

has no studio. The Minister in charge of the Ministry promised on 2nd January, 1990, in a public meeting at Shillong to complete the construction of the studio on or before the 31st March, 1990. However, till date the construction of the studio is incomplete. There is a strong public demand to complete construction of the studio immediately. I request the Minister to look into the matter.

13.49 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS—(GENERAL)
1990-91

Ministry of Labour

and

Ministry of Welfare —Contd

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will not take up further discussion together on Demand for Grant No. 56 in respect of Ministry of Labour and Demand for Grant No. 79 for Ministry of Welfare would on the 15th May, 1990. The time allotted is 14 hours out of which 3 hours and 45 minutes are over and 10 hours and 15 minutes remain. Now I call upon Mr. Gopal Pacherwal to Speaker.

Shri Pacherwal

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL (Tonk): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are today discussing the two important subjects relating to the Labour and the Welfare Ministries and I would like to put forward certain important suggestions with respect to the demands of the Ministry of Welfare. The exploited, backward and suppressed sections of our society cannot make progress and proper unless we put an end to the social imbalances in our country. Since independence schemes for the upliftment of the backward and downtrodden sections of our soci-

ety were implemented by the Government but so far as my information goes the results are not very healthy and encouraging. No effective steps have been taken to check the social atrocities and assaults committed by the powerful social elites upon these poor and downtrodden people.

Harijans and the backward people are not allowed to fetch water from the wells in small village. they are allowed to have hair cut in a barberts shop. Their bridegrooms are not allowed the rise on a house on marriage occasions. Their womenfolk cannot room about well dressed in their respective villages. The Government has not taken any effective steps to check such social imbalances. What the Government does is to fulfil the formalities and draft budgets etc. in this regard but steps to provide them social justice are yet to be taken.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi had fought for the change of political power along with social change but the political parties today continue their fight for the change in power but they are least concerned about social change. Thus, we are able to achieve our political objectives but we make no headway towards social change. Hence, I would like to impress upon the Government as well as the political parties that this exploited and oppressed class needs to be given a political status and recognition if they are really interested in the upliftment of this class and for that 60:40 formula, as advocated by Dr. Ram Manmohan Lohia for the provision of special social opportunities to these backward classes, should be enforced and they should given political recognition for which they Manshar should be appointed on high political ports like that of Governors and they should be given due representation in the formation can of state Governments because they constitute 60% of the total population.

No improvement in their status and condition is possible unless they are appointed on higher posts by state and the central Governments and by the political parties. I greatly deplore the fact that Con-

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gress and other parties talk tall of socialism etc. but none of them has set a healthy example of it by choosing an ST or SC persons as their president. In a similar manner, these people are not given due representation in the judiciary or Governorship. Take the Council of Ministers for example, the backward communities have not been adequately encouraged in the Governments of any of the parties anywhere. I demand that the Government should enforce reservation in such institutions as well. The political posts should also be reserved for the backward communities. Much has been said about reservation in the proceeding days. We had to face much resentment on the issue of reservation whenever we participated in electoral meetings. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I belong to the lower and downtrodden class of society and have had an opportunity to study and perceive the social expectations of this class. Many political parties support and actively participate in the anti-reservation movements today and some of them are the supporting parties of the Government. It is regretful that the parties that favoured reservation policy in their election manifestoes oppose it now. I would like to urge upon the Government to take stern measures against such political parties and persons. They should be declared unfit for any post. Such people should be defarrd from political and bureaucratic posts by rendering them unfit for any such post with the help of a legislation enacted to this effect as was done by the previous Government in the case of people who supported the practice 'Sati Pratha' under the provisions of which such people were termed as criminals and unfit for any post. The backward communities, cannot get rid of social atrocities and injustice and their lot cannot be improved unless they are given a political status and higher posts. I, therefore, submit that they should be give due representation in political parties and Government services. I want to congratulate the UP Chief Minister, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav for bringing an end to the inevitability of English in getting Government jobs. He has opposed English

as being an essential qualification for obtain jobs. I would like the Government to abolish this provision of the inevitability of English for jobs as well. English is considered the yardstick of competence for obtain job today and this is not good because this restrains the backward people from making a heardway. The children of the elite class receive education in the English medium schools while our children are devoid of electricity, kerosene oil for burning, lanterns, books, school buildings, teachers and study material etc. and if they have one facility, they don't have the other. How can these children treated at par with those children under such circumstances. I would, therefore, like to submit that the knowledge of English should not be treated as a yard stick for competence and ability so that the children of the backward communities too get a reasonable place in employment.

