

11.06 hrs.

## ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*[English]***Comprehensive Bill for Agriculture Workers**

\*122. SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH:  
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are introducing a comprehensive bill for protection of interest of agriculture workers;

(b) if so, the stage at which the proposal stands; and

(c) by when the same is likely to be finalised?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A proposal for enacting a Central legislation to protect the interests of the agricultural labourers in the country is at the stage of consultation with various Ministries/Departments of Government. Government would endeavour to finalise the Bill and introduce it in the Parliament at the earliest.

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Sir, I want to know...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Lakshman Chandra Seth says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Sir, I want to know whether the Government are introducing a comprehensive Bill for protecting the interest of Agriculture workers....*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: I want to apprise honourable Member that Government would attempt to introduce this bill in Parliament as early as possible...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: This Bill should be introduced in this House in this Session or in the next Session positively...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad, you are a senior Member. Please understand, there is a procedure already laid down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will allow you to raise your point after the Question Hour. Now, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You are a Senior Member. Please understand.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record other than the hon. Minister's reply.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: We shall listen to it after the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: In order to encourage labourers in industrial area. The number of agricultural labourers is about seven and half crores. We have proposed that identity cards should be issued to them.

...(Interruptions) About their working...(Interruptions) To solve the disputes which arise in these matters, the services of revenue officials is being taken. ...(Interruptions) We proposed for the arrangement of shelter for women agricultural labourers. ...(Interruptions) To include all these things in that...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour is important. After that we shall listen to it, not now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on the point of order. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now there is no point of order.

...(Interruptions)

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: To include it, we have already sent it and after that we would work for the passing of it here. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will take serious action against those Members who will come to the well of the House.

...(Interruptions)

11.09 hrs.

*At this stage Shri Pradeep Kumar Yadav and some other hon'ble Members came and sat on the floor near the Table*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Do not come to the well.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not good. Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)\*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: Now I have come to know from the hon. Minister that there are 7.5 crores agricultural labourers in our country. But there is no law to protect their interests at present. There are also considerable number of working women in the agricultural field. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is bringing a Bill to protect their interests in the current Session or in the next Session of Lok Sabha. I also want to know from the hon. Minister the salient features of this Bill. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Otherwise, the Chair will take action against you. What is this? You are obstructing the proceedings of the House several times.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As I have said, ...(Interruptions) Such measures have to be taken for seven and a half crore agricultural labourers of the country. ...(Interruptions) I have said that they will be issued identity cards after proper identification. ...(Interruptions) Their work-hour will be fixed...(Interruptions) Their working conditions will be fixed...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: If in the process certain disputes arises, then do solve all those disputes...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to hon. Members to behave in the proper way in the House. Is this the proper way to behave in the House? I am appealing to the leaders also. What is this?

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: The interests of women labourers will also be protected and measures

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\*Not recorded.

for building shelter for them will be taken...*(Interruptions)*  
 Not only this, we hope that a fund in this regard will be raised which will be named "Welfare fund" and the amount of this kind will be about 1000 crore rupees. From it they will get help in doing all those things...*(Interruptions)* As our honourable members know it has been implemented in Kerala. To implement it State Governments on their own will work towards framing such type of laws...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. Otherwise, the Chair will take action against you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The House shall be run according to the provision of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)* Therefore, our points may kindly be listened...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: I want to know from the hon. Minister how in the proposed Bill the Government is going to provide social security to the agricultural workers, such as pension and allowance and also wasteland to those agricultural labourers who do not have land as this will provide social security to landless agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to the leaders also that this is not good. This is not the way to run the House. If this is the behaviour of hon. Members, how is it possible to run the House?

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: I certainly accept this. But here the demand in this particular subject is related to Constitution and, that is why, the Government should make a positive statement with regard to the date they would like to bring the Bill to Rajya Sabha. If the Government is ready to disclose this, then the issue will be resolved. The only point is, the Government should take a view because this particular subject is agitating the mind of everybody. This is an important issue. We have to protect the constitutional provision also. I want to know whether the Government will take any initiative to close the Chapter. Immediately after it is known, I will appeal to my colleagues to get back to their seats...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Madam, take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: Let the Government make the position clear and then I will appeal to my colleagues to occupy their seats and to allow the question hour to continue.

MAJOR GENERAL BHUVAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM: There is a procedure for suspension of question hour. Has that procedure been followed? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. Now the hon. Minister will reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the matter after question hour. Please go to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: What is the response of the Government to this demand?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): The Government is aware of its constitutional obligation of bringing Presidential proclamation in the other House. The Government will bring it in the other House at the proper time. But it is strange that an experienced Leader of the Opposition has asked us to decide the Agenda of the other House.

I do not think, a bad precedent should be set where an assurance on what agenda will come up in the other House should be sought in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: He only said that it is a question of maintaining the dignity and honour of our Constitution. They should let us know that they are not bypassing the Rajya Sabha. We never said that you should let us know the agenda of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: The Lok Sabha has already adopted the Resolution. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJIT JOGI: We requested the Government only to let us know and assure us that the Rajya Sabha would not be bypassed. That was the only assurance our Leader sought. We never said that you should let us know the agenda. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: It is not the business of this House. ...*(Interruptions)* Why do you ask about the Rajya Sabha? You have a Leader in the Rajya Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)* How can a Leader in the Lok Sabha ask about the Rajya Sabha?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO: It is an established convention that we cannot make any reference in this House about the proceedings of the other House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members once again not to disturb the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. SPEAKER: You first listen to us.

SHRI LALU PRASAD: What should we listen?

MR. SPEAKER: What are you speaking?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: This is my appeal to hon. Members. You can discuss this matter after the Question Hour but not now. Please do not disturb the Question Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to hon. Members to please go back to their seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, are you interested in disturbing the Question hour?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Lalu Prasad, please ask your colleagues to go back to their seats. Already, they have wasted fifteen minutes.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

...*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, we all know that this issue is related with crores of labourers of the country. Therefore to provide legal protection to them provisions are already existing. For these agricultural labours...*(Interruptions)* Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is already in force. Likewise Act, 1973 is also promulgated...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Question Hour may not be disturbed.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Likewise Workmen's Compensation Act is also implemented...*(Interruptions)* The laws regarding Provident Fund is also implemented. Laws have also been enacted for inter state migratory workers. ...*(Interruptions)* Despite all these facilities there is a proposal to bring in a Central legislation in this regard. From all angles, for Social security etc. an attempt will be made to accommodate all these points therein I want to say this much, here...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, you are a Senior Member. I am appealing to you. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH: I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will bring a comprehensive Bill in the current session or in the next session, what will be the salient features of the Bill and also whether he is going to provide in the proposed Bill some social security measures such as pension, unemployment allowance and wasteland.

