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Title: Further Discussion regarding problems being faced by Unorganised labour in the country raised by Shri Devendra Prasad yadav on the 7th December, 2006.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up item No. 25 on further discussion on the problems being faced by unorganized labourers.

Hon. Members, we have discussed about unorganized labourers for almost four hours and still, I have with me a list of more than ten hon. Members to speak. So, it is my humble request to the hon. Members to be very brief and it is not possible for me to give more than four minutes to each hon. Member. I request every hon. Member to conclude his speech in four minutes.

Now, Dr. Sujan Chakraborty may spea[MSOffice85]k.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY (JADAVPUR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you.

This is a very important debate. No doubt about it. Many of our friends have already talked on this issue. The issue of unorganized workers, in the given situation, is very important. The entirety of the unorganized workers is really a subject of importance to be tackled.

The National Common Minimum Programme has clarified the issue while it said that the UPA Government is firmly committed to ensure welfare and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector, who constitute 93 per cent of our workforce. ... (*Interruptions*)

The number of unorganized workers is increasing by leaps and bounds. During the year 1991, out of the 286 million of workers, the number of unorganized workers was 259 millions. By the year 2001, it has increased to 375 millions, out of the total workforce of 400 millions. Percentage wise it has grown to 93 from 90.6 per cent. I believe in 2006 it must have grown further more. There is no doubt about it.

In the rural areas also, the unorganized work force is replete with non-agricultural unorganized workers. Through the process of globalization it has increased. It has increased through out-sourcing, etc. Labour laws are being violated in many areas. These unorganized workers are being crushed heavily. We have to see this issue from that end.

There are two or three important issues. They are, their work environment, their livelihood, their social security, etc. No proper arrangement is there. The safety question is not well taken. The security hazard is there. No proper supervision is there. There is no proper system of working hours. They have to work all through the night. It is very unfortunate. This is, in fact, violating the human rights also. From that angle, the questions of social security, ESI, provident fund, maternity leave, are very important. I am short of time. So, I am not going into the details.

As they have very less bargaining power, whenever they protest against something, atrocities against them are much more. Take, for example, the case of railway hawkers. They are serving the commuters. But whenever they oppose or protest against something, there are atrocities against them by the RPF and other forces.

We recently enacted a law prohibiting child labour. But practically if the livelihood of the father is not secured, then the livelihood of the child is also not secured. If the Child Labour Act has to be effective, then the problems of the unorganized workers have to be tackled effectively.

There are two worlds within one world. The gap is widening. The richest one per cent of the world population own 40 per cent of the world's wealth and 10 per cent of the richest account for 85 per cent of the global assets. On the contrary, fifty per cent of the poor population account for only one per cent of the global wealth. It is the same in India. Lots of millionaires are there. Their number is increasing. But on the other hand, the condition of the unorganized workers is worsening. All of us know that.

18.59 hrs. (Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan *in the Chair*)

The Government of India, on many occasions, bring many programmes. Janshree Bhima Yojana is one of them. But what is the result? It is not having any good impact uptil now. Beedi Workers Act is there. But many of the beedi factory owners do not pay the provident fund to their workers. Construction (Contract) Workers Act is there. But out of 29 States, only seven States have their own regulation for that. Others do not have it. For minimum wages we have an Act. But where is it being implemented? These issues are important. So, we have to take up these issues with that amount of seriousness and sincerity. [MSOffice86]

19.00 hrs.

Sir, thereby, I believe, it is the not the question of policy formulation only, but the question of a political will and the delivery mechanism which is also equally important. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Each speaker will get only four minutes to speak.

... (Interruptions)

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I am going to conclude within two minutes. The trade unions of our country had a meeting in which they had conscientious in opinion. They went to meet the hon. Prime Minister which included the leadership of the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU). Their opinion was also only one and the same. It was not differing in that sense. The point is that we should arrange nationally accepted unorganized labour identity cards based on economy which will help them their privilege.

Secondly, we should have enactment wherein the delivery system, the State Government and the local self-government's role should be very clear. ... (*Interruptions*) We should organize awareness programme on the economic and social contribution that the unorganized labours are making so that our responsibility towards the unorganized labour can be performed properly. ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we have been listening to the very marathon reply. It went on for two hours. We cannot remain ever forever. Please conclude.

... (Interruptions)

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: We should formulate a scheme on health, insurance, provident fund, education and other social security measures including old-age coverage. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, political will of the law makers is of prime importance. We could not implement land reforms. We are far below than many other countries as far as literacy is concerned. We are much below in guaranteeing livelihood and social securities to the unorganized labour. A correct political will is what is essentially needed. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir to conclude, practically five or six Bills have been in place for the last few years. But it has not been taken proper care of. The GDP contribution of our unorganized workers is 60 per cent whereas the social security spending is less than two per cent which is even much below Sri Lanka. So, thereby, I would request that it must be taken up to two per cent and in the Eleventh Plan, it should be extended up to the level of three to four per cent.

Hence, before I conclude, I would request the Government to see from this background. I am happy that in tune with the commitment made in the National Common Minimum Programme, the Government has constituted Arjun Sengupta Commission. They have already submitted their report. I would request the Government that they should immediately take up the issues with stakeholders and discuss and rectify the proposals accordingly and a national policy be announced and enacted accordingly.

Sir, with these few words, I conclude.

श्री टेक लाल महतो (गिरिडीह): सभापित महोदय, आज असंगिठत मजदूरों के ऊपर हम चर्चा कर रहे हैं। इस हिन्दुस्तान में सचमुच जिसके पास तीन तल्ला मकान था, उसने दस तल्ला बना लिया, खपरैल वाले ने झोंपड़ी बना ली और झोंपड़ी वाला खत्म हो गया। असंगिठत मजदूरों के लिए तमाम पार्टियां इंकलाब जिंदाबादकरती हैं, उनमें चाहे कांग्रेस के लोग हों, सीपीआई, सीपीएम

के हों। तमाम लोग उनकी हिफाजत और हक के लिए लड़ाई लड़ते हैं, लेकिन सचमुच में जो व्यक्ति खेती, खिलहानों एवं जंगलों में पत्थर तोड़ कर अपनी जीविकोपार्जन करते हैं, उनके लिए आज तक किसी पार्टी ने कोई आंदोलन नहीं किया। हिन्दुस्तान में उसका जीने का जो हक है, इस सवाल पर किसी ने कभी बहस नहीं की।

महोदय, हम लोग बराबर बहस सुनते हैं कि असंगठित मजदूरों के ऊपर चर्चा होनी चाहिए, चर्चा होती है, लेकिन इन्हें कोई भी सुविधाएं मुहैया नहीं कराई जा रही है। हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसे लोगों की संख्या बहुतकम हैं, जिनकी सेवा एवं सुविधा के लिए लोग आवाज उठाते हैं, लोकिन जिनकी आबादी देश में 40 करोड़ है, उनके लिए आज तक किसी ने आवाज नहीं उठाई। आज गां व में तमाम लोगों की लाल कार्ड, इंदिरा आवास, वृद्धावस्था पेंशन एवं सामाजिक सुरक्षा के लिए दौड़ते-दौड़ते खराब हालत हो जाती है। [rep87] उन्हें बताया जाता है कि आपका बी.पी.एल. नंबर नहीं है। इसलिए आपको इंदिरा आवास और राशन नहीं मिलेगा। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि बी.पी.एल. के सर्वे में गांव और देहातों में रहने वाले अनेक लोगों के नाम छूट गए हैं और इसमें जो वहां के संपन्न लोग हैं, वे उसका लाभ ले रहे हैं। जो सचमुच में गरीब हैं, जिन्हें मकान चाहिए, जिन्हें इंदिरा आवास चाहिए, उन्हें वे नहीं मिल रहे हैं। इसलिए मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करना चाहता हूं कि वह हिन्दुस्तान के गरीबों हेतु बी.पी.एल. का सर्वे दुबारा कराए, तािक उसमें गरीब, आदिवासी, हरिजन, गिरिजन और वनवासी, जो छूट गए हैं, वे शामिल किए जा सकें और उन्हें इंदिरा आवास, वृद्धावस्था पेंशन तथा इस योजना के तहत मिलने वाले अन्य लाभ मुहैया कराए जा सकें।

[<u>r88]</u>

MR. CHAIRMAN: Those hon. Members who have written speeches may kindly place them on the Table of the House so that we can save time.

श्री आलोक कुमार मेहता (समस्तीपुर): सभापति महोदय, आपने मुझे सदन में हो रही अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण विाय पर हो रही चर्चा में भाग लेने की अनुमति प्रदान की है, इसके लिए आपको कोटिशः धन्यवाद।

महोदय, किसी किव ने कहा है- "एक तरफ हैं खड़े महल जो आसमान को छूने वाले, ठीक बगल में कई झोंपड़ी जिनके छप्पर चूने वाले"जिस किव ने यह कहा है, वह अवश्य किसी कंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी की साइट को देखकर कहा होगा क्योंकि जिन हाथों ने इतने बड़े-बड़े महल बनाए, उनके झोंपड़े बगल में चू रहे हैं और उन्हें देखने वाला कोई नहीं है। इस चीज को देखकर ही उसने ऐसा लिखा और यह कहावत चिरतार्थ हो रही है। देश में अनऑर्गेनाइज्ड सैक्टर में 37 करोड़ मजदूर हैं, 22 करोड़ खेतिहर मजदूर हैं और लगभग 1 करोड़िरक्शा-चालक हैं। इनके अलावा बीड़ी मजदूर, विभिन्न तरीकों से मजदूरी करने वाले और केमीकल फैक्ट्रियों, हैजार्ड्स फैक्ट्रियों में काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं, जिनके बारे में अभी तक हमने आर्गेनाइज्ड तरीके से नहीं सोचा है।

