

15.41 hrs.

ABOLITION OF BEGGING BILL CONTD.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we will take up Item No. 22, namely, further consideration of the motion moved by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy on the 2nd May, 1997.

The time allotted for this Bill was two hours. The time taken is one hour and three minutes and so, only 57 minutes are left now.

Shri K. Parasuraman may speak now.

[Translation]

*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (CHENGALPATTU): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Bill moved by Dr. Subbarami Reddy. I welcome the Bill that seeks to abolish begging. I would like to offer my views on behalf of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam. This is a very good move. But we must have to see how the Centre can approach this problem and implement this programme. This is a very big menace.

Begging is an abominable and disgusting an act. How this begging has taken its roots in our country? Illiteracy, unemployment, lack of education, social deprivation and caste-conflict-menace have forced many people to seek recourse through the job of begging. we do not have considerable number of our country's population as educated mass. Literates are less in number. Backward sections of the society living in the slum areas are more. We have backward classes and the most backward classes apart from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and social stratification has also contributed to this menace of begging. Our plans and schemes aimed at helping deprived classes and people who live below the poverty line do not really percolate to them. The Government should set up shelters to these people who seek to begging and must help them to maintain themselves. Only then we would be able to reduce the incidence of begging. In Tamil Nadu, this deplorable and mean job of begging has been coming down in the recent years. In Tamil Nadu, Beggars' Rehabilitation Homes have been set up in certain places. Still the need to have the Beggars' Home in every district is felt. This kind of shelters as a social measure should be set up in all the districts. All those found begging should be brought to these houses for social rehabilitation. They should be segregated according to their age group like youth, children, women, mothers among them and the aged. Suitable training and jobs should be given to them according to their capability. They should be provided with an opportunity to seek a livelihood and gainful employment. Such shelters should help these people to give up begging. They should be helped to help themselves to improve their living conditions. Then only we would be able to curb this menace. For this purpose, the centre should allocate sufficient funds to the States.

Apart from that the children among them should be

given education and others should get literacy. Suitable job trainings should also follow. Such people should be kept in such 'Homes' for three to five years. Then the employable among them should be picked up and should be put in jobs. Physically handicapped people and other disabled people like women should be maintained by such 'Homes' which could be their shelter for life. They should be given an opportunity to lead a normal life with a livelihood. In certain foreign countries like UK, Germany and Japan we find a different situation. The dole given by the Governments there as 'Unemployment Allowance' are also avoided by the unemployed people. They consider it to be below their dignity. They think it would be mean to accept the dole. They shun anything that comes free. The youth there consider it an insult to their dignity. This kind of attitudinal change should come about in our Indian society too. We should change the attitude of our people who resort to begging. We should educate them. We shall give them job training. We should help them to get sustainable livelihood.

The tourists from foreign countries take the photographs of our children and others taken to begging. These beggars are photographed by them and they take those pictures to show it to their people thereby painting a dismal picture of India as a poverty stricken country. Some of them even make use of the generosity of those who see those pictures and feel pity for the poor. Even our own people, the inland tourists take these pictures abroad and project our country as an economically backward country. Some of them even make money out of this negative publicity. They spread a wrong information that poverty in India is at its height and the beggars are rampant. They get donations from the generous foreigners and they make use of those funds for their prosperity. At the same time they do not do anything to mitigate the sufferings of these poor people who are totally helpless and desperate. This will only increase the incidence of begging and the number of beggars may swell. Our people who take to begging must realise that 'it is not right and correct a thing to beg for a living; it is insult to our human dignity'. Our Government must take right steps in this direction to change the attitude of our people and their plight. We must provide them with basic amenities to lead an honourable life. We must seek recourse through industrialisation. More and more of industries should be set up to provide job opportunities to many. We must endeavour to give them better living conditions. we must strive to life them up in life to have sustainable means of income to fend for themselves. Expressing my support to this Bill once again, I conclude my speech.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR' (JALESAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy "that the Bill for abolition of begging and the matters connected or incidental thereto may be taken into consideration".

Sir, the evil of begging is thriving in the country for a long time. Begging is a matter of shame for our

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

administration, system, society and people. The main reason is lack of economic resources. In addition to above, the growing population, unemployment and unequal distribution of resources in the country are other important factors, about which it could be said that these might have contributed towards thriving of beggary in the country. Another reason could be psychological bent of mind. Further there are lakhs and lakhs of persons in the country who want to earn money without making any efforts, sweating, and without making any risk. People of such psychology resort to begging. I have come across beggars who own upto two or four houses and their children go to reputed colleges and schools. Without naming any particular caste, I would like to mention that there are certain castes in our country whose only vocation is begging...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA): If you do not have any fear, then do name such castes.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': I do not fear anything because none of them inhabits in my constituency. However, when it has air eady been mentioned here then I have got no hesitation on dwelling on it further. There is a prominent saying in our country...*(Interruptions)* I do not mean this. There are certain castes in our country who indulge in such practice. Pockets of such type are found all over the country. They have not given up such a practice despite religions conversion. They take pride in their old family vocation. We too have also not been able to change our old habit of shelling out money as charity in the belief of improving the future. We people do not try to reform the society. I would like to submit that the practise of begging and our approach towards it does not have only social and religious bearing but also on the Administration and Government. I would like to dwell on it in detail. It is fact that in the absence of resources, employment avenues and money, the poverty will be deep rooted and this will give rise to begging. We can see all this in our society but going about with a begging bowl or asking for crumbs is no remedy. There are beggars of all hues. Few days back, I read that a beggar drives on scooter from Jhansi to Orchha and Khajuraho to Jhansi. So you can very well visualise the condition of that beggar. I also read somewhere that on searching the belongings of a beggar after his death, it was found that the beggar had a bank balance of repuees one lakh in the State Bank of India.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (KANPUR): Beggars also travel by Air.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': I am coming to it. This is the state and a probing they say 'what is wrong if little effort reaps in maximum rewards.' without any effort every gain comes the way. This tendency is gaining in strength day by day and in fact now our Government is also resorting to it. I am not referring to the present of the previous Government, but in general that it is very shameful state that only in one particular field we are placed at number eight in the world while in the field of begging we are number one in the world. Regarding debt, I would like to

say that in fact liberalisation is nothing but running deep into debt. Therefore, I would like to submit that the issue of tackling of beggary in the society could be deferred at the moment, because the crucial point is that our country is also going around begging with a begging bowl in the name of grants.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA: Give in the name of God.