I would like to draw your attention to one more problem. Every year Government talks of giving land to the poor in March-April. This objective is achieved in records and papers alone. The patwari sends his report. Tehsildar and S.D.O. distribute the land but people do not get the possession of the land so distributed. This land continues to be under the control of landlords and jagirdar. Atrocities are committed on the poor who make a demand for the possession of the land distributed to them. If such a person goes to the Collector on the police station for registering his complaint, the people there take sides with the landlords because they receive illegal gratification, from these landlords thus denying him the possession of the land. In this regard, I would like to submit that a special cell of the police administration should be established and it should entrusted with the duty of giving possession of such land to the deserving persons. The collector and the S.P. Police should be held responsible and stringent action taken against them if they fail to bestow the possession of the distributed land to the right persons.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, same is the case with judiciary today. I have to say it with regret and shame that you would not finds

the name of even single ST judge in Rajasthan if you go through the figures. Not a single ST or SC persons has been chosen to be included in the list sent by the Government of Rajasthan for immediate appointment of judges there. Only the names of those persons have been sent there who hail from the upper class families and who have acquired education in Public schools and those who propagate western culture. No State Government has forwarded the names of the persons belonging to oppressed and depressed class. You talk of ability.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should speak on the relevant point only.

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I belong to the same class and I understand all such things, you should give me special consideration.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make good points in short time.

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: I am making good points. May be these are not good from your point of view. It would be better if you permit me to speak for some more time. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that we should get justice in the matter of appointments in Judiciary and our people should be encouraged. I want to give an example. A few days ago in Barmer district of Rajasthan the people belongs to the upper class broke the water tank meant for the Harijan community and heat them.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon Member, does it make a point?

SHRI GOPAL PACHERWAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am quoting an example to reveal how we are Suppressed in the courts. The Munshi if Magistrate, C.G.M. were transferred from that area because they did not accept the bail of the accused. The courts do not function according to the rules framed for the purpose. I was mentioning about the maltreatment meted out to the *Munshi* and the magistrate belonging to SC/ST. It is a fact. The people at the top do not understand

it. This community should get protection from the courts and laws should be enacted So that those who commit this sort of crime should get deterrent punishment.

Today I have read the progress report of the government. According to it crores of Rupees have been given to voluntary organizations in the form of grants. I would like to inform Shri Paswan that there are 166 such organizations as per your progress report out of which nine organizations belong to schedule caste welfare voluntary organisation, tribal welfare organization Welfare organization for the handicaps, organizations for eradication of leprosy and twelve organization for the welfare of aged people Each of them has been give assistance ranging from one lakh to one and a half lakhs. I want to quote on example of an organization. There is a "*Harijan Swayam Sevak Sangh*" in Delhi. It has been given assistance of Rs. 19 lakhs. I request the hon. Minister to get it investigated as to what has been done by these 166 organyatice in the country which receive crores of Rupees as grants. These organizations are personal organizations are care for their bread and butter only. You have given them Rs. 19 lakhs whereas Harijan Sawyam Sevak Sangh has made no major contribution for the society. This has become a source of earning. All these organizations are being run by the people who have no knowledge about the condition of the backward classes. They know nothing about social disparities and problems of backward classes or about the atrocities committed on them. But crores of Rupees are given to these organizations. I would like to request Shri Paswan that since he belongs to that community and he, knows about their agony and problems and, has attachment them, he should set up a parliamentary committee and get the affairs of these 166 organizations investigated which receiver grants and misuses the funds. What these organizations have done in the past forty years after taking crores of Rupees should be looked into. This has become a source of earning for them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, under the

