

being delayed. The traffic usually remains blocked at this railway crossing for several hours. Passengers are often harassed by anti-social elements. Such incidents are common at this place.

I, therefore, request the Central Government that an overbridge at Damoh should be constructed immediately.

(vi) Need to introduce Air-India flights on Madras-USA segment.

[English]

DR. (SHRIMATI) K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchemgode): Sir, though there is considerable air traffic between the USA and Madras and *vice versa*, till date there is no Air India flight to feed this segment. Due to non-availability of direct flight of Air India in this sector, the inflow of NRIs and their investment in Madras, particularly in Tamil Nadu is affected considerably.

Further, those coming from the USA to Madras and *vice versa* have to change the flight either in Bombay or in Delhi and they are the worst sufferers due to different rules followed by Air India and the Indian Airlines. Last but not the least, the non-availability of Air India on this route has enabled other foreign airways operating in this segment to earn revenue.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to introduce Air India flights on the Madras-USA segment.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till fifteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI
KARAMCHARIS BILL—contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House

shall now take up further consideration of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill. Out of the two hours time allotted for this Bill, 52 minutes are already over. I shall now call Shri K. D. Sultanpuri to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am standing here to support the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, which has been presented in this House.

So far as this country is concerned, since the time the Congress Party started the struggle for independence and thereafter, since 1947, the Congress Party has been making efforts to uplift the status of every class, especially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which still continues. I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister and this House for taking decision to set up a commission for safai karmacharis. It is very commendable step as this commission will bring out their problems and the whole country will come to now know their plight. It is also stated clearly in that Bill that the commission who will consider this report, will submit all copies of the report in the House. This is a praiseworthy step of the Government.

People might have different opinions. Many members have stated that nothing has been done by this party upto now. But I would like to tell them that there was time when one section of people did not like to see barbers in their villages and they used to say that they did not like to be shaven by them; they were not allowed even to get water from the wells of the villages. But today the situation is different in the villages. Which party has done all this? Even today there are some people who wish that persons of SC and ST and backward classes should be kept backward. But the decision taken by this Government is well known to you and the country. Our great leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajivji and Sanjayji and all our other leaders have tried their best to bring them forward without any caste discrimination. I think that whatever allegations are levelled here, they are not correct. This is done to take political advantage. This is said by those who do not have any base in villages and in the basis of

cities. These people always conspired against them to keep them backward and this is the cause why these people have not come forward. When Land Ceiling Act was passed in our vast country, at that time Shrimati Indira Gandhi had provided land to safai karamcharis on lease and made them owners of the land. But thereafter, such a Government came who did not implement it. Our Government is determined to do away with the backwardness of the poor and they should get equal status in the society. I think that this is the effort of this Government and they are going to take some major steps to bring them forward.

Yesterday, our leader Shri Narasimha Raoji had also said this thing during his speech. But I am sorry that the nation has not accepted the spirit of his statement in which he made it. Conspiracy is being hatched to defame him. If a clean person is defamed like this, it would be not good. A man who is trying to uplift the status of society, he should be blamed.

Instead of being called Safai Karamcharis the people of a particular section were addressed in a particular manner, which was regretted afterwards, but a lot of hue and cry was made on it. Whereas on the other hand, some political parties and individuals have remained engaged in their efforts to ensure their votes in the name of Harijans, minorities and weaker sections. My submission is that this act of theirs is not in the interest of the country and that the country cannot go ahead in this manner.

Today, a wide spread propaganda is being made of the temple issue; it is said that temple is a sacred place. But a particular section, who toils hand to build the temple has no right to enter it. I have seen many sacred places where the people of these classes do scavenging etc. but thereafter no Harijan or Adivasi can enter. These people always keep on indulging in hypocrisy and creating a wrong impression that they are the only persons capable to take the country ahead. I would like to submit that during the last few years there was a coalition Government comprising of various political parties, including Bhartiya Janata Party. Why did those people not bring this Bill at that time, and on what basis they are taking this step only now? If some facilities are being provided to the people of backward classes, the credit goes only to the Congress Party. It is the Congress Party which has brought this Bill in the House. I feel that the hon. Members should appreciate the measure, for, it is

a good step taken by the Government which should be appreciated by all. If at all the hon. Members find anything objectionable in the Government's policy they may raise objection but it is something below their dignity to engage in personal criticism. I fail to understand what type of feelings the hon. Members want to develop in the country and in what manner they want to take the country ahead?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that the Government has made good provisions in this Bill. A seven members commission proposed to be set up will have the provision to include a woman member in it, and I consider it to be an praiseworthy measure. Our Cabinet has done a good job by giving representation to women in this commission. Many more good measures are proposed to be taken. The hon. Members do know that the Panchayati Raj Bill passed recently will enable the employees belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and their relatives living in rural areas to continue to live there and look after themselves, and thus there would be no violation of law. Now, they would contribute in the upliftment and development of the country and taking it ahead while living in rural areas. I do know that we are passing through a difficult period at present. When we got independence, our people had to face a lot of hardships, but today we are fully independent. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to education. Though the Government has decided to set up a commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would also like the Government to make a provision under which the children of Safai Karamcharis may get free but best education. The Government should provide all the required finances in this regard. If they get free education, they would come forward to contribute in the national development, and this would strengthen the feeling of nationalism. We want our country to move ahead. We can come forward even in the field of education. The back-log with regard to jobs in whatever departments exists should be filled. I have observed that in all the nationalised banks, Safai Karamcharis are engaged on contract basis and are given a specific area to clean for which they are paid a fixed amount, such as Rs. 120/- or Rs. 200/- Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the Government that contract system should not be adopted for engaging Safai Karamcharis in the nationalised banks or Public Undertakings. The workers engaged there should be employed

on regular basis, so that they may get salary equal to other employees, but they are being exploited there. The Safai Karamcharis working in banks and Public Undertakings should be paid salary sufficient to look after their families. I would like the Government to take stringent measures in this regard and fill the backlog of vacancies meant for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I welcome the Bill for the Constitution of National Commission for Safai Karamchari and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, Bill, 1993. Though the Hon. Prime Minister had made an announcement to this effect on 15th August, 1992, the Bill has been introduced now. In any case, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister for presenting the same. However, I regret to say that even after 45 years of independence the Safai Karamcharis have not been recognised as human beings. I have closely watched their deplorable condition because I lived in their locality. While living amongst them I felt their pain and it is perhaps difficult to find such an example in any of the civilized societies. For instance, I witnessed them carrying night soil in leaking buckets, due to which they became victim of many dreaded diseases. Even today, about 6 lakh scavengers all over the country are engaged in this disgraceful work. Passing the Bill based on human values create an impression that we have reached the last halt of our journey. I am confident that by the end of this century, all the scavengers would be rehabilitated and trained to do other dignified jobs. Had Mahatma Gandhi been alive, this problem would have been solved much earlier.

Sir, we welcome the constitution of this commission. In this context it is praiseworthy that the commission is time bound, and it will have to accomplish the work entrusted to it within four years. I would like the Government to rehabilitate the Safai Karamcharis within this period. This commission is also expected to provide alternative employment to the Safai Karamcharis. I would like the hon. Minister to tell us clearly as to how this work is likely to be accomplished in the prevailing circumstances. It has been stated in objects and reasons of the Bill that the project will be implemented by the

State Governments or the Scheduled Castes Development Corporation set up by the State Governments. In this regard, it is not clear as to what will be relation between the National Commission and the State Governments? Has the Government taken measures to establish a coordination between the State Government and the National Commission? The hon. Minister should also clarify this.

Finally, I would like to put 2-3 demands and conclude. First of all, the Safai Karamcharis working in all the Municipalities and Municipal Corporations of the country should be regularly paid their monthly salaries. It is seen that these employees, working in the Municipalities are not paid their salaries for 15 months. I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take immediate action on this.

The Central Government should also take initiative about increasing the salaries of the Safai Karamcharis, so that people of other castes are also encouraged to do this work. This will help in ending the caste-discrimination in our society. The hon. Minister should give a clear reply in this regard.

In the matter of reservation people of this category are far more lagging behind than the other Scheduled Castes. The Central Government should, therefore, prepare a special scheme to educate these people so that they could also join the national mainstream.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. When this Bill came in the Parliament, I went to a scavenger's colony in Patiala. There are two colonies consisting of five thousand houses. In 1946, when I was a Congress worker, I had visited that colonies. These are in the same condition today, as these were in 1946. What has the Congress Party done in the last 46 years? They have brought this Bill now. Through this, they are making permanent arrangements so that the Safai Karamcharis remain in the same condition and do not get any other work, 41 children, who have passed matric, were simply wandering in those slums. They were not given even a peon's job, not to speak of a clerk's job. Such a legislation would only be an eye wash. I would like to submit that in Punjab, the sweepers should be given employment first and only after that the general candidates should be recruited. Even the Parliament has about 100 Scheduled Caste Members.

What are they doing? Some seats in the Cabinet as well as in the Rajya Sabha should be reserved for this category. There are 35 Judges in the Punjab High Court, but none of them belongs to Scheduled Castes. There is not a single Scheduled Caste judge in any of the courts in the country. There are more than hundred Scheduled Caste lawyers in Punjab. Cannot those lawyers become judges? The people of this category should get reservation in Rajya Sabha, Council of Ministers, High Courts and in Public Service Commissions. The scavengers have no proper housing facilities in their colonies. The Government should provide houses to them. As many as 12 children live in a single room. A Commission has been constituted and Sardar Buta Singh will be made its chairman. That is enough. Now they will say that a Commission for scavengers has been constituted. I would like to tell the Congress Government here that it was the Scheduled Caste people who had voted the Congress Party to power in Punjab, but the State Government did nothing for them. They are still starving. No employment was provided to them. They are not complying with the directives given by the Centre. I, therefore, would like to tell the Government of Shri Narasimha Rao that this Commission has been constituted just for the name sake and four five rich and influential persons will be made its members. Efforts should be made to provide food and shelter to scavengers. They should be given priority in the government services. 45 years have passed and even after the next 45 years, the Congress Party will not elect a Scheduled Caste as the Prime Minister. Gandhiji had always said that the upliftment of Scheduled Caste was necessary. There have been only two Scheduled Caste leaders, namely, Shri Jagjivan Ram and Dr. Ambedkar, who have been known in the entire country. Sardar Buta Singh and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan talk a lot but I praise them. Which Prime Minister or Chief Minister has even tried to improve the lot of the SCs/STs. It is only being said that this much has been done and they will do this and that, but nothing is actually done.

I would like to point out to the Government that 46 years have already passed. We should now do something for them. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAJ NARAIN (Basgaon): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after a long wait and after much pressure from the Opposition, the Government has brought forward the National

Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill and we support it.

The condition of Safai Karamcharis is not going to change just by moving or passing this Bill. The responsibility of the Government does not end here, but besides a clear-cut policy for their progress and the facilities to be provided, it should also have clear intentions. We do not doubt the intention of the Government, but there are some instances which strengthen this doubt. For example, the Government had assured in this House that the practice of carrying of night soil on head will be stopped, but nothing has yet been done in this regard. The Government had assured that the system of dry toilets will be done away with and arrangements would be made for providing other alternative to the Safai Karamcharis, to earn their livelihood, but that assurance has remained on paper only. Assurance was given about their rehabilitation and education of their children, but that also has remained on paper only. Even the persons recruited for collecting money at the 'Sulabh Shauchalayas' constructed at different States were not recruited from among the Safai Karamcharis, but were taken from other categories. I would request that these appointments should be made from among the Safai Karamcharis only.

Such instances raise doubt on the intentions of the Government. As per my understanding, there are only four means of progress, through which a person can prosper. First is agriculture; Second is Government job; third is private enterprise job and the fourth is business. The number of Safai Karamcharis in comparison to other Scheduled Castes and other categories is much more.