PROF. OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': The approach was definitely bringing something into the country. However, at present the Government with whom we are also associated, goes around with not one bowl but a number of bowls, whose size varies proportionately with the size of the country. This is a very unfortunate scenario, because the people draw inspiration about begging. People are toeing the Governments path. However, it is believed that in a democracy the king should be like the masses, but the contrary is proving to be correct. In our country maximum gains could be fetched through unfair activities. Further, nothing sacrosanct could be heard in this regard. If a question abhorring begging is put to anybody who is physically fit and strong and can toil in the fields for earning livelihood, then it is more likely to be whisked away in laughter. Agrument is given when the Government is doing such a thing then why we should not toe the same line. First Government should stop doing such things. Situation has come to such a pass that giving sermons has lost its sanctity because if a petty thief is advised against theft, then it is more likely to be brushed aside with the argument that when the Prime Minister's probity is under cloud, so why advise me.

So, at present wherever and in whichever form begging prevails in the country, it is a blot on us and must be removed. We need to remove this evil practice not because of any emotional feelings, but in practical. Mere preachings, cajolerly and giving sermons is not going to have the desired effect. We need to tackle the root of the problem, otherwise begging cannot be abolished. Strong determination is required for tackling the roots of the problem. In this regard, there is no place for words like if, so, therefore etc., because without pause it needs to be removed spontaneously. If we strive to solve if slowly and gradually, then it is impossible.

The Government alone cannot take such decision, it also requires the will power as well as character of law enforcing officers. Not only administrative officers need to cooperate in it, but also the society as whole should take initiative in this direction.

We will have to make difference between reverence and begging, donation and begging because beggar goes begging door to door while we donate on our own. The Government as well as our friends and society as a whole should consider these basic points and take a hard decision in this regard. Let the beggar threaten to curse you but tell him in plain words that instead of cursing he should try to earrf his bread first.

[Prof. Ompal Singh 'Nidar']

It reminds me a story of my childhood, which is very much true. My colleague, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, member of Parliament from Sivni is sitting here. He is a native of Gotegaon. Once, I went to Gotegaon to participate in a Kavi Sammelan and confronted a beggar. In those days, currency of 5 to 10 paise coins was there. I gave him a 10 paise coin. He refused to take it saying that it did not fetch anything. On further enquiry, he desired to have a cup of tea. Then I gave him a one rupee, he said one cup of tea cost Rupee One, what about you. The point which I want to substantiate is that situation has deteriorated to this extent that he begs and even talks conceitedly.

To my mind, this involves the question of mentality of people; therefore we have to wage a fight on economic, social, mental and legal levels. It is a matter of shame for us that a foreigner visiting Taj Mahal finds a group of beggars there. One could well imagine about his impression about it. The same thing happens when he visits Haridwar, Benaras, Gaya, Nathdwara or Balaji in South India, the image of India as well as the reverence, which attracts him to this country, are lost immediately.

16.00 hrs.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we want to abolish begging, then we will have to do away with the tendency of the beggars. In order to achieve this objective, first of all we will have to check the population menace so that people are not forced to begging. If due to some reasons population explosion takes place then we should make efforts to ensure that no person is forced to begging. We should provide some sort of employment to every countryman and suitable amendments to this effect should be made in the Constitution. If the Government is not able to provide employment to everybody then it should bear the responsibility of providing food, clothes and shelter to everybody.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to our religious tendency we give alms to each and every person who comes in the garb of saint be it a dacoit or a cheat, we will have to put a check on such tendency. If someone is a genuine saint, then out of reference we will certainly make offering and donations but we will never give alms to the beggars. Without fearing about the curse and religious feelings, we will have to take a hard decision with our own conscience.

Mr. Chariman, Sir, with that we will strictly have to follow the rules made for the abolition of begging at the administrative level. Our Government, Lower House as well as Upper House will also have to go in for this rule and take a decision that besides punishing beggars we should also make efforts to impart them some sort of vocational training or work towards changing their tendencies so that our country may get rid to this begging.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an important question. One should not ridicule it. This is not going to harm the humanity either. We know that at present, people do not have such ideals as to sacrifice their lives for the sake of country. People love to live similarly they also love their children.

They are forced to begging so that they may get food for their children. The Central Government, the State Government and the society should jointly consider their helplessness. We should create such situation that people are not forced to take it up as their profession.

There are two types of situation. As I have told you that I have seen quite a number of beggars who are well off but they are not ready to quit this profession. They do not want to quit their unfair means. Making claims in favour of morality and raising slogans to eradicate social evils is an easy task. In fact, we should try our best to ward off such social evils. We should not let social evils develop in ourselves as well as in our homes. Naturally the poor will follow the suit. Our style of begging may be a refined one but ultimately fact and feeling remain the same. I, therefore, through you, would urge the House, the country, my colleagues, the society and demagogue of religion and morality and the persons involved in such activities ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You should also include yourself.

SHRI OMPAL SINGH 'NIDAR': I do not give alms. Anybody can try. Most only at the level of the person who begs at Railway Stations or bus stands but at everybody's level we will have to strike hard to get such a position where we may give to other but should not have an inclination for asking for anything...*(Interruptions)* I am talking about the government also. We should try to achieve such a position so as to become an economic super power in the world. Power in the field of culture, economy, politics and morality. Otherwise, if we continue to encourage begging then we will not be able to make any progress. Our country will be ashamed of this and no self respecting person would like to be a part of it.

SHRIMATI BHAGWATI DEVI (Gaya): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill on begging introduced in the House. There are two types of beggars in the country—first category consists of those who are forced to beg due to their financial difficulties and the other one comprises those who go in for begging by creating fear in the name of God that if you do not give alms, your next life will be spoiled. Beggars sit alongside the road. They do not have shelter of their own. If shelter and employment is provided to them, they would give up begging. The beggars of high standard are begging under the guise of Sadhus by preaching that if you give alms, you will go to heaven. Constant vigil needs to be kept on them. Some beggars kidnap children and forced them to resort to begging. They maim them, make them sit on a trolley parked at a particular place and force them for begging. They even kidnap the educated children off well of families.

I would like to submit that many people are engaged in the profession of begging. We should put a check on it. Government also beg from other countries. There are Anganwadis in our area. Mukhya, Sarpach and other influential people avail of the facility of ration provided to the children. Their daughters, wives teach the poor children

Who is consuming milk, partridge meant for these institutions? I think that if an enquiry is conducted in this matter, many people would go to jail and then they would realize the sin they are committing. All that we got during 50 years of Independence is poverty, unemployment, helplessness and killings of the poor. Poor people are still being killed. For what? If we do not help party members, they come to our village with arms and stay there in order to loot us we did not help them, we did not provide them food in the night, they killed 10 people and spread rumour that those killed were naxalites, criminals. This is that happening in the country.

You know that arms were dropped in Bihar on large scale. Our country has got radars, we have a department of intelligence and despite that an aircraft entered the country's airspace and dropped the arms in our state, Bihar. It is being said that they are in jail and one day they were being shown on T.V. Is it not the fault on the part of the Government.