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the moment this proposal gets the approval of the cabinet, we shall try to introduce it. ...*(Interruptions)* The way in which the Honourable member has expressed the concern, we shall take care of that properly.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, honourable Minister has informed that he is going to introduce the bill in this regard. Alongwith it he has informed that almost 7.5 crore agricultural workers are there in the country. Since long they have been given all sorts of facilities but the benefit of those facilities is not reaching to them. There services are not secured and they are also not getting medical and other facilities. I welcome that honourable Minister is going to bring the bill in this regard in the House. I want to know from the honourable Minister that whether he would provide those facilities to agricultural labour which are available to industrial labours, for example, the facility of free dispensaries, accommodation etc.? Whether the Government would work to provide these facilities to them? Whether the Government would also ensure that agricultural workers get these facilities under Land Revenue laws?...*(Interruptions)* Whether the Government would ensure that they get land and whether the Government would give assurance in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Sir, as the honourable Member has asked that how this law will be made more effective and whether it would apply to industrial workers also and whether the agricultural labour would also get these facilities. I shall like to inform him that we have got the laws for industrial workers. The laws are helpful for agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)*. Similarly, the State Governments have declared their laws regarding minimum wages, therefore, it is State Government's responsibility to ensure implementation of provisions of minimum wages. In order to implement all these laws.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please go back to your seats. This time, I will take serious action against all of you.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, once again I am appealing to all of you to please go back to your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: It is the responsibility of Government of India to protect the interests of agricultural labourers...*(Interruptions)* In the present system we will try to include all these provisions in the laws likely to be enacted that agricultural labourers can get social protection....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask a question about central law. ...*(Interruptions)* Prior to this, any Government, whether it may be of Congress or...*(Interruptions)* may be of United Front...*(Interruptions)* then you were criticising it while sitting in opposition and now you are deferring it. ...*(Interruptions)* the big land lords in the villages...*(Interruptions)* the persons like chief of Ranbir Sena will have the ownership, they will occupy the land and they will be represented...*(Interruptions)* it is very difficult to enact law for agricultural labourers. I do not hope that the Ministry will convene any meeting in this regard...*(Interruptions)* It will be very difficult to enact a law for agricultural labourers till the land is forcefully occupied. Several times, discussion has been held in this regard but nothing was happened...*(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Minister whether instead of holding discussion, they would like to prepare a time-bound programme and introduce a Bill regarding agricultural labourers in this very session?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Speaker Sir, as I said that a long discussion has held in this regard and a demand is being made that a legislation should be brought for agricultural labourers so that their safety and protection can be ensured. While expressing their concurrence with this aim, several times an option has been articulated in the conference also. Expressing their views continuously in this regard, it is being said that there should be a Union law.

Keeping the above points in mind, we have tried to bring such law. We have discussed this proposal with all Ministries. After taking their opinion, we have asked to bring it in cabinet. I believe that it will remove the apprehension of hon'ble Member. We want to bring it at the earliest. We are committed for it and as soon as it is passed, we are in favour of bringing it at the earliest.

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: Mr. Speaker Sir, after the 50 years of independence, many Land Reforms Laws were enacted and implemented. There are about eight crores agricultural labourers in our country. Out of these agricultural labourers, more than 90% belong to Dalit and

tribals and of deprived classes. The Government have enacted many laws for agricultural labourers but nowhere they are being implemented...*(Interruptions)*. Even today landless people have land. The incident which took place in Jahanabad, Bihar, was also attributed to this. Our unorganised agricultural labourers are exploited...*(Interruptions)* Whether Government would like to make efforts to provide land to those agricultural labourers who have no land? If the Government can not do this then, as per suggestion made by Baba Saheb Ambedkar, can the Government not take steps to provide safety to these agricultural labourers under that law...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Jogendra Kawade, what is your supplementary question?

...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

PROF. JOGENDRA KAWADE: My supplementary question is that whether Government have any proposal to nationalize the land under the land reforms laws being enacted by Government or not. If nationalization of land gives relief in this regard, whether the Minister and Government propose to materialize all land of the country?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: As hon'ble Member has expressed his concern, it is right that most of the labourers of the country belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are working as agricultural labourers. We know that the subject of Land Reforms is under the State Governments and State Governments are aware as to how should they provide-

land to agricultural labourers. We have received no suggestion so far in this regard. If we receive any such suggestion, we will take decision only after eliciting opinions in this regard.

*[English]*

#### Non-Payment of Salaries in PSUs

\*124. \*SHRI VITHAL TUPE:  
SHRI MADAN PATIL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of women Public Sector Undertakings in Bihar have not been paid their salaries for the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the delay in payment of salaries causing starvation among them; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment to these workers?

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There are 12 central public sector undertakings (CPSUs) having registered offices in the State of Bihar. A list of these CPSUs along with the number of workers employed is given in the statement enclosed. According to information available with the Government, there are no defaults in payment of wages and salaries for the last five years in any of the above mentioned CPSUs.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

#### Statement

Sl.No.	Name of CPSU	No. of Employees Employed
1	2	3
1.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	134792
2.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	3728
3.	Bharat Wagon & Engg. Co. Ltd.	2018
4.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	80407