महोदय, मैं माननीय देवेन्द्र प्रसाद जी को धन्यवाद देता हूं जिन्होंने इस महत्वपूर्ण विाय को सदन में उठाकर हमें मौका दिया जिससे हम माननीय सदन और माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान इस समस्या की तरफ दिला सकें। कहा गया है कि "कमाए लंगोटी वाला और खाए धोती वाला" लंगोटी वाला' शब्द असंगठित मजदूर को रिप्रजेंट करता है और 'धोती वाला' शब्द संपन्न व्यक्ति को रिप्रजेंट करता है। देश में जोकृति मजदूर हैं, उनकी तरफ भी ध्यान देने की जरूरत है जिनकी संख्या 22 करोड़ है। देश में इतनी बड़ी संख्या में मजदूरों की क्या स्थिति है, इस पर विशेष ध्यान देना पड़ेगा। मुझे इतनी बड़ी असंगठित मजदूरों की संख्या को देखकर लगता है कि देश में नए तरीके का सामन्तवाद अथवा नए तरीके की जमींदारी लागू हो रही है। पंजाब में एक जगह देश की किसी बड़ी कंपनी ने 50 हजार एकड़ जमीन लेकर वहां नए उपकरण लगाकर खेती शुरू कर दी। जैसे-जैसे नए उपकरणों की भरमार हो रही है वैसे-वैसे मजदूरों का स्कोप खत्म हो रहा है। देश में असंगठित मजदूरी, असंगठित ठेकेदारी के अंदर पनप रही है। जब आप इसमें फर्क करेंगे, तो देखेंगे कि किसी भी कानून का इम्पलीमेंटेशन ठीक प्रकार से नहीं हो पा रहा है और मजदूरों की मजदूरी तय करती है।

महोदय, इस देश में मानव संसाधन की जो इतनी बड़ी तादाद है, देश की तरक्की में, देश की नैशनल प्रोडक्टीविटी में इसका बहुत बड़ा योगदान है। इसलिए मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इन असंगठित मजदूरों को अपलिफ्ट करने की जरूरत है। दो दिन पूर्व दिल्ली में रिक्शा-चालकों का एक बहुत बड़ा प्रदर्शन संसद मार्ग पर हुआ। श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव और श्री कृपाल यादव के नेतृत्व में रिक्शा-चालकों के विशाल जनसमूह ने प्रदर्शन किया। [<u>r</u>89]

यह दिखलाता है कि उनके बीच जो आक्रोश है, वह हमारी सरकार तक पहुंचना चाहिए और उनकी समस्याओं से उनको निजात मिलनी चाहिए। लाखों लोग मानवाधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर संगठित हो रहे हैं और प्रदर्शन करने के लिए अपना प्र ग्रेग्राम बना रहे हैं। हम कहना चाहते हैं कि ठेका प्रथा को विभिन्न कानूनों में हटाने की बात की गई है, लेकिन उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन अभी तक नहीं हो सका। सी.पी.डब्लू.डी., जो केन्द्र सरकार का कंस्ट्रक्शन डिपार्टमेंट है, उसके द्वारा हमारी नाक के तले यहां पर कांट्रैक्ट पर मजदूर लिए जाते हैं और उन पर कोई लेबर लॉ लागू नहीं होता है। इसलिए हम कहना चाहते हैं कि चाहे वह किसी भी क्षेत्र का मजदूर हो, अनआर्गेनाइज्ड सैक्टर में जब तक हम एम्पलायर की जिम्मेदारी कानून के द्वारा सुनिश्चित नहीं करेंगे, तब तक उनकी उपेक्षा होती रहेगी और हर तरह के ह्यूमन राइट्स कंस्ट्रेंट्स हैं, उनका उल्लंघन होता रहेगा।

हम कहना चाहते हैं कि अभी असंगठित क्षेत्र में पूर्वांचल से बहुत बड़ी संख्या में मजदूर दिल्ली से लेकर पंजाब तक फैले हुए हैं और वहां पर उनकी बहुत बड़ी संख्या है, लेकिन आप वहां देखेंगे कि वहां डिस्क्रिमिनेशन की स्थिति आ चुकी है। लोग वहां पर स्टेटवाइज़ डिस्क्रिमिनेशन, रीजनवाइज़ तक के डिस्क्रिमिनेशन की स्थिति पैदा करके लोग उन्हें मजबूर करके, उन्हें डराकर ऐसी परिस्थिति पैदा कर देना चाहते हैं, तािक उन्हें कम मजदूरी में अधिक से अधिक मजदूरों की उपलब्धता हो सके, इस तरह के प्रयास किये जा रहे हैं। मेरे दो-तीन सजेशंस हैं, जो मैं माननीय श्रम मंत्री से कहना चाहता हूं।...(व्यवधान) हमें समय कम मिला है, हमारी पार्टी को मात्र 12 मिनट मिले हैं, इसलिए आपसे अनुरोध है कि थोड़ा समय और दिया जाये।

जो उद्योग मजदूरों को काम पर लेते हैं, वे आवश्यकता के अनुसार उनका उपयोग करते हैं, लेकिनउनकी परेशानियों से उनका कोई सरोकार नहीं है। इसलिए नियमों में यह इण्ट्रोड्यूस किया जाये कि जो अनआर्गेनाइज्ड सैक्टर के मजदूर हैं, एम्पलायर पर उसकी जिम्मेदारी सुनिश्चित की जानी चाहिए। क्षेत्रीय आधार पर जो विभेद होते हैं, उसके लिए भी नियम बनाये जाने चाहिए। सुरक्षा की भावना पैदा करने के लिए उस पर आधारित कुछ नियम बनाये जाने चाहिए।...(व्यवधान) हमारी पार्टी में 24 सदस्य हैं और हमारी पार्टी को सिर्फ 12 मिनट मिले हैं।

शहरों में मजदूर हाट लगाये जाते हैं। वहां पर जैसे गाय और बैल की ट्रेडिंग होती है, उसी तरह उनकी मजदूरी की ट्रेडिंग होती है। 30-40 रुपये देकर सारे नियमों को ताक पर रखकर वहां के कांट्रैक्टर लोग उनको ले जा रहे हैं और बैल और भैंस की तरह उनका उपयोग करते हैं, मिनिमम वेज भी उनको नहीं मिलता है। डिमांड और सप्लाई का इकोनोमिक्स का सिद्धान्त है, उस डिमांड और सप्लाई के सिद्धान्त पर मजदूरों को तौला जाता है, कि अधिक मजदूर, कम मजदूरी।

हमारे यहां भूमि उतनी ही है, लेकिन जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है। अशिक्षा और अनअवेयरनैस है, उन्हें कानून का पता नहीं है। गांवों में कहते हैं कि "जितने जन, उतने बन " इसका मतलब है कि जितने हाथ पैदा होंगे, उतना कमाकर लाएंगे। गांव-देहात में यही कंसैप्ट है, अनपढ़ और गरीब तबके के लोगों के लिए और इसकी वजह से जनसंख्या बढ़ रही है, जबिक जमीन उतनी ही है। कृि मजदूर बढ़ रहे हैं, उनके साथ निगोसिएशन किया जा रहा है। मानव संसाधन का इतना बड़ा भंडार भारत देश में है, लेकिन मानव संसाधन की स्किल्ड ट्रेनिंग के लिए, स्किल डैवलपमेंट के लिए प्रोग्राम आर्गेनाइज़ किया जाना चाहिए और उसके लिए विभन्न तरह की संस्थाओं का सहारा लिया जाना चाहिए। सरकार को उस दिशा में ठोस कदम उठाने की आवश्यकता है। मजदूरी करने वाले लोगों की एम्पलायर पर न्यूनतम वेतन और सुरक्षा की जिम्मेदारी होनी चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will not stop. Now, I am calling Shri Virendra Kumar to speak. Nothing will go on record now except the speech of Shri Virendra Kumar.

*Not recorded

श्री हरिकेवल प्रसाद (सलेमपुर): महोदय, आज देश के असंगठित श्रमिक बदहाली को जिन्दगी जीने को मजबूर हैं क्योंकि उनके हित में अभी तक कोई प्रभावकारी कानून नहीं बन सका है। देश के असंगठित श्रमिकों में सर्वाधिक संख्या कृति श्रमिकों की है। वत्तीयश्रम आयोग की रिपोर्ट वी 2002 के अनुसार कृति, वानिकी, मछली पकड़ने और प्लांटेशन क्षेत्र में 19.1 करोड़ मजदूर हैं। इनमें से 19 करोड़ मजदूर असंगठित क्षेत्र में हैं। यह सभी मजदूर सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक सुरक्षा के विभिन्न प्रावधानों से वंचित हैं। अकेले कृति श्रमिकों की संख्या 10 करोड़ से अधिक है। लेकिन उनके लिये निर्धारित न्यूनतम मजदूरी कानून किसी भी राज्य में लागू नहीं है। राट्रीय और अंतर्राट्रीय संस्थानों के अध्ययन से यह स्पट हो गया है कि पुरानी अर्थव्यवस्था को बदलने के लिये लागू की गयी उदारीकरण की नीतियों से देश में कुछ अमीरों की संख्या तो बढ़ी है लेकिन एक बड़ी आबादी गरीब और बेरोजगार हुई है। जिस तादाद में खेती से किसानों की बेदखली हुई है, खेत मजदूरों की उतनी ही संख्या बढ़ी है। रोजगार में कृति क्षेत्र का हिस्सा 1993-84 के 60 प्रतिशत के मुकाबले 1999-2000 में घटकर 57 फीसदी रह गया है। इसका कारण यह है कि खेतों पर आदमी की जगह मशीनें ले रही हैं। कृति क्षेत्र में लगातार घटते वास्तविक पूंजी निवेश एवं मशीनीकरण ने इस क्षेत्र में रोजगार वृद्धि की दर को घटाने में निर्णायक भूमिका निभाई है। आलम यह है कि गांवों में रोजगार नहीं मिलने के कारण बड़ी संख्या में युवकों और कृति श्रमिकों का पलायन शहरों की तरफ हो रहा है। हालत यहां तक पहुंच गई है कि कस्बों और शहरों में पौ फटते ही सड़कों और चौराहों पर मजदूरों की मंडियां लग जाती हैं। भारत जैसे कृति प्रधान देश जिसकी करीब तीन चौथाई जनसंख्या गांवों में बसती है इसलिए कृति क्षेत्र में रोजगार का घटना गंभीर चिंता का विाय ही नहीं, बल्कि सामाजिक खतरे की घंटी भी है। बाल मजदूरों की समस्या भी एक गंभीर चिंता का विाय है। उनका बचपन पढ़ाई की जगह होटलों की सफाई में बीत रहा है। खुद सरकार का मानना है कि देश में 1 करोड़ 26 लाख बच्चे ऐसे चिन्हित किये गये हैं जो बाल मजदूरी में लगे हुये हैं। लेकिन यह सर्वाधिक खेदजनक बात है कि उनकी मुक्ति के लिये कोई कारगर कदम नहीं उठाया गया। इसी तरह आजादी के 59 वर्ों बाद भी बंधुआ मजदूरों की एक बड़ी तादाद गुलामी की जिन्दगी जी रही हैं जिन्हें मुक्त कराने के लिये कड़े कदम उठाये जाने की आवश्यकता है।