I would like to submit clearly that if all the states are lightened on this count only then it is possible. When the vehicle with criminals escapes, then a wireless is flashed saying that the vehicle of this number is carrying, so and so types of arms, everything is being smuggled. Are the Department of intelligence and the Department of Police getting their salary for it? Officers and other facilities have been provided, yet criminals escape. Instead of helping the poor, the Government is putting burden on them. What type of human face the Government have? How can you save the country. Government should help the poor people in the villages. Our hon'ble Minister used to say that she would bring prosperity among the poor people who were realising under the poverty for centuries. She is not present in the House hence I should not speak about her but she should remind that she had stated so. I think her intention was to aggravate the situation of poverty.

Prosperity has not been brought so far rather poverty is prevailing for centuries. Therefore, I demand that the Government should prevent the practice of begging. Shelter should be provided to the people living below the poverty line and houses be constructed on the surplus government land which has not been covered under the ceiling. I believe that if all the facilities are provided to them they would not be forced to resort to begging.

There are two types of beggars in our country. Some are forced to resort to begging but those who are begging by preaching about heaven and hell after rebirth, a constant vigil should be kept on them. They are begging on the pretext that they would send you to heaven, that you will be born as human beings in the next life. They say that your birth in a particular family is a great happening and hence give more and more donation. Therefore, I would like to make it clear that land grabbers and capitalists should be reformed so as to check begging. On the one hand foodgrains is spoiling while on the other hand people are dying of starvation. Hence arrangement should be made to feed them and their rights should be restored to

them. If we do not provide rights to them, it is meaningless to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Independence and the amount being spent on the celebration would go waste.

With these words, I conclude my speech. It is our bounden duty to remove poverty. If poverty is not removed in the country, it would be meaningless to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our independence.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (CHANDIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think there is no difference of opinion on the support and the spirit of the bill on begging introduced by our colleague.

Before me Shrimati Bhagwati Devi and Shri Nidar has expressed their views and I feel that we can divide beggars in two main categories. One who are begging due to their financial hardships. We should think about them differently. The other category consists of those who are not actual beggars but they indulge in the economic offences under the guise of begging. These people are involved in the crime of abduction of children at some places and at some other places they are committing economic offences. If we consider this problem after categorising the beggars in these two categories, I think we can find proper solution to this problem. First of all, I would like to mention the point which was raised by Bhagwati also. A few days ago I got an opportunity to go to Varanasi on behalf of Bhartiya Yuva Janata Morcha, I had gone there four years earlier also. Principal of a Christian school who is my friend told me that a racket was operating there, they bring children of poor families to weave carpet. You know that small fingers are better suited for weaving the carpets. Hence these people bring these children at the age of six-seven years. The inhale cotton waste during the weaving of carpet and they fall prey to fatal diseases like T.B. at the age of eight-ten or twelve years. 90 per cent children are in the grip of such fatal diseases. They get these children from their parents by merely paying eight to ten thousand rupees because they do not get nutritious diet. They do not get sufficient meal and as a result they fall victims to diseases and are not able to work any more. As such, the owners remove them from their work. Thereafter they maim them and leave them in front of a temple, Gurdwara, Church or any other religious place for begging and whatever money these children collect from begging, these contractors take this amount from them in the evening and you can imagine what kind of food they provide to them. I take that it is the height of subhumanity. There can be no other heinous crime towards society. Despite this, we do not want to take any action against these people. Government should take stern action against these Mafia groups who are engaging such children in begging irrespective of whether the person involved is influential person or he belongs to any party. Such people should be exposed as they are playing with the lives of small children and giving inhumane treatment to them.

In this connection, I would like to cite an example. A serial named "Rag Darbari" was telecasted on Doordarshan for about one year. In that serial a poorman had land

[Shri Satya Pal Jain]

dispute and he had to visit court again and again so as to obtain the copies of the documents pertaining to the land. But at last he was compelled to beg and he died a beggar. Our existing system also does not pay its attention towards common man and poor people due to which they are forced to begging. Stern action should be taken against such people in order to abolish the tendency of begging and at the same time steps should also be taken in the case of these people who are forced to begging due to their financial hardships.

Balwant Singh Ramoowalia is sitting here. He is my good friend. There is a place named Katkapore in his district. Ten years ago R.S.S. and Sewa Bharati established a Ashram there. The children of lepers and beggars are brought to this Ashram in the age group of seven to eight years after separating them from their families. As a result, they are saved from begging and secondly, they do not fall prey to leprosy because it is not a communicable disease. Free education is provided to them there.

In my parliamentary constituency Chandigarh too there is a lepers home. Such patients who are in the grip of this disease live there and there is proper arrangement for their children. Government also provide assistance to them so that their children do not get involved in begging. In this way, this disease does not spread on large scale and it creates self-confidence among these people that if they get proper treatment and proper arrangements are made for their food, there is no need for begging and they can lead their life without it.

I request the hon'ble Ramoowallaji that if he has not gone to this home, he should spare some time and visit there and set up such home in other places also so that the children of these families could be kept there. Government should establish lepers' homes on the line of the one at Chandigarh in the remaining parts of the country so that instead of begging lepers can be treated properly in any place and the tendency of begging could be stopped.

Secondly, unfortunately in our country the aged people do not get due regard in their families any more. This problem is more serious in those families which are reeling under the financial constraints. You will see hundreds of heaved shaved old women in Vrindawan as their children, sons, grandsons leave them in these Ashrams on the pretext of taking them there for Darshan' and they are left with no option but to beg. Out of them some old women came from Calcutta, Mumbai and Amritsar. If a Ashram is set up for such women, it would prove helpful to contain begging. Our city Chandigarh has an old age home where such people stay. I have visited there. I have written to the Government and I request Shri Ramoowalia Sahab that such people from various parts of the country can be settled there. Most of these people are prosperous and if the Government pays attention towards them, May be that they are transfer their properties to the Government and it may be a source of income for the Government. If the Government pays head towards them at the stage when their children stop looking after them, they can

transfer their properties to the Government.

Thirdly, I would like to submit about child employment. You will find a child aged ten to eleven years working in every hotel and Dhaba in our country. Of you do not formulate a proper employment scheme for the children, there would be no option left for these children but to work in tea stalls, hotels and dhabas so as to earn their livelihood. They do not have any other means of earning and if the owner of tea stall or hotel removes them from their job, they are left with no option but to beg. Government should pay attention towards this problem. Everybody wants that children should not be exploited. But if you do not allow children to work in these places and if they are removed from their job, they do not have any option other than begging. Therefore, I demand from the Government that arrangements should be made for the livelihood of these children. Today we have talked about mid-day meal scheme for the children in the schools. Everybody knows how many children are getting mid-day meal. Today a report has appeared in a English daily 'The Tribune' published from our State that whatever foodgrains is provided to the children in a school of Himachal Pradesh, they take it to their home. These school going children belong to lower middle class. But the children of poor families who cannot go to school would work in tea stalls and Dhabas or hotels. The Government should think about the future of these children. If Government formulates any scheme for setting up the schools and to provide food etc. for the development of these children, I think it would prove very helpful to control the tendency of begging.

