach the main land. Therefore, the National Highways and the other road systems must be repaired and improved immediately, specially on the coastal areas. I have been insisting the Government to construct the coastal road between Thada and Itchapuram and this road construction should be taken up right-earnest and if necessary it should be taken up on war-footing basis. It will definitely help the affected areas in a very big way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already spoken for 10 minutes.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Before concluding, I would like to impress upon the Government at Andhra Pradesh inherited a crippled economy. Secondly, the severe power out put halt to the progress of industrial growth. On both these counts it

requires much more help in this hour of need. Therefore, on these counts the Government should think in a big way and come forward with big financial assistance that would definitely help relieve the distress of the people of Andhra Pradesh now.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Andhra Pradesh was the worth hit from the cyclone that developed in the Bay of Bengal on the 2nd May. It paralysed the life in Andhra Pradesh and caused massive devastation. Similarly, the coastal areas of Bengal also suffered heavy loss due to this cyclone. These areas of Bengal and its bordering areas in Bihar did not receive any central assistance. Due to this cyclone, the districts of Dumka, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakurn Bihar received heavy rainfall. All the Kuchha houses were collapsed in the heavy rain. They are living under open sky in this hot season. The Central Government has taken no steps to mitigate their hardships.

I hail from Bihar. Bihar is the worst sufferer of floods. People are facing a lot of difficulties after this cyclone. Epidemic breaks out after floods. I would like to request you that the central assistance should be given to Bihar, West Bengal, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu to the extent possible. Farmers in these states should be given loans as their crops have been destroyed. Side-by-side, preventive measures should also be taken to check spread of disease as also drinking water should be provided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Drinking water has to be provided by State Government, not by the Central Government.

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: I would like to reiterate that the maximum assistance should be provided to the cyclone-hit states to compensate the economic loss suffered by them.

[English]

18.09 hrs.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that lashed the eastern region specially Andhra Pradesh is like a Pralaya. It is perhaps the worst in the cyclone history of India. I am telling this because I come from the State where cyclone invariably comes in the cyclic order in every three years and never the speed of the wind was less than 240 kilometres. So, what do 240 kilometres mean? Those who have been in the midst of cyclone would have felt it. So, sir, the cyclone as it has been stated has become something different. If you see the history of cyclone in the 19th century, in the 18th century and in this century, you will see that it is more frequent now. Never before, it was like this. Something has happened to the natural process. Therefore, cyclone has become almost a regular thing in this country. A lot of damage has been caused in Andhra Pradesh. It is beyond the powers of any State Government to meet the situation. The people should be maintained till the next crop is nurtured. The fertile lands of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh are inundated by Saline waters. That land will remain unproductive and will not be fit for cultivation for five years and drinking water will not be available. I am speaking from my experience in Orissa. So, the Government should do something to maintain the people till the next crop is raised. The second thing is that they should do something for the land so that it is cultivated and rural people raise their crops. It requires a high cost. No State Government can meet the situation. The Prime Minister himself has said: if it is not a national calamity, then what will be national calamity? If you treat something as a national calamity, is it the responsibility of the State Government alone? The Government of India has released only Rs. 32 crores out of the Finance Commission's grant for natural calamity. Will it be sufficient to meet the situation? Therefore, in such cases where such devastation takes place and human misery comes to this position, it should be first the responsibility of

the Central Government to come forward with help. It should not behave in a way that some other Government is there and our Government is different. Such a tradition has been created in this country. The national calamity should be treated as national calamity involving all the national parties. My submission is to lessen the difficulties of the people of Andhra Pradesh, it is the primary responsibility of the Government of India to treat it as a national calamity and help the Andhra Pradesh Government because the resources of the State Government are not enough to meet the requirements.

In Orissa also, we are apprehending cyclone every three years. The speed of the wind that had hit the Andhra coast indicated something. When a low pressure comes, we should see whether the speed of the wind can be checked. Similar methods are being applied in America. Again and again, cyclone is destroying the eastern coast and makes the life miserable there. So, the Government of India should think about preventing it by limiting the speed of the wind so that the damage is reduced. For that purpose, the new methods which are applied in the America and other countries should be tried here also. To check this, a coastal road cum embankment is necessary. When thousands of people died in Orissa, Shri Biju Patnaik who was the then Planning Board Chairman, employed a commission under the leadership of Dr. Khosla, a renowned engineer. He said that this can be checked, if there is a highway on the coastline. It should start from Haldia to Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu on Eastern coast. This permanent measure should be taken to tackle cyclone. It is high-time to take action when the damage occurred due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh is staggering. The Government has estimated the loss to one thousand crores of rupees. To check such an extent of damage, preventive measures should be taken.

Another point is, there should be a green belt and in the cyclone areas, intensive warnings are to be given. It is because of the warnings that the lives could be saved. In

Andhra, in the earlier cyclone in 1977 10,000 people died. This year only 1,000 people died and many lives could be saved. Therefore, warning should be more intensive and it should be done frequently. Advance warning signal radars should be installed and shelters should be made in a big way. It is not the duty of the Government to do it. It is not only Andhra Pradesh but Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Orissa and West Bengal should be taken care of so that further devastation does not come every year and destroy our national economy.

With this, I submit that while taking permanent measures to tackle cyclone, the Government must come forth with declaring it as a national calamity and taking the responsibility of mitigating the sufferings of the people of Andhra Pradesh, maintaining those who have suffered till the next crop comes and also helping them in every possible way so that they produce and live with dignity.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I endorse every word, every suggestion that has been made by all the hon. Members today and their speeches have been very constructive. I thank you for advising us to place the ideas before the House instead of simply repeating what we have seen about the devastation that has been caused by the cyclone.

Now I am glad that my hon. friend from Orissa has raised it to this level that it is a cyclone from one end to the other on the East coast and it has to be looked at that way. I am very glad that this time, the Government here at the Centre as well as at the State have risen to the occasion and have seen that the Prime Minister here and the Chief Minister their and their leaders of the parties *they represent, to go there on the spot and see all the sufferings of the people and have come back.* So have our Members of Parliament also. I may just add to what they have already observed. I wish to express my admiration for the heroic efforts that are being made by those lakhs of Harijans, weavers, backward class people and the Kisans to meet the challenge of this disaster

and to go on reconstructing their own social economy and crop economy also by their own efforts without having to wait for some kind of aid coming from the Heavens.

having said that, I would like to say that it is necessary for the Government, in view of the fact that these cyclones are periodical visitation, to think terms of working out a regular policy—not for prevention of cyclone but—for the prevention of the extent of damage that can be caused and that is being caused by the cyclone. Therefore, they should ask the experts to study the various ways and means by which they can prevent the extent of damage that would be caused by cyclone. Other countries like America have had this experience. But then, their standard of living is much higher. But to involve their experience may also be useful in our country. Let the Government make some efforts in that direction.