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"Bhangi Kashta Makti" Yojna" tall slogans like say with pride that we are this and we are that are raised. I also say with pride that Gandhi, Sohia and Jaiprakash were born in this land. I too claim with pride that Sita and Savitri, Ram and Lakshman are worshipped in this land. But I feel terribly ashamed to say that in this land itself a women has to carry human waste on her head to bring up her children and to make 60th ends meet. She has to carry human waste on here head to satiate her hunger. She has to do this to get medicines her dying child. The Government is making plans but plants are being made for the last 40 years. Hon. Minister must be remembering that in 1957 Malkani Committee was set up and it has submitted its report in 1960. A number of suggestions were made in it to abolish this practice. But none of the recommendations has been implemented till date. I would like to submit that if we want to remove these blemish of carrying human waste from the land of Gardhiji those people, who talk of giving Rs. 18, 23, and 32 under the labour laws should sincerely take action in this regard. But in the villages the daughter a sweeper carries human waste on her head in order to make her ends meet.

Paswanji, you are the Labour Minister as well as Minister for Welfare. I wanted to say so many other things in this regard but time is short. In the present times, to abolish the system of carrying human waste on head merely making plans and laws wan't help you will have to do constructive social work in this regard. In your report it has been mentioned that we have under taken the work of freeing 32 tonns from this practice and 300 villages have been included in it. But it you study it with sincerity you will come to conclusion that everything has been done on papers only, in reality nothing concrete has been done. The State Governments have also retrained from undertaking any special initiative in this regard. If you really want to help these people you will have to create job opportunities for them and if you provide them with employment, give them good jobs, allocate lands to them and em-

ploy them in various trades, then they will certainly refrain from doing this work because in the present times no one wants to do dirty jobs. But they are compelled to do this work in order to satiate their hunger. If we honestly want to curb this system of carrying human waste on head, we shall have to form a cell to conduct a survey and the State Government should be instructed to identify the number of people who are earning their livelihood by means of carrying human waste an their heads and suitable employment should be provided to him. They should be informed that they should stop doing such dirty job since better jobs have been made available to them. If such a scheme is formulated and implemented the system of carrying human waste on head can be put to an end in this land of Gandhi , Jaiprakash and Lohia.

[English]

SHRI A.K. ROY (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all the praises conferred on my young Labour Minister are the indication of our expectation from him. It is a responsibility and I think the situation is not much favourable but still I hope that he will rise to the occasion and will not disappoint all of us.

14.07 hrs.

[SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE *in the Chair*]

If we go deep into it, you will find that it is owner's Parliament, employer's Parliament or the propertied people's Parliament. If we take the country at large, the politics has slipped out of the hands of the working people. It has gone and got confined in the hands of the owning people. So, when we discussed agriculture, we discussed not about the agricultural labourers but we discussed about the remunerative prices for peasants. The peasant means the person who standson the edge of the land with an umbrella in his hand. He goes to the market to reap surplus.

When we come to the industrial arena,

as the Ministry's Report reveals, you will find that in the last three years, 14 million mandays were lost due to strikes and some 22 million mandays were lost due to lock-outs. This year, 6 million mandays were lost due to strikes and some 10 million mandays were lost due to lock-outs. What do you mean by mandays lost due to lock-outs? It means, the employers are on the offensive. Previously, the labour laws were designed not to aid labour but to control the labour. Now, the Labour Ministry should decide, should create some Wing to control the employers, to deal with the employers. There is a conciliation machinery which they have got and that is Central Industrial Relations Machinery (CIRM). Similarly, you will have to design a new industrial relation machinery to deal with the employers. I would like to know from the Minister whether it will only bark or it has got the capacity to bite also. It has got the capacity to come out with an ESMA which was not at all relevant to be used against the workers. Can they have the guts to use some sort of a weapon against the employers and owners, against all those who have kept our scarce capital under their grip, and close their factories? Today, the problem is not strike by workers. Today, the problem is strike by employers, strike by capitalists. How to deal with the strike by owners, strike by the capitalists—that is the first thing I would like to know from our young friend, the Labour Minister.