My last submission and I would conclude. Today the population of our country is increasing continuously. It is the root cause of all the problems of our country. Due to this increasing population none of our scheme would succeed. If the population growth is not controlled, all the schemes would prove futile whether you construct hospitals or schools. A hospital with the capacity of five hundreds beds was constructed but today five thousand patients are admitted therein. Similarly, a school is set up for one thousand children but twenty thousand children seek admission in it. Leave these triple matters. Today the students having secured 95 to 98 per cent marks do not get admission in medical college, B.A. or B.Com. It does not mean that a higher merit has been fixed. It is due to the increase in the population that these students do not get admission therein. As a result of this problem competition is getting tougher. Today you will find increasing population is the major problem everywhere whether it is bus or railway station. I request the Government and all the political parties that a concrete solution should be found out to control population after reaching consensus on the line of remaining issues. Joshiji has introduced his private member's Bill and it has been directed in many states that a person having more than two children can not fight any election and he can not get employment also. If we do not control the increasing population, you can imagine how explosive situation would becoming in our country. With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me a time.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (ULUBERIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill brought by our friend, Shri T. Subbarami Reddy who is not present today. It is relevant in this fiftieth anniversary of our Independence to discuss one of the basic problems of our society. India is known for its old culture, for its heritage, for so many glorious things as well as for begging. This is a very serious problem and this fiftieth anniversary of our Independence, we should ponder over it and formulate certain programmes so that we can eradicate this evil from our social system.

In our society, begging has a social and religious recognition. It is inherent in our religious system that if you give something to the beggar, you will gain something in your next life or you will reach the heaven. So, it is inherent in our religion and we have to understand that. Begging is as old as the religion is because we are accepting that we need certain beggars in the society. Otherwise, if we do not give some alms to them, how can we go to the heaven? Giving alms, according to our religion, is the way to go to the heaven. So, it is inherent in the religion itself. This evil is contained not only in our religion but in most of the religions. Most of the religions say that if you help the beggars, you will go to the heaven.

Secondly, it is inherent in our economic system. The society is based on exploitation. When wealth and property get accumulated in the hands of a few people and when more people are deprived of these, when the poorer sections of the people are forced to leave their employment, when they do not get land or anything, they are forced to resort to begging. So, the economic system is the second reason for this evil.

In our feudal society, we have failed to complete our land reforms. As you know, Sir, after Independence, we thought that about six-and-a-half crore acres of land would be surplus and would be distributed to the landless. But even ten per cent of that surplus land we could not distribute to the landless in fifty years. The real land reforms were conducted only in three or four States in the country but in most of the States, land reforms were not completed, and because of that, thousands of acres of land is concentrated in a few hands. If we could distribute that surplus land to the landless, a large number of people would have got their livelihood from those lands and they would not have been forced to go in for begging for their livelihood. So, this exploitation-based feudal system which we have inherited, is another reason for begging.

Then, thirdly, with the growth of capitalism, a new type of exploitation came. In the cities the *bastis* developed. We need poor people to work as servants who live in these *bastis*. Those who are living in the *jhuggis*, *jhompri*s and slums could not maintain their whole families and a section of their families is forced to go for begging for their livelihood. That is also a system or an evil of this exploitation-based feudal and capitalistic system.

They are the basic things. Without eradicating the

basic reasons we cannot come out of it. My hon. friends who spoke earlier have also mentioned about other reasons. In this system a section of the people earn by forcing another section of people to beg. They are the criminals. It is a flourishing business they kidnap children and force them to beg. Recently, as you know, a very shameful incident has happened. Our children are kidnapped from our country and are sent to Saudi Arabia and other countries. There they are trained and forced to beg to earn something. A major portion of that earning goes to these criminal gangs who organise this type of business and the children also suffer in this way. This is also another reason, as has already been mentioned.

In our culture also we do not think begging is something wrong. Those who do beg do not feel ashamed. One thing is that there are economic reasons. But the cultural reasons are also there. We have to bring changes in all fronts. The economic measure should be there. We should have cultural measures, social measures, legal measures and administrative measures. All sorts of measures have to be put together and we have to evolve certain plans. Our Government has certain plans. We declared *Garibi Hatao* in 1971. Now, after 30 years, a large number of people are still living below the poverty line and out of them a portion comes for begging. Three crore children in our country are child labourers as mentioned by my hon. friend. A section of them, when they lose their jobs, is forced to resort to begging. In that situation our welfare programmes could not succeed. They were not successful in implementation. This is another problem during the last fifty years. The Government, in this 50th anniversary of our Independence, should ponder over these questions: why are our poverty alleviation programmes not succeeding? Where is the wrong? Why are we not able to eradicate this problem of child labour? Why are we not able to improve the life in the slums? why have we failed to stop this sort of life in the *jhuggis* and how to improve them to have better living conditions? why? The Government should ponder over all these questions in this 50th anniversary.

Education is also another area where we should concentrate. If we can educate our people then also they will be able to come out of this and go for earning to have better living. We have certain systems. We also have to evolve certain more systems. Whatever programmes the Government is implementing, they should be reviewed and examined whether they have succeeded or not. We have corrective homes; but those corrective homes are not functioning properly. We have vagrant homes which are not functioning properly. We have old age homes and other homes. Those are not functioning properly. They are not getting grants. Those who are running them are also stealing a portion of the money or the goods given for those poor people. They are stealing from it. All these things are there. The evils are there in the society. We have to have a comprehensive programme of the Government and the society together.

NGOs can also be involved in a big way. The political

[Shri Hannan Mollah]

parties should also put their heads together. In the 50th anniversary of our Independence, we should strengthen our poverty alleviation programme. We should also implement our programme for eradication of child labour. If we can successfully implement these programmes, we will be able to reduce the number of beggars, bring them to the mainstream of life, and give them some honourable life. This should be our pledge in this 50th year of Independence. We have failed to achieve this till now. Now, we have to come together and see that we eradicate these evils from our society.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the notice given by me for the Private Investigators Bill, has lapsed for the second time during the Eleventh Lok Sabha. My submission is that the discussion on the present items should be wound up within the allotted time. Now only 20 minutes are left.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. Four more hon. Members are listed and they are to speak. The time allotted for discussion on this Bill is already over.

[English]

If all the four Members can speak for five or ten minutes, it is okay.

[Translation]

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: My submission is that it might not lapse yet again.