According to the latest statement made by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Chenna Reddy, thousands of crores rupees worth of damage has been done and more than Rs. 1,000 cores would be needed in order to provide protectives steps. From where this money would come? All of a sudden, you cannot find it. The suggestion have been making over a number of years is that there should be a permanent Natural Calamities Protection Fund established here at the Centre to which the Government of India would be making annual grants and then at the State level also for these affected States especially. There is drought also in various areas, especially Rajasthan. There also they should have a world sponsored fund. Some years ago, there was talk of establishing such a Fund at the World Food Organisations. I would like the Government of India to support it and strengthen it. At that time, unfortunately our Government was unwilling to become partner in it nor did it care to take the initiative for fear of political interference possibly coming in the way of making these grants and also distribution and so on like that. But now the time is ripe for organisation like that at world level, then at the State level and at the national level.

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Every year, certain percentage of the national revenue should be contributed. Unless we have some such financial equipment, it would not be possible for the Government to go to the rescue of the sufferers.

Then there is the question of credit. My hon. friend Shri K.S. Rao has already referred to it. There is the credit which is needed by the farmers and which has already been supplied to the farmers but which cannot be repaid at all. The long-term credit which has been supplied to the farmers for which instalments have got to be paid, those instalments have got to be written off. For two years thereafter, the capacity of the farmers would not be there to repay these things. Similarly, taxes also. Land revenue, for instance, has to be written off. So many other things have to be done.

I would like my hon. friend the Minister in charge of it, to get a regular summary of the speeches and suggestions made here and also in the other House and let their officers give them the necessary advice in detail as to how much help has to be rendered to the State Government. This time, I must congratulate the Central Government for dismissing the earlier delaying procedures and for advancing money to the State Government and also for sending Study Groups so on. But that it is not enough. Whatever advance they have given today is not at all enough. 20 times such advance has to be given. Wherefrom is another matter. The help of insurance companies has to be invoked. Banks have got to be also pressed into service.

Having said all this, what is it that they can do? At least now, as I have said, they should express their gratitude to the weavers, to the Harijans, to the backward class people and to the helpless people, for having risen to help themselves and making their heroic effort in order to withstand the shock of this terrible calamity and then prove themselves heroic as befitting Indian citizens.

SHRI A.N. SINGHDEO (Aska): Sir, I will not take much time as the matter has been discussed thoroughly. But I want to just point out that though the cyclone has vastly devastated the Andhra State yet a portion of Orissa has been very badly affected, that is, the Ganjam District of Orissa. Unfortunately, the Government has not taken any note of it and no team has been sent to the Ganjam District. From the last assessment which I got from the Collector of the Ganjam District, the damage to crops, the Government buildings, roads, private buildings etc., comes to nearly Rs. 20 crores in only a portion of the district which has affected. While considering this cyclone which has taken place in Andhra, the bordering district of Orissa, that is, the damage done to the Ganjam District, must also be taken into consideration and sufficient help must be given to the Government of Orissa for relief measures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out a few matters which need immediate attention. As you know, our friends have already described how the Eastern Coast is prone to cyclonic conditions. The worst cyclonic condition that we have seen is in Andhra and in Orissa. There was a time in Orissa in 1971, when the cyclone took about 15,000 lives. If you cannot prevent a cyclone, at least, you should take some measures so that the brunt of the cyclone is lessened. Out of the many suggestions that were given and mooted in those days, one was that every village should you should take have a raised platform to provide a shelter to the cyclone hit and flood hit people. And whenever there is some measures so that the brunt of the cyclone or flood, the villagers should be evacuated to take shelter in those places. But, unfortunately, nothing has been done. As my hon. friend as said, it is never possible for any State Government to take these measures. It is time when the Central Government starts planning in a proper manner to prevent this devastation of cyclone and at the same time to come to the help of the State Governments.

There is another aspect which we have not taken into consideration that is about the

crop damage. When there is a cyclone, the town people, the rich people are not affected. It is only the poor class, the Harijan class and people living in villages who are affected and especially the farmer class. If we have a permanent corp insurance scheme and when there is a cyclone or a flood, if they are paid compensation from the insurance scheme that will go in a great measure to help these people. Second thing is, the Central Government had started a scheme an year back known as fire proection scheme for giving insurance compensation to fire affected villages. Unfortunately, it has not been working successfully and in our State not a single pie has been paid under this scheme. But the scheme is there. I would request the Central Government to extend this fire insurance scheme also to cyclone and flood affected areas so that whenever any village or a house is washed away or blown out, the poor people should be able to immediately obtain this compensation from this similar scheme like the fire insurance scheme. Therefore, these measures must be taken up immediately. Otherwise you never know when and at which place the cyclone will hit next year—it may be Tamil Nadu; it may be Orissa; it may be West Bengal or it may be Andhra. The whole Eastern Coast is prone to cyclone.

With these suggestions, I would again request the Government to take into consideration the flood damage that has been done to the Ganjam District and provide necessary help.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the extent of loss to human lives animals birds as well as property in the State of Andhra Pradesh can well be gauged by the detailed report on the cyclone presented to this House by the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Nitish Kumar recently. In this regard, I take this opportunity in expressing my heart-felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. I earnestly request the Central Government to offer more liberal assistance both in cash and kind to the affected people of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu,

Orissa as well as of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The prompt of the cyclone affected areas in Andhra Pradesh by the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Rajiv Gandhi are praise worthy.

We have observed from past experiences that owing to the geographic nature of the coast line of Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and even West Bengal, these states have became highly cyclone prone. Hence it is worth while seriously explore the idea of providing more cyclone shelters or circular shaped buildings which are more cyclone resistant. These should be put up all along the coast line of the Bay of Bengal.

Further a long term plan must be implemented to repair the drainage system and protect the people, in the general sense, living along the one thousand kilometre coast line of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

It is reliably learnt that the United States has given 25 thousand US Dollars to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to assist the victims of cyclone hit districts of Andhra Pradesh. This is according to the United States Information Service release. I highly commend this exemplary humanitarian gesture. I also take this opportunity to appeal to all corners of the world for rendering immediate liberal assistance to all the cyclone affected victims of Pondicherry, the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

In Orissa State, I wish to furnish details of damages to life and property reported in the *Economic Times*, dated the 24th May 1990. I quote:

"Irrigation projects, roads and buildings suffered serious damages in the recent rains that lashed Orissa's Ganjam District and the resultant floods with the loss estimated at about Rs. 20 crores, according to a preliminary official estimate." 756 houses were completely razed in 419 villages while 7965 houses were partially damaged. One person was killed when an electric



[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

pole fell on him. The high floods had badly hit several villages under Bhis-magiri Panchayat of Digapahandi Block of the district. The rivers which wrought havoc were the Rushikulya, Godahad, Vamsadhara, Ramnadi and its tributaries. The estimates showed that the Ghodahad medium irrigation project sustained damage as the swollen waters overtopped the reservoir while the canals breached the embankments at several points. Several hundreds acres of paddy land was sandcast by Ramnadi in Digapahandi Block. The sources said that the floods played havoc in the riverin villages in Palakhemundi subdivision entering 50 villages in Parlakhemundi and Kasinagar blocks."

"The flood waters, which crossed the red mark at Kasinagar, entered into low lying areas of the town, demolishing several hundred mud houses of poor Harijans.

According to information reaching here, at least 500 minor irrigation projects suffered heavy damages on the eve of paddy sowing season. Many of the irrigation tanks were breached in Digapahandi, Sankehmandi, Chikiti and Chatrapur blocks.