महोदय, सरकारी कर्मचारियों सिहत संगठित क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले सभी लोगों को पेंशन और चिकित्सा जैसी अन्य सुविधायें प्रापत होती हैं। लेकिन छोटे किसानों, खेत मजदूरों से लेकर शहरों कस्बों के लघु व मध्यम उद्योगों में काम करने वालों या दैनिक मजदूरों की बहुत बड़ी आबादी असंगठित क्षेत्र में

आती है जो हमेशा आर्थिक अनिश्चितता में जीती है। लघु और मध्यम दर्जे के उद्योगों में श्रम कानूनों का पूरी तरह उल्लंघन होता है। मजदूरों को कम वेतन दिया जाता है और उनके भिवय निधि (पी.एफ.) का पैसा भी सेवायोजकों द्वारा हड़प लिया जाता है। इसी तरह बीड़ी मजदूर भी असंगठित क्षेत्र में आते हैं जिन्हें न्यूनतम मजदूरी तक नहीं मिलती। इस धंधे में उन्हें भयंकर बीमारियों से ग्रिसत होना पड़ता है लेकिन उनके स्वास्थ्य की चिंता सरकार को भी नहीं है क्योंकि समय समय पर घो।णा किये जाने के बावजूद अभी तक उनके लिये चिकित्सालयों की व्यवस्था नहीं हो पायी है।

मैं सरकार से पुरजोर मांग करता हूं कि असंगठित क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों के लिये श्रम आयोग की सिफारिशों के अनुसार जो भी कानून बने, उसमें कृति श्रमिकों को भी सम्मिलित किया जाये तथा उसे लागू कराने के लिये कारगार कदम उठायें जायें। अंत में मैं श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव को बधाई दे रहा हूं, जिन्होंने लोक महत्व के प्रश्न को उठाया है।

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (DHARWAD SOUTH): We are discussing an important issue concerning lakhs and lakhs of workers and their family members, the total of which runs into crores 93% of our work force are in unorganized sector. It works out to 10 crore workers and about 30 crore people who are dependent upon them. It means about 40 to 50 crore people of the country do not have any social security facility or benefit. The workers are mainly in agriculture, small shops, establishments, home based industries, small restaurants etc. They do not have any facility like pension, provident fund, health care, insurance cover, bonus etc.

The very nature of the work of agriculture is seasonal and as such during of season periods, they remain unemployed and as such there is no source of income for them. Besides, if crops fail due to natural calamities or other reasons, even the meager wages given to agricultural workers is denied or delayed. As a result, the workers always live in misery who are residing under poverty deprived of health and education facilities.

They should be given off season allowance to lead a decent life. I demand that agricultural workers should be included as unorganized workers so as to given them benefits. There are beedi workers in my constituency and in this country. Thousands of beedi workers are deprived their rights and their life condition as petty.

The proposed Bill for their welfare is badly delayed. I do not know when it will come up for discussion? Perhaps, it is not on the agenda of UPA. When the life of crores of people are at stake,

^{*}The speech was laid on the Table.

the Government is taking its own time for bringing the Bill. Even for a petty issue, the Government issues ordinance but for this important issue, the Government can issue an ordinance.

* The speech was laid on the Table.

Their living condition is pathetic. It is yearly two and half years since UPA Government was in position. They have been shedding crocodile tears for workers welfare but they are doing nothing in this regard.

Once the Bill is in place, the health care should be provided to crores of unorganized workers. But the ESI Hospitals are not sufficient to meet the work force, who are at present covered under the scheme. Even ESI do not have good specialist hospitals.

How the Government is going to meet the health care needs of the proposed workforce? Moreover, there is a proposal to take over ESI hospitals from State Governments. The Government should do something urgent in this regard.

Besides, there is a proposal to relax contract labour laws especially in textile sector and Special Economic Zones. This should not be done. Contract Labour should be make regular employees in Government Departments.

Besides, there is a proposal to relax contract labour laws especially in textile sector and Special Economic Zones. This should not be done. Contract Labour should be made regular employees in Government Departments.

Unemployment and starvation is rampant in the country. We do pay any attention towards it. The workers are moving from village to city. Those who are migrating to other places are living in very pitiable conditions.

There is a Agril. Minimum Wages Act. Migration workers Act and Workmeans Compensation Act. But basic minimum wages is not revised. Some kind of mechanism could be revised periodically.

I demand the labour department in this country must get a major share from the allocation of funds during budget at central and state level.

I further want a comprehensive bill to be introduced enacted and implemented in a time bound manner.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार (सागर): सभापित महोदय, मैं माननीय देवेन्द्र प्रसाद जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने एक बहुत ही महत् वपूर्ण विाय की ओर सदन में लाने का प्रयत्न किया है। उसके माध्यम से असंगठित क्षेत्र के जो श्रमिक हैं, उन असंगठित क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों के बारे में आज हम यहां सब चर्चा करने के लिए इस विाय को उठा रहे हैं। हमारे देश में असंगठित श्रमिकों की संख्या संगठित श्रमिकों से बहुत अधिक है। लगभग इक्यानवे प्रतिशत श्रमिक असंगठित क्षेत्र में काम कर रहे हैं और इनमें से 11.8 प्रातिशत महिलाएं हैं। इनकी अनेक समस्यायें हैं। मैं इनकी समस्याओं को प्वाइंट के रूप में आपके सामने रखना चाहूंगा।

कोई मजदूर बीड़ी बनाता है, कोई भवन बनाता है, कोई ईंट भट्टे में काम करता है, कोई गिट्टी तोड़ता है, कोई होटल में काम करता है, कोई कांच उद्योग में काम करता है, कोई मिर्जापुर के कालीन उद्योग में काम करता है, ऐसे जो असंगठित क्षेत्र में काम करने वाले लोग हैं, उन मजदूरों की तुलना अगर हम असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों से करें, तो संगठित क्षेत्र का जो श्रमिक होता है और जो सरकारी कर्मचारी होते हैं, उनको चिकित्सा की सुविधा मिलती है, पेंशन का लाभ मिलता है, फंड का लाभ मिलता है। ...(व्यवधान) वे सभी उसमें शामिल हैं, ठेले वाले, रिक्शे वाले और जो सब्जी और फल बेचते हैं, इसमें शामिल हैं। ऐसे विविध क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले जो मजदूर हैं, अगर हम संगठित क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले मजदूरों से उनकी तुलना करें, तो देखते हैं कि उनको चिकित्सा, पेंशन और फंड सुविधा का लाभ मिलता है, लेकिन जो असंगठित क्षेत्र का श्रमिक होता है, वह इन सारी सुविधाओं से वंचित होता है। जब उसकी वृद्धावस्था आती है, तो वह अपने आश्रितों पर निर्भर हो जाता है। हमारे यहां संयुक्त परिवारों की प्रथा खत्म हो रही है। पश्चिम से जो संस्कृति हमारे देश में आ रही है, उसके परिणामस्वरूप संयुक्त परि वारों की प्रथा खत्म होकर एकल परिवारों की प्रथा बढ़ रही है। इस कारण से जो नयी पीढ़ी है, उसके सामने बेरोजगारी की समस्या के चलते ऐसे वृद्धों के समक्ष आर्थिक असुरक्षा की भावना और अधिक बढ़ जाती है। पर्याप्त कानून का अभाव होने से न्यूनतम मजदूरी भी इनको नहीं मिलती है। सामाजिक सुरक्षा का अभाव होता है। भविय निधि योजना का लाभ भी इनको नहीं मिल पाता है और वर्कमैन कंपन्सेशन का भी अभाव है। मुआवजा और राहत राशि का प्रबंध नहीं होता है। बुंधआ मजदूरों के रूप में भी इनसे काम लिया जाता है। दुर्घटना बीमा योजना का लाभ भी उनको नहीं मिल पाता है। हम सभी सांसद सामाजिक क्षेत्र में काम करते हैं और हमारे इर्दगिर्द बहुत सारी ऐसी घटनाएं घटित होती हैं। मैं अपने क्षेत्र की एक घटना का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा।

मैंने खुद अपनी आंखों से देखा कि एक मकान में काम करते समय मजदूर मेरे सामने नीचे गिर गया और गिरने के बाद अचेतावस्था में उसे अस्पताल ले जाया गया। वह मजदूर अस्पताल में जाकर खत्म हो गया। उसका परिवार ठीक ढंग से कमाता और खाता था। उसकी मृत्यु के बाद उसकी पत्नी को दूसरे के घरों में बर्तन मांजने का काम करना पड़ रहा है। उसके बच्चे जो पढ़ाई करते थे, उनकी पढ़ाई छूट गयी।