Sir, a Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was constituted after independence, but what is its scope of work. Our Congress colleagues, who are expert in celebrating centenary years, will celebrate its Golden Jubilee after a few years. But even after these 46 years, the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes has not been completed in class I, II, III, IV, posts. A large number of Safai Karamcharis, who live in the villages, do not have the means of agriculture and neither they have been provided any such work. Recently, a scheme was prepared by the Government that to improve the economic condition of the people of weaker sections, Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis, the vacant land in the villages will be distributed among them. Everyone

heard about it, but no one got any land. In some cases, several persons were given the same plot of land, which led to fighting among them. People had to spend their hard earned money in courts and police stations. They became poorer. Neither they have been provided any facilities for agriculture nor the means of agriculture are available there. There is no surplus land which can be distributed to them.

Now comes the question of Government job. Reservation facility was provided in it. We all are aware of the situation which occurred on 12th in this House. So, the reservation policy is not being implemented in the country properly, as the intentions of the Government are not clear in this regard. Some of the Members try to become the leaders of the Scheduled Castes, but they are not present here today, when the National Commission on Safai Karamcharis Bill has been moved. Their commitment towards the cause of Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis can be assessed from this fact. Third is the private sector job, that is, working in private industries and in business. The Government provides aid to different firms, but even after 46 years of independence, no such arrangement has been made to provide reservation facility in this sector also. There is no such provision that the units, which do not fulfill the reservation quota, will not be given Government aid or the aid would be withheld. Until such a provision is made, the people of lower categories will not be able to get employment here. The fourth is self-employment. It is seen that the Government makes tall in this regard and says that it is providing loans. But this loan amount will not be more than Rs. 6000 and only half of the loan amount will be waived. Big businessmen are being given loans on only 4 per cent interest by the Khadi & Village Industries Department, but they declare themselves bankrupt and put the Government to loss. This Government and some political parties politicise the issues of Scheduled Castes and Safai Karamcharis and try to find out ways to solve them, but there are getting more complex. Why? The reasons behind this should be found.

So, a common man like me doubts the intentions of the Government that it enacts all such rules just for political gain and does not want to fulfill them actually. May be it enacts a rules in the morning and telephones the officials in the evening asking them not to implement that rule. That is why, rules are not properly implemented in our country. If a survey is conducted today regarding the loans given in the villages for

setting up business or other works, it will be found that the loan amount did not reach the poor in the villages, but its benefit was reaped by others. When I was a Block Pramukh 10 years ago, I had a survey conducted in one of the villages. Loans were granted in 36 cases in that village, out of them 18 were fake. By fake, I do not mean that the loan was taken for some other work, but was utilised for something else. A fake loan is that which is shown in the name of one person and is taken by some other person. This is the present order of the day in our country and this raises doubt on the intentions of the Government. I would request the Government to take solid measures for social, educational and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis, Scheduled Castes and weaker sections and they should be implemented properly so that they can join the mainstream of the country.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (KISHANGANJ) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish I could support this Bill wholeheartedly but I have a feeling that it is yet another knot in the chain of deceptions that the Government have been parading before the country.

There is a feeling that this is no more than a political gimmick. It appears to be a brilliant idea that there should be a National Commission for this particular category of people who are, among the lowliest of lowly and who are among the most depressed of the depressed and the most under-developed in our country and who perform a social task which is so essential and at the same time so much looked down upon our society.

Sir, I remember, at this moment, a formulation by Lenin when he said that "Soviets plus electricity equals communism". In the same vein, Dr. Mulraj Anand, in one of his novels, defines socialism as "Swaraj plus flush toilets". I do not recall the name of that novel but I distinctly recall this formulation. But I find that this Government has created the National Commission on Women which is still dys-functional. It created a National Commission on Minorities, gave it a statutory authority and it took more than two years to reconstitute it. It has taken two-and-a-half years to create a National Commission on Backward Classes which has just been announced. I have not yet seen any Reports of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes being debated in this House. We had the Places of Worship (Special

Provisions) Act passed in 1991 in a great hurry and nothing has come out of it. We have, since 1981, a programme for the uplift of the minorities called the Prime Minister's 15-point Programme for the Welfare of the Minorities, a very high-sounding title. We, in this House, are yet to see and receive a Statement by the Government, over the last twelve years, of what has been achieved under this 15-point Programme of the Prime Minister.

You may recall that these very gentlemen blocked the implementation of the Mandal Commission Report which was submitted in 1979 and now we have finally been able to force the implementation thereof in 1993.

15.00 hrs.

And they are not desisting from creating more legal obstacles. I may recall yet another report, the Gopal Singh Panel Report constituted again in pursuance of an electoral promise, immediately after Mrs. Indira Gandhi came back to power in 1980. The report was submitted in 1983 and now we are in 1993 and we are yet to discuss that report in this House.

We have a statutory provision for the linguistic minorities, there exist the post of the Linguistic Commissioner for linguistic minorities. I do not recall the exact number, but I believe that for the last 14 or 15 years, the Annual Report has never been discussed in this House. Of course, we had the old Minorities Commission which went on submitting one Annual Report after another, one Special Report after another; and during its entire existence from 1978 to 1992, not one of its Annual Report was discussed in this House. Therefore if the Government today tells us that they are going to form yet another Commission for yet another afflicted section of our society and that they are sincere about it, I have got to take it with a pinch of salt.

The original Bill, as it stood, said that this Bill, this Act shall cease to have effect after the 31st day of March 1997, that is to say, not a permanent Commission but a temporary Commission was envisaged; and perhaps that was in the fitness of things, because after all this Commission was concerned with a particular profession or vocation. The national purpose was to abolish that vocation, to eliminate manual scavenging. Therefore, it was, absolutely in the fitness of things that the Commission envisaged should be temporary. But, now, the hon. Minister has moved an official amendment, which extends the definition of the term "Safai

Karamcharis" beyond persons engaged in or employed for manually carrying human excreta, to those engaged in any sanitation work. Now, if the definition has been extended, I think, it follows automatically that that concept of temporariness or transitoriness must also go. I would like the hon. Minister to kindly consider this aspect that this having extended the definition, he must also delete Section 1, sub-section 4 of the Bill. Otherwise, the two are in direct conflict and direct contradiction to each other. Therefore, the Government is not clear in its mind what sort of a Commission does it want, what shall be its actual purpose and for how long.

Coming to the Statement of Objects and Reasons, there are two reasons given here for the creation of this Commission. It says that there is no agency at the Central level to study, evaluate and monitor the scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.

Now, I am amazed that 14 years ago, when Mahatma Gandhi's birth centenary was observed in this country, it was part of the national programme that to commemorate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi, who tried to dignify the profession of manual scavenging by doing scavenging by his own hands in his Ashram, we said, we shall abolish this manual scavenging within a year. It is amazing for the Government to say that so far no agency of the Government, not the Ministry of Urban Development, not the Ministry of Rural Development, not the Ministry of Welfare in whatever shape it existed in the past, has ever bothered about the fate of the Safai Karamcharis or gone into the effectiveness of the implementation of the schemes provided by the Government. It is really amazing. Surely, there is enough authority with the Government; there is enough executive power vested in the Government. You do not require yet another advisory body; you do not need any further recommendations, you do not require information; you have enough experience; you have enough knowledge. What you lack is the political will and nothing but the political will. If you had the political will, then 14 years would not have lapsed after the birth centenary of Mahatma Gandhi for abolition of manual scavenging to be taken up in this country.

15.05 hrs.

[Shri Nitish Kumar in the Chair] 44 years would not have elapsed after the independence of the country for manual scavenging to have

been abolished. Therefore, this plea that there is no central agency for the purpose is not correct. I am sure every Government Department is absolutely competent to evaluate any scheme that it is supposed to implement. It does not require any additional machinery though sometimes it might like to have a second opinion. Therefore, again I would say, your are not clear in your mind whether you want an executive commission or you want a purely advisory body; whether you want an implementation agency or you want merely an agency which you should consult from time to time.

From what I read here in the Bill itself, its scope is extremely vague and shadowy. You have said, "it might recommend to the Government specific programmes of action." Again recommend. You have said "it might study and evaluate the implementation of the programmes and schemes which are being done by the Government." Again purely a study group. Then you say, "investigate specific grievances and take suo-moto notice of non implementation of various schemes. Well that is to say look into the grievances. Surely any Government Department can also look into such grievances.

Then finally you say, "make periodical report to the Government". It has got no executive authority at all. Then why do you bring in this idea of so many hundreds or crores in relation to this Commission. You are not giving any power to execute any scheme with the power for resource application. You are depriving it of all substance of power. You only want a shadow commission like all the other commissions that you have created. A shadow commission will not help to abolish scavenging from the country.

Sir, I would like to make a specific point. The liberation and rehabilitation of manual scavengers basically requires universal education. Why is it that most sons in our country follow the profession of their fathers? I am sorry to say that now many do even in the case of politicians, sons follow the profession of their fathers. Somebody told me a few days ago: in our country the son of a potter will remain a potter and the son of a king will become a king. Have you any objection to it?

But now we are now living in a democracy and a democracy is characterised by both vertical mobility and horizontal mobility. There is no bar on any citizen getting necessary educa-

tion, acquiring necessary skills, obtaining necessary training, to take himself away from the traditions, from the rut, of customary profession or vocation followed by his parents or his family and start a new life. That is the meaning of modernisation, that is the meaning of urbanisation, that is the meaning of development and that is the meaning of democracy.

Unfortunately, in our country we have failed to keep one promise we made to our children that we shall introduce within ten years of independence, sorry, within ten years of the promulgation of the Republic of India, free and compulsory primary education for all children upto the age of 14. Had we done that, you would not find any manual scavengers anywhere? But that you did not. Even today you are not prepared to do that. You do not have sufficient provisions for universal education of vocational training.

I am not against when I see my old scavenger. He has passed his prime. He will die as he has lived. But I am absolutely shocked and anguished when I see his little son coming with him and helping him in his job. That is disgusting, that is the disgrace. What are we doing for those children? What vocational training are we giving them? What education are we providing them? Therefore, Sir, what is needed is the political will to provide universal education and universal vocational training so that alternative openings are available for the lowest elements in our society. Alternative vocations and alternative skills should be provided so that children do not necessarily follow in the footsteps of their fathers, so that there is social mobility—vertical and horizontal.

Thirdly, we have to, along with skills, provide employment opportunities, we have to take special care of them. We have to apply measures in order to pick up a group of people, train them, educate them, give them a new vocation, give them training, give them skill and then give them a job. We have to provide jobs for them.

That is where implementation must come in. Therefore, merely having a Commission and merely debating a Commission's report will not do. For the Government, it is all right, if they want something as a political gimmick, if they want something as an advance manifesto for the election which is on their head, if they want to deceive the country and delude the masses as they have been doing all these years, all right, let

them get away with this piece of paper. I do not mind it. But if they really want to change the society, if they want to really bring some *parivartan* and a new *samaj* to be born in India, then they have got to pick up these people from the grassroots, from the bottom and give them a new life, a new hope and a new opening.

Coupled with it also, is a question I would like to put before the Government. I do not know on what they are going to spend these Rs. 905 crore. We have no details here. I wish the hon. Minister will tell us what he proposes to spend it on. But I do wish that a part of it will go into housing. The orbit of the schemes, Indira Aawas Yojana or the Ambedkar Aawas Yojana whatever it is, must be widened in order to give special treatment for these people whom you have been able to take out of the manual scavenging and give them a new job.

Therefore, to conclude, I look at this Bill this way. I do not see any reason really to oppose it. There is nothing to oppose in it. But I have my doubts. I am sceptic about its usefulness and I am really doubtful about the motive of the Government. Therefore, I would suggest that the hon. Minister must assure us with reference to the actual programmes that he envisages in respect of this Rs. 905 crore, on how he proposes to spend it, what are the major schemes that he has been able to introduce in the last two years and in what manner would he use the proposed Commission to monitor the progress of implementation, especially of the schemes, and whether he would be bound by the recommendations made by the Commission.

I would also like that at the very apex level the Government must have it that not only the Ministry of Welfare must act as the nodal Ministry, that it must, because no executive work can be done without pinpointing the responsibility—but it must also involve all the other Ministries concerned like the Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Rural Development, Ministry of Education and the Planning Commission. There must be a central committee in order that there is continuous interaction with these ministries and the Government do not face any difficulty, when they have schemes and really master political will to do something for changing the face of the lowest element of the society, the manual scavengers.