Although the Bhalluabhai minor irrigation project had not suffered any major damage, its four km long canals were breached at several points and about one dozen structures had collapsed."

Sir, I have taken the valuable time of this august House particularly to apprise the hon. Minister of state for Agriculture present here of the full details. Last week, when I had a personal discussion with the hon. Minister to request him for rendering immediate assistance to the flood-affected victims of Ganjam District of Orissa State, I was perplexed to know that the official report from the Government of Orissa had not yet reached

the Centre, to enable the later it render speedy assistance to the flood-affected victims of Ganjam.

In this regard, I have written twice to taken up with the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa as well as the District Collector of Ganjam to expedite the essential official report to the Centre.

In keeping with the decision of my party leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for donation of one months' salary

by all Congress(I) MPs for cyclone relief to Andhra Pradesh, I am pleased to donate in my own small way my one months' salary for the flood-affected victims of Ganjam district to which I belong.

I take this opportunity once again in earnestly appealing to the Central Government to offer its maximum assistance, both in cash and kind, to the cyclone victims of Ganjam District in this hour of calamity.

SHRIA. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat):  
Sir, regarding the natural calamity, which had taken place in Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Members have already discussed the details and the velocity of the problems faced by the farmers and people.

I would also like to point out some of the difficulties faced by the people of Andhra Pradesh. As a person from Kerala, we have acute shortage of rice. Only one-third of the required quantity of rice is produced in Kerala and we are always collecting it from Andhra Pradesh. If there is no rain in Andhra Pradesh, then the Keralites will always pray for rain in Andhra Pradesh because if there will be rain in that state then only will we get rice. This time, after hearing about this calamity we are quite afraid about the situation in our State. So, while discussing this thing, I would like to recall something about the defects in relief. Even though we had enough idea before-hand regarding the natural calamity, which was going to take place, there were reports that there was adequate relief

measures during the first three days of the natural calamity. Why was the state of affairs? In the first three days, the position was very bad. So, many villages had lost connection with the other places. I have read in the newspapers that due to the effective system of relief measures, there was an increase in the price of rice up to Rs. 12 and in the case of kerosene, it was up to Rs 8.

Regarding relief measures taken by the Government, they have given 12 points, but allotment of Kerosene was not included in it. We should have anticipated that electrical connection and distribution system will be affected due to cyclones. There should be kerosene available to the affected people. The required quota of kerosene was not given. The statistical figures show that from 1979-90, there were about 175 cyclones with different intensity and damaging the coastal areas. This means that this is a regular process in this area. So, some permanent measures should be taken in this regard would like to point out the bad drainage system in the Godavari region. Godavari is the main area of rice production in the whole country. The drainage system in Godavari region was planned before 200 years ago. At the time of floods and cyclones, the saline sea water enters the cultivated area. The sea is not accepting that much water, it is resulting in floods. Due to the inadequate drainage system in that area, there are many hardships faced by the people. So, there should be proper and adequate drainage system in this area. The drainage system of this area should be improved.

I would like to say something about the housing pattern in this area. In advanced countries like Japan, there are frequent earthquakes. The mechanism that they have been using should be introduced here. The housing pattern should be in such a way to tackle the cyclones successfully. We should think over and improve our housing pattern to meet the calamity and HUDCO should take the initiatives in this regard. Necessary help should be given to the affected people. Shri K.S. Rao has rightly pointed out about the allocation of rice to the people. At least 50

kg. of rice should be given to each family which is affected and only then, they can survive till they get some job. Regarding financial assistance, we are giving Rs. 100/- but we should give them the utensils also. Regarding the waiver of loans, the Central Government has announced that an amount up to Rs. 10000/- is to be waived for 1988-89. But for Andhra Pradesh, the loan waiver for 1988-89 also should be considered by the Government. About the handloom weavers, we have to give them the looms and as per the announcement of the Government, we are giving them only Rs. 100. Our fishermen have lost their boats and nets. So, proper help should be given by the Central Government so that they can get back their nets and other things for their livelihood. As far as cyclone shelters are concerned, we have already some cyclone shelters. But we should calculate the population of each and every village of the area and according to that, a new system should be introduced to tackle the cyclone. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has come with a new proposal regarding the permanent measures in this regard. It is regarding the World Bank loan. I have some reservations in this regard. In his connection, there should be proper evaluation and consultation as we are going to the World Bank to get huge financial assistance. The welcoming part as far as the issue of cyclone is concerned is that there is no dirty linen washing among the leaders of the various political parties. We are thankful to the new system which has been introduced, namely, the calamity relief fund. I am thankful to the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister and all the concerned political parties. I am from Kerala and we have had bitter experience during the previous regime. When we had floods, one of the Central Minister, came and had an aerial visit of the floods. The people had anticipated that something will come from the Minister after his visit, but we have had a bitter experience. The Minister come back without any assurance to the people and did not announce any relief to the people. On the next day, one of the prominent newspapers came out with a column news on the relationship between the floods and the Minister. The paper said: The Minis-

[Sh. A. Vijayaraghavan]

ter was born on a day when there were floods; his father fell into the floods and the Minister was also swept away in the water. There was no assistance by the Government at that time.

But this time, our Prime Minister went to have an on-the-spot assessment of the cyclones. He announced Rs. 86 crores of help to the Government; without any formal request or memorandum, the Central Government has given Rs. 32 crores on the spot. I would congratulate the Government for this and request them to take further steps to assist the people.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone has brought misery to crores of people, yet there has been less damage and devastation this time because the scientists of our country forewarned it some two-three days in advance. I would, therefore, like to thank those scientists through you. Secondly, I would like to thank the Government too for its instant and timely assistance rendered to the affected people. Then, the hon. Members who come from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have given some very good suggestions here in the House. I would like to render two-three suggestions more rather than repeat the suggestions already given by them. The Government should keep in mind the suggestions that have been given here for a permanent solution to this problem. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture paid an immediate visit to the cyclone-hit areas and promised large scale assistance and relief measures there. Then our hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh and the State Finance Minister too met the hon. Prime Minister there. He promised every possible assistance to them. He was of view that more any more assistance in this case should come from the centre itself because this was a huge and difficult task and the State Governments could not do anything in

it because their finances are very limited and relief measures could not be taken up unless the Central Government comes forward. This is the view of Member of every party. I hope that the concerned hon. Minister will come forward to announce the promised central aid to meet the situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the loan waiver scheme of the Central Government, it has been said here that the Government is going to proceed with it. The Central Government should waive the co-operative loans as well. I mean to say that you should, at first waive the loans of the cyclone affected people of Andhra Pradesh, keeping in view the extent of loss they have suffered forthwith and further give them fresh loans so that they can earn a livelihood. Do not get bogged down in Centre-State wranglings, rather initiate relief measures expeditiously. Again, write off other loans, if any, of such people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole cyclone hit village remained inundated in water for 3-4 days altogether. Derooted trees lay flat across the roads but the surrounding villagers, who were themselves a poor and hungry lot, cleared the roads of all the obstacles against heavy odds and helped out the affected people. I would like to thank them all through this House. Without caring for their lives, they chopped the wood of the fallen trees and cleared off the roads for communication. Thus, I say that the rural people always come forward to the help of others despite being themselves in pain and misery. Such affected people will migrate to the cities and confront many odd problems if we fail to evolve a permanent solution to the problem. My submission is that credit should be given forthwith to such poor people as the agricultural labourers, weavers and fishermen as well. The loans they have drawn till should be written off and further advance loans given to them so as to make them able to earn a livelihood. Then, any extra loans given to them by the co-operative or other banks should be based on easy terms of conditions. The whole paddy produce of the

