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Title : Issue regarding proposed amendment in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE (SERAMPORE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, last week the hon. Prime Minister has invited all the leaders of Central trade unions and discussed with them so many trade union issues, labour laws, etc. In the course of discussion, all the leaders of Central trade unions drew the attention of the hon. Prime Minister to the immediate need to bring an amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965.

As you know, the existing Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, as amended from time to time, does not cover a large section of the workmen. In the absence of amendments to this Act, a good number of workmen, both in organised and unorganised sectors, are deprived of their legitimate share of bonus. This Act is the result of protracted struggle of the working class of our country who had to face severe repression at the hands of their employers and the State machinery. Many had to lay down their lives. It is after the blood and toil of the working class that this Act came into force, on the basis of the Bonus Commission appointed by the Government of India<sup>[r17]</sup>.

Sir, festivals in different States are knocking at the door. The biggest festival of Bengal, Sarado Utsav is getting nearer. The Government of West Bengal has advised the employers to pay bonus within 12<sup>th</sup> September. But unless the Act is amended, I apprehend the workmen will be deprived of bonus as a ceiling with Rs. 3,500 basic plus DA will leave 90 per cent of the workmen beyond the coverage of Bonus Act.

Sir Parliament Session is going to conclude on Friday. ...(*Interruptions*)

This is a national issue. I am sorry that I have been called at a late hour. I appeal to you to pass this to the Government so that they can seriously reconsider amending the Payment of Bonus Act. That will benefit large sections of the workers of our country.