I would like to give one suggestion. It is all connected with the problem of employment for our people. All the sick units, all the close units should be scrutinized, should be analyzed. In respect of those units which are closed because they have exhausted their technological possibilities and economic viability, action should be taken, as some of my colleagues have suggested. To deal with units i.e. all those industries or factories which are closed due to mismanagement, due to siphoning of working capital, another set of procedure has to be followed. I suggested that not only should there be the take-over and nationalization, but also that this Government should initiate a new way. We have got the public sector. We have got the

private sector. I would like that there should be a workers' sector. Wherever the management is unwilling to operate a factory, and the factory has got the economic potential and its products have got a market, the workers should be encouraged to form co-operatives and run it; and Government of India should come out with a law to authorize the workers to run it, and to contribute to our economy, and also maintain and also to maintain their employment.

Sometime back, relating to the Kamani workers, there was a very important judgement from the Supreme Court. I would like to that while replying, our Minister will give his opinion on that, and would try to come out with sort of a legislation in Parliament to make that type of a workers' sector possible, and without going into further litigation.

Secondly, regarding the Central Industrial Relations Machinery, I have talked to the Minister, and also to his officials, Whenever some industrial dispute arises, there is an attempt to sort it out at the stage of the conciliation machinery. But unfortunately the rate of settlement is gradually declining; and so, most of the disputes end in a failure. If you go through the entire report regarding the failure of conciliation, you will find that in every case, the trade unions had agreed for arbitration, but the management had refused to go in for arbitration. This is also taking place in the entire public sector units. So, some direction from the Labour Department should go to all the public sector units, so that at least in most of the cases, if they cannot come to a conciliation settlement, they should agree to arbitration, so that the load on the labour court and the tribunal becomes less. Some sort of a clear direction should go at least to the Public sector units, through this machinery.

Thirdly, some time back they had a seminar or workshop. The National Labour Institute conducted a workshop, and in that workshop they decided on how to dispose of the industrial disputes quickly. They also took some decisions. I would like to know what actual steps have been taken, because

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I personally represented some 50 cases to the Ministry during this period. But except for one or two, I did not get any response, though I could convince them both legally and also otherwise, about the justification for referring these disputes to the tribunal.

My appeal to this Government is that they should not follow the footsteps of the previous Government and dispose of industrial disputes quickly so that at least they could get justice from the Labour Courts and the Tribunals. I am surprised and the old trend is still continuing. For example, we are already having less number of Labour Courts-cum-Tribunals. In Dhanbad, In Tribunal No. 1, a Judge is there, but he does not have authority to decide cases. He has not been transferred from there nor has been given any extension. I referred this matter three months ago to the concerned authorities. They said, the Ministry has approved that he will be given extension and he will also be allowed to function there; it is only a formality that an official order has not been given to him so far. But I am told now that order has not yet gone from there and that Tribunal is not operational. I think there type of trends and traditions have to be changed.

You have to tackle the mal-practices going in the public sector units. Not only you have to work against them but also you must gain some capacity to fight against them especially in the case of those public sector units which are under the control of the Central Government. They are committing those mal-practices. You have made a law for equal pay for equal work. You have also made a law that if a person works for 240 days, he will be regularised. There is an Instrumentation Section at Bokaro working under the Ministry of Industry. There are 172 workers who have been working for more than seven years; some have been working for 15 years. The Minister has mentioned about it in reply to my question. But all those workers are not regularised so far. How is it taking place? All those workers have represented to the concerned Minister also. They

should take up this matter with the sister Ministry that they should not do like that. It is for them to decide where contractual workers are to be kept or not to be kept. From time to time, they are issuing circulars. These public sector units do not give any importance to these circulars; they just throw them into a wastepaper basket. In the collieries, loading and unloading of coal, raising of coal, washing of coal, all these things are prohibited to be done through contractual labour. But they are doing all these things. All the private companies are taking charge of these collieries and they are doing all these things with machines, not with persons. When we referred this matter to the concerned authorities, they prosecuted them. But they do not care about it because nobody is there to pursue the result of the prosecution.