farmer has been damaged by getting drenched into water. I express my thanks to the Government of India for the relaxation they have given in purchasing this damaged produce. They have taken a timely action. But there is no further purchasing there. This is not a coastal area alone. It is very unfortunate that 60 lakh people in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh have been affected by this. Along with this, some of the paddy produce has been damaged due to the subsequent excessive rains in Telangana, Khammam, Warangal, Nalgounda, and Karimnagar and relaxation should be extended to these areas as well. It is very regretful that paddy has been sold at a price of Rs. 40 lesser than the support price at Karimnagar, which is my constituency and no mill and no trader is ready to buy it even at this price. The Food Corporation of India has opened up certain centres on the eve of the advent of Rabi season but the lower rung officials of the corporation are divesting the farmers in collusion with the traders. The Central Government or the hon. Minister is very sympathetic to us after much of pressure was exerted by us and so is the Food Corporation but lakhs of people are still suffering out of it in Telangana area. It has brought misery to 60 lakh people in this Delta area. In Telangana area too, the crop is selling at Rs. 40 less than the support price and it has inflicted heavy losses upon all the farmers. Co-operative loans should be extended forthwith without being languished in the debate entrusting the responsibility thereof either upon the Central or the State Government. Again, the Centre should write off the loans upto Rs. 10,000. I would like to speak for half a minute more. The seeds and the fertilizers should be distributed free of cost. As most of the land has been rendered unproductive due to the cyclone, the farmers should be given a 50% subsidy or as much as they need in the next season for the purpose of carrying out their farming. The farmers cannot cultivate anything in the coming seasons if this aid is not given now and this will affect their economic position very adversely in the next year as well. While bringing this to your notice, I take your leave.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I have given a list of a few Members who want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five speakers from your party have already spoken. You should have decided as to how to allot the time. I have been warning you from the morning.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is a very important subject so they want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time but please don't repeat the points. You have given me ten names which are to be adjusted in 40 minutes.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, please don't get angry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should understand the difficulties of others also. I can give you as much time as is possible but what is the point in repeating the whole thing. We are already sitting late.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is a very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why we extended the time from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. All right, you don't now waste the time.

Yes, Shri A. Venkata Reddy.

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware, there was a terrible loss of life and damage to property in Andhra Pradesh due to the recent cyclone. The State Government has taken very prompt action and saved a lot of lives. The agriculturists and the labour class were affected very badly and the State Government is doing very good things in order to help the victims and the needy people. The Prime Minister was pleased to

[Sh. A. Venkata Reddy]

visit the affected areas and announced some relief and the relief which was announced by the Prime Minister is not adequate. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is present in the House, and also the Prime Minister to grant more aid liberally, because, there is a heavy loss of life and property in the area. I hope and trust that the Central Government will do the needful in the matter.

I would also bring to your kind notice that in addition to cyclone affected areas, there are areas which are affected by droughts and famines. I am very glad that the State Government and the Central Government are taking prompt action as far as the areas which are affected by cyclone are concerned. As far as the areas which are affected by droughts and famines are concerned, the State Government and the Central Government are not taking them very seriously. Because, whenever any drought or famine occurs, the people suffer due to want of rain, drinking water and food. The people who suffer due to drought or famine are more than the people who suffer due to cyclone. Therefore, I would request the State Government and the Central Government to take prompt action and take permanent measures for the eradication of famine. I hope and trust that the State Government and the Central Government will do the needful in the matter.

In Andhra Pradesh, there is a Rayalseema region which consists of Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddappa and so on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anantapur district is not a cyclone affected district.

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY: They are backward districts. The condition of the agriculturists and labour class is very poor and they are becoming still poor. The rainfall in the Anantapur district is very low. It receives second lowest rainfall in India. Anantapur district is suffering because of famine. Because of vagaries of monsoon, people

are suffering. They are not getting drinking water because of want of rain. The geologists have also made a survey of Anantapur. They have said that the Anantapur district is going to become a desert very shortly and unless the Government takes a keen interest to save the district from becoming a desert it is bound to become a desert. To save the district of Anantapur from becoming a desert, I request the Central Government to constitute Anantapur District Prone Area Authority as was done in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat what other speakers have already told.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that East Coast has become a regular victim of cyclones for the last two decades at least. In this Coast, where afforestation was there, had been totally depleted. So, through you, I would request the Government to have a green belt of at least one kilometre on the shore line from Rameshwaram to Haldia and this green belt should be strengthened by a *bund* for the same length.

19.00 hrs.

In a cyclone, as you know, the tidal force spoils agricultural land totally, and the farmers do not get crops for ten years; the salinity of the land increases and so, life becomes a problem there.

Similarly the power supply system usually breaks down when cyclone is there. So, I request Government that in this cyclone-prone belt, instead of cables which are erected on poles, it would be better—and I think it would be permanent solution—if underground cables are laid throughout the region.

I thank the Prime Minister who has shown his concern by visiting the cyclone-prone areas twice; but, unfortunately, after the Prime Minister's visit and the Chief Min-

ister expressed concern over the tragedy of the people, reports have come in the media that the benefits of the relief measures which were to be taken, are not reaching the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we will sit for half-an-hour more.

SHRIBAL GOPAL MISHRA: Some anti-social elements, village touts are taking advantage of the situation—which usually takes place in such a crisis. So, the Central Government should supervise things, and request the State Governments to take stern measures against these anti-social elements, so that the relief reaches the needy people.

In 1982-83, Orissa had a severe flood, and got relief to the tune of Rs. 360 crores, out of which hardly Rs. 100 crores were spent in Orissa, and the remaining Rs. 260 crores were misutilized and misappropriated by certain vested interests.

Lastly, I would inform the Government that during this Andhra cyclone, Ganjam district in Orissa was very badly affected, and the loss—according to information from the Collector of Ganjam district—is more than Rs. 50 crores. The neighbouring district of Koraput was also affected by a flash-flood, in which the communication system of Koraput district was totally disrupted. So, I take this opportunity to request Government that a Central team should also be sent to Koraput and Ganjam, to assess the loss and to give aid to those people, because a part of Orissa has also been a victim of chronic drought in 1987 and 1988, and again in 1990 when it has been hit by a cyclone. So, the economic condition of the farmers is pitiable. They are worse than beggars. Government of India should take note of this, and help these people.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM (Tenali): I represent the Tenali parliamentary constituency which was directly hit by the cyclone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should have spoken first.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: It started in Edirumandi, which is in my constituency. I would also like to bring to the notice of the House that 10,000 people died in 1977 in Devisema which is also in my constituency. Though I am the first man to be affected by the cyclone, perhaps today I may be the last man to speak on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may take as much time as you want, if you raise new points.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: Any how, our friends, had suggested several measures. I will not repeat all those things. So far as devastation is concerned, it is a well known fact, and the entire country has taken note of it, and the Prime Minister has rightly described it as a national calamity. I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for having visited the affected areas and sharing the suffering of the people. But I would have been more happy if the leaders of the other political parties had also visited the affected areas. But I am sorry to say that during the present discussion of such a serious subject, all the front benches are vacant, except the Congress benches, where our leader Mr. N.G. Ranga is sitting. When this is the situation, what will be our feelings?