माननीय मंत्री जी आप बहुत संवेदनशील हैं, आप श्रमिकों की पीड़ा को अच्छी तरह से समझ सकते हैं। मुझे पूरा विश् वास है कि आप इनकी समस्याओं के निराकरण के लिए निश्चित रूप से प्रभावी कदम उठायेंगे। एक बार मैंने देखा कि एक मजदूर एक कुएं में सफाई करने के लिए नीचे उतरा, वहां गैस का रिसाव हुआ और वह मजदूर वहीं खत्म हो गया। दूसरा मजदूर उसको निकालने के लिए वहां गया, यह सागर की घटना है। जो मजदूर पहले मजदूर को निकालने के कुएं में गया, वह भी वहीं खत्म हो गया। इन दोनों मजदूरों को जब बाहर लाया गया, तब तक दोनों मजदूर मृतक हो गए थे। उन परिवारों को जो मुआ वजा राशि मिली, वह बहुत कम थी। उससे उन परिवारों की रोजी-रोटी नहीं चल सकती है। उनके बच्चों की शिक्षा-दीक्षा नहीं हो सकती है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि समस्याओं के निदान हेतु श्रम समिति ने जो प्रतिवेदन दिए हैं, किंतु उन पर पर्याप्त ध्यान नहीं दिया गया है। द्वितीय श्रम आयोग ने भी सलाह दी है कि इनके लिए कानून बनाया जाए, लेकिन इस पर भी कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की गयी है। इन असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों की गणना करने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। यह काम ठीक ढंग से होना चाहिए और यह पटवारी और घर के नंबर और पंचायत के हिसाब से होना चाहिए।

इसके साथ ही मैं एक बात और इसमें जोड़ना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे मजदूरों को पहचान-पत्र भी जारी किए जाने चाहिए। जो संबंधित क्षेत्र के थाने हैं, उन थानों से भी उनका परीक्षण कराया जाना चाहिए। हम देख रहे हैं कि आज हमारे देश में बड़ी मात्रा में पड़ोसी राट्रों से मजदूरों का प्रवेश हो रहा है। जो पड़ोसी राट्रों से आने वाले मजदूर हैं, वे हमारे देश के मजदूरों का हक छीन रहे हैं और कम मजदूरी पर काम कर रहे हैं। इसलिए सारे असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों के लिए पहचान-पत्र जारी किया जाना नितांत आवश्यक है।

सभापित महोदय, मैं कुछ सुझाव देकर जल्दी ही अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा। सेकेंड लेबर कमीशन की जो रिपोर्ट है, उस पर हमारी सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए और जो कानून बने हैं, उनका कठोरता से पालन करना चाहिए। श्रम अधिकारियों को भी सख्त एवं व्यवस्थित करना चाहिए। दुर्घटना बीमा योजना का लाभ इस क्षेत्र के श्रमिकों को मिले, इस बारे में सरकार अच्छे ढंग से पहल करे। श्रम की तुलना पूंजी निवेश के साथ सम्मानजनक रूप से करने की आवश्यकता है।

एक अंतिम बात कहकर मैं अपना भााण कनक्लूड करूंगा। असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूरों के बारे में चिन्तन करते समय इस बात को ध्यान में रखा जाना चाहिए कि मानवीय संवेदनाएं सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण होती हैं और उन मानवीय संवेदनाओं को दृटिगत रखते हुए हम उनके बारे में विचार करें, जिससे उन्हें सारी योजनाओं का लाभ मिल सके। उन्हें पेंशन, दुर्घटना बीमा का लाभ मिल सके तथा उनके बच्चे ठीक ढंग से पढाई कर सकें।

आपने मुझे बोलने का अवसर दिया, इसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (KOPERGAON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

में पहले देवेन्द्र जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने राट्रीय महत्व के विाय पर हाउस में चर्चा शुरू करवाई। मेरे साथी सदस्यों ने जो चिन्ता जताई, मैं उनसे पूरी तरह सहमत हूं। मैं दो-तीन मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करने की कोशिश करूंगा। यह बात सही है कि आर्थिक सुधारों से अगर सबसे ज्यादा प्रभावित कोई हुआ है तो वह गरीब मजदूर, असंगठित मजदूर, गरीब परिवार हैं, चाहे वह आदिवासी हो या शैडयूल्ड कास्ट हो, क्योंकि गरीब की कोई जाति और मजहब नहीं होता। अभी अमीर और अमीर होते जा रहे हैं और गरीब और गरीब होते जा रहे हैं। एक मिडिल क्लास है, हायर मिडिल क्लास है और एक लोअर मिडिल क्लास है। असंगठित मजदुरों के लिए 25 करोड़ रुपये फिफ्थ पे कमीशन में रखे गए। उन्हें मांग से भी ज्यादा पैसा दिया गया। अब सिक्स्थ पे कमीशन बिटाया गया है। मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा कि वे देखें कि संगठित और असंगठित मजदूरों में कितना कम अंतर हो, क्योंकि संगठित मजदूरों की तनख्वाह बढ़ जाएगी और असंगठित मजदूर, गरीब इम्प्लायमैंट ऐफोर्ड नहीं कर सकते। वे बेचारे बेकार रह ही नहीं सकते। पे कमीशन का फैसला जल्दी नहीं आया तो वे अनरैस्ट महसूस करेंगे, क्योंकि मल्टी नैशनल्स की तन्ख्वाह बढ़ती है, कारपोरेट सैक्टर की तन्ख्वाह बढ़ती है और सरकारी कर्मचारी चाहते हैं कि हमारी तन्ख्वाह बढ़े। किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं और बच्चों का कुपोाण हो रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में सोचना चाहिए कि हमें सिक्स्थ पे कमीशन को वेटेज देना है या जो लोग भूखे रह रहे हैं, असंगठित हैं, उन्हें ज्यादा महत्व देना है। मैं चाहूंगा कि सिक्स्थ पे कमीशन में ऐसा वातावरण तैयार न करें, जिससे बाकी सभी गरीब संगठित हो जायें और हिन्दुस्तान में अनरैस्ट हो जाये। इसलिए मेरे दो सुझाव हैं--एक सोशल सिक्योरिटी, शिक्षा और स्वास्थ्य आम लोगों की दी जाये और दूसरा ग्रुप इंश्योरेंस में सरकार के पैसे से, यदि परिवार का एक व्यक्ति किसी कारणवश भगवान को प्यारा हो जाता है, उनका ग्रुप इंश्योरेंस सरकार को करना चाहिए ताकि उनके परिवार को लाभ हो सके।

बीपीएल का सर्वे हुआ है। महाराद्र में आंगनवाड़ियों ने इसका सर्वे किया है। वह ऐसा काम हो गया है जिसमें जो असली गरीब हैं, वे बाहर रह गये हैं। काफी गांवों में इसी कारण झगड़े बढ़ रहे हैं। मैं मंत्री जी से आग्रह करूंगा कि रूरल डे वलपमैंट मिनिस्ट्री से बात करके दुबारा सर्वे करवाया जाये ताकि जो असली गरीब हैं, बेरोजगारी के शिकार हो रहे हैं, उन्हें इसका लाभ मिल सके। यदि किसी नौकरी में पुलिस या किसी चपरासी की भर्ती होती है, तो उसमें अगर दस लोगों के लिए जगह होती है, उसके लिए दो लाख लोग आवेदन करते हैं। 25 हजार की जगह 25 लाख लोग आ जाते हैं। इस कारण वहां भीड़ हो जाती है, लाठीचार्ज होता है। रेल मंत्रालय ने अच्छा किया है कि ऐसे लोगों को आने-जाने का किराया दिया जाता है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि सोशल सिक्योरिटी बहुत जरूरी है। इससे संगठित सीनियर सिटीजन्स को लाभ हो रहा है, लेकिन जो असंगठित सीनियर सिटीजन्स हैं, उनकी क्या सोशल सिक्योरिटी हैं? वे बेचारे अनपढ़ हैं। मंत्री जी इतना ही ख्याल करें कि 60 साल की उम्र वाले मजदूर या किसानों के लिए कुछ किया जाये। एक तरफ आत्महत्याएं हो रही हैं और दूसरी तरफ तन्खाह बढ़ाने की मांग हो रही है। देश में संगठित मजदूरों को ज्यादा लाभ हो रहा है। सरकार को इस बारे में सोचना चाहिए कि असंगठित मजदूरों को ज्यादा से ज्यादा लाभ दें तथा संगठित और असंगठित मजदूरों की इनकम फिक्स करें। असंगठित मजदूरों की कोई इनकम ही नहीं है। इनका अंतर कम किया जाये।

इन्हीं सुझावों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूं। आपने मुझे बोलने के लिए समय दिया, उसके लिए बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

[MSOffice90]

SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPIPARAI (SIVAKASI): Sir,Right from all those labour who are working in the construction industry to those who work as domestic servants, right from those who work as privately hired drivers to loadmen and coolies, right from those who work in the weaving industry to those who work in the Information and Technology industry a majority of our labour class atteast 97% of them are all labour who remain unorganized still. Recent studies show that only 3% of our labour class enjoy the benefits of attendant benefits that come with their jobs. changing scenario in the wake of economic reforms we need to have legislative measures to protect the interests of our labour class. In our country the labour in the unorganized sector and even those working as casual labour in mills and factories are not getting job security or even social security. They do not get health care facilities. They have no pensionary benefits. They are not getting provident fund cover. Majority of our population living below poverty line do not have social security cover and majority of them remain in the unorganized sector. About 10 crores of our agricultural labour are in the unorganized sector. The workers and labour in the construction industry that raises the infrastructure for the country are all unorganized. From domestic workers to I.T. personnel almost all of these people are in the unorganized sector. So a model plan must be evolved to provide social security cover to our labour force in the unorganized sector. There are hundreds of sectors in which we find the labour remaining unorganized and a comprehensive scheme must be evolved to improve their lot. There must be a national survey to identify the labour who remain helplessly unorganized. National Unorganized Labour Welfare Board must be set up.

^{*}English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

It must be a statutory body to provide relief and compensation to the labour who are deprived of job and social security cover.

As far as Textile and Weaving industry is concerned, it provides job opportunities to many. More than 70% of the labour engaged in this occupation are contract labourers. Many of them are women and are engaged on a three-year contract. If they avail of any leave due to health reasons they do not get even the minimum wages promised to them. Our I.T. industry has taken up outsourcing assignments in a big way. We find many of them engaging staff on contract basis. Many of our public sector undertakings are engaging men on contract basis and continue with them as contract labour without extending any of the labour welfare measures to those labourers. Most of them are engaged as daily wage workers. Many of the Government Offices are also engaging personnel on contract basis. We are talking in terms of globalization. But do we follow the western countries where every citizen is provided with social security cover? Health cover is there for their citizens in the western nations. In India not even 10% of our population gets Health Insurance Cover.