MR CHAIRMAN: That can be accommodated. Merely by extending the time allotted for the Bill by an hour will leave us with sufficient time for your Bill to be taken up.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Mr Chairman, Sir, by that time it will be 5.45 p.m. Therefore, extend the duration by only half an hour and not more than that.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: We can extend the time by 45 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI NANDKUMAR SAI (RAIGARH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill moved by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy. Many a factor are responsible for encouraging beggary in the country. For understanding the genesis of beggary we will have to first look at the Indian social system. I would like to submit that the self respect of a person engaged in begging naturally suffers. Therefore, a saying gained prominence in our society as to the novelty or otherwise of the professions that could be pursued in our society. The profession put at the highest pedestal in Indian society was agriculture. Second position was assigned to trade and business and the least importance was attached to job sector. Regarding begging it is said that nothing could be more demeaning than it as all the self respect and esteem and other virtues like reputation, respect and prestige take

a slide for the worse. There is a saying known as "Uttam Khetai, Madhyam Ban, Adham Chakri, Beekh Nidan". Therefore, nobody should adopt begging as a profession. Begging strikes a blow on the respect and prestige. Erosion of self-respect doesn't stand anyone in good stead. That is why it is said that begging must be discouraged. There is a saying which goes as "Aab Gaya, Adar Gaya aur Nairan Gaya Sneh, Ye Teeno Jabhi Gaye, Tabhi Kaha Kuchh De". Accepting anything as dole roles the person of all the virtues and qualities. I wonder how will the hon. Minister will check such a practice.

Shri Satya Pal Jain dwelt on family planning and population control. It is an important question. There is a saying in our society that the wealthy person can't go to heaven, comparison of such a person has been done with a camel forced to pass through the needle's hole. Consumerism was never given encouragement in our country. Culture of consumerism is spreading that all over the country. Western culture is invading the country. Everyone is pre-occupied and engrossed in devising ways and means of minting money. This is the reason why the children have been forced to beg. The main reason is to amass wealth. Earlier the people involved in social service were held in high esteem. The inconsistencies which have crept into the society are to be understood. The persons engaged in good deeds and in setting the examples for others should not bother about their primary necessities, because it is the society which used to shoulder this responsibility. Students used to study in Gurukuls for graduation and they did not beg. Students used to acquire knowledge about how to make the country strong and prosperous and the nation a leading nation. They were known as Brahmins. All their requirements used to be taken care of by whole society and the nation used to bother about them while their only concern was how to attain eternal spirituality. Their primary worry used to be how to guide the nation towards prosperity, divinity and attainment of elevated position in the world. However, nowadays anyone puts on the saffron robes and starts begging. People out of inherent fears given them alms. People believe that without appeasing sadhus how can we will be able to earn 'punyas'. Earlier anyone guilty of cow-slaughter used to go for a dip in the Ganges. People did not consume home food, but used to beg during the period of penance. At that time atonement used to be key of life.

Nowadays old age homes are coming up, because nobody wants to look after and care for the parents. The Government is setting up old age homes and is also introducing old age pension. Our traditional ideology is "Matra Pitra Devo Bhavah:" It was believed that parents are like Gods. Shraavan Kumar renounced worldly comforts and took his parents on pilgrimage. However, nowadays such things are being given the go-by. Parents marry off their children, but after marriage they forget to take care of the parents. They start living independently. The practise of looking after the parents in old age is losing ground. This is one of the main reasons for the growth in beggary. Such feelings and sentiments need to be revived all over again. Nowadays money has come to rule the roost.

Sir, time is short. I just want to submit that a campaign against consumerism needs to be launched. Stringent steps need to be taken for checking the practice of begging by children. People in saffron robes are indulging in blackmailing tactics for acquiring wealth. Steps must be taken to check this evil. Government of India is requested to enact a law to check such practices. I thank you for giving me the time.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV (PARBHANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on Abolition of Beggary Act, 1996.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the act of beggary is not a new thing, it has been going on in this country for centuries. I would like to clarify one thing through you that there is a lot of difference between a beggar and a monk. Those who are helpless and have no self-respect, have no alternative except begging. In our country the children of Lord Rama could learn the art of archery only after begging, which was a must during the training. They begged in order to learn this skill. But there is a great difference in the practice of begging prevailing in that olden times and the modern period. Today we are going to Commemorate the Golden Jubilee anniversary of the Independence of India. After all, what are the reasons behind begging in our country? The number of beggars is increasing in lakhs day by day, why it is so? We should deliberate on it. I think destitution is the main reason behind it. Our culture, economic and social disparity and the present day politics of our country are responsible for it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have attained Independence but we have not been able to alleviate the poverty in the country. Simply ignore beggars as if they don't exist, but on humanitarian ground, we must think about the pathetic conditions in which these people live? If there is power breakdown at night, we cannot sleep without fan, we are not able to sleep because A.C. is not working. But these beggars live on the platforms at railway stations and at the bus stands. They neither have the facilities like electricity toilets, water nor proper clothings and on the other side, the rich travel in cars along with their dogs and spend a lot of money on their dogs. We spin a long yarn in order to get the power, we talk of humanity, but when a beggar asks for alms, we rebuke him. I am not supporting the beggars but why people become beggars. This House and this government should ponder over it. I mean to say that do not eliminate the beggar, but eradicate beggary, do not eliminate the poor, eliminate the poverty and the beggary by which people become beggar. There are every type of beggars. My friend gave an instance of Child Shravan. In this connection, I have to ask that how many children are like Shravan in this Century. Our parents give birth to us. Our mother deliver us after keeping nine months in her womb. After that we get education and as we grow up we get married. After that we forget our parents. It seems that our cultural roots are not good. Our cultural roots should be good. Our virtues are being degraded, are losing our cultural roots. There is no comparison between child Shravan and us. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a need to set up old age homes for these destitutes. It is our tendency that when we become self-dependent, we forget

our old parents, we do not take care of them. Where these poor parents would go. Maharashtra is the only State in India where the Shivsena government and Bhartiya Janta Party alliance after coming in power, had fulfilled its commitments which they have made in their manifesto that if they come to power, they would set up an old age home in every district for helpless and old people and would take care of them. As per their commitment the Shivsena and the B.J.P Government in Maharashtra had built an old age home at a cost of ruppees one corore in every district and these ole people are getting the service in these old age homes which they cannot get at homes. The whole country should learn the lesson. I have to say that the Government has bigger responsibility. There is a need to take severe action against the inhuman elements who are guilty of taking advantage of poverty and helplessness of people and making them beggar by maiming and blinding them. There is need to take steps against this tendency which is raising its ugly head in our society.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now please conclude.