I am not taking it as an objection, but it would have been more appropriate if more Members had been present. A calamity like this is a recurring menace to the entire eastern coast.

In the circumstances, I would like to appeal to all the Indian scientists to take this as a challenge. (*Interruptions*) I have already thanked the Prime Minister and other leaders who visited the affected areas. I appeal to the Indian scientists to take this as a challenge and see that, to minimise the devastation that may be caused to the sea coast, whenever there is a cyclone, they can create artificial depression somewhere else

[Sh. Basavapunnaiiah Singam]

so that the cyclone can be diverted. They can dilute the intensity of the cyclone also. Everything may be impossible to do, but after research the scientists may find some way out how to minimise the intensity of the cyclone.

In a calamity like this, normal allotment of the funds is not sufficient. In these circumstances, I have rightly observed that only in the rural areas the sea coast people are being affected by the cyclone. But there are rich people living in the cities like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi. The income tax assesses are there. So, I suggest to the Government of India to levy surcharge particularly for cyclone. They can keep this amount in reserve fund. Whenever there is a cyclone, they can take this amount and immediately come to the rescue of the people affected. Nothing is going to be affected now and then. Particularly in my constituency as well as the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh, every district was affected by the cyclone. You know it very well that the cyclone will be followed by heavy rains. Due to heavy rains, there is flood in every areas. More damage is being caused by the flood, particularly in Krishna and Godavari Divisions, delta areas, which are the greenery of India they are being affected by these floods. It is a cultivation area for the last 100 years. But the drainage system was not attended to by the Government. So, the Central Government should take special interest and see that the drainage system is repaired and restored to the vulnerable position.

Several friends have spoken about the measures to be taken. I suggest to the Government that the House Committee may be deputed to visit the affected areas. In Orissa, Madras and Bangalore, where there is recurrence of this menace, they can study it and suggest to the Government what are the measures to be taken up by the Government. It may be more appropriate particularly in the eastern coast in Andhra Pradesh.

There is a proposal pending with the

Government of India that a Highway from Ichapuram to Toda should be constructed. It is a motorable road. Whenever there is a calamity, it is difficult to approach the people because of lack of communications. If this road is constructed, then there will be no difficulty to approach the people in case of crisis. That proposal is pending with the Government of India; and the Government of India has to take immediate steps to sanction this project and see that this road is constructed.

The Government of India should maintain permanent helipads in same places. That was our experience. Ahalipad was not there in the sea coast. That is why a helicopter couldn't go far away and drop the food packets. So, I suggest to the Government of India to construct a permanent helipad in the coastal area so that it becomes easy to help the people in case of crisis.

I also request that the Government may announce immediate relief for the farmers which were badly hit by the cyclone. They have to commence their agriculture in the month of June, which is the next month. Instead of waiting to find out whether they are wilful defaulters or not, the previous loan may be written off and the new loan may be granted again. The Government should come to rescue of the farmers.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Surcharge on income tax was your new point.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker I would not repeat the points which the hon. members have already mentioned, but to two or three points, I wish to invite the attention of the Government. One is that the yard-stick of giving Rs. 25,000/- per family has been reduced to Rs. 15,000/-. Since the Prime Minister was kind enough to give Rs. 2 crores they are adding that sum of Rs. 10,000/- to this Rs. 15,000/- and are saying that is Rs. 25,000/-.

I respectfully submit to you that the Government should not have any differentiation between a person who dies in Delhi and a person who dies in Punjab. All these people who have been affected by the cyclone, have lost their crop, their houses and they have actually lost everything. They are all now in relief camps and their number is about six lakhs and odd. So, it is not as if we are asking for lakhs and lakhs; even if the Government gives proper assistance on par with the other persons then I think the State and the Central Governments would be doing justice. That is one point I want to mention.

Secondly, the hon. Prime Minister was pleased to say on the 18th May that this is a national calamity and that it must be treated as such. I would invite attention to the report of the Seventh Finance Commission which said,

"Where a calamity is of a rare severity the Central Government should extend assistance to the State concerned even beyond the schemes suggested by the Commission."

Now, earlier it was the margin money and advance loan of 5 percent that was only being given and a sum of Rs. 240 crores was yearly given. The Ninth Finance Commission had said that, notwithstanding this, Rs. 86 crores should only be given. That was the figure arrived at for the last ten years which was being given by the Central Government to the State Government. This is a strange way of deciding things because in the years 1979, 1980 and up to 1988 the Central Government was giving, for all the calamities like floods, droughts and everything. These years the Rs. 6,140 crores but tender gave only Rs. 900 crores upto 1989-90. So in that context, for floods the average that they have given all those ten years was fixed at Rs. 86 cores, notwithstanding or not taking into consideration the demands made by the State Governments for the calamities. All these ten years they have been giving according to the recommendation made by various Finance Commission; but it is fantastic and it is not according to principles of natural

justice. Nor is it according to the demand made by the Seventh Finance Commission.

AN HON. MEMBER: That recommendation was by a Congressman.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Yes, the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission is also by a Congressman. You need not be very anxious about it.

So, I request that the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission be taken into consideration.

The other side which I wish to bring to the notice if the Central Government is about the Railways and the highways. They have been badly damaged. It would cost about Rs. 98.33 crores to repair the national highway and the Central Government will have to provide the money, and also expedite the repairs. So also, about the Railways, it is estimated that daily the Railways are suffering a loss of Rs. 40 lakhs because the iron ore is not being brought to Visakhapatnam port as the embankment of 30 to 40 kilometres has collapsed and four bridges also have been damaged. Therefore, the Eastern Railway is not at all able to run the trains and from the southern side from Vijayawada up to Waltair the trains services are disrupted. Unless these railways lines and the National Highways are restored and for that also money is given by the Central Government movement of the traffic both the road and rail, and normalcy cannot be restored. The movement of the supply of rice also has been disrupted. The Central Government should give money and help the State Government in restoring the communications on a war footing.

My fourth point is, what Shri Murli Deora has already said. In 1977 I was a Minister for Revenue when cyclone came. I had been to Maharashtra and met the Chief Minister and also several industrialists. They wanted only exemption under Section 80G or other relevant sections of the Income-tax Act. Many voluntary organisations are there to give clothes, utensils and zinc sheets for housing



[Sh. P. Narsa Reddy]

in Gujarat and Maharashtra. During the last cyclone, they had given crores worth of material. So, free arrangement of goods through railways or by planes must be made for the donated articles. Income-tax exemption also will draw more funds which will go a long way in helping the affected people.

The hon. Minister has mentioned that he has arranged 15,000 tonnes of phosphate fertilisers. We are thankful to him. But the Minister has not shown in his note about the land damaged. Twenty thousand hectares of land had become saline. The Relief Commissioner has requested the Central Government to provide gypsum, apart from phosphate fertiliser, to cure salinity. The Central Government must provide gypsum in a larger way.