I urge upon the Government to ensure social security cover to all our labour class in all possible ways. Only then our economic growth what we witness today shall have a humanitarian dimension. Only then our welfare measures will percolate down to the grass root level. Congratulating the mover of the motion, let me conclude.

SHRI M. SHIVANNA (CHAMRAJANAGAR): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for permitting me to participate in the discussion regarding problems being faced by the unorganized labour in the country raised by Shri Devedra Prasad Yadav on 7th December,2006.

My friend, the Hon'ble Minister Shri Oscar Ji knows the problems of the people working in unorganized sector. Infact, this is the problem of the whole country. But due to time constraint I shall confine to my constituency Chamarajanagar in Karnataka. The unfortunate labourers are in many areas like agriculture, beedi manufacturing, Agarbathi and Sericulture and others. The agricultural labourers have to toil from morning to late evening for a paltry amount. The situation among beedi workers is worse than this. Most of the beedi workers are women and children. They

inhale the tobacco smell the whole day. Many of them get breathing problems and heart diseases. Their income is about 50 to 60 rupees per day. It should be at leas Rs.200/- per day.

Agarbathi workers also face the same fate. The exporters of agarbathi earn very good amount. But the labourers are the most exploited people. Their living condition has not improved even after 59 years of independence.

Among the labourers in the field of sericulture the pupa workers are the worst affected. Here again, most of them are women and children. The pupa workers have to dip their hands in the boiling water to take out the cocoons. The thread of the cocoon is taken and the dead silk worms are thrown out. This is a hazardous job. The labourers do not have life insurance, provident fund facility, social security. Their living condition is pitiable. The children working here are not admitted to the schools and they cannot attend social gatherings. They are not allowed to mingle with other children while playing as their bodies have foul

*English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Kannada.

smell. Some times the fingers are burnt in the boiling water. There is no health care for these unfortunate pupa workers and majority of them are women and children.

After a long time, this discussion is being held on this vital and a very serious problem of the poorest of the poor of our society. I hope and trust that the Hon. Minister and the Government of India will find out some solutions for all these problems of the poor labourers in our country. I thank you and conclude my speech.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, thank you. I really congratulate Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav for taking up this discussion which deals with the burning problems of the unorganized workers of the country. There are about 35 crore workers engaged in this unorganized sector, of which about 25 crores, I think, are in the agriculture sector and the rest are from the other sections. The word 'unorganised' itself makes it clear that their bargaining power is less. As a result of this weak bargaining power they are not able to get the benefits from the management. It is natural justice that the Central Government as well as the State Governments have to come to their rescue, to their assistance.

It is true that there are a number of legislations passed by the Parliament as well as the State Assemblies. But the main issue is that they are not implemented. I do not want to go into all other

sections. I would like to point out two or three main issues which are very important as far as Kerala is concerned and nationally also. As stated by other hon. Members, the bidisector is an important one. There are about 60 lakh bidiworkers engaged in this unorganized sector. I think almost all the States – Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Orissa – and in many other States we see the large number of bidi workers. The main characteristic of this sector is that a vast number of them are women workers and they are getting very very low wages. They are becoming really the victims of the exploitation of the contractors and sub-contractors. It is true that there was a Bidi Cigar Act in 1966 when, I think, the Parliament had passed it. But it is only in few a States, Kerala and West Bengal and I think in Karnataka or Tamil Nadu where they have implemented it. [MSOffice91]

Most of the States have not come to assist these workers because there is a defect in the Central Act that it gives discretionary power to the States whether they want to implement the Act or not. Even in the States where there are a large number of bidi workers and bidi industry is there, this Act is not being implemented. In the absence of implementation of this Act, they are not getting minimum wages, PF, ESI and other benefits. In Kerala, co-operative societies have come forward to mobilise these bidi workers and are giving them some benefits. In this regard, Kerala Dinesh Bidi Co-operative Society is well known, but the Central Government has to assist them. Though the cooperative societies are coming forward to assist the workers, the excise duty on the co-operative societies is 16 per cent. They have to give all their accounts to the Labour Department and the Excise Department. At the same time, no private bidi contractor or private contractor is giving its accounts to them. These co-operative societies have to compete with the private traders. As a result, these co-operative societies are unable to run. There are thousands of bidi workers who are working under these co-operative societies. I have been making this demand that the Government should take some measures in this regard. At least, they can shift this excise duty to tobacco from total bidi produce. Now, what is going on is that unlike other sectors, in the bidi sector, excise duty is levied on the total bidi produce, that is, 20 lakh bidis. Bidi societies and the Government firms give their total accounts, but no private trader will give its accounts. So, these private traders are not paying minimum wages or giving any other benefit to their workers. So, I would request the Labour Minister to take this issue seriously. It is not that bidi workers are there only in Kerala. There are 60 lakh people engaged in this sector throughout the country.

The other one is plantation sector. You know that in Kerala, 22 estates are closed and about 25,000 or 30,000 workers are unemployed for the last three or four years. Maybe, it is not possible due to the new policy the Government has taken and other things. Some measures have to be taken by the Central Government. Not only Kerala, it is also true in the case of Nilgiri area in Tamil Nadu where there are a number of estates which have been closed – I had raised this issue – and the unemployed workers are not getting any other employment. Here also, there is Plantation Labour Act, but it is not implemented. We see the fragmentation of the estates. Due to this, the workers, who were organised at one time, are becoming unorganised because the estates are getting fragmented.

With regard to tailoring sector, I would submit that there are four crore workers engaged in this. Kerala has passed a legislation, Welfare Fund Act. Tamil Nadu has also passed a legislation.

But when you go to the all India level, you do not see it. I do not want to go into details. Workers in cashew, fishery, khadi and handloom sectors are also unorganised and they are not getting other benefits.

With regard to khadi, let me say only one sentence. In khadi sector, the workers get the lowest wages. The speakers go to the khadi store at the time of Independence Day, Republic Day or other important days. We can give the suggestion that the main issue is the market for khadi. But if there is a political will, the Government can save this industry. There are a number of guest houses of the Central Government and the State Governments and there are many Government offices also. The Government can give an order for the Government offices to use khadi cloth for window curtains, bed-sheets and other requirements. I think, the material that is now produced will not be sufficient to meet the demand. If the Government can do something, it will be better for this sector.

What we need is not a new legislation as there are already a number of legislations. Of course, some sections are not entitled to get benefits under the new legislation, but still the legislation is not being implemented.[892]

The Ministry of Labour should not remain as a watching agency. There are a lot of workers in the organized and the unorganized sectors today. Therefore, the Ministry of Labour should take some active steps to implement the existing laws as this is very much needed now.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH (KANAKAPURA): Thank you, Sir. One of the most important subjects is being discussed in this august House, and we all feel proud to speak for the labours in the unorganized sector. They are building this nation, but are themselves finding it difficult to meet their day-to-day needs. I am very happy to debate on the status of the workforce in the unorganized sector in India -- as a Member of the UPA Government -- under rule 193.

There are 37 crore workers in India who contribute 63 per cent of the GDP of this country. Out of this, only 2.7 crore workers are in the organized sector, who are getting all the legal and labour benefits, and have their rights protected. On the other hand, 93 per cent of the workforce in India is still in the unorganized sector, which is a matter of concern for us. They were deprived from all labour and legal benefits. Predominantly, agriculture labour is 24 crore; hotel workers are 4 crore; rickshaw pullers, auto drivers, industrial labours -- which also includes tobacco and *bidi* workers; cocoon growers; automobile drivers; Government workers; cleaners; mechanics; electricians, and construction workers is nearly 2 crore. They do not have PF, medical facilities, ESI, pension, disability allowance, etc., and most of them work in hazardous environment that is prone to accident.

The Government of India has got two schemes, namely, the Janashree Bima Yojana and the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana. In Janashree Bima Yojana, the beneficiary has to pay Rs. 100, and the Government will contribute Rs. 100 in it. This is implemented on a 50:50 sharing basis,

and it covers life insurance of Rs. 20,000 per member in case of natural death. In case of accidental death or permanent disability, they will get Rs. 50,000. In case of partial disability, they will get only Rs. 25,000. But only a few people were given coverage under this scheme as the required amount of awareness is not there about this Yojana. Even though it meets very few needs, still the required amount of awareness is not being given. This is one area where we have to concentrate as there is no proper allocation for it in the Budget. The Government's share of the premium -- without budgetary allocation -- comes to Rs. 13,000 crore. There is no relevance of bringing these types of schemes if there is no contribution in it from the Government side. I am having full confidence in the hon. Minister as he is very kind towards the unorganized labour force in this country. Every one of us in this House demand that more allocation should be made in this sector. If there is not enough money in it, then we cannot think of the welfare of the workforce in the unorganized sector only with the help of words.

As regards the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, it is my humble request to the Minister to simplify the name of this scheme. I am saying this because nobody understands it. Please simplify it as it addresses nearly 24 crore agricultural workers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: Sir, please give me a couple of minutes more to speak on this issue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It seems that you are in a hurry.

SHRIMATI TEJASWINI SEERAMESH: What is the allocation for it here? The agriculture worker has to contribute Rs. 2 per day, which will provide life-cum-accidental insurance, money-back, pension, and superannuation benefits. But this scheme is only implemented in 50 selected districts out of 600 districts. This means that 550 districts are left out of this scheme. [r93]

It covers only ten lakh workers. Out of 24 crore workers, only ten lakh workers come under this coverage, and that too in three years' time. Is there any meaning in it? It is not even covering 0.5 per cent. It is a mere formality and it does not fulfill the needs and aspirations of the agricultural labourers. If the Government is really committed to the cause of unorganized labour, it should allocate Rs.17,000 crore to implement this Krishak Suraksha Scheme. I would request the Government to meet this requirement in 600 Districts.