SHRI SURESH R. JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to tell more one thing. I myself visited China, Singapore, Thailand and North Korea in a Parliamentary goodwill delegation with the hon'ble Speaker. North Korea is more backward than India. I visited across the North Korea but I could not find even a single beggar there. I did not find any fat man who eats idly and had swollen up. I have not seen even a single beggar in Singapore and in Korea. Our increasing population might be a reason behind this. Therefore it is necessary to control the population also. We would have to take some severe steps to control the population. No one should be allowed to increase the population in the name of religion. If we are not able to check the population, the number of beggars would continue to increase. Whatever we speak in the House, whatever schemes we formulate on papers, we will not get success. Unless the number of beggars is decreased, beggary is not eliminated-these basic issues will remain there.

I, therefore, would like to request through you that we should take some concrete steps to eliminate beggary. As an honourable member has suggested here that we would have provide them bread and shelter, we would have provide them basic amenities as no human beings will resort to begging if he has any other alternative to earn his livelihood. Nobody want to give up his self-respect.

At the end, I would submit that while we are going to commemorate 50th Anniversary of our independence, we should take some effective measures to eliminate hunger of millions of beggars, to eliminate beggary from our country. With these words I express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (KARIMGANJ): Sir, I thank Shri Subbarami Reddy for introducing such an important Bill. Begging in ancient India was not looked down

[Shri Dwarka Nath Das]

upon, but rather a kind of respect was attached to it. People used to give alms and felt themselves honoured. But as the time went by, begging has become a profession and now it is a social evil.

Population in India has increased in geometrical progression and is now reaching an unmanageable figure of 95 crore of which 35 per cent is living below the poverty line. So, in such a situation, begging is a natural outcome to the poverty-stricken. Moreover, due to city civilisation, modern factories have destroyed the village and cottage industries and thereby shattered rural economy which accelerates begging to its present dimension. Further, I should say, people living below the poverty line are, so to say, half beggars because they take their morning meals and think about the evening as they have no source of income.

The Government is talking about rehabilitating beggars by providing them with gainful employment, but actually this is not being done. Nobody becomes a beggar by choice, rather it is the social and economic condition in the country which force them to beg. Government should identify each and every household at the grassroots' level and provide the poor at least with subsistence, that is, nobody should die of hunger.

It is seen that children are kindapped and maimed by devilish men and then they are made to beg. Such people should be severely punished. It is strange that the police know nothing about these unscrupulous persons or their methods of maiming.

17.00 hrs

Sir, the existing laws against begging have failed to curb the swelling ranks of begging. In 1990, Parliament was informed that there were only 10,000 beggars in New Delhi but the actual figure was about 50,000.

There are beggars not only in India but also in advanced countries like U.K. and Spain. Economic compulsion is the main factor forcing the poor to beg. Therefore, unless equally attractive and honourable alternative is provided for, begging cannot be eradicated.

Sir, beggars generally throng in religious places particularly, in India, which looks very odd. So, I suggest that the Central and State Governments should take up an extensive survey of beggars throughout the country and adopt suitable means to eradicate begging *i.e.*, there should be beggars' homes providing employment amenities and training.

Sir, begging lowers dignity and honour of man as man. I feel beggars are a class by themselves living secluded from civilised society, devoid of social behaviour.

Therefore, in this 50th year of our Independence *i.e.*, the Golden Jubilee Year of our Independence, the

Government should take a vow to do away with begging from this country for ever.

17.02 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER IN THE CHAIR)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (JAIPUR): Sir, there could not be two opinions that begging is a crime. However, some beg out of compulsion. I too beg to you many a times, which is also a sort of begging. Similarly some persons indulge in begging out of compulsion. Therefore, I would like to submit that the hon. Minister should try to find out the reasons behind begging. It will be nice if the hon. Minister ponders about hammer out solutions to this problem because you are incharge of this. Further, I would like to submit that some persons look on boys and girls for begging and everyday in the evening settle the accounts. Such persons do it in the form of business.

Sir, beggary is prevalent everywhere in the country. Beggar could be seen at all the places, they can be seen there in the Cannought place and at Hawa Mahal in Jaipur too. I would like to give some suggestions to eradicate it. There is an organisation, known as S.O. in Jaipur, being run with the economic assistance from Germany, which looks after the children well. This organisation puts up to 25 children in a building and each building is named after great men like Maharana Pratap, Shivaji, Mirabai etc. For every 25 children there is a mother (lady caretaker) who even takes out the children for shopping. The lady even arranges food for the 25 children as per their liking. In Jaipur city this organisation which is popularly known as S.O. is functioning adjacent to Chandpur cremation-ground. This organisation is aided by Germany. All others who want to help this organisation are welcome. The hon. Minister must be remembering that on the occasion of thread ceremony, the head to the boy concerned cleanshaved and then he is required to collect alms. The sole purpose of this ceremony was in a way to check the habit of begging in the children. Further, I would like to submit that the State Government should set up old age homes. In Jaipur a few old age homes are functioning. The State Government there is giving help to the Lepers. Old age homes are functioning in Vrindavan too. In Vrindavan, the Government has allotted Kiosks to the aged persons to help them earn their livelihood. These aged persons have come there after renouncing their families. However, their family members can come over there to meet them. Such old age homes are functioning well in Vrindavan.

By all this I only want to submit that the Central Government should lodge the beggars at such places and make arrangements for their food and imparting training. Besides this, the Central Government should go ahead with decentralisation and open such centres in the states for the children to eradicate the curse of beggary, which is a heinous crime. Many hon. Members have submitted that in this 50th year of Independence that we are going to celebrate on 15th August, the Government of India should

resolve to open such centres with the objective of eradicating beggary from the country. To my knowledge the Government of India has not hitherto made any such attempts. Therefore, the Government of India should make all out effort to eradicate beggary.

I hope that the hon. Minister would definitely pay attention toward all these things, because begging is in fact a serious crime. I thank the hon. Member for bringing this Bill and hope the hon. Minister will take concrete steps to abolish. With these words I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Katheria, you may please speak only for two minutes, because I want that the Bill of Shri Amar Pal Singh is also taken up today itself.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FEROZABAD): If you want I can forgo my turn.

SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, only 45 minutes are left.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Don't worry it will be done.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Abolition of Begging Bill moved by my colleague. We are going to celebrate the 50th year of our Independence. I am of the view that the implementation of the laws enacted during the last 50 years had largely been tardy. I think begging can't be eradicated through enactment of laws or coercion, but can be eradicated only through self-introspection. Each one of us has been elected by 2 lakh 60 thousand voters. Therefore, We the elected members belonging to all the political parties should be conscious and alert about our utterances and conduct, because in the absence of self-introspection we can't succeed. Now a days self-introspection is being done just on one issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Speak on Bill only.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: I am coming to begging.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please don't beat around the bush and come to the point. Otherwise much time will be lost.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Nothing has been done regarding self-introspection. Nowadays, political parties worry about the formation of their own party's Government in the States where they are not in power. I endorse the views of my colleagues on population explosion. In the absence of education population is burgeoning. Had proper education been imparted in the country we would have definitely achieved the objective of Hum Do Hamare Do. I would like to know whether the Government has ever paid attention towards the provisional educational facilities in the rural areas? Till date the fundamental right of education has not been availed of by the people. There is no arrangement for imparting education to illiterate youth, poor farmers and labourers in rural areas. Therefore, agony of the people is increasing.