A few days ago, the hon. Minister said that they would keep a penalty clause in every legislation. What is the idea of keeping a penalty clause when no penalty is actually imposed on them? Has he ever enquired how many prosecution cases are actually pending in different courts and why are they not deciding them? Has even a single owner been prosecuted by the so-called Central Industrial Labour Machinery? You cannot do anything about them. You only bark; you only lament; you only give sermons; you do not take any action against them. There is no result. What is the meaning of keeping such a big machinery of the Government when there is no result? You are propagating the right to work. But you have got all the rights. You have to work for them, you must have a will to work for them. You have got all the rights and you must utilise them for helping them. But there is no result. I am telling you something very concrete so that you can proceed in this way.

The minimum wage in Bihar is Rs. 20.50. What is the actual poverty line in this country? In 1984-85, it was Rs. 6,400 per annum. In the urban areas, it was Rs. 7,300 when the consumer prices index was something like 625 taking 1960-61 as the base year. Today, it is Rs. 845. That means, today, actually, the poverty line is Rs. 900 for a family.

The monthly income of a family of five members will be about Rs. 900 to Rs. 1,000/- So, even if the minimum wage is paid, the workers will still remain below the poverty line. Should the Government come out with some legislation or some proposals which would kick the people below the poverty line in their own State? They must come out with some national wage policy. That is what I want to propose. Whether it is the public sector or whether they are permanent employees or casual employees or contract employees, they are all the same. From the same market they have to purchase. So, if you cannot remove the disparities within the society, at least you remove the disparities within the working classes. That is what I want to propose. You come out either in this session or afterwards, with a comprehensive National Wage Policy taking into account all these considerations.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI A.K. ROY: I am just concluding. I am giving another suggestion. Let us come to the contractual workers. In our country there are about 30 to 35 crores working people. Out of them 15 crores are self-employed. Then 12 crores are in the disorganised sector and three crores are in the organised sector, and out of them only sixty lakhs or less than that belong to some union. They have added the membership of all the unions and it comes to 60 lakhs only. That is only two per cent of our total working people. But, Madam, here also we have to think about the disorganised sector, contractual workers. And here also, the die-hard officials who are sitting in the Labour Department always talk of —whenever we go to them regularisation and departmentalisation they come out with the problem of employees-relationship stating that there is no employer-employee relationship. It is a very peculiar way of deciding things. It is a question of social justice and a question of justifiability. They are kept in the background. But one after another, out dispute is a perennial type of one.

I like to suggest to my friends one thing.

That is, you have to amend the Contract Workers (Abolition and Regulation) Act. If you see Section 10 of that Act, you will find that it prohibits use of contractual workers in a perennial type of job. But that does not automatically entitle those workers to be departmentalised. The question will come as to whether automatically they can be departmentalised. But still, I think, till you amend those laws there will be some difficulties.

Madam, Mr. Justice Krishna Iyer of the Supreme Court gave a judgment in that famous Hussain Bai's case and I would like to quote from that judgment.

"The source of strength of the industrial branch of thier world..."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please conclude.

SHRI A.K.ROY: Thou too Brutus!

"The source of strength of the industrial branch of third world jurisprudence is social justice proclaimed in the Preamble of the Constitution of India. Indian justice beyond the Atlantic Liberalism is a rule of law which runs to the aid of the rule of life, life in the conditions of poverty or plenty, livelihood is is work with wages. Ram social reality, not fine spun legal niches shape the law. What the weaker working class sector needs is succour for livelihood through labour."

So, Madam, I like to request the young Labour Minister to kindly take a new look at the entire legislation for the working classes and to do some justice to them.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berpampur): Madam, Chairperson, duly the Schedule Tribes are the weakest of the weak sections. It is imperative on the part of the Government and all of us to see that due assistance is given to this category of people in our country. The Scheduled Tribes depend on agriculture for their livelihood. Unless the lands which are under the cultivation of the Scheduled Tribes are properly as-

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

sisted in the matter of irrigation, it would not be possible for the Scheduled Tribes to make a living.

So far as the subsidies and the loans that are given are concