

Title: Need to discuss the 5th Report of the National Commission for SCs and STs.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : According to article 338 of the Indian Constitution, the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is required to submit periodical reports to His Excellency the President of India. The Fifth Report has already been submitted by the National Commission on the 21st of February 2001. I am extremely sorry to place on the record of this House that in the good old days, reports of the SC and ST Commission were discussed in the Lok Sabha regularly.

The Fifth Report has already been submitted and very revolutionary recommendations and suggestions have been made by that Commission. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is supposed to inform the Lok Sabha as to what are the recommendations of the Commission, what are the disabilities and difficulties faced by these 25 crores of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I also want to inform the House that in a very important Conference of Governors from all over the country which took place before two years, the Governors complained to the hon. President that the Special Component Plan money meant only for the Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub-Plan money meant only for the Scheduled Tribes was used by various State Governments for purposes other than the ones for which it was sent by the Central Government. There was a serious complaint that the land to the landless people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not being distributed in spite of the constitutional provision.

His Excellency, the President, then appointed a Committee of seven Governors under the Chairmanship of Shri P.C. Alexander. According to my information, the report of that high level Committee has already been submitted to the President and it must have come to the Government of India also. I, as a Member elected from a reserved constituency, am very much concerned not only about an individual or a house of a particular man in a particular State, but this issue concerns 25 crores of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I want to know from the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment as to why the report of the National Commission is not discussed in this House during the last five or six years and why there is a shortcoming in this regard. We must know the reason.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I totally agree with the sentiments expressed by the hon. Member, Shri Pravin Rashtrapal. I think, the time has come to discuss this issue. For many Sessions we have not discussed issues relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I think from the Government's side we have no objection if the Business Advisory Committee under your leadership decides to discuss this issue. We can find time even in this Session to discuss the issue of the Fifth Report of the National Commission for SC and ST and related issues. We totally support the demand made by the hon. Member.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL : That discussion may be kept after 15th December, so that I am available.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Naturally it will be discussed when you are present. ...*(Interruptions)*

अध्यक्ष महोदय : बाबू जगजीवन राम जी के विय में पहले भी शून्य काल में चर्चा हुई है। इस विय पर अभी चर्चा की जरूरत नहीं है।

â€¦ (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको दो मिनट में अपनी बात कहने की इजाजत दे रहा हूँ।

â€¦ (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसीलिए मैंने कहा कि मैं आपको इजाजत दे रहा हूँ। रघुवंश प्रसाद जी, आप पूछना चाहते हैं, आप भी पूछ सकते हैं।

â€ (ब्यवधान)