Just now, a point regarding kidnapping was raised. There are many gangs operating in the country which kidnap the children. They maim these children and force them in to beggary. Who is responsible for that? The Government is responsible for that. I think that the Government should be held responsible for these type of things in the country. But who is introspecting? How many people were convicted? There are many children in our country who are forced in to beggary after being kidnapped...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had allowed you to speak for two minutes only. Two minutes means only two minute. Please conclude your speech.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Alright Sir, I will comply with your order.

I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that there is no use of such speeches. Unless the Government, whichever it is, introspect, no law can improve our society or country. If we improve ourselves, our entire society will improve automatically.

With these words, I support this bill. Thank you for giving time to speak on this bill.

DR. SHAFIQR RAHMAN BARQ (MORADABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, so far as beggary is concerned, it is a curse in the society. It is badly affecting our entire society. Small children of society are kidnapped. Thereafter, the people engaged in this trade maim them and earn money by forcing them in to begging. Our country is going to celebrate golden jubilee of its independence. On this occasion, the Government should make arrangements i.e. conduct a survey to ascertain as to how many all over the country are engaged in this act. There are different categories of people who are engaged in this trade. Some of them force other people to beg but they themselves are leading a good life. But then some people of our society are actually handicapped. It is necessary to help them. But here the point is, how to help them. Everybody will have to improve himself first. Unless we improve ourselves, our society will not improve. Therefore, begging like other evils, is also a curse in our society. It is a stigma on our society. Therefore, to improve our society, to provide dignified life to the people of our society it is necessary to make arrangements for their education to eradicate this evil from our society. The lack of education is the root cause of this evil. As a result of which our generations are affecting adversely.

With these words, I demand from the Government that a survey be conducted all over the country in this regard and a separate department may be established for that. Meagre amount has been provided for this purpose. However, the Government should conduct a survey in this regard and find a way out for eradicating this evil from our society.

With these words, I demand from the Government that some action should be taken in this regard.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, our worthy colleague, Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy has moved the Abolition of Begging Bill 1996, urging the Government to take strong steps.

Sir, I am very much thankful to all the worthy colleagues, the hon. Members of this House who have taken part in the discussion. Each and every hon. Member expressed the deepest concern over this menace and evil which has become a stigma on the Indian society.

The Hon. Member wanted the following two or three points to be met that this Government, while accepting this Bill, should constitute a fund for beggars, that as per the State Act, the receiving centres should be established and that begging should be prohibited. He also wanted that vocational training should be given for beggars and also homes for old, infirm and destitute persons.

After raptly listening to the views of various hon. Members, I am convinced that the thrust was on two different parts of that issue. Every hon. Member almost said in totality that beggary was a stigma and that it should be eliminated, stopped or eradicated. The main concern of each speaker, directly or indirectly—whosoever was delivering the speech in the conscious mind or unconscious mind—was about the misuse of children who were used for begging purposes by some gangs, *the Mafia*, etc.

Sir, now I come to this point-wise. What to say is that this House would never find this Government lacking in its responsibilities to address this stigma or this problem of begging. This is the first point. Another hon. Member said that a law or a legislation cannot eradicate begging. We have to see some age-old traditional reasons as to why beggary is prevalent in this country.

We are mainly a Hindu society and our Hindu tradition has inculcated very deeply in the mind of everybody that giving alms is something which bring a lot of prosperity and it would meet a lot of our demands in the next birth or in the next life. It is not only that beggars go finding the alm givers but alm givers also go on finding the beggars. In astrology, in religious teachings and in traditions which are unwritten from year to year, people say that giving alms should be a part of life everywhere. So, what can I say? I can only say one thing. Shri Satpal Jain referred to it and sister Bhagwati Devi also referred to it.

[Translation]

I can only say that if giving alms in the name of religion is banned, beggary can be stopped. I am not shirking my responsibility but I am saying this thing.

[English]

Now what is happening? Why are children used for begging purposes? It is because everybody knows that supply will continue in this profession. It somebody knows

that if children are put up on the begging trial and they will get nothing by the evening, nobody will do it. So, how can the great religious teachers tell the country that by bringing children into beggary, you have actually become the murderers of those children?

[Translation]

That is why I say that alms giver does not know that he is responsible for spoiling the future of the child sitting on the road, for begging. Why they are made blind, and are maimed and tortured? It is because their physical disability attracts the attention of alms givers and there alms are the earning of such gangs, mafia leaders. Who will tell these facts to the religious leaders, Shankaracharyas of Mathas. We are very small people in this field. These are the only persons who can do that.

[English]

Beggary is one reason. Poverty is another reason or the basic ground that lead to beggary. Families are begging.

Every Member touched the subject of population explosion. They said that population explosion is eating the vitals of the country's progress. But can I say that we are all from different political parties? Sir, I am intervening through you. I humbly say that the nation has not reached the conclusion so far that population is a national issue. You give the lead and lead the House. Let us take it as a national issue. Now, why is poverty there? It is there because of over population. Why is there an over population? It is because literacy is not there. Why is literacy not there? It is because resources are not there. So, this is the root cause of beggary. As you rightly said, law cannot prevent begging. An hon. Member from the BJP said that legislation cannot stop beggary because legislation can only give power to the law enforcing agency. Legislation cannot fill the empty stomach. So far, 16 States and two Union Territories have their own Beggary Prohibition Acts in their respective States.

Perhaps you will be happy to know that seven States in the North-East have no problem of begging. They have sent that information to my Ministry. So, these seven States say that they do not need any such legislation at the all-India level.

May I tell the House something earth-shaking? Perhaps it will be a new information to my hon. friends that 'beggary' does not find a mention in the Constitution either as a State subject or a Central subject or as a Concurrent subject. Nowhere is it mentioned. Only God knows why it is so...*(Interruptions)*

Shri Hannan Mollah, you are a senior Member. I was elected to this House in 1977. And then, I could not come once or twice. But you came here every time. You should know about it. It does not find a place. As is my habit, I do not conceal anything.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: If it is not mentioned anywhere, the Central Government should take a lead

about that...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let him conclude.