The other point which the hon. Minister has not shown is that 55,000 hectares of garden land had been damaged. Thirty-three thousand hectares of mango gardens nine thousand hectares of banana land, and six thousand hectares of lime garden which are uninsured crops. Normally the landholders lease them to the poor people. These poor people have suffered. If there is any provision under the General Insurance Act, then we can help these poor people.

Forty-two crores of rupees worth of damage had been caused to the irrigation canals. One-third of the cost must be borne by the Central Government and two-thirds must be borne by the State Government. The Central Government should come forward to bear the one-third cost.

Lastly, there is an acute shortage of power. We have got two thermal stations. For Kottagudem thermal station, coal allocation is 2.8 lakh tonnes and for Vijayawada, it is 2.70 lakh tonnes. This is the allocated supply by the Central Government. The requirement for full generation in regard to Kottagudem thermal station is 3.6 lakh tonnes and for Vijayawada it is 4.0 lakh tonnes. Therefore, there is a shortfall of about 2.2

lakh tonnes. So, special arrangements should be made to provide this from Singareni Collieries or Talcher in Orissa. My hon. friend Mr. Choudhary asked the Central Government to provide this. The Central Government must immediately supply coal so that the power shortage caused due to this cyclone could be to some extent redeemed.

DR. VISWANATHAM (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will take only a few minutes.

Floods and cyclones go together. Here, prevention is better than cure. Unless you have a measure which links all the rivers, especially in the cyclone prone area, even God cannot help it. Suppose cyclone affects one area, the other area can take the flood water and reduce the havoc. In this regard, our scientists have given us their ideas much earlier. But nothing has been done so far. I hope the present Government will look into the matter and act very quickly. The present Government has given us to understand that village development will be their priority. About fifty per cent of the revenue is being allotted. Now it is an opportunity for them to develop Andhra Pradesh area. Agriculture and employment, village development, and reconstruction of collapsed houses in the villages, all these can be taken afresh. Instead of having small hamlets on the river or sea shore, you can make large cluster of houses at centrally located places. They can be viable colonies with 500 or more houses where everything can be provided easily especially roads and other facility systems. There you can construct three-tier houses on columns which can stand both the floods and the tidal waves. Suppose, you have two to three tier system. In case of cyclone, people need not go to far away villages but they can simply go from one tier to the other tier and save their lives. If these measures are taken on a war footing and with innovative new methods, I think, repeated spending of non-productive expenditure can be minimised.

In addition, the farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers are affected.

The credit of Rs. 10000 is taken only by a few people. But other people, who are of the same status, are not given the loan due to paucity of funds. Now the Government must look into the matter afresh and those eligible farmers must be given extra loan relief of Rs. 10,000 for clear their private loan and save them from this peril. So, I request the Government through you to review this loaning relief system along with those people whose loans have been wiped out, other people who have not taken the loan, must also be given Rs. 10,000 and while treating them on par with the beneficiaries.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN (Bapatla): While thanking the Government for the timely assistance, the way the damage was caused, it can be divided into four categories.

First is, steam boats to a great extent, were washed away. And prawn plantations were completely damaged in one constituency. In other constituency plantation of mango, paddy and also rice mills were blown away to a great extent. In the third constituency, tobacco of burly quality of millions of kgs. was completely drenched. For these three items, there is not other way except that the Central Government make a survey and take necessary action. In the fourth constituency, the industries were also washed away. And several educational institutions which were to open from 16th also washed away. So the UGC must have to come forward with assistance. I do not know to what extent they have taken action so far. I request the Government and the UGC to come forward in a great measure to help these areas.

Government has come forward with one thing and that is right to work. By this providential manner, the projects were opened where there is lot of work for the workers. I request the Central Government to come forward to provide the work.

[Translation]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all feel pained

due to the large scale devastation inflicted by the cyclone and other natural calamities upon our countrymen. I would like to make one thing clear about it, at the very outset, that there is need to make certain changes in the Relief Code. We are having an obsolete Relief Code formulated far back and no amendment has been made in it subsequently. The farmer living in rural villages, the backbone of our country, have to suffer many losses today. We do not provide them relief and assistance when they fall a victim to the natural calamities. Therefore, I request you to change the Relief Code and make a provision therein for providing more and more assistance at such times.

Secondly, I would like to say that the surveys conducted in these areas do not prove helpful in channelising the aid and assistance to the people really affected by the calamity. The people affected by the calamities barely become the beneficiaries to the loans and assistance provided by the Government. I would, therefore, request that the Government of India should depute a fact-finding team to the affected areas that can conduct survey for 10-15 days of its stay there and submit the report.

Thirdly, I would like to say that the grant-in-aid extended by our Government in the shape of loans and other assistance at the time of these calamities is not adequate. That should be enhanced in order to provide prompt assistance to the suffering people and share their agony and apathy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that a drastic cut in the income of the country's farmers is being made in the name of the Crop Insurance. The amount of Crop Insurance is deducted from the amount of loan extended to the farmer, but when his crop gets destroyed or washed away, his claim is nullified by the Government by simply denying having received any money from the farmer in the name of crop insurance. May be the farmer's money does not get deposited in the bank due to the involvement of the Cooperative Bank in the process. But I submit that the crop insurance scheme

[Sh. Dasai Chowdhary]

should necessarily be enforced and compensation provided to the cyclone affected people for the damage caused to their crops. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost all the points and aspects have been dealt with but one point remains to be covered as yet. Floods or draught and cyclones are a regular and recurrent phenomenon of our country. The relief manual is an outdated one. There are inadequate resources available in our area to meet the eventuality of providing prompt and timely relief. I would like to request the hon. Minister to bring about amendments in the relief manual so that adequate, instantaneous relief and assistance can be expended to the flood, draught and cyclone hit people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Sir, the time of the House can be extended until you conclude your speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One point which I would like to make is that the debate has been quite pointed. Many good points have been made. I think you may please look into the suggestions which have been made and act appropriately.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech in just 15 minutes. I would, at the outset, like to thank, on behalf of the Government all the hon. Members who participated in this debate. The healthiest part of the debate was the constructive suggestions were rendered by the hon. Members in this hour of national calamity rising above their party politics to a humanitarian platform. I had given a detailed description of the loss

and damages caused due to the cyclone while making a statement on behalf of the Government in this House. The hon. Members who participated in today's debate also did not make any mention of the Government concealing the details of the damage caused. The House was informed about the details of devastations as received by the Central government. So far as relief measures in this hour misery are concerned, the Central Government has very aptly and progressively provided the assistance. Our hon. Prime Minister visited the area twice, first on 12th May and then on 19th. He made an aerial survey as also met the affected people in order to get acquainted to their misery by visiting the area by road.

Certain issues have been raised by hon. members. The Prime Minister issued several directions after returning from there. Those directions are being followed. The hon. members have raised a discussion besides those instructions. Most of it relates to relief. I am not referring to permanent solution in fact no member has suggested anything new which is not covered in the directions given by the Prime Minister. As far the question of declaring it a national calamity a similar demand was made in Andhra Pradesh. The same demand was also made when a statement was made in the House in this regard. This demand has been reilearable today also. The Government is considering it seriously. The people living in that region and the State Government have asked the hon. Prime Minister to consider it as a national calamity Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, you are aware that the Ninth Finance Commission made certain suggestions and recommendations and on the basis of those suggestions a calamity relief fund was established in 25 States. It was formed separately in every State having 75 per cent contribution of the Centre and 25 per cent contribution of the State concerned. In the past whenever there occurred a calamity there used to be great demand for Central help and considering this fact a calamity relief fund has been established in the States. As per the Ninth Finance Commission a fund of Rs. 86 crores has been earmarked for

Andhra Pradesh. The total amount of relief fund for 25 States is Rs. 804 crores. When the Prime Minister paid his visit to that State for the first time he announced that for the year 1990-91, Rs. 86 crores have been kept in the calamity Relief Fund of Andhra Pradesh. The Central Government have to pay Rs. 64 crores and Rs. 501 lakh in four quarterly instalments, but keeping in view the effect of the storm half the amount of Rs. 64 crores and Rs. 50 lakh that is Rs. 32 crores and Rs. 50 lakhs has been released. After this amount is spent the next installment would be provided by the Centre. It has not come to surface fully otherwise in normal circumstances only wage and means advance would have been given. I want to say something regarding Bihar. In the wake of hailstorm at that State the Prime Minister visited the area and gave an assurance that the necessary relief would be provided to them. A central team went to the State of Bihar on tour and on the basis of its report Rs. 54 lakhs was released as wage and means advance. If the Bihar Government need further assistance after spending this amount then additional assistance would be released out of calamity relief fund of Central Government.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, had asked all the Members not to repeat what the other Members have said. You are repeating the same thing which you have told in your statement. We want something more to be told now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am coming to that point. The Central Government took the matter very seriously and released the necessary amount. Now the question is this that the Ninth Finance Commission has stated that the Government can consider the matter if the sufferings are on a large scale and it should do that. The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister convened a meeting on 24th May in which the opinion of the concerned departments were sought. They were

consulted and the State Government's opinion is being sought regarding the requirements of Andhra Pradesh. Whatever stand is taken in the case of Andhra Pradesh, the same will hold good in case of other states also. As per the recommendations of the ninth finance Commission. As such, discussions are underway regarding the situations under which national calamity can be declared. It is not that government want to ignore it but from procedure point of view it is necessary. A detailed memorandum from the State Government in this regard has been called for. I would like to say that the State Government, people living in that region and the hon. members of the House have also made a demand, but no memorandum in this regard has been received from the State Government so far. Memorandum is also necessary for this. The centre can take action on that only. Ranga Sahab, you need not worry in this regard. It is no use to make any announcement, a serious initiative is underway in this respect. As such there is no reason to worry. The second thing that I wish to say is this that the Government has made a provision under HUDCO insurance in the event of loss to the houses in the event of outbreak of fire but not in the wake of flood or cyclone. Consequently it is not possible to get any kind of immediate benefit out of it but discussions regarding the courses of action to be adopted in the wake of such a situation are underway. The financial institutions like HUDCO, commercial banks or Housing banks have been advised to grant loans on liberal term for the repair of damaged houses and construction of new houses. The chairman of HUDCO has gone to Hyderabad to discuss the issue with the State Government. Instructions to build permanent houses in place of temporary ones have been given and the financial institutions should extend assistance in this regard.

Arrangements to provide seeds are also being made. The National Seed Corporation and other such agencies who supply authorised seeds have been asked about the availability of the seeds and to provide the variety of seed as per their requirement. Recently has been said that assistance

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should be given by the government for horticulture and contingency plan. The Central Government is prepared to formulate horticulture and contingency. It wants to extend help to them under this lay. The State Governments have been asked to prepare contingency plans and the Central Government would make all possible effort to implement the same and this has been communicated to them.

The hon. members had also mentioned about the procurement. They have asked that the damaged paddy and rice should be purchased on concessional rates. Eighty centres have been opened for this purpose and the purchase is being made. As per the latest information received by me before coming to the House, 4611 M.Tonnes of paddy and 7894 M.Tonnes of rice have been purchased till date. Rao sahab will say that this is less and we also do admit that it is less. The officers of our department are continuously monitoring it and are making efforts to create a healthy situation. Instructions to make the purchases without any delay on the basis of the relations has been given. The Government is alert about it.

Many members have said regarding the damages to roads and Railway tracks. In that context I would like to say that the disruption caused to the traffic on account of the damage to railway tracks between Samalkot and Vishakapatnam and you are also aware that the down line has been repaired. Repair of up line will be completed by 5th June. The track between Gollprolu and Ravitampattu section is expected to be set in order by 15th of June. Many members have raised the questions and I also want to say that whatever loss to electricity has been caused there, efforts are on to set it right. Loss in the production of electricity that has occurred due to short supply of coal in thermal plants is being set right as 5 to 6 rakes of coal is being supplied from Western Coal fields instead of 2 to 3 rakes being supplied earlier. The quantity of coal supply from Singereni Colliery Ltd was 25727 M. tonnes

on 18th May. It was been increased to 42042 M.Tonnes by 21st May and efforts are being made to maintain this pace with a view to ensure that power generation is not affected or least affected. The instructions that had been issued by the Prime Minister in respect of telephones have been complied with the and approximately 93% telephones have been set right. Out of the National highways that were damaged, traffic on National Highway No. 5 has been restored fully and rehabilitation work on National Highway No. 43, which was partially effected is in full swing and a sum of Rs. 50 lakh has been released for its restoration.

Many hon. members have expressed concern about the loans by the banks. I want to inform the House that hon. Prime Minister has issued directions and in compliance of those directions, R.B.I has issued instructions to all banks;

1. Recovery should be suspended.
2. The loans should be converted.
3. Re-scheduling may be done.

Banks will work according to these instructions and to review the progress of implementation of these schemes, regular meetings of the Banking Consultative Committee at State and district level will be held. This work will be carried out under the guidance of lead banks. In this regard, whatever directions have been issued by the Prime Minister shall be strictly enforced. One hon. Member mentioned about drinking water I want to inform that efforts are being made to improve it and as per the available information 739 water supply systems have been damaged and this includes 87 water supply schemes through pipes. To restore water supply immediately State Government have released Rs. 15 crores. 34 tankers have been put into Operation in the affected areas to supply water. In addition to this bullock carts are also being used for the supply of water. To assess the extent of loss to water supply system and the desired relief to the State Government the Additional Secretary

has gone on tour to Andhra Pradesh. He is to come back today. The Government is alert about the future course of action. Some hon. Members have raised a doing regarding Ganjam district in Orissa. We share the concern of the hon. members. However, no demand or report regarding damage has been received by us from Orissa Government. Still we want to inform this House that the manner in which a calamity relief fund of Rs. 86 crores has been provided or Andhra Pradesh, a similar relief fund of Rs. 47 crores has also been provided for Orissa also. In case the Orissa Government wants to make use of the relief fund they can do so and if they approach the Central Government then the centre can also consider releasing its share to Orissa Government. We have not received any such information from there. We have received some information regarding Pondicherry. There has been some damages to the horticultural especially the banana crop, more than hundred hectares of land has been affected and some cattle lives were also lost. Two causalities were also reported. According to the information received from Tamil Nadu, seven people lost their lives, but now this tool has risen to 13, but detailed information regarding the damages, is not available with the Central Government and as such it is not in a position to take any action at the Central level.