Housing is the basic need of people. We have debated this in this House several times. How can a person live without food and shelter? It is the basic right of a citizen of the country. Just because these labourers are poor they cannot be deprived of their basic rights. What happened in the housing sector? The Government of India has planned to build 15 lakh houses per year. That comes to 60 lakh houses in four years. What is the actual requirement? The actual requirement is Rs.40 crore. Unorganised sector labourers are very poor and they cannot meet the educational expenses of their children, their day to day clothing, housing, rent, drinking water, electricity, etc. Housing is a basic need for them. The money provided is very meagre with which we can only address the housing requirement of 1.5 per cent.

On health, we have a Universal Health Scheme wherein a premium of Rs. 200 per person is provided. There is no budgetary allocation for implementation of the scheme in any part of the country. Rs. 40 crore multiplied by 200 makes how much? It makes it Rs.800 crore. These are financial matters. Schemes without money are of not much use. My Minister is very kind but what can he do with just kindness? He needs money to implement schemes. Under this scheme, only 50,000 people get benefited. That comes to about 0.001 per cent. It is very painful to see these statistics. Only 0.001 per cent workers are getting this health benefit. That is why I say that it is simply eyewash. Without fund allocation, we are only good in words but not in deeds. That is why, for the implementation of schemes the Government of India must come out with a comprehensive plan for the entire four crore unorganized sector labourers with participation of suitable schemes and programmes for their welfare.

The first Indian National Commission on Labour 1966-69 defined unorganized sector workforce as those workers who have not been able to organize themselves in pursuit of their common interests due to certain constraints

like casual nature of employment, ignorance and illiteracy, small and scattered size of establishments. They are contributing 63 per cent to the GDP. The country must be loyal to them and should address their basic requirements. By fully protecting their rights only we can protect the unorganized sector workforce in the country.

Thank you very much for the kind opportunity.

श्री गणेश सिंह (सतना): महोदय, में सबसे पहले श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव को धन्यवाद दूंगा, जिन्होंने बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दे पर सदन में चर्चा आरम्भ की है। मैं जब राजनीति में आया था, तब एक नारा सुना करता था कि " कौन बनाता हिंदुस्तान, भारत का मजदूर किसान " और आज मजदूर और किसान दोनों वर्ग ऐसी स्थिति में हैं, जिनके बारे में जितना कुछ कहा जाए, वह कम ही होगा। आज किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं, मजदूर दिन भर काम करने के बाद भी भूखा सोता है और बाद में असमय मौत का शिकार हो जाता है। असंगठित क्षेत्र में मजदूरों की बहुत बड़ी संख्या है। सदन में कई माननीय सदस्यों ने आंकड़े दिए कि असंगठित मजदूरों की संख्या इस देश में 36 करोड़ है, कई माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा 38 करोड़ है, तो कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि 40 करोड़ है। महोदय, मेरा मानना है कि हमारे देश में असंगठित मजदूरों की संख्या 40 करोड़ से ज्यादा है। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि यह एक ऐसा वर्ग है, जिसका सभी क्षेत्रों में भयंकर शोाण हो रहा है, खेती में काम करने वाला मजदूर है, मकान बनाने वाला मजदूर है, बीड़ी बनाने वाला मजदूर है, खदानों में काम करने वाला मजदूर है, घर में काम करने वाला मजदूर है, या विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं लेकिन देश का दुर्भाग्य है कि इन मजदूरों के लिए कोई भी कानून ठोस रूप नहीं ले पाया है। जरूरत इस बात की है कि मजदूरों के बारे में सरकार को चिन्ता करनी चाहिए।

महोदय, मैं समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ रहा था कि जनश्री बीमा योजना के माध्यम से बहुत से मजदूरों को फायदा पहुंचाया गया है। मुझे नहीं लगता कि आज तक इससे एक परसेंट मजदूरों को फायदा हुआ होगा। जो श्रम कानून बने हैं उनमें असंगठित क्षेत्र का मजदूर किसी भी हालत में शामिल नहीं हो रहा है। उनका बहुत तेजी से भयंकर शोाण हो रहा है। हम कहते हैं कि उनको न्यूनतम मजदूरी देने का काम हो रहा है। मैं अकेले रोजगार गारंटी योजना के बारे में बताना चाहता हूं कि मेरे जिले में यह योजना चल रही है और उसमें जो मजदूर मिट्टी खोदने का काम करता है और सिर पर लाद कर मेड़ में फेंकता है, उसकी दिन भर की

मजदूरी 30 से 32 रुपए से ज्यादा नहीं बनती है। इसलिए ऐसे कानून बनाए जाने की जरूरत है जिससे उसका फायदा हो। खेती के क्षेत्र में जो मजदूर काम करता है और अनाज पैदा करता है लेकिन भूखा सोता है, जो जूता बनाने का काम करता है, वह जी वन भर नंगे पैर रहता है, जो कपड़ा बनाने के क्षेत्र में काम करता है, वह हमेशा नंगे बदन रहता है। जो जिस क्षेत्र में काम करता है, वह उतना ही परेशान है। जो मकान बनाता है, वह हमेशा आसमान के नीचे सोता है।

यहां ऑस्कर फर्नान्डीज साहब बैठे हैं। उनके सहयोगी एक मंत्री श्री राम विलास पासवान जी हैं। वह कहते थे कि दो तल्ले तक मकान बनाने के लिए अनुमित लेने की जरूरत नहीं होगी लेकिन जो आदमी तीसरा और चौथा तल का मकान बनाएगा, उसे परिमशन इस शर्त पर दी जाए और ऐसा कानून बनाया जाएगा कि एक मंजिल में मजदूर रहेगा और बाकी में मालिक रहेगा। ऐसे विचार आए थे। क्या ऐसे विचारों को आप कानून का रूप नहीं दे सकते हैं? क्या इनकी जरूरत नहीं है? जो देश को बनाने का काम करता है वह सबसे ज्यादा पीड़ित हैं। मेरे राज्य की सरकार ने एक योजना चालू की है। उसमें हमने अपने क्षेत्र के मजदूरों को शामिल कराया है। श्रम कार्यालय में पांच रुपए का एक फॉर्म भरना होता है। उसके बाद 50 हजार रुपए से लेकर एक लाख रुपए तक की गारंटी बीमे के माध्यम से हो रही है। अगर दुर्घटना होने पर, वह घायल हो जाए और काम करने लायक न रहे, तो उसके परिवार को मदद पहुंचाने का काम होगा। इस तरह के कानून बनने चाहिए। बड़ी संख्या में मजदूर बड़े-बड़े कारखानों में काम करते हैं। वे ठेके के रूप में जाने जाते हैं। उनका जीपीएफ नहीं होता है। दुर्घटना होने पर कोई मतलब नहीं रहता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जो श्रमिक स्किल्ड लेबर का काम करता है, उसे न्यूनतम मजदूरी भी क्यों नहीं मिलती है? क्या इस तरह का शोाण उसके साथ होता रहेगा? बड़े-बड़े आन्दोलन और प्रदर्शन दूसरे क्षेत्रों में होते हैं लेकिन इस क्षेत्र के मजदूरों की बड़ी दुर्दशा है। बड़ी संख्या में बीड़ी उद्योग में काम करने वाले मजदूरों को कैंसर की बीमारी हो रही है जिससे हजारों मजदूरों की मृत्यु हो जाती है लेकिन आप उनको कोई मदद पहुंचाने का काम नहीं कर पा रहे हैं। समाज का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा इसके साथ है। भारत सरकार की तरफ से उनको मदद देकर और एक ठोस कारगर नीति बना कर शामिल करना चाहिए।

माननीय श्रम मंत्री जी ने राज्य सभा में एक अतारांकित प्रश्न का उत्तर दिया था कि असंगठित क्षेत्र कामगार विधेयक 2004 को अधिनियमित करने के लिए कार्रवाई की जा रही है लेकिन इसमें कितना समय लगेगा, इसका कहीं उल्लेख नहीं है। इतने बड़े वर्ग के साथ क्या इतने हल्के ढंग से बात की जाएगी? भारत सरकार कहती है कि हम भारत निर्माण करेंगे। क्या भारत निर्माण करते समय मजदूरों की याद नहीं आएगी? क्या इन मजदूरों का भारत निर्माण में कोई हिस्सा नहीं होगा? भारत निर्माण कभी नहीं हो सकता अगर इन मजदूरों को अलग कर दिया जाएगा। यही मजदूर भारत का निर्माण करेंगे। मजदूर शुरू से भारत निर्माण करते रहे हैं। आजादी का इतना लंबा समय बीत चुका है। मैं चाहता हूं कि सरकार इसमें गम्भीर हो। इस चर्चा के बाद कोई ठोस नीति बनायी जाए। आपने बोलने का जो समय दिया, उसके लिए धन्यवाद।

SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI (BADAGARA): Sir, I take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to Shri D.P. Yadav who has initiated such an important discussion on this important subject.

The economic policy adopted by the country for the last two decades has actually reduced the employment opportunities in the organized sector. It has actually paved way for the unorganized labour force and contractual labour force even in the organized public sector undertakings. We would like to discuss the most distressing factor of the informal economy. It is the lack of social security, health care, maternity benefit, family benefit, Provident Fund benefit and such other amenities like housing, drinking water and sanitation. These facilities are not being provided to the workers.

The UPA Government in the Common Minimum Programme had given an assurance to provide welfare and well being to the workers of the country. Apart from the legislative steps taken by the Government in bringing the NREG Act, which is not yet implemented all over the country, there is not any proper effort to solve the problems of our workers. Our work force is compelled to eke out their livelihood in one way or the other in a highly pathetic condition.

The unorganized sector of the country is actually discarded in the social scenario and not yet received the attention from the concerned Ministry. It is an admitted fact that the unorganized labour sector is contributing much to the economic development of the country. Still the employees working in the unorganized sector are not receiving the benefits of the prevailing laws of the country. The working power of the employees is actually being exploited, by the landlords in the agriculture sector and by the multi-millioners in the other sectors.

Sir, the women constitute an important section of the workers in the unorganized sector. In many of the occupations, family labour is engaged. The entire family members are engaged in the case of home based occupations. Even though there is a ban on the child labour, the unorganized labour force in the country, especially in the rural area consists of the children also, which is not yet recognized.

The work situation of the women in the unorganized sector is highly pathetic. Home based workers, especially in the bidi and agarbathi industries and handloom, candle manufacturing etc., are getting very meagre income.

There is no social security measure to protect them. The labour laws applicable to the workers are usually being violated. It is an admitted fact that women constitute a major portion of prawn peelers, coir, cashew and handloom sector. In my State, especially young women are engaged in this work. In the case of prawn peelers, they have to stand on ice and water for hours. They are not getting even the minimum wages. Within a short span of time the nature of their job itself is likely to cause health problems to them.

19.59 hrs. (Mr. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

An important issue that came up in this period was the proposal by the Union Government to amend the present legislation by permitting night work for women. The proposal has not yet been adopted fully. It should be made optional for women workers and not compulsory. Night work should be accompanied by measures to ensure transport to the residence, night crèches and other measures to ensure security to the women workers. There should be a comprehensive legislation in a time bound manner to serve and protect the unorganized sector, especially the women. I urge upon the Government to bring such legislation so that the means of livelihood of our major work force are protected.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN (PALANI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank the chair for the opportunity given to me to participate in this discussion on the conditions of unorganized labour in the country. Let me also thank the mover of this motion a senior member of this august House Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav for initiating a discussion on this much vexed issue.

39.7 crores of labourers and workers are there in this country. Among them only 2.8 crores of people are having regular jobs. All others are either daily wage workers or casual labourers or workers in jobs of purely temporary nature. 36.9 crores of people are in the unorganized sector. 23.7 crores of these labourers in the unorganized sector are agricultural workers. Construction industry sector alone has got 1.7 crores of casual labour as unorganized labour. The plight of building construction workers and their attendants is pitiable. They do not have job guarantee. They do not have any kind of security. They do not have insurance cover or health cover. They fend for themselves looking for job opportunity every morning waiting for the same standing in the street corners. A group of 30 or 40 labourers are hired as per the need of the building contractors. Whenever the prices of building materials like cement and iron increase along with the construction activity the job opportunities to building workers also get affected. They go without job and food. Heavy rains lash out their livelihood and wash out their hope for life. They toil to raise high rise buildings and tall multi-storeyed structures but their living conditions, their job conditions are meagerly low.

Building Construction workers become displaced people, migrant labour moving from one city to another to work for constructing skyscrapers. But sky is their roof mostly. They live in cities and towns as platform dwellers. Recently many of them were run over and crushed to death in Mumbai as they are not safe

from the rash traffic on the roads. Manufacturing units of Agarbathi, Appalam, carpentry units, blacksmithry units, pottery units are all engaging men and women mostly as casual labour. They have occupational hazards with out health care facilities and without job security. They must get social security. Regularized job, fixed salary, health care, insurance cover and maternity or paternity leave must be available to all the workers in the unorganized sector. NREGP is the single major

^{*} English Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

scheme that gives a ray of hope to our labour class in many parts of the country. Central Schemes like Swarna Jayanti Grameen Rozgar yojana could not take off and help the poor. Sampoorna Gram Rozgar Yojana also did not reach the needy properly. The UPA Government led by Dr. Man Mohan Singh and guided by our Chairperson Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji must strive to provide more of relief to all the labour in the unorganised sector. Such viable schemes must be evolved and welfare Boards for the unorganised labour must be established. In Kerala and Tamil Nadu, the labour who climb on trees for a living have Welfare Board or alteast social security measures. Every State Government must strive to set up Welfare Boards for labour in the various sectors of the unorganized sector. I urge upon the Government to determine the minimum number of labourers to come together to make themselves orgainsed labour. Our Labour Minister Shri Oscar Fernandes is one who has felt the pulse of unorganized labour knowing for himself their woes and miseries. I fervently hope that he will bring forth a suitable legislation which was not there for the past so many years after our independence to benefit all the labour class in the unorganized sector. With this I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wait for a minute.

Hon. Members, it is 8 o'clock and I have two more speakers to speak on this subject. If the House agrees, the time of the House may be extended till the completion of this discussion including the reply of the hon. Minister. After that, we will take up 'Zero Hour'.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri A.V. Bellarmin.

SHRI A.V. BELLARMIN (NAGERCOIL): Sir, it is a matter of grave concern that planning for the past fifty years could not fetch the desired result in the matter of upliftment of the down-trodden and unorganized sections of the society. [R95]

Still poverty, deprivation, malnutrition, infant mortality and even starvation deaths are a rampant phenomenon through out the country.

The withdrawal of public health care services by the States has resulted in depriving the poor of availing of adequate health care, either preventive or curative. The private providers are roosting the ground rending the poor inaccessible to them.

Another important factor contributing to the impoverishment is unemployment. Due to unprecedented rise in prices, the price of construction materials like cement and jelly have gone up and due to lack of work, the construction workers are on the streets, roaming jobless. The urban unemployment turns the organized workers as an unorganized lot. The much eulogized economic

boom and industrial growth in the reform scenario could not generate appreciable or required level of employment in the organized sectors. It is estimated that 95 per cent of the working people in the country are unorganized accounting for 36 crores of the total population. Various legislation, measures and Welfare Boards enacted and implemented by various State Governments guaranteeing doles and reliefs for education, health, marriage, death and pension for old age for the unorganized sector workers could not address the problem adequately.

Hence a Central legislation should be enacted to provide for the measures guaranteeing a sustaining livelihood, employment guarantee, health care, education and above all, pension on retirement or destitution. The Government is requested to enact such a legislation keeping in mind not only the economic upliftment of the unorganized workers but ensure equitable and social justice.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, at the outset, let me thank the hon. Members of this august House, especially Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav for having raised such an important issue for discussion. The other day I was fortunate enough to go with him to address, or rather receive a memorandum from the cycle *rickshaw* pullars who were agitating on the issue that has been raised by him in this august House. He has drawn attention about the concern of the workers in the unorganized sector. There are a large number of workers in the unorganized sector. The people who are participating in the agitation are from Purbanchal.

I am also thankful for some of the very useful suggestions that have been made during the course of the discussion. It shall be my endeavour to consider each of these suggestions while formulating the policies in the interest of the unorganized sector workers. I would like to assure the House that the Government is extremely concerned about the problems that are being faced by the workers in the unorganized sector. The Government is also conscious of the need to provide a social security to these vulnerable sections of the society.

Sir, ever since Independence, India's socio-economic development has been driven by Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of the concern for the poorest of the poor. He had once said and I quote:

"I will work for India where the poorest of the poor feel that this country and this nation belongs to them. The Swaraj I dream is the Swaraj of the poor and I have not the slightest hesitation in saying that Swaraj cannot be complete till the poorest have the guarantee of being provided the basic necessities of life. [R96]"

While qu[MSOffice97]oting Gandhiji in his speech delivered on 15th August, our hon. Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh had elaborated saying, "As long as there is widespread unemployment in the country, we cannot claim that we are truly independent. It is with this goal in mind that Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given the nation the goal of 'Garibi Hatao'. Today, if we need to remove poverty, we need to create employment, 'Rozgar Badhao." I am glad that the National

Rural Employment Guarantee Act which endeavours to provide guarantee for employment is already making commendable headway. As you are all aware, this Act provides for 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer unskilled manual work.

I would agree with the contention of Shri Ajoy Chakraborty that if people have employment opportunities and social security, the incidents of crime will come down. We see that crime is increasing and one way to control crime is to provide employment and providing employment will eradicate poverty. The aforementioned National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) will go a long way in providing such job opportunities.

Some hon. Members including Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Shri Madhusudan Mistry and Shri Chaudhary Lal Singh raised a pertinent issue relating to implementation of Minimum Wages Act. They raised a very important issue like though there is Minimum Wages Act, in many States, this Act is not implemented. I would like to inform this august House that the primary responsibility of implementing this Act rests with State Governments. However, the Central Government has assiduously pursued effective implementation through discussions, letters, personal interactions and visits to the States including North-Eastern States. We shall continue this endeavour in future as well.

Shri Mistry also drew the attention of the House towards the notification issued from time to time for suspending operation of the Minimum Wages Act. That means the Act that we have indicated is not given effect to. We will draw the attention of the State Governments towards this issue as well.

Some hon. Members including Dr. Devendra Prasad Yadav and Shri Madhusudan Mistry mentioned that the Inter-State Migrant Workmen Act is not being implemented effectively. Here again, I would like to point out that the responsibility of implementing this Central Act which provides for registration and certain amenities to migrant labour also rests with the State Governments. In this context too, we will draw the attention of the State Governments towards the concerns of the hon. Members of Parliament. Concerns on various points were expressed by hon. Members of Parliament.

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan correctly pointed out that women constitute a large proportion of the unorganized sector and their concerns should be addressed in any proposal for welfare of unorganized sector. We will keep this point in mind while formulating such schemes. Concerns were also expressed about the welfare of child labour. We are trying to do our best in that area by making them go to special schools and to give them education subsequently. It has been the endeavour of this Government to work progressively towards elimination of child labour. A recent notification banning child labour in domestic and hospitality sector like hotels and *dhabas* is a move in this direction. [MSOffice98]

Programmes have been launched for special education and vocational training for the child labour. We believe that the phenomenon of child labour exists on account of poverty which in turn is on account of unemployment. A pilot project has been initiated with international assistance for empowering dependent families.

Shri Ravi Prakash Verma ji raised the issue of skill certification. We have in place National Council for Vocational Training which functions as certification body. The certificates of skill issued by the Council are recognized all over the world. I would also like to inform the House that 200 ITIs have already been upgraded to world class levels and another 300 ITIs are planned to be upgraded. Our effort is to give better skills to our technically qualified people and unskilled workers so that they can earn a better wage, whether it is within the country or outside the country. When they go outside the country, if they have a certificate, they get immediate recognition.