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him conclude first and then ask any thing.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I am also making my views clear on the issue. If any mistake is committed it will be known...(*Interruptions*). I am telling you about the steps taken by the Central Government in this regard. I would like to let you know that it was a central subject till the second five year plan. Beggary prevention scheme was a Central Government scheme. You represent the entire nation, but after second Five Year Plan, the National Development Council decided that these schemes will be run by the State Governments and not by the Central Government. The Government provides assistance to the States that run schemes to prevent beggary. We prepare schemes for providing rehabilitation, education and vocational training. If we do not implement these schemes,

[*English*]

how should we take care of the beggars?

[*Translation*]

As far as the child beggary is concerned, we have taken an unambiguous decision about it.

[*English*]

The moment a child is found begging, he should be taken into custody. And he should be produced not before any court but before the Juvenile Welfare Board.

[*Translation*]

That child is not sent to jail, but is sent to Juvenile Home or observer centre. Thereafter, the child is given proper care and protection and then is rehabilitated. Earlier, we provided fifty per cent funds for such schemes. These Schemes are :

[*English*]

"for prevention and control of Juvenile social maladjustment."

[*Translation*]

There are 600 centres in India to control social maladjustment. Now we have formulated a new scheme and that is :

[*English*]

To provide vocational training and technical education for rehabilitation of the beggars.

[*Translation*]

You will be happy to know that the Central Government

has offered to provide hundred per cent assistance for the schemes which will be implemented by the states. But, here, I would like to inform that we receive very few proposals seeking assistance for implementation of these schemes. That is responsibility of the States.

PFOR. RASA SINGH RAWAT (AJMER): You sent schemes and hundred per cent grant will be given. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR (HAPUR): When new schemes will be formulated, proposals will be come ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this scheme? Please circulate it among the Members of Parliament also.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: As per your direction, it will be circulated.

I would like to say one thing more. Some of my friends said that only twenty per cent share is borne by the Central Government. We can enhance it, but no state sends demand for it. This time, we have not earmarked more funds for that. A mention has also been made about "Homes For The-Old-Age." It is very unfortunate that old people do also beggary in our society. Our attitude towards parents as has been mentioned in Geeta and Scriptures, is changing slowly under the influence of western culture and films. Now, there is no such feeling. We are also stressing upon it and we have sufficient funds for old-age-homes, but that much demand is not being made for that too. Out of the total proposals received in this regard, we consider only those which are comprehensive. But some persons, in the guise of a sadhu, tarnish the image of the genuine sadhus. I am of the view that NGOs should ponder over such issues because some of them are fraudulent. All the cases are examined thoroughly, but sometimes we do not get success. There are a number of such cases pending with the Ministries.

One of my friends said that if the persons who retired from higher posts are allowed to live in old-age-homes, their income may go up. I would like to tell you that the Government is also aware of it. We have provided better living conditions by giving facilities like air conditioners, fully nutritious food and medical aid to those old people, who have come in old-age-homes in Delhi and several other places by contributing big sums. If they fall ill, vehicles of these old-age-homes take them to the hospital. They go to collect their pension by these vehicles. We have made such arrangements at some places.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But they do not come in the beggars category.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I am saying so because number of beggars has not gave up and they are living there.

DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR: Do retire officers also beg?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: My intention

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia]

was not so. I am just replying to the point raised about old-age-homes. I am not saying that they will beg. But we have made a liberal policy for starting old-age-homes at several places for those people who do not have resources. The policy is that there is no need to construct a building for that. Buildings can be taken on rent and we will pay its rent. We are ready to pay rent instead of constructing a building with the cost of rupees 15 lakhs. Old people live there and there will be no chance of begging.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (BAREILLY): Please circulate the scheme. Old-age-homes can be established with the fund provided for MPs local Area Development Scheme. It will be good to circulate the scheme among all the MPs.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: He has just now directed. I will get it circulated.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion on this Bill should have been over by 5.25 hrs. If with the permission of the House the time for discussion of this Bill is extended by ten minutes then it could be concluded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: I mean to say that we are making it comprehensive. Legislation is already there and there is no lacuna in it too. Further legislation is no solution. On the other side, the Government of India is determined to ensure economic amelioration social awareness, social development and provision of skills for the upliftment of needy persons. We will take initiative in this regard. Therefore, if my friend had been present here I would have requested him it withdraws this Bill. Now, my submission to this House is that there is no need to introduce this Bill, because provisions for that already exist. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy is not present in the House. Therefore, I will put the motion to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith of incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

The motion was negatived.

17.37 hrs.

PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS BILL

[Translation]

SHRI AMAL PAL SINGH (MEERUT): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move*:

"that the Bill to provide for the licensing of private investigators and vest them with certain powers, be taken into consideration."

*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Sir, corruption and incidents of kidnapping are on the rise in the country. I would like to cite an example. In 1953, the number of incidents of murder was 9802 and by the year 1992 it went upto 40,105 per year. Kidnapping has emerged as an industry in the country and is hindering the process of industrialisation. Corruption has reached alarming proportions in the country and is obstructing the development of the country. I would like to propose to have a provision of licensing of private detectives to weed out criminals from the society. It should be kept in mind while licensing the private detectives that no criminal finds a place in it. First of all, it is essential to conduct a high level inquiry of its members.

Sir, now the question arises as to why there is need to have private detectives in the country. Firstly, I would like to emphasise that due to rampant corruption prevailing in police and upto the level of district courts, guilty go scot free while the innocents are being punished. Secondly, due to protection being given at political and administrative level it is difficult to award punishment. This is the reason to introduce the private detective system. Now the issue is as to what should be the system of having private detectives. Sir, through you, I would like to apprise this August House that it has become essential to break the nexus of criminals, politicians and bureaucrats.

The population of the country has gone up by leaps and bounds and due to scarcity of resources, the strength of the police force has not gone up proportionately. I would like to cite an example. If any patient is admitted in a Government hospital and he does not recover and improve, then without losing time the relatives shift the patient to private hospital to better the chances of survival in by proper medical aid. It is because of monopoly that corruption is widespread in police. If any individual loses confidence in the police because of not getting justice what he would resort to? If private detectives are there, a person can approach it. There is a provision to go to the court in private capacity under section 200 to 204 of the Cr.P.C. A person can directly file a case before the judge, but investigation is a technical exercise. This is the reason that the citizens are not able to avail this facility. Therefore, the private detectives are the need of the hour. It should be ensured that only the plaintiff, government organisations and semi-government organisations make use to the private detectives and not the accused. If criminals make use of them then the offences will go up. A provision should be incorporated in this that the courts will also take cognizance of the chargesheet filed by the private detectives like as it takes cognizance of chargesheet filed by the police. Further, I want that the right of registration of the case and arrest should rest only with the police. If any private detective is involved and files chargesheet in the court then the court should take cognizance of the chargesheet and issue warrant against the accused, but warrants should only be executed by the police.

Secondly, I would like to observe that Shri Raiberio has 40 years of experience behind him as Police Chiefs of Punjab and Maharashtra. Recently he emphasised upon