With these words I await what the Minister has to say, before I decide in what way to vote.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI (Gazipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the national Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, 1993 has been introduced in the House. This Bill relates to a section of society which is the most backward from social, economic and cultural point of view. This section has been totally neglected in the society. In order to provide justice to them through a Commission, the Government has brought this Bill.

It is worth noticing that how the Commissions have been set up by this Government so far and how their reports are lying in cold storage. Besides, it has also been observed that this type of political trick is played to dilute the resentment as and when it erupts among them. If this Commission has also been set up with the same intention and in the same manner, it is certain that it will also prove to be a futile exercise. I would like to submit that the aims and objects and reasons given in the Bill introduced by the Government to set up a Commission for scavengers says that the efforts made by the Government to improve their social and economic condition has not yielded desired results. The Government admits this fact. That is why they are going to set up this Commission for a limited period. The term of the Commission will be of 3 years. It will comprise a Chairman, Deputy Chairman, 5 members and one lady member. The Commission will submit its report both to the Centre and the State. It has not been indicated clearly that in what manner the State Government will use it and what would be the objectives of the Commission in this regard. I, therefore, request that the same may be clarified.

Secondly, in the definition, there should not be any discrimination on the basis of caste and religion in the matter of providing facilities to Safai Karamcharis. During Pandit Nehru's time, reservation was provided to a Hindu sweeper but a Muslim sweeper was deprived of it. Facilities of Scheduled Castes were provided to a Hindu washerman but not to a Muslim one. Therefore, it is requested that facilities should be provided at par without any discrimination.

Thirdly, it has been noticed that in the Banks persons are recruited in the name of scavengers who have nothing to do with scavenging and they rather deploy some other persons on contracts basis to carry out the job. In this connection, it should be clearly defined that only those

persons should be recruited for this job who come under this category. The Safai Karamcharis working in the towns, notified areas, Municipal Corporations do not get their salary for six to eight months. Their number should also be increased in proportion to the ever increasing population. A special scheme should be chalked out for providing proper residential facilities to them. Besides, the facility of reservation provided for their upliftment should not be provided in the matter of services only, but also in issuing licences and other professions as well. Apart from this, they should be given equal opportunities at every level for their economic development. Now, the Government has adopted the system of privatisation and free trade. The people who have been provided the facility of reservation so far, are not going to be benefited under the new system. Therefore, the Government should think of issuing them licences and providing other facilities to make them economically strong.

With regard to the Commission, I would like to say that the term of the Commission should be extended from 3 years to 5 years and members of the Commission should be appointed from those who are already engaged in this professions. With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you giving me the opportunity. I rise to support the Bill for setting up of a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis, on behalf of our party.

In fact, this is a long overdue Bill. The objectives of this Bill are quite laudable. My only fear is that unless the Government take concrete action, the objectives may not be fulfilled. We have our own example of the Dowry Prohibition Bill. In spite of the Bill, we come across several dowry deaths almost everyday in the Press because woman is not provided a right in the property of her father. That is one of the main reasons. Similarly, though the Government has got very good intention to do away with the manual scavenging by the end of the Eighth Five-Year Plan, unless the Government provide adequate funds, not only for the rehabilitation and uplift of the scavengers but also to improve the sanitation conditions in the urban areas as well as in the rural areas, this is not going to be really completely eradicated, though to some extent it may certainly help.

Among the functions of the Commission, I have not found two important components. Apart from the functions which are stated in the Bill, my suggestion is that this Commission should also assess the magnitude of the problem as it exists today in the cities, in the towns and in big villages and provide funds required to improve the sanitary conditions throughout the country. Coming from the rural area, you are quite aware that still in rural areas, not even two per cent of the population is enjoying this septic latrines facility. It is a matter of shame of find women folk going for call of nature of the public roads where so many men move about. They have no other alternative because they do not have enough financial capability to have septic latrines in their own homes. I am very sorry that the Government has not taken care of this problem. Though you want to do away with the dry latrines but unless you provide funds for construction of septic latrine, it is not going to help. I know you are providing some help from CAPART or some other agencies to some extent.

In reply to a question in Parliament you have stated that the Government intends to spend nearly Rs. 30 crores in the year 1993-94 under the Centrally sponsored rural sanitation programme. It will be very-very inadequate when compared with the problem that exists today. You are spending so much money for meeting the physical conditions in the urban areas especially in the cities. Although there are beautiful lighting arrangements, still you want to spend more money on the sodium vapour lamps so that even in the night times we may feel as if it is day time. But you do not have any care about the bare necessities of the rural women, especially the poor.

My suggestion to the Government is to kindly provide funds for meeting the sanitation conditions in the rural areas and in the towns. Just your saying that you will be doing away with manual scavenging will not hold good unless the house owner who is having that dry latrine facility—as the situation is today—is made to have the underground drainage facility or something like that. Then only it will be helpful to the people. My suggestion to the Government is to kindly take care of that particular aspect also. Then only your intentions can be achieved.

I am sure it is a right step in the right direction. With these words, I am happy to say that the Government will take the suggestions that

have been made by the hon. Members during the discussion and accept certain amendments to really take care of this problem which is very very long overdue.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (Mirzapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill is indeed a good Bill. In spite of a good policy, much depends upon the intention of the Government. We are apprehensive about the intention of the Government. The reason behind it is that the objects for which the commissions have been set up by the Congress Government so far, have never been properly implemented. Therefore, it is natural that we are apprehensive. The matter of surprise is that the man who performs the work of scavenging is considered a man of lower category whereas a man who spreads filth is considered a man of higher level. It is really surprising. I would like to state categorically that we will have to change this concept.

When Pt. Deen Dayalji and Dr. Lohia used to deliver speeches from a common stage. Pt. Deen Dayalji had said in 1967, that serving the poor is the real worship of God. In the same manner, Dr. Lohia had also said that the queen and the maid servant should get their education in the same school. I mean to say that Pt. Deen Dayalji and Dr. Lohia also used to advocate this philosophy. It was their firm conviction that serving the poor is the worship of God. Supporting their ideology, I would like to say that while endeavouring to provide several facilities to Safai Karamcharis, the Government will have to prepare itself for curtailing the amenities given to the upper class persons. Only then it can be proved that the Government has provided facilities to the Safai Karamcharis in the real sense. If our facilities are to be curtailed, I am ready for that and I know that all of my colleagues sitting on this side are also ready for that. I am aware that even today the Congressmen require more Safai Karamcharis for scavenging. On the one hand, the Government introduces Bill to provide facilities to Safai Karamcharis and on the other hand, they need more Safai Karamcharis for scavenging work. In this way, on seeing the difference between their policy and intention, it does not appear that the proposed Commission will be of any use.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, arrangements should be made in this Bill for proper education of their

children. They are considered of the lowest strata of society, but I do not consider them so. I consider them among the good people of the society. Bapuji once told that in order to maintain the unity in the society, people of the higher classes had performed sanitation work in the colonies of scavengers which helped in generating confidence among them and a feeling that the people belonging to upper classes also belong to their society. Today the hon. Members of either side, be it treasury benches or the opposition benches, would hardly be prepared to do so. For this purpose, we have to prepare ourselves mentally. They have to go to the villages to accomplish political task, to strengthen the unity and create confidence among the different people of our society. The people in villages are poor. Therefore, they perform sanitation work. Therefore, Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to state that in order to create confidence among them, the Commission have to do something. They are important part of our society. Therefore, confidence needs to be generated among them.

In the Bill it has been mentioned that financial assistance will be provided to them. They have been given financial assistance earlier also. But the aid is swallowed by the middlemen. In my constituency, I had recommended some cases to the financial institutions for providing assistance, but the middlemen have swallowed the funds. They are in pitiable condition. Therefore, there should be a proper procedure for penalising such people and it should be enforced strictly so that people belonging to upper classes may not grab the share of the people lower classes.

These Safai Karamcharis work in the municipalities and it has been mentioned in this Bill that financial assistance would be given to them. But it is also a fact that there are frequent strikes in municipalities. Why does it happen? They do so because they work throughout the month but they are not paid on time and adequately for their work. They are suffering from hunger and that is why they go on strike. On account of their strikes garbage is not removed from the cities and towns as a result of which garbage remain dumped and causes several diseases and take many lives.

I, therefore, would like to request the Government that while setting up the Commission, it should be ensured that the Safai Karamcharis in Municipal Corporation get their wages regularly and according to their labour. It

should not happen that the servant of an hon. Minister is getting Rs. 7000/- and a Safai Karamchari is getting Rs. 700 only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, certain evil practices are prevalent in the society. In order to abolish such social evils some symposia will have to be organised. Such things cannot be abolished merely by providing funds and setting up of a commission. If they are to be associated with the society, they will have to be educated first. So long as the arrangement for the uniform education for rich and the poor is not made, there cannot be a social equality.

Foreign companies are coming to this country. They have completely taken hold of the cities. Now they think that if they enter the rural sector also, the entire country will come under their grip. Has the Government even thought over it as to whether they have formulated any scheme for the upliftment of the poor and down-trodden or not? You will be surprised to know that certain works relating to municipalities and corporations are also proposed to be done by the foreign companies. If such thing happens, the scavengers will become jobless. If they are rendered jobless, that would create a severe crisis in the country. The Multinational companies should be restricted not to enter at least this sphere. The provision should be made in Bill that the foreign companies would not be allowed to enter the original work of the rural people. The Government is unable to drive out these foreign companies. We will accomplish this task when we will sit on that side.

With these works I would like to state that the Government is formulating good policy but it should also make its intention good. Then alone, the appointment of this Commission will prove to be useful.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (ALLAHABAD): I would like to welcome the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill and state that it is very distressing that even after 46 years of independence, a particular working class in our country is forced to lead life worse than that of animals and they are engaged in inhuman work like carrying nightsoils on their heads which is a blot on our society. We have made a lot of progress in other fields. We have conquered the sea and we claim to have reached in the space. We claim with great pride that we are citizens of free India. But on the other hand, our Safai Karamcharis are still carrying night-

soil on their heads in this age of scientific development. In return, the society and the Government do not provide two square meals to them. The Safai Karamcharis sweep our houses so that we may live in neat and clean houses. They clean the roads and dust so that we may have clean atmosphere outside our houses. But when these Safai Karamcharis go in search for a roof over their head, they get space for their juggis only beside a dirty drain, heaps of garbage, a cremation ground or a graveyard. It is the picture of independent India and misfortune of our Safai Karamcharis. The children of Safai Karamcharis are brought up in such dirty environment. The women carry their small children with them they also assist their mothers in carrying dirt on their heads. They grow up in such atmosphere. Such kind of manual work is being done even after 45 years of independence. It is nothing but a blot on our society. They are paid meagrely for their work. Thereafter, they are humiliated in the name of their caste. They are considered lower class citizens and are ignored. The Safai Karamchari, who earns his livelihood by carrying waste on his head and gets humiliated by the society, cannot feel even for a moment that he is also a citizen of free India. He is leading a life which is surrounded by dirty environment and worse than that of the life of animals. In such circumstances the Government has done a commendable work by introducing a Bill to set up a Commission for them but it should have been done much earlier. Had this Bill been introduced and the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis set up earlier, 25 lakh Safai Karamcharis out of 4 lakh would have been rehabilitated by now. However, "better late than never". Now the Government has decided to set up the Commission. Therefore, we welcome it. A time bound scheme has been brought by the Government which is an appreciable step. But I do not think that the work of this Commission could be completed in four years, because earlier also, so many Committees were set up for this purpose. The Malkani Committee was set up in 1964. It recommended that dry latrines should be converted into flush latrines. The families of Safai Karamcharis should be identified and arrangement for their rehabilitation be made. But nothing has so far been done in this direction. The practice of carrying night soil on head is still prevalent in the society.