Many hon. Members have asked us as to what we propose to do regarding damages to poultry. In this regard, I would like to say that earlier the relief used to be provided at the rate of ten rupees per bird. We have given clear-cut instructions to the insurance agencies to provide assistance, without delay, to those who had taken insurance policies.

[English]

SHRI. K.S. RAO: But it must be done immediately, otherwise epidemic will come there.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: But I would like

to say that the Central Government has not yet received any information from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, regarding the assistance to the poultry sector. We have not received any such request from Andhra Pradesh in this regard. However, I would like to tell you that our Department of Agriculture and Co-operation has drawn up a contingency action plan at its own level, so that assistance could be provided, as soon as we receive a request from the State Government to this effect.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, he contradicts his own statement. He himself had stated in the statement that 32 lakhs of birds have died.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Rao Sahib, you are referring to the damages. I would like to tell you only this much that the Central Government has drawn up a contingency action plan in advance and we are giving weightage to each and every point. The State Government could have asked us for some assistance particularly for the poultry sector, but so far, we have not received any such request. So far as damages are concerned, as I had said earlier, we i.e. our Central team visited each and every area and made an assessment of the extent of damages to the houses, roads, railways and other assets. To save the precious time of the House, I do not want to repeat them. Keeping in mind the unanimity of the House in this regard. I would like to assure the hon. Members belonging to all the parties, who maintained the highest standard of decorum throughout the discussion on this issue, that the Central Government, with the active co-operation of the State Government and voluntary organisations working there, are putting in their best efforts to combat this calamity. It is but natural for the Members to come up with good suggestions during the discussions of such nature and it becomes the bounden duty of a sensitive Government to give due weightage to such issues and to accept good suggestions. Many sugges-

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tions have come up regarding a permanent solution to this problem and many of them are constructive. I once again appreciate the spirit with which the hon. Members have given these suggestions... (*Interruptions*). According to the information available with us, I would like to say that we are all feeling distressed and express our sympathy for all the cyclone affected people, whether they are in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Pondicherry or any other part of the country. The spirit with which the hon. Members took part in this discussion and the work being done by this Government and others, to provide relief and assistance to the cyclone-affected areas, despite our limited resources, is praise worthy. We sincerely hope that those affected by this grave calamity would be rehabilitated, as soon as possible and that they would start their life anew. With these words, I thank you and conclude... (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would your Department look into the long-term measures?

[*Translation*]

SHRINITISHKUMAR: Regarding long-term measures, I have already said that the Government has taken note of the suggestions given by the hon. Members and we are definitely going to take concrete and effective measures.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, irrespective of the party affiliations, the entire people of Andhra Pradesh have felt extremely happy when the hon. Prime Minister had visited the State on 11th and also on 19th. They have pinned great hopes when he mentioned that he was going to treat this as a national calamity and declare it the moment he reaches Delhi, after consulting the officials. Now, the entire description of the reply of the hon. Minister

indicates a total dilution of the statement of the Prime Minister in regard to his promise about the national calamity. He did not say even one word that the Government is going to declare it as a national calamity in a day or two or after 10 or 15 days. We are only interested in the implementation of the statement. So, we humbly request the Government once again not to make it diluted and request them to see that it is implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I do not agree with Shri Rao; as here there is no question of any dilution of the P.M.'s statement. The process of translating into action all that whatever the Hon. Prime Minister has said there, has already begun. On the 24th the Principal Secretary covered a meeting of the officials concerned with it. Mere lip service would not serve any purpose as far as providing relief is concerned, rather, arrangements have to be made in a comprehensive manner to make available the relief material to the affected people. Our Government believes in work and not in words. Whenever, a declaration is made by this Government, the entire necessary ground work is done by them well in advance. I have already said that the Principal Secretary had convened a meeting in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: The entire drainage systems in three deltas are completely collapsed due to the recent cyclone. It is happening every year. Even for every rain, the drainage is closed. Everything is on record.

What I am requesting is that the hon. Minister may please take necessary steps as a long-term action to repair the drains and other things. Otherwise, they are not in a position to drain out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Action has to be taken by the State Government also. It is a long-term measure.

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: Yes, it is both the Central Government and the State Government which should take measures. We are also ready to give betterment taxes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the 'Relief Code' I have just stated that when the hon. Minister was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, he used to create uproarious scenes whenever the State was affected by floods and he used to say that it was necessary to make changes in the 'Relief Code'. I would like to know whether even now, the hon. Minister feels the need to bring about changes in the 'Relief Code' or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question of a personal nature. The factual position is that the Relief Codes are evolved by the State Governments themselves and the responsibility of providing relief rests with the State Governments. When I used to speak in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, I concentrated on the need of effecting changes in the Relief Code of the State and even today, I feel that there is need to make amendments in the Relief Code to update it.

[*English*]

SRI HAMENDRA SINGH BANERA (Bhilwara): Relief Code was made during the British time? Are you going to change or amend the code or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not expect him to give immediate reply on this position.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister consider changing the Relief Code? Will the Government also include hailstorm as one of the natural calamities? At present, hailstorm is not considered as natural calamity. Hailstorm is not less harmful than flood, cyclone or drought.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already said Relief Code is a subject concerning the State Government and it is upto the State Government to update it. It was laid down years back and it is necessary to make changes in it from time to time so as to keep it upto date.

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I didn't get an opportunity to speak. I have two suggestions to make in this regard. The hon. Minister has referred to both instant and long term measures. About the instant measures, he has said that relief work is going on its full swing, but he did not elaborate on long term measures although big canals (drainage system) and equipments have been damaged. Does the hon. Minister propose to work on any long term plan? If so, please tell us about the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose, as it is a national calamity.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very comprehensive question and it does not concern this department alone. It is a question involving all the departments. Therefore, at the moment, it would not be possible for me to say anything in this regard.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: The hon. Member Mr. Raju of the ruling Party as well as several other friends have referred to the damage done to the drainage work, canals and bunds. If money is not immediately available with the Government, would they be willing to raise a loan, hand it over to the local Government and see that the drainage works are taken up?

And the other suggestions regard to income-tax relaxation and so on, I hope my hon. friend would note down and convey the suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister.



[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: With reference to whatever hon. Prof. Ranga has said, I would like to submit that so far as the allocation of money is concerned, we have already given to the state, a lumpsum amount of Rs. 32.5 crores as Central Assistance. As soon as it is spent, another instalment of Rs. 32.5 crores would be made available to the State Government and all your suggestions regarding other matters, the views that have been expressed here and other related issues as well as the creative suggestions will be sent to the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: You should at

least write off the loans of small farmers, weaver, and the fishermen. What steps do you propose to take to alleviate their sufferings?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already dwelt on these things in my speech.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 AM.

19.55 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Tuesday, May 29, 1990/  
Jyaistha 8, 1912 (Saka)*

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