I had earlier mentioned the issue raised by Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav ji with regard to the ban on cycle rickshaws by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi. This issue relates to the State of Delhi. We sought the details from the Municipal Corporation. In the affidavit filed before the High Court in a Writ Petition, the Municipal Corporation spelt out the proposal for formulation of a new Cycle Rickshaw Policy for the betterment of rickshaw pullers as well as for ensuring proper regulation of plying of the cycle rickshaws within the Municipal Corporation's jurisdiction. Through this affidavit, the Court was also informed that in pursuance of the decision of the Committee appointed by the High Court, necessary instructions have been issued to ensure that all arterial roads of Delhi in MCD area be prohibited for plying of cycle rickshaw. This apparently was done with a view to improving traffic management. We shall, however, take up this issue with the Delhi Government to impress upon them the need to protect the interests of cycle rickshaw pullers.

Shri Shailendra Kumar ji drew the attention of the House towards the problems relating to workers outside the country. It is not that we are concerned only about the workers within the country. This issue is being dealt with by the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs. The issue has been raised in the House about our poor workers going and working outside the country. I will take up this issue with my colleague in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs.

Shri Chaudhary Lal Singh ji mentioned about problems faced by unorganized sector workers engaged in transporting pilgrims in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. As the issue relates to the State Government, we would be separately requesting the State Government concerned to look into this issue raised by the hon. Member of Parliament.

Shri Madhusudan Mistry ji, Shri Shailendra Kumar ji and Shri Suresh Prabhu ji raised the issue relating to the problems faced by the building construction workers. The Building & Other Construction Workers' (RECS) Act, 1996 attempts to address such issues. This Act has to be implemented by the respective States. I must admit that the implementation has been tardy despite the efforts made by the Central Government in the form of letters and regional reviews on a regular basis. We shall continue to aggressively pursue the matter with the State Governments. [MSOffice99]

As regards the existing schemes for welfare of workers in the unorganized sector, I would like to inform the House that the Government is operating five Welfare Funds for Beedi Workers, Limestone Dolomite Mine Workers, Iron Ore, Chrome Ore and Manganese Ore Mine Workers, Mica mine Workers and Cine Workers. Admittedly, the coverage so far is only around 45 million workers

as pointed out by Shri Shailendra Kumar and some other hon. Members of Parliament. This coverage is very small considering the total population of unorganized sector workers. Apart from attempting to alleviate poverty, the need for addressing issues relating to rural labour was recognized by Shrimati Indira Gandhi as it was made an intrinsic part of the 20 point programme. The present Government has also clearly spelt-out its intention in the National Common Minimum Programme. I quote from the National Common Minimum Programme:-

"The UPA Government is firmly committed to ensure the welfare and well-being of all workers, particularly those in the unorganized sector who constitute 93 per cent of our workforce. Social security, health insurance and other schemes for such workers like weavers, handloom workers, fishermen and fisherwomen, toddy tappers, leather workers, plantation labour, beedi workers, etc. will be expanded."

I am thankful to Shri Sandeep Dikshit for drawing attention of the House towards distinct needs of each sector in the unorganized sector. I also believe that beyond certain common minimum requirement, the approach will have to be sector specific because we cannot club every unorganized sector worker together. We may have to have a sector-wise approach, if we have to find a solution to the problem.

Shri P.Rajendran informed the House about the welfare schemes in operation in the State of Kerala. We are examining all such schemes operating in various States while formulating policies for welfare of workers in the unorganized sector.

We are now endeavouring to bring out a comprehensive Central legislation for providing social security to the workers in the unorganized sector. It is in this context, the suggestions made by the hon. Members of Parliament, especially, Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav, Shri Suresh Prabhu, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Shri Shailendra Kumar, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Shrimati Archana Nayak, Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, Shri P. Rajendran, Shri Sandeep Dikshit, Prof. M. Ramadass, Dr. Satyanarayan Jatiya who have spoken earlier and Shri Sujan Chakraborty, Shri Narhari Mahto, Shri Alok Kumar Mehta, Shri Virendra Kumar, Balasaheb Vikhe. Patil, Shri Ravichandran Sippiparai, Shri M. Shivanna, Shri P. Karunakaran, Shrimati Tejaswini See Ramesh, Shri L. Ganeshan, Shrimati P. Satheedevi, Shri S.K.. Kharventhan, Shri A.V. Bellarmin etc. who have spoken today would be useful while taking a final view on the legislation and the schemes. ... (*Interruptions*) However, I assure the House that we shall consider each and every suggestion made by the hon. Members of Parliament during the course of discussion before taking a final decision. In any case, the hon. Members will have opportunities to present their views when the Bill is introduced in the Parliament, which I shall endeavour to in the near future.

DR. SUJAN CHAKRABORTY: When will the Bill be introduced?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: My endeavour is to bring it in the next Session of Parliament.

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव (झंझारपुर) : महोदय, सबसे पहले मैं श्रम मंत्री श्री आस्कर फर्नान्डीस के प्रति आभार प्रकट करता हूं। देश भर में असंगठित क्षेत्र के 37 करोड़ असंगठित मजदूर, 22 करोड़ खेतिहर मजदूर और जो अन्य असंगठित क्षेत्र के मजदूर हैं, उनके संबंध में इतने महत्वपूर्ण विाय पर सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने चर्चा में भाग लिया।[v100]

मंत्री जी ने जिस दर्द और भावना से आज सदन को आश्वस्त किया है, इसके लिए मैं निश्चित रूप से मंत्री जी के प्र ाति आभार व्यक्त करता हूं। जब 10, 11 तारीख को मानवाधिकार दिवस के अवसर पर पूर्वांचल के लाखों असंगठित मजदूरों का प्र ादर्शन, संसद मार्च हो रहा था, तब मंत्री जी ने स्वंय प्रदर्शनस्थल पर जाकर ज्ञापन लेने का काम किया। यह निश्चित रूप से यूपीए सरकार के किमटमैंट और समर्पण को प्रदर्शित करता है। इसके लिए भी मैं मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं।

मैं एक बात जरूर उठाना चाहता हूं। यूपीए सरकार के न्यूनतम कार्यक्रम में स्पट कहा गया है -

"The UPA Government is firmly committed to ensure the welfare and well being of all workers particularly in the unorganized sector which constitute 93 per cent of our work force. Social security, health insurance and other schemes for such workers like weavers, handloom workers, fishermen and fisher women, toddy tapers, leather workers, plantation labours, beedi workers etc. will be expanded."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot make a speech now.

... (Interruptions)

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : यादव जी, आप सिर्फ क्लैरीफिकेशन ले सकते हैं क्योंकि इसमें स्पीच नहीं होती।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री देवेन्द्र प्रसाद यादव : सरकार का कामन मिनिमम प्रोग्राम का जो किमटमैंट है, इस सरकार को ढाई साल हो गए हैं।...(व्यवधान) मैं दो मिनट में अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा।...(व्यवधान) मैं सिर्फ क्लैरीफिकेशन पूछ रहा हूं।...(व्यवधान) मैं चाहता हूं कि इसके बारे में कोई समय सीमा निर्धारित हो। ठीक है, मंत्री जी ने स्पट कहा है कि अगले सत्र तक इस बारे में बिल लाएंगे। अर्जुन सेन गुप्ता की रिपोर्ट जो अनआर्गनाइज्ड सैक्टर के बारे में है, वह 16 मई, 2006 को माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी को समर्पित हुई है। उस रिपोर्ट को सदन में प्रस्तुत किया जाना चाहिए। गवर्नमैंट ऑफ इंडिया की नेशनल अर्बन ट्रांसपोर्ट पॉलिसी का अनुपालन नहीं हो पाया है। लेबर कमीशन आन लेबर, 2002, मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ लेबर, भारत सरकार की रिपोर्ट है। उस रिपोर्ट में जो अनुशंसा की गई और याचिका समिति में जो सिफारिश है, उसके आलोक में यह केन्द्रीय विधान है। मेरा कहना है कि केन्द्रीय विधान जल्द से जल्द लाया जाए। रिक्शा बंद करने के बारे में माननीय मंत्री जी ने कहा है कि दिल्ली सरकार से इस बारे में विचार किया जाएगा। रिक्शा के प्रतिबंध के बारे में एमसीडी ने गलत कानून बनाया है जिसके कारण कोर्ट भी उस पर इंटरिफयर करती है। एमसीडी के कारण को खत्म किया जाए और नई रिक्शा नीति लागू करने की जो बात है, उसके बारे में समय सीमा के अंदर केन्द्रीय विधान लाया जाए।...(व्यवधान) मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि केन्द्रीय विधान कब तक लाया जाएगा?

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (SABARKANTHA): Thank you, Sir. I will just take only two minutes. Firstly, I congratulate the hon. Minister for giving such a good reply.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can have clarification. You cannot make a speech now.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: This is seeking a clarification only. I would be very happy if, in fact, the hon. Minister, writes to all the Departments concerned, who are employing people on a casual basis where all the labour laws are being flouted, to ensure compliance. That will go a long way in improving the situation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would call

all those people representing the unorganized sector, who are not affiliated to any Central Trade Union, to attend the Indian Labour Conference. The situation is that if you are not affiliated to any Central Trade Union, you are not called to the Indian Labour Conference. As a result, the voice of the unorganized labours remains unheard in the Indian Labour Conference. So, I just want to know whether it would be possible for the hon. Minister to work out a mechanism whereby the unorganized labour has been given due representation and heard despite the fact that even if they are not associated with or affiliated to any Central Trade Union.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say anything?

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: We will definitely examine this aspect because their voice has to be heard. So, if they are not going to be there, we cannot hear their voice. I will definitely examine this aspect. ...(व्यवधान) [R101]

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय: आपकी पार्टी के माननीय सदस्य बोल चुके हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री राम कृपाल यादव (पटना) : यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण मामला है, इसलिए आप मुझे एक मिनट बोलने दीजिए।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय: जब बिल आयेगा तब आप इस पर बोल लीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री राम कृपाल यादव : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आपने मुझे बोलने नहीं दिया इसलिए हम इसके विरोध में सदन से बाहर जा रहे हैं।

20.31 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.)

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