It has been said that alternative employment would be provided to them. On the one hand the Government is banning recruitment in both Private and Public Sectors and it is reducing the

job opportunities, on the other hand, they are giving assurance to provide alternative employment for approximately 4 lakh Safai Karamcharis. It seems to be a castle in air. The work of liberation and rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis has become a political stunt for creating vote bank. Such illusive schemes are floated by the Government to win their favour. This is quite an impossible thing. It seems that the manner in which the scheme has been chalked out and time fixed by the Government, it could not be able to accomplish the work successfully. We are not very optimistic about the prospect of the scheme for which an amount of Rs. 464 crore has been allocated for Eighth Five Year Plan. If the Government has firm determination, strong political will and resolve to work in cooperation with all the people, it will certainly achieve success. But like other commissions if this commission is also politicised, it will not attain its objectives. For instance, the Women Commission was set up, but it has been completely politicised. The Mandal Commission was appointed and now it is also being politicised. Therefore, if something happens with this Commission, it would prove to be eye wash only and the Safai Karamcharis and their families will continue to suffer for ever. For this purpose, some revolutionary steps have to be taken and the social attitude will have to be changed.

Merely the constituting of a Commission is not enough. How can the Government provide financial assistance to them without checking the prevalent corruption in the Banks? During 1992-93, the Government had started a multifarious scheme for the rehabilitation of scavengers. Under this scheme 30,000 manual scavengers were to be rehabilitated and trained but when his scheme was reviewed, it was found that hardly 1678 persons out of 30,000 were rehabilitated. If the present scheme is also implemented in the same manner there will be no use of appointing the Commission. I, therefore, would like to suggest that if the Government has chalked out a time bound scheme for four year, it should first of all identify the families of the Safai Karamcharis and arrange for their training. I welcome the announcement made by the Government to give the status of Central University to Dr. Ambedkar University. But it should be implemented. I would like to say that one school is not enough to provide training to the Safai Karamcharis. The Government has to set up such training Centres on national level and proper education has to be provided to them for creating awareness among them. For this purpose, seminars

have to be organised. Besides, you will have to change your attitude. As just now our colleague Shri Virendraji has stated that in order to remove the difference between the rich and the poor, we all have to change our attitude. Only then our behaviour towards these brethren will change.

Today, we live in a neat and clean atmosphere but disregard those people who work for keeping the atmosphere clean. They clean our houses and cities but we disregard them. After a day long work of cleaning the garbage and being humiliated by the society, they resort to drinking to forget their sorrows and humiliations. We have to check it. We have to embrace them. We have to create a new atmosphere. It is not that because we have been born in upper class, it is only our right to live in good houses but we have to provide houses also to those people who clean our houses. The assurance to provide alternative employment along will not serve the purpose. According to a survey, there are 53 lakh dry latrines and you have to bring a comprehensive scheme to convert these latrines into flush latrines. So long as the dry latrines are not converted into flush latrines, how can they be liberated. Besides alternative employment, arrangement for training of Safai Karamcharis has to be made in town area, notified area and rural area. Unless the contract system under which the Safai Karamcharis are exploited is abolished this Commission will remain on paper only and the endeavours made to bring a ray of hope for the Safai Karamcharis will go waste. I therefore, would like to urge the Government and suggest that along with providing alternative employment and training to them, the existing social conditions should also be changed. In addition to it, the prevalent corruption in the Banks have to be checked where the middlemen and other officials taking advantage of their illiteracy and ignorance swindle the Government aid meant for them. At the time of taking loan from Banks, the middlemen get the signature of the Safai Karamcharis on blank cheques or stamp papers. Subsequently, only when they receive demand for recovery or warrant for their loans they come to know that they have fallen victims of loans. Under such prevalent corruption, how can they be uplifted, how can they be brought at par with other citizens? I would like to know as to how you would like to make their upliftment of these people?

The Government has to remain more vigilant about the implementation of the scheme. Under Bhangi Mukti Yojana some caste Hindus and

affluent people have been benefited. Such complaints have been received from Allahabad and certain such complaints have also been received by the Central Government. Therefore, I would like to request that a thorough inquiry should be conducted into such cases and stern action should be taken against them. If the society has to be changed, merely constituting commissions will not serve any purpose. So long as the Commission is not empowered with legal powers, the prevailing double standards of discriminating people on the basis of castes cannot be removed. These things should be given wide publicity and more and more people should be educated. Only then we can achieve success.

I once again would like to warn the Government that it should make its intention clear, strengthen its political will-power and rise above the party politics in its endeavour to liberate these people from such inhuman work. A practical scheme for alternative employment should be formulated. Then alone its objectives can be fulfilled.

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, another Commission, the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis is going to be set up after the Mandal Commission and a discussion on Creamy Layer. One J.P.C. has been working on this which is also like a commission.

Sir, I would not like to talk about the intentions. Please see as to what is the situation after 45 to 46 years of independence. The Safai Karamcharis took out a procession in which the hon. Prime Minister participated. Shri Buta Singh is its President. There was a demand to make Buta Singh a Minister. It was difficult to make him a Minister. So, a commission was set up and Shri Buta Singh was appointed its Chairman.

In this way offices are created for a particular person. This is the system being followed here. Under this system food is not provided to producers. It is provided to people who do not produce. The person who spreads dirt is given a high position and the person who maintains cleanliness is let down. This is the system prevailing here. How can we expect justice where justice and equality do not prevail. How can we talk of policy and intentions. We cannot think of making such high aspirations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, everybody says that it is a very neglected section of the society. It should be uplifted. This thing has been duly mentioned in this Bill in a most balanced and sweet language. It has been said that it was the sacred duty and dream of the Government of India but this dream was shattered several times. Then how can the scavengers be uplifted.

Last year, on 15th August, the hon. Prime Minister uttered the word 'Bhangi' from the rampart of the Red Fort but this time, on the same day he used the word Safai Karamchari for them. Please correct your language, whether you do something for them or not.

There is also a rush in the hell. The 'Brahmins' and 'Kshatriyas' have also started coming in this job because it is a question of bread and butter for them.

"Paye Apavan Thaur Mein Kanchun Saje Na Koi"

If gold falls in the gutter, pick it up. This has been the view of upper caste people. Since they get money in safai job they are performing it. It is now a question of bread and butter for them.

The Government has done a good job for them by bringing this Bill though we do not have any faith in this Bill. This Bill has come after an uproar created by the opposition. The whole credit goes to the opposition. The Government takes steps of national interest only when an uproar is created by the opposition. It takes steps just to sidetrack the issue.

I am proud that I belong to that community. I know as to what justice is being done to them and what is the intention of the Government. The hon. Minister of State is also sitting here. He also belongs to this community but he is associated with a system. He can only shed tears for that community but cannot give them anything. Unless this system is changed, nothing can be done. If they claim that they are definitely going to do something, that is not correct. A discussion is going on about the Commission for SC/ST people, but these people are deprived of the means of production. They do not have land and capital. Therefore, they are forced to sell their labour. They want to come forward by struggling, but they are prevented from doing so

that they may keep quiet. Once the 'Bhoodan Andolan' and Telangana movement were launched. That time Sant Vinoba Bhave united the farmers who came out to agitate against the landlords. But not a single inch of land was given to them after the entire exercise. The people of the whole world will come to know after the introduction of this Bill that this Government is not going to fall in the grip of new economic policy and there can be no other Government which carry similar views. I am not happy to support this Bill. They are talking about 25 per cent reservation.

16.00 hrs.

If we add 27 per cent to it, as recommended by the Mandal Commission the total percentage of reservation will come to 52. Heaven is not going to fall if we made it fifty fifty. 7 hon. Members changed their floor and went that side but no one comes to this side. I cannot say how this system will change? Sir, I have a hope in you because you are a supporter of Mandal Commission. I hope that you will give me some more time. . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: You yourself said that you are going to conclude.

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Should I take it that you are also tied with the system. If one of our 4 brothers is a policeman, he can *eke* out a living. But what will be the fate of others. If any one of them starts picking pockets, he will be called a pick pocket and the same brother will send him to jail. That is why I said that we can entertain some hope in you. The hon. Minister of Welfare is also tied with the system. He also comes from that community. There is no doubt that Keseriji is a Welfare Minister and a supporter of backward classes. He has brought this Bill but he cannot work for economic equality of these people. We, the Members of Parliament, have been in service also but we cannot be compared with those, who have not been in service and keep servants. We welcome this Bill, because it is for the first time that he has spoken the truth but before this he never spoke the truth. I hope that you will try to improve the system. If you want to improve the system, then only you should think of making amendments in the Constitution, so that these people could associate themselves with production, get social justice and enjoy equal status in society. If you can associate them with production, they will

also earn money, receive education and build their own houses. Are they not citizens of this country? Will they beg alms to build their houses. If they do so then what is the duty of the Government. If this Government is of a particular class, then that class will be benefited. If this Government has vision of equality then it is its duty to provide the facility of involving them in production. They can also produce. They can also contribute in production of the country. Unless they are provided with means of production, this bill has no meaning.

Discrimination made against them on the economic front should be done away with. Cleaning dirt is a very important work but the people whose dirt they clean call it an unsocial work. But I know that it is a social work. I want that they should be well paid to that they can keep their moral high.

The Government has made a provision of Rs. 400 crores for this. I do not think that this amount is sufficient because the Municipal Corporation in this country is such a department which is filled with people from a particular class. Battle of reservation, promotion, demotion is going on in this department. This is the only department where the workers are from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A few of them, of course, come from minorities. Some people have joined this department on the basis of SC certificates. That is why I said that these people can do anything for the sake of money.

Mr. Chairman Sir, just now my colleague was saying that people who work among the poor are called 'Narayan'. He is 'Narayan' who sees God in man. Can a man see some other working in a difficult situation? Therefore, I submit that if we are human being we must have the feeling of a humanity, the feeling of equality, good conduct, and truthfulness. If we have these things we must have a clear intention. If one goes against this policy, he has no morals. They must be provided with houses and other basic amenities. We must ensure that their houses are kept clean who clean to others houses.

With these words I support this Bill. I hope that the work will be done as a matter of moral duty. With this I conclude.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Bill. The Bill proposes for the establishment of a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis.

Sir, I understand this there might not be any opposition for this Bill; and so, it will be passed by this House. I am not going to go into the depth of the Bill. I would like to appreciate the determination of the Government to take up the cause of the oppressed and the most exploited section of the people, whom we call the 'safai karamcharis'. I only want to appreciate the determination taken by the prime Minister. He announced on the 15th of August last and also yesterday—the 15th of August—that the Government is determined to take up the cause of them. From that, we now understand that the Government is very much determined to take up the cause of the section of the people whom we call the 'safai karamcharis'.

Sir, I recall that Mahatma Gandhiji was approached by a reporter and that reporter put a question to Mahatmaji.

He asked: after independence, whom will you suggest to be the President of India under the new Constitution? Gandhiji replied that he would prefer to make a Harijan girl to be the President. The reply was very simple. It carries a high spirit and also a determination towards uplifting the cause of the Harijans. But we have to regret that we have not been doing for the last more than 40 years for these people though Gandhiji, the father of the nation, stood for their cause. That is our regret.

But still the Government is now prepared to take up their cause. It has come up with this Bill. So, I appreciate it very much for the stand taken by the Government. I would like to extend whatever we have for the fulfilment of the determination of the Government. I hope, with all the support of this House, the Government will be able to take up the cause quickly, instantly and with all strength. We could have sacrificed certain programmes meant for the promotion of our comforts and luxuries in favour of taking up the cause of these oppressed and exploited sections of people of the nation.

Although the amount mentioned here for the Eighth Five Year Plan is not adequate, I would

like to suggest that we can slash down from some other programmes so that the amount required for taking up the programmes for Safai Karamcharis can be taken up more promptly and satisfactorily. Imagine in my State of Manipur when the British were there. They engaged a certain section of the people to cleanse or to carry the night-soil over their heads and throw it away in a far-off place. That section of the people still work.

There are certain cities or towns where the latest scientific septic latrines or you call it by some other name—I do not know—have not been constructed. Those municipalities, who failed to provide funds for constructing them, are still being managed by these people for cleansing and also for carrying the night-soil even over their heads. Can you imagine? They are your sisters and brothers. They are your people. So, it has been a stigma on the social fabric of the nation. So, we have to take up instantly the programmes for liberating them. To liberate them, we have to provide for funds. We have to think for their rehabilitation. We shall have to sacrifice many things for their cause.

So, Sir, there should be liberation from scavenging. We have to agree to the proposals made by the Government through this Bill but I am not personally so much interested in discussing about the term of the Commission, about numbers and strength. We can improve on it but what we are more concerned about is the spirit and determination of the Government in taking up programmes instantly, actively and effectively for the cause of these people whom we call as brothers and sisters.

What I have been expressing in Manipuri language is this. I have said that India is a casteless society, a nation where there is no classification of society by way of professions and earnings. With these words, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support and welcome the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill that has been introduced by the hon. Minister in the House keeping into consideration the interest of Safai Karamcharis. I, however, doubt whether the provisions of the Bill would be implemented in letter and spirit. The hon.

Minister showed much concern for the cause of Safai Karamcharis while he was introducing the Bill whereas I hold that it was merely an eye wash and an act of deception. Even after 46 years of independence, Safai Karamcharis are facing oppression due to the wrong policies of the Government, due to the rampant corruption in administration as also due to social evils. They are being oppressed everywhere. All the Prime Ministers who have held office so far, talked of abolishing scavenging practice being carried out by Safai Karamcharis, but it remained on paper only and nothing could be done substantially. If someone has to be accused for corruption in administration and for the evils in the society, it is the Congress Party only because it did not really do anything except expressing its concern about that time to time. They only expressed their concern and did not do anything in 46 years of independence to abolish the scavenging practice. There has been Congress rule in the country during all these 46 years except for a short period in between. Moreover, the Congress Governments have spread caste discrimination in the name of minority and majority classes as also in the name of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes during all these 46 years. None else than the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh has made some remarkable efforts to abolish the scavenging practice in order to remove the aforesaid discrimination. It was only the Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh whose people associated themselves with the people of oppressed classes and dined with them and provided educational facilities to their children by opening schools in their localities. The whole credit goes to the R.S.S. The Government have, however, not paid any attention to their problems.

I would like to submit that this Bill has been introduced in pursuance of the announcement made by the hon. Prime Minister on 15th August last year from the rampart of the Red Fort. He has assured to set up a National Commission. When Safai Karamcharis came to know that a Bill in that regard was not being introduced, they threatened to block the way of the hon. Prime Minister if the said Bill was not introduced by 15th August. That is why the present Bill has been introduced before 15th August. I would like to say that if the Government had been honest about its concern expressed for Safai Karamcharis, the Congress Ministers would have refrained from moving

into luxurious air conditioned cars and would have come to their rescue.

The plight of village scavengers is miserable. Their wives come out for scavenging while their husbands take wine to forget everything. There was a good progress wherever Rashtriya Swamsevak Sangh opened schools while the Congress Party restricted its progress in statistics, made on papers. All the documentary statistics being displayed by the Congress Party are a mere show of politics of votes.

Even today, inspectors are exploiting the Safai Karamcharis of Narela, Najafgarh and in the areas of South Delhi. The complaint regarding their exploitation has also been brought to the notice of authorities of Central Vigilance Department as also to the Deputy Labour Commissioner. He however, showed his total unawareness in this regard. An assurance was given to provide them with tea stalls in Jamnagar, Silampur and New Silampur areas of Delhi but the said grant was not provided to them even after they already having left the job of scavenging. They have, therefore, resumed the scavenging practice once again.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that the failures of the Government are due to its wrong policies. The figures regarding the conversion of dry latrines into flush latrines do not also seem to be correct. According to the survey of 1979, there were more than 6 lakhs safai karamcharis. Their number throughout the country has been shown to be 4 lakhs 999 thousands, but this figure is wrong and their number is far more than that.

If the amount of Rs. 464 crore as has been provided in the 8th Five Year Plan is utilised properly, then I would welcome this Bill. I would further like to offer a few suggestions in this regard. First, good schools should be opened in jhuggi clusters to provide educational facilities for the children of slum dwellers. Moreover, our leaders should go there and should live and dine with them so that they may feel that they are also a part of this society. That will bring a sense of equality among them and they will be awakened. It has just now been said that the scavenging work in the latrines of the Railways and jails would be carried out by those people only. I would, however, say that they should not be asked to

do scavenging work in the Railways. They should be provided some alternative employments and also housing facilities. Latrines should be constructed both in towns and villages so that they may be liberated of their present job.

In the last, I would like to express my strong support in favour of this Bill. Nevertheless, I would conclude by adding that there should be proper utilisation of the funds. That alone can ensure their welfare.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, you all have already spoken for more than scheduled one hour. There are 5-6 more members to speak. I would therefore suggest you to be brief in submission.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to express my gratitude for providing me an opportunity to speak on such an important Bill. The Government has brought a Bill which is meant for the upliftment and economic development of the most oppressed and exploited section of the society. Though belated, at least wisdom has prevailed upon the Government of India and it decided to do something for the poor of the country, to whom I consider Dalits who are in this profession and are considered as second class citizens. I welcome this Bill and express my gratitude towards the Government for waking up after 46 years sleep and for thinking about the welfare of the poor and Dalits who are doing the cleaning job.

I was Councillor of a Municipal Corporation for about 8 years and was also Deputy Mayor of the city. I have closely watched their day to day affairs. Mostly, all the members of a family work as Safai Karamcharis but economically they are very weak. After working for the whole day, when they retire to their houses, they cannot provide their children proper food, clothes and basic education. This is a great mockery that the Government till date did not pay any attention towards the welfare of this section.

16.29 hrs.

[Shri Peter G. Marbaniang in the Chair]

Had the Government genuinely felt about it then, there would have been a lot of upliftment of the Safai Karamcharis of the country and

they would have made better progress in their life style as well as in their mental level. But nothing was done in this regard. The Government continued to frame policy after policy and shed crocodile tears but did nothing concrete. So, even after 46 years, the pitious condition of Safai Karamcharis is evident before the country. After doing tedious job through out the month, when he goes to get his salary, the middleman takes away all his salary and he returns to his house empty handed. Although, all members of his family do this cleaning job but even then he has to take loan. For this purpose he has to go to the money lenders who charge exorbitant rate of interest from them. All these circumstances make him mentally ill. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve their mental status by providing them education. Unless they are provided with the education, their present condition will remain as it is. They work for the entire day but even then they are unable to get sufficient earning to pull on their life. We all should rise above this feeling and work for their welfare. Then only we can change their plight. We want that we should be known as Social Workers or political workers. If we want to change their life, then we will have to forget our differences and work for their welfare. We can improve their economic condition but to improve their lot, it is very essential to improve their mental level for which they require good education. For this purpose, we need to take some revolutionary steps.

At present most of them live in J.J. Colonies and a number of them even do not have a hut to live in. They make a hut anywhere and their all family members live in it. There are thousands of people in our country who do not have a house to live in. Even after 45-46 years of independence the Safai Karamcharis do not have a house of their own.

When we were not independent, the freedom fighters had a dream to make a country where every citizen would get a house to live in, clothes to wear and food to eat but we have not been able to fulfil their dream. In order to improve their life, we have to provide them with good housing facilities.

The Bihar Government has taken many revolutionary steps. The Government of Bihar has constructed multi-storeyed flats for the Safai Karamcharis, who earlier used to live in filthy places. They would not have even thought

that they could ~~ever live~~ in multi-storeyed flats but the Bihar Government fulfilled their dream of owning a house by rapidly constructing houses in the best available localities in the city. The rulers and the Ministers should think as to how the upliftment of Safai Karamcharis can be done. They should think about providing them education facilities because without education they cannot make any progress. Today, you are thinking about their upliftment. Why did you not think about it 45 years ago. I wish to inform you that houses are being constructed in Bihar for the people living in inhuman conditions. Education facility is also being given to them and educated persons from that community are being appointed as teachers to look after their interests.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to submit that this Bill brought by the Congress is a well planned step taken on the occasion of 46th anniversary of our independence. But people of India are well aware about the tactics of Congress Party as well as the Congress Government. The Government has lost the people's confidence. Now the people have seen through the Congress tactics. They are tired of the shedding of crocodile tears by the Congress on the problems of the people. By bringing this Bill, they are talking about the upliftment of the poor but in fact they are hoodwinking the people. The people sitting in the power should have thought much earlier as to how the social and economic upliftment of Safai Karamcharis could be done. Though belated even then I welcome this Bill but want to submit that it should not remain on paper only as they have been making a lot of rules earlier also but have not given any practical shape to them. That is why the people of this country are suffering.

I think, the idea with which you have brought this Bill for the social and economic welfare of poor and Safai Karamcharis will take a material shape and you will try to achieve these goals. With these words, I thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I would like to request all the Members of the other side to think about it with a cool mind and keeping aside their differences with the Members of the Opposition parties, they should take a revolutionary step in collaboration with the opposition parties to give Safai Karamcharis a new lease of life.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Mr.

Chairman, Sir, first of all let me compliment our Government for bringing in this Bill.

It is first the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who identified this problem. It is Mahatma Gandhi who made this problem as a part of freedom struggle of our country. It is Mahatma Gandhi who taught all of us the dignity of labour. It is Mahatma Gandhi who had a fight with Kasturba on this issue. And it is then, the people of this country realised how great this problem is.

In Karnataka, in early 1970, we were able to abolish the problem of carrying night-soil over the head. It was under Shrimati Indira Gandhi's time, with her blessings, in Karnataka Shri Basavalingappa, who is no more now, brought in this Bill and we are grateful to him. It was under Shri Devraj Urs's Chief Ministership, in early 1970, we were able to abolish the problem of carrying night-soil.

Sir, it is not enough that we bring in a Bill to abolish carrying night-soil. We have to educate the children of these people, who are mostly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It has something to do with poverty. Unless we open more and more residential schools and give them education, along with that vocational training, we will not be able to overcome this problem. So, it is not a question of merely establishing a Commission. It is a question of finding an alternative employment to these people, through education, through vocational training.

Sir, we are committed to give land to this section of people. If we are able to give sufficient land to these Karamcharis, then they will be able to go in for agriculture and become prosperous also. So, my request to the Minister and to the Government is that out of whatever surplus land is available or even at the cost of acquiring private land, give land to these people.

Sir, Safai Karamcharis in large numbers are concentrated in urban areas. Many of them are living in the Government quarters. And after their retirement, they are thrown out and they have no roof over their head. I urge upon both the Central Government and the State Governments—the major role has to be played by the State Governments—that during the

period of their service itself, these people should be able to get their own houses.

I do not want to take any more time of the House. I compliment our Government for bringing in this Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a number of issues have already been raised and I would not like to go deep into them. The matter raised today is a very serious social problem. We remain engaged in delivering long speeches only and make allegations against the Government and the Congress Party; but what is the truth? Not to talk of scavengers who carry night soil on their heads, even the domestic servants are given humiliating treatment by their employees. Do we ever take tea together with the scavengers employed to clean the Government quarters of MPs? It is very easy to deliver lectures and condemn the Government. Unless we change our attitude nothing concrete can take place. It is a social problem. Everyone will have to think over it and bring about a change in our attitude. The Government proposes to abolish the system of carrying night soil on the head....

(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have a point of order. I think we have exceeded the time allotted for this Bill and we have not extended the time. Normally, when the time allotted, which was accepted by the House for discussion of a Bill, is exceeded, we allot the exceeded amount of time. I think we have not done that. I think it is by about an hour that we have exceed. Therefore, I would request, firstly, that we should obtain the feeling of the House on how much of time should be extended.

[Translation]

[English]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): It should be extended by one hour more.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I want your ruling, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think let him finish.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: It is difficult to provide the facility of safety latrines in the country. An alternative arrangement in the form of Sulabh Shauchalayas was made in Bihar and this system does not require much water. If such a facility is provided at large scale in rural areas at Government expense, the current system can be improved, but without finding an alternative system, it would be difficult to abolish this system. Thereafter the question of rehabilitation would arise. In that situation the allocated funds would be inadequate and some measures will have to be taken for the social upliftment. The Government should make a provision to give priority in jobs to those non-scavengers who marry the children of scavengers. If an initiative to this effect is taken at All India level, it would help in eradicating untouchability. As a matter of fact, there is no reservation in jobs, however scavengers should be given preference and arrangements for their education and rehabilitation should be made. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to repeat again. We originally had two hours allotted for this Bill. We have already consumed three hours and twenty minutes on this Bill. So, already an hour and twenty minutes we have to extend for this Bill. I would suggest that within ten minutes if the Members have to make specific points, they can make and then the hon. Minister may be called to reply. Therefore, an hour and forty minutes extension is called for.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYANARAYAN YADAV: As the Minister of State of parliamentary Affairs has already suggested to conclude the debate in just 10 minutes, my opinion is that as the Members of all political parties have not been able to participate in the discussion, they should not be deprived of taking part in it. Therefore, the

time should be extended by one hour, so that the hon. Minister may also give his reply and the Bill be passed.

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : I think I should clarify the position. Sir, the position is that we have already crossed more than one hour and 20 minutes extra over the allotted time. It is without the permission of the House. We should have taken the permission of the House. That was my point of order. Otherwise there is no purpose in allotting the time.

I would, therefore, request that considering the other business—I am not saying that this is not an important Bill and I do understand the feelings of the hon. Members—I request that we should cooperate and complete the Bill quickly. That is my submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have crossed one hour and 20 minutes of extended time. We now have five more speakers. They may take some 20 minutes. Do I have the sense of the House that we extend the time till all the five speakers complete and then the hon. Minister replies to the debate ?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : Sir, I think your proposal is acceptable. The only thing is we should fix the time upto 5.15 p.m. for the speakers to complete and then reply may start. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : The National Commission for Safai Karamchari Bill is a very important Bill. Very few Members are left who have to speak, they should not be deprived of doing so.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM : They are not being deprived of. The Chair has directed that five Members may speak and thereafter the hon. Minister would give the reply.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended

upto 5.15 P.M. for the speakers to complete their points quickly. I now call Shri Suryanarayan Yadav to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYANARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily welcome the Bill with regard to Safai Karamcharis introduced by the Minister of Welfare. I am grateful to him also. As per the prevailing situation in the country, Safai Karamcharis are in most deplorable condition. Our colleague Shri Ram Kripalji was speaking, he expressed his heartiest feelings before the House. Perhaps, while speaking, he might have deviated a little from the topic but the problem is how to improve the deplorable conditions of the Safai Karamcharis. I do not feel that the system can be changed only with the passing of Bill, introduced in the House unless we remove the basic hurdles in the way.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in order to solve the problems of the scavengers; priority should be given to solve the housing problem of a large number of them residing in urban areas. It is true that we have failed to abolish the system of carrying night soil on the head but some concrete work has been done in this direction. Just now the hon. members proposed to provide the facility of 'Sulabh Shauchalayas' because if this facility is made available at large scale in urban and rural areas, the problem would be solved automatically. The hon. Minister will have to think seriously to solve this problem.

At the same time as long as the financial condition of scavengers is not strengthened, their problems cannot be solved. Unless provision is made to fulfill the basic necessities of their children and also to educate them and provide employment to them, merely enacting laws would be of no use. Therefore, my submission is that the Government should formulate a scheme to improve their deplorable condition. The Government does not lack funds. The only thing which is required is to develop a healthy outlook and the day when the Government pays attention towards it, the problem would be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Bill and request you to please include my suggestions in it. I am thankful to you for the time you gave to speak.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Vikram-gang): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have made an effort to remove the stigma on the country by introducing National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill.

I would like to say that as has been apprehended during the course of discussion held on this Bill, I fear that after passing the Bill, it will remain in the list of Bills pending implementation. Such mentality has been inspired by the politics of attracting votes.

The Government have provided Rs. 905 crores and have given the number of Safai Karamcharis as five lakh. This amount is not enough. I would request the Government to increase it to Rs. 1200 crores. The Government should make arrangements to provide free education to the children of Safai Karamcharis upto the college level, to provide shelter and make bank loans available at simple rates to ensure economic development. The Government should conduct a survey in respect of people who carry night soil on their heads and chalk out schemes to do away with this practice.

17.00 hrs.

All the old urinals should be converted into 'Sulabh Shauchalayas'. I urge upon the Government to provide free medication, shelter and free education to their children upto the college level and this amount be increased from Rs. 900 crores to Rs. 1200 crores. I conclude by thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

17.0½ hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

*Incident of Killing of Bus Passengers in Kishtwar,
District Doda, Jammu and Kashmir on
14 August, 1993*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I regret to inform this august House that in an

unfortunate incident, which took place in Kishtwar, District Doda, Jammu & Kashmir, on 14th August 1993, 16 persons lost their lives. These persons, alongwith other passengers, were travelling in a bus which left Kishtwar for Jammu at 6 A.M. on 14th August 1993. After travelling 7 Kms. from Kishtwar, the bus was intercepted by three masked terrorists and the driver was forced to take the bus towards a link road for Sarthal. The bus was taken near a nallah about one kilometre from the main road. The terrorists made the passengers get down and asked the women and children to stand on one side and segregated the rest of the passengers on communal basis. 16 persons of one community were fired upon by the militants in cold blood with AK-56 rifles. The other passengers were ordered by them to run away. Some of them managed to reach the main road from where they boarded a bus and returned to Kishtwar and informed the Police and para Military Forces. The security forces, led by a Commandant of BSF, proceeded to the spot immediately alongwith contingents from the Army and the J&K Police. On reaching the spot, they found 14 persons dead and 2 injured. The injured persons were immediately shifted to Kishtwar, where one of them succumbed to his injuries in the hospital. The other injured person was air lifted to Jammu. He also expired in the hospital in Jammu. The deceased included, the driver and the conductor of the ill fated bus. Amongst those killed, three belonged to Udhampur, four to Jammu and eight to Kishtwar and surrounding areas. One person is yet to be identified.

The security forces are making all possible efforts to apprehend the militants and combing operations have been launched in the thick jungles in the areas of Sarthal, into which the militants are suspected to have escaped. The Inspector General of Police and Divisional Commissioner, Jammu visited Kishtwar and Doda to review the security and other arrangements. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has announced ex-gratia relief of rupees one lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased persons.

As a precautionary measure, curfew was imposed in Kishtwar and Bhandarwah. The district authorities in all districts of the Jammu Region have been alerted and asked to maintain the utmost vigilance to prevent untoward

incidents. The DIG BSF, DIG Doda and Deputy Commissioner Doda are camping at Kishtwar to supervise the operations by the security forces. The State Government is maintaining a close watch over the situation.

On 15th August, some miscreants intercepted a truck and roughed up two persons of the other community at Udhampur. An attempt was also made to set a truck on fire but the situation was controlled through timely intervention by the Police. In Chinani, in Doda District, some miscreants pelted stones on a few trucks carrying fruits and damaged their glass panes, following the cremation of some of the deceased persons.

In the recent months continued efforts have been made by the militants to spread violence to the Jammu region in general and Doda District in particular. Their aim is not only to divert the attention of security forces from Kashmir Valley, where they have been under great pressure for the last few months, but to also communalise the situation. The dastardly and cowardly act of cold blooded killing of innocent passengers of one community on 14th August exposes the designs of the terrorists and their supporters across the border. This act needs to be unequivocally condemned.

I would like to assure the House that we are alive to the situation and are determined to frustrate the designs of the terrorists and those who are supporting them. We have already augmented the presence of the security forces in Doda District and will further strengthen the force levels, as necessary, to effectively deal with the terrorists in the area. At this juncture, I would like to appeal, through this House, to all citizens of the State to exercise restraint, and refrain from doing anything that would help to further the blatant and nefarious designs of the terrorists. I also appeal to all members of this august House to support the ongoing effort of the State Government so that peace can be maintained in spite of the attempt of the terrorists and their mentors across the border to unleash communal violence in the State.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SAFAI KARAMCHARIS BILL—Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBRAT MUKHERJEE (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on

this Bill. Much discussion has been held on National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, yet I would like to say a few things. Whenever a furore is created in the House on some matter, the Government announces the formation of a Commission to escape the arraignment: though the Bills introduced are not according to the requirements.

We have been told about the Safai Karamcharis here. I won't repeat whatever has already been said on it. The time is limited, so I am only putting the specific points before you. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to make arrangements only for those four lakh Safai Karamcharis mentioned in the Bill or do they propose to consider all those people who are engaged in the sanitation work in the country?

Secondly, what type of alternative work has been considered for Safai Karamcharis? Because according to your new economic policy, you are going to remove these people from their work. I would like to have a clear answer as to how are you going to make arrangements to induct the 4 lakh Safai Karamcharis in the country in new jobs. I am hopeful that hon. Minister would provide information to the House in clear terms.

Thirdly, as you have mentioned in this Bill, the State Governments would be responsible for implementing the recommendations of the Commission and to make it successful. I would like to know as to what would be the relation, the economic relation, between the Commission and the State Governments and the Central Government. Nothing has been mentioned in this Bill in this respect. I would like to appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, to give clear replies to the points I have raised. I conclude with these words and thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI RAMASHIRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to repeat anything that has been said in respect of the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill, 1993 on which discussion has been going on. I welcome the Bill introduced by the Government. First of all, I would like to ask as to why did the Government not do anything about this problem earlier, for, this problem has been raised time and again for years. I am of the view that the Government would not have reacted even today and introduced this Bill in the House if a demand had not been made

to provide social justice under Mandal Commission and much hue and cry not been raised in all parts of the country.

The demands have been raised time and again before the Government and many a time these have resulted in agitations when these were not fulfilled. The Government have accepted this fact in the objects and reasons of the Bill that our social system is a blot on our society.

How a system is formed? This system was formed the day our caste-system came into being. One class was created to serve the other class. It all happened due to this caste system. They did not have any political pull, either in Lok Sabha or in Legislative assemblies. The people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were provided many facilities because they had political representatives. If the Safai Karamcharis has also had their political representatives, then, this Bill would have been introduced 10 years back, which might have completely eliminated this problem from our society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, once I had gone to Calcutta where I stayed with a friend. As we had to go somewhere, my friend brought a 'tonga', a 'Baggi' which was being pulled by a man. I refused to sit in it. These days even the system of carrying brides and bridgrooms has been dispensed within villages. And, here a man is carrying a man in cities.

Sir, I am afraid whether this work can be done in the prevalent financial crisis. However, crores of rupees are being spent in cities. So, can we not cut this amount and accomplish this task? It is good that the Government has introduced this Bill. It should be enforced in either and spirit and the slur on the face of the country should be removed. By implementing it, the nation should be made to believe that this evil will be eliminated.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 46 years of independence our brethren are in difficulty. The Government has introduced a Bill relating to them. The previous speakers here have rightly stated in their speeches that it should be brought properly. We should make our mentality such that the condition of these poor brethren may improve. As the practice of carrying night-soil on head is prohibited both in cities and villages. Sometime they are provided

alternative jobs but other persons take their place and they have to come back to the same job of carrying night soil on their heads. Thus, they are being harassed in every manner. I, therefore, would like to state that they should be assigned work at appropriate places.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, new researches are being made. Some research should be made to provide them such means of livelihood that they may lead their life with honour. Such modern lavatories should be constructed in the villages as do not require their services. I live in Ahmedabad city. There is a big colony of Valmikis. But there is no arrangement of Safai Karamcharis for sanitation and it remains very dirty. They are not provided even brooms at their place of their work. They have to arrange for brooms on their own.

Now the stage has reached where it is said that if they are willing to do the job, they should bring brooms on their own. Other employees are provided with the means but they are provided neither any broom nor the uniform. Their condition is becoming worse day by day.

I would like to summarise in one sentence only, that we will have to develop intimacy with them. They will have to be treated as our younger brothers and we should provide them maximum help to improve their lot.

SHRI GEROGUE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is very difficult for me to support this Bill because through this Bill an attempt has been made not only to mislead the entire country, but also that class of the society which is downtrodden and which has been the victim of the system of this country for thousands of years. This is my allegation against the Government.

Please go through its Financial Memorandum. It has been so stated in its Financial Memorandum as if the Government is going to do a great deal of work for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis by spending Rs. 50 lakh a year. I do agree that the Government has certainly stated in its Objects and Reasons that the total expenditure including the allocated Budget amount and the amount to be taken from Banks and State Governments will be to the tune of Rs. 905 crore in a period of five years. Out of 5 years, two years have already passed and the Government is still talking of this Five Year Plan. You are arranging Rs. 50 lakh only to accomplish this task. It means that Rs. 4 lakhs will be spent

every month on this commission. The Government have set up a 7 member Commission. It seems to me that the intention of the Government is to provide motor car with a flag and red light and a bungalow from the public exchequer to seven political persons. If there are seven members in the commission, the provision of Rs. 58 thousand will have to be made monthly. This will include expenditure for their house-rent, expenditure on telephone bills, electricity bills, motors, their own salary and that of their drivers and Personal Assistants. Thus, the total expenditure on every member will be to the tune of Rs. 58 thousand per month. By broadcasting of performing such a big task the Government is, on the one hand, befooling this august House, and on the other hand, they are befooling that class of society which has been suppressed and exploited for thousands of years. That is why I have stated that it is painful for me to support this Bill.

Moreover, I would like to point out some other things also, such as—they are entrusted with the task of recommending finances and powers of the Commission to the Central Government. Does the Central Government not have any machinery in the Ministry together information regarding the present condition of Safai Karamcharis? We are ready to get this work done by our party without any commission. Please save this amount of Rs. 50 lakh.

I have spent 40 years of my life among Safai Karamcharis. If the Government intends to improve their lot and wants to ensure social justice and dignity to them, it can only be done when we first arrange for their livelihood.

Let me tell you that in a country like America, there is no caste system and there is no scope of entrusting the scavenging work to a particular class. In America the Safai Karamcharis, the sanitation staff in the planes get their salary one and a half times more than a clerk. This should be the first and foremost task of the Government. If the Government dare and has such outlook, it should uplift the exploited people first. We have done it in our practical life. That is why, I am submitting it both in anger and pain.

[English]

Study and evaluate the implementation of the programmes and schemes relating to socioeconomic rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis.

[Translation]

There is already Ministry of Planning Programme Implementation and a Minister is incharge of this Ministry. What is he doing? The Government has introduced this Bill in the Parliament just to use Rs. 50 lakhs for other purposes. Why are you befooling us? Therefore, the Government is requested to withdraw this Bill here itself. This Bill should be brought only after having deliberations with the leaders of the House. The Safai Karamcharis belong to that class of the society, who has been suppressed for thousands of years. Please do not play trick with them like this. That is what I want to request.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we also support this bill but half heartedly. Some Members have already spoken on this Bill. I would like to start expressing my views as per my own experiences. Once I went to attend a meeting in a town. When I reached there, all the Safai Karamcharis stood up. They told me to sit on the chair. When I also told them to sit beside me on the chairs, they told me that they could not sit beside me because they do most undignified work such as carrying night soil on their heads, cleaning drains etc. and carrying dead animals. That is why they are not able to sit beside me. I was shocked to learn this. I told them that there are doctors who are Brahmins, Kayastha, Muslims, Christians working as Pathologists. They examine stool, urine and sputum but they are not called 'Bhangis'. A lot of amount is spent on them by the country to make them doctors and they go to foreign countries for higher studies. No job is therefore, small. There is no use of enacting laws only for the upliftment of these people. It is very essential to improve their economic and social conditions. Besides, there is a need to make them socially conscious.

Retrenchment of Labour is going on due to anti-people policies of the Government and it will also adversely affect the Safai Karamcharis. You should implement the reservation policy and provide land to the poor, make arrangements for irrigation for them. It will improve their economic condition. In this way their social condition will automatically be changed.

Many of our Ministers belong to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Brahmin and other caste Hindus are working in their houses as cooks etc. I would like to submit here that such arrangements should be made as these

people may be able to get respect in the society alongwith the improvement in their economic condition.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Sir, I would like to say that the intention of the Government in bringing this Bill is not clear. They are afraid of election as well as agitation which can be launched at any time by this class of people. Shri George has rightly said that this Bill has been brought to fulfil the vested interests of certain leaders. Moreover, this Bill is not a complete Bill and the objective of this Bill is not going to be fulfilled. So I would like to ask the hon. Minister the *per capita* amount to be spent on each of the Safai Karamcharis out of the fund or grant announced by the Government for the rehabilitation of Safai Karamcharis and agricultural labourers and the welfare activities which can be launched with this fund.

My second point is that in Champaran district, from where Mahatma Gandhi had started Satyagrah movement long ago, the amount being paid to the Safai Karamcharis in the Municipalities of Motihari is very less. Moreover, they do not get work in time. They do not get work for years together. Apart from from it, money lenders also exploit them. This is my own experience. I know that you wanted to give them central subsidy. State Governments are also there to provide benefits to Safai Karamcharis. State Governments. Local Self Governments, Town Area Committees, Municipalities are the bodies through which the assistance is provided to the Safai Karamcharis. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what will be the way for providing central assistance to the Safai Karamcharis, so that they may be able to get this assistance directly.

The hon. Minister has mentioned about alternative employment. Shri George has very rightly commented on the meagre amount of assistance which the Government has allocated for them. How many people will be benefited with this amount? What is your plan for alternative employment for Safai Karamcharis? I know the reality of the Government policies. At present, the Government is trying to find out the alternative arrangement for retrenching the Safai Karamcharis. Alternative employment plan is merely an eyewash and to console the people. You kindly make it clear as to what will be your alternative planning. You know about their living conditions. I think, perhaps you

might have seen the living condition of poor labourers in cities, they live in Jhuggis and at least 7-8 persons of a family live in one Jhuggi only. They live like animals. What steps you have taken for their housing, education, improving their economic condition and increasing their wages? And my colleague has rightly pointed out that the people belonging to this category who can understand their problems should be given representation in the Commission. Lastly I would like to mention that if this "Bhangi Mukti Plan" is actually for the welfare of Safai Karamcharis, it should be launched in every district, town and village.

In the end, I would like to draw your attention that you would have seen with your own experience that these people have been freed from this work in those cities where the arrangements for 'Sulabh Sauchalays' have been made. In this context, I would like to know whether there is any scheme to provide Sulabh Sauchalayas in all the districts, towns and villages so that the Safai Karamcharis may be relieved of this inhuman work.

Lastly, I would like to say that the attention should not be given only to 'Bhangis and Mehtars' but also to all the Safai Karamcharis. Hence, a comprehensive Bill should be brought giving attention to all the Safai Karamcharis. Otherwise, no real benefit can be provided to these categories of people, despite the Government's good intention.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely happy; and thank all the hon. Members who have participated in this discussion on the National Commission for Safai Karamcharis Bill; and I am also extremely thankful to them for the valuable suggestions made by them.

Sir, in my introductory speech, I made it very clear about the intention of the Bill and the need for bringing in this Bill at this moment, that is to remove the stigma in the society, particularly with regard to the Safai Karamcharis. As I have already said, as per the survey conducted by the Planning Commission in the year 1989, about four lakh Safai Karamcharis were identified and also as per the request made by the Welfare Ministry, the various State Governments are also in the process of

identifying the Safai Karamcharis in the respective States. According to the available reports, today, about seven lakh Safai Karamcharis are in the country who are manually handling the human excreta. Hon. Prime Minister, Shri P V Narasimha Raoji, in his last Independence Day speech on the 15th August, has made it very clear that it is a national shame that persons are engaged in this unclean activity and we cannot tolerate it any more; we cannot allow them to continue in this fashion. That is why, we have decided, our Government has decided to bring them out of this social malady.

Sir, I would like to mention that in the election manifesto in 1991, our late lamented leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made it very clear and I quote from the pages of the election manifesto of the Congress party:

"The scavenging will be eradicated in the next five years and the affected people effectively rehabilitated."

On that basis, the beloved Prime Minister said in his last Independence Day speech; and also yesterday he again reiterated the importance of this Bill and its being passed in this august House. Many hon. Members have made valuable contributions. While making them, they made some references about the functioning, allocation of funds and also about its implications. As we said, in the Eighth Five-Year Plan, we will eradicate this menace by providing about Rs. 905 crore from the Government of India side. While allocating the funds in the last year, we have already released an amount of Rs. 111.23 crore to the various State Governments for the purpose of identifying and providing rehabilitation programme. Many State Governments are in progress. I must happily say that the reports received from the State Governments are very much encouraging. They are really doing a good job in this section.

I do not want to deal with the various aspects of the Bill because it has already been made very clear in my speech. Many Members have also dealt with it very-very effectively. Particularly about the financial pattern, they asked; how are we going to implement this scheme? This has two sections. One is training programme and the other is the rehabilitation part. These are the major avenues for rehabilitating about four lakh scavengers who are handling the human excreta. The Welfare Ministry at the Centre is allocating funds to the State Governments through the State-level SC-ST Financial Deve-

lopment Corporation. The SC-ST Financial Development Corporation is directly in charge of this programme in conjunction with the Urban Development Ministry in the respective State.

We have given very clear directions to the State Governments that a time-bound programme has to be worked out. On the basis of that, they have to take the scavengers and give them viable means and training according to the local needs.

There are two or three schemes which have been worked out by the State Governments. For instance, they give training according to the local needs. One is self-employment. The second is community living. The training programme and the rehabilitation system differ from State to State because every State is not having similar problems. Self-employment is one of the main criteria. For the training programme, we have earmarked Rs. 105 crore and for rehabilitation programme we have earmarked about Rs. 800 crore. The total amount will be Rs. 905 crore out of which the Centre's subsidy part is Rs. 400 crore. The amount of margin money loans to the State Corporations, that is SC-ST Development Corporations, will be Rs. 58 crore.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): I want an assurance from the Minister that nobody will be rendered jobless.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: First, let me complete the financial part. The hon. Member raised a pertinent question. In the Eighth Plan, two years are already over.

And what we are going to do in the remaining years and whether we will be able to complete it or not. We have already allocated about Rs. 111 crores for this programme and the balance of Rs. 783 crores will be allocated in the course of the coming years. In 1992-93, we have allocated Rs. 60.73 crores and in 1993-94, we have provided Rs. 73.20 crores. Everyone of us know that this menace has to go. I am happy that the whole house has accepted it and has not only given valuable suggestions but also its support to this Bill. This itself is a welcome measure. We should not think party-wise or Government-wise while implementing this great task. This is not an easy task because we all know that this has been continuing for the last thousands of years. This inhuman act should go away and that is why, we have taken these corrective steps.

I am grateful to Mr. George Fernandes for giving his idea. I must say that he is a forerunner in this direction. Mr. Basavalingappa, the then Congress Minister in Karnataka, a prominent social reformer, has taken up this issue. And Indiraji, when she was the Congress President, had approved this programme and it is with her blessings, we have been able to start this programme in the past. Except Karnataka, no other State tried to implement or complete this programme since 1971 onwards. From 1981-90, we have tried a number of times: the Central Government requested many State Governments to do away with this evil menace but it was not possible for us to do away with this evil menace. At this juncture, we have taken up this programme not only on humanitarian grounds but also because, in social life, this should not continue. That is why, as we have mentioned in our election manifesto and under the directions of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi and following his footsteps, our Prime Minister Mr. Narasimha Rao has taken up this gigantic task last year and we are on the job now. With great respect I must say that Mr. George Fernandes said that this is a gimmick and that we are fooling the people and all that. He is not present at the moment. As usual, he tried to fool people and went away. We are not here to do that job; we really want to do good to the people who are needy. This is our custom and we will continue to do it.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (Sheohar): Will the Government announce a cut-off date in this regard in the memory of our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I am happy to reply to your question. As we have mentioned, before the Eighth Plan period, this menace will be completely eradicated by this Government. This is our commitment. We are working on that direction and almost all the State Governments, irrespective of political affiliations, are also cooperating with us which I must confess.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): You have been talking about it since 1950!

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, at the moment, there are three States, viz. Karnataka, Pondicherry and Gujarat which have totally abolished scavenging activity in their States.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is objectionable because hon. Minister has just mentioned about Gujarat. Today, in Gujarat in the cities as well as in the villages, the number of scavengers, who carry night soil on their heads is quite large. You should give necessary directives to the Government of Gujarat.

[*English*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Recently, a meeting was held in Delhi. The Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare has informed that these three States have done this work. If there is any factual error, I am subject to correction. I will certainly come to the House and give you information.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): What is the expenditure incurred on this?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: We have allocated funds to each State. There are many States where this work is going on. That is why I mentioned it. If anything else is there, I will certainly come to the House and inform accordingly. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI PETER G. MARBANLIANG): Please address the Chair. Then, everything will move smoothly.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: In this direction, there are three categories of district groups.

SHRI ANIL BASU: If a new scheme is coming up now and if certain States have already implemented the scheme, the House should be kept informed of the developments that took place in those States.

17.46 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I mentioned these aspects on the basis of the reports of the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of the Government of Gujarat. If anything is to be corrected, as already mentioned, I will certainly do so. I will come to the House and inform you. There is no problem.

Some of our friends, Shri Shahabuddin in particular, mentioned that the Government is

appointing a number of Commissions and the those Commissions are not functioning properly. The very intention of appointing a Commission is to see that there is proper correlation between the Centre and the States. The need of the hour is effective monitoring mechanism. Our past experience shows that we were not able to fulfil our targets mainly due to the lack of correlation. That is why, we have come before this House with a Bill to have a full-fledged Commission which is empowered to monitor the work and also go round the country and see the implementation programme and plug loopholes wherever lacunae are found. That is the main intention of this Bill. Hon. Members need not imagine any other things about this Bill. Just for the sake of opposition and politics, our friends in Opposition should not indulge in arguments. I assure you that this Commission will certainly work. One of the hon. Member has mentioned that Shri Buta Singh is spearheading the movement in favour of the Commission, only because he wants to become its Chairman. Shri Buta Singh is spearheading this cause because of his commitment to do away this evil menace from our society. One should not attribute motives and ridicule those persons who are fighting for a cause.

Sir, I would also like to mention certain other important points. Shri Shahabuddin has mentioned about the backward Classes Commission, Minorities Commission, SC/ST Commission and so on. Though it does not fall within the ambit of this Bill, I would like to reply to his criticism. As he has referred to the delay in the work of these Commissions, I would like to assure him that this Government, under the leadership of Shri Narasimha Rao, has no intention of delaying anything from its side.

Whatever delay is there, it is not due to the Congress party. I must say that the Prime Minister's announcement with regard to the Backward Classes Commission of Minorities Commission should not be ridiculed. The Government's real intention is to help the minorities and this was our only intention in making that announcement. The backward classes are a big force for us and that is why we wanted to help them. It is the well known policy of Congress to help the backward classes and Scheduled Castes and Schedule Tribes and keeping that in view yesterday the Prime Minister made this announcement. We are not delaying in any way the implementation of the Mandal Commission's Report. After the Supreme Court's judgement, our Government has

been sincerely attempting to do away with all the irritants and we are doing everything on the basis of that judgement.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: The report of Mandal Commission and the judgement of Supreme Court have come. Implemented them.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: We are on the job.

Another very important scheme, as I mentioned, is that of conversion of dry latrines into water borne latrines. We have implemented this scheme in a number of States and the result has been quite satisfactory. Members wanted to know whether we have made some provision with regard to this. I would like to say that the Ministry of Urban Development has been engaged in this constructive job of converting dry latrines into water borne latrines. The Ministry of Urban Development and the Welfare Ministry both are in conjunction with each other and we are on the job. The Urban Development Ministry is making efforts to see that almost all the municipalities in the towns get this facility before the end of 8th Plan so that we can abolish the scavenging system and rehabilitate the scavengers.

DR. ASIM BALA (NABADWIP): I would like to know whether you have any specific plan of action because most of the scavenging work is done by ladies and if you abolish this system they will be rendered unemployed. They must be given a job guarantee. Otherwise it is not useful.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: They will be rehabilitated fully. They are being given proper training.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (HOWRAH): You please state, what is the specific action plan? Crores of unemployed youths are already there. The scavenging work is done mostly by ladies. If you are going to abolish this system you will render a lot of lady workers jobless. So, unless and until you provide them with an alternative job, it will not work.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I may tell you that they are being given full training and

during their training they are also paid some allowances. After this training they will be self-employed. The community development programmes are being worked out by various State Governments. You need not worry about their employment. I assure the House that their livelihood will be protected. The State Governments also have to cooperate in this regard and I seek your cooperation for this. The State Governments are doing their best.

Shri Parshuram Gangwar has pointed out certain defects in the implementation of the scheme in the nearby areas of Seelampur, Welcome Colony and some other areas of Delhi.

Sir, I will request the hon. Member to give me in writing or let me know specifically where it is happening. We will take up this matter with the concerned authorities and we will see that this kind of anomaly never occurs in future also. I can give that much assurance to the hon. Shri Gangwar. (*Interruptions*)

Many hon. Members have mentioned that housing facility should be provided to the Safai Karamcharis immediately. I would say that we are in that direction. Already 20,000 houses, in and around Delhi, have been given to these scavengers' family from 1989 onwards viz. ever since this scheme was approved.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi): Sir, I would like to challenge the statement of the hon. Minister, for the D.D.A. has not yet constructed this much number of houses. Then, how this much number of houses could be allotted to scavengers' families. To my knowledge, the D.D.A. has constructed a total of 5 thousand houses only.

[*English*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I said the same thing. Our target is 20,000 houses to be constructed and given to scavengers in Delhi itself. We are moving towards this direction. From 1989 onwards, the work is going on.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please tell us this much as to who provided houses to scavengers out of the total 20,000 houses.

[*English*]

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: I said, the total number of houses to be constructed is 20,000. It is a continuous process. It is going on.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Since 1989, how many houses have been constructed in Delhi? You have a plan to construct 20,000 houses.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I must say that it is in different stages, in different areas and according to the plan. It is a continuous process. We are committed to the people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are already in the process of constructing those houses.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Another scheme under which we have provided homes to the Safai Karamcharis is Indira Awas Yojna.

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY (Howrah): How many houses have been constructed in Delhi and in other States since 1989?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I had already mentioned that in and around Delhi 20,000 houses.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Members wanted to know your target and by what time, you will be able to achieve your target?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: It is an on-going project.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: It may be an on-going project, but you must give us the figures. You collect the figures and inform us.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will certainly convey it to the hon. Member.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: How many have been allotted?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will inform the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Not even a single house has been constructed and allotted to them in last four years. I have got the proof that the Government collected money from 32,000 people, but not even a single person could be provided a house. 32,000 applications were received in toto since 1989 and money was collected from those applicants, but no house has been allotted to anyone in last four years.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: As I said, it is under construction. It is a continuous process. I will let you know the correct details.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: No house has so far been allotted to any one. The money that was collected from them has been deposited in fixed deposit. You may get it confirmed whether the money was put in fixed deposit or not? I have got the proof to substantiate the fact that the money has been put in fixed deposit.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is a very serious allegation. The money which has been allotted for the construction of houses, that money has been deposited in a Fixed Deposit Account. It is a very serious allegation. You must look into it. You must inquire into it.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will look into the complaints of the hon. Member and if he gives in writing, I will take necessary steps and see that if anybody is erring, he will be taken to task.

18.00 hrs

Another important factor in this is that we have asked the State Governments to coordinate this programme with the HUDCO and the Indira Vikas Yojana. Houses are being provided to the scavengers. This is a specific programme for them for which we have asked the State Governments to coordinate.

Last year, we had requested the State Governments to use Special Central Assistance Funds also to build houses for the Safai

Karamcharis specifically. So, we have asked the State Governments to do this and they are also at it.

Shri George Fernandes was telling that there is a provision for only Rs. 50 lakh in this Bill. With this small provision, how can we implement it. He is not understanding it properly. It is only for the maintenance of the Commission.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: How long will you sit late?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee that the House would sit late. Then it was brought to the notice of the House also.

[Interruption]

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: I have been raising this issue for the last 4 years. (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: (Jhansharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are not in favour of extending the sitting of the House upto 7 o'clock. We want that the sitting of the House should be extended till this Bill is passed (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): There are a number of Bills pending which we have to pass. At least, the House should sit late upto 7 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many hon. Members want to participate.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Let us sit till the Bill is passed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the Business Advisory Committee, it was decided that the House would sit late upto 7 p.m. Every hon. Member cannot participate in the debate unless the time taken by each Member is five minutes or four minutes.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The House should be extended till the Bill is passed.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : I was making a mention about Mr. George Fernandes. He was telling that Rs. 50 lakh provided in the Bill is not sufficient. This money is meant for the administrative expenses; this is not the money which is going to be used for the training programme of Safai Karamcharis. This has to be kept in mind by the hon. Members. As I said, the persons, who are engaged in the manual handling of human excreta, in this area, about four lakh people will be brought out of this menace totally within the time frame of the Eighth Plan. Apart from this, I have brought an amendment to this stating that the other persons who are engaged in other walks of life in the society are also to be considered for which the Government has been thinking; and we are willing to go ahead with the new programmes. After that, the necessary infrastructure will be built up by this Commission. The Commission will go ahead with that programme.

With regard to the money, money will not be a problem. The Government is willing to provide any amount of money for the welfare of this section; and we will do our best to see that this section of the people will be benefited.

Through this Bill, I appeal to all the hon. Members, irrespective of party affiliation to cooperate with the Government; their cooperation is very much needed because this menace has to go without any hindrance.

I personally appeal to the hon. Members that, in their respective States, in their respective areas, to see that about this menace people are properly educated and told for early eradication of this menace.

With these words, I request the hon. Members to pass this Bill unanimously.

SHRI SWARUP UPADHYAY (JESPUR) : Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister in respect of this Bill, what would be the relation between the Centre and the States.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : I have already mentioned about the Centre and State relations. The Central Government Welfare Ministry is allotting funds to the State Governments through the SCST Finance Development Corporation. Through the Corporation this programme is being implemented and we are in

constant touch with the State Governments. We have a Corporation here also. We have a great deal of good understanding between the Corporation and the Central Government. There is no problem with the Central Government and the State Governments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill to constitute a National Commission for Safai Karamcharis and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2—Definitions

Amendment made

Page 2.—

for lines? 7 and 8, substitute—
“(e) ‘Safai Karamcharis’ means a person engaged in or employed for manually carrying human excreta or any sanitation work.” (1)

(Shri K.V. Thangka Balu)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is : “That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is : “That clause 3 to 15, stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted

Clause 3 to 15 were added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is : “That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1. the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: I beg to move: "That the Bill, as amended be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is: "That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS) (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I have to make one request, Capt. Satish Sharma, who had to move for consideration the Bill on Oil and Natural Gas Commission is not keeping well and has requested the hon. Speaker that this Bill can be taken up a little later. In the meantime we can take up Jammu and Kashmir Demands for Grants. . . . (Interruptions). . . . We can take it up today. We will have to start sitting late because we have not been able to complete the Business the way we had intended earlier. We can atleast sit upto 7 o' clock today. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Tomorrow we can sit upto 7 o' clock, but today we have agreed to adjourn after passing of the Bill. . . . (Interruptions). . . . Many Members will speak on Kashmir. (Interruptions)

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: We can continue the discussion tomorrow but we can start the discussion today (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kindly oblige to cooperate. As Capt. Satish Sharma has sent a letter making a request, so we will just

start the discussion today and continue tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up Item Nos. 15 and 16 together. Item No. 15 is discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants (Jammu and Kashmir) for 1993-94.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (SOUTH DELHI): Let the Budget be introduced today, but we may have the discussion tomorrow.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (MADHEPURA): The feelings of the House should be respected. The House should be run with the general consensus of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have got lot of things to say

18.10 hrs.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR BUDGET, 1993-94

Demands for Grants (Jammu and Kashmir), 1993-94

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved: "That the respective sums not exceeding the amount on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the Fourth column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Jammu and Kashmir to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1994, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demands 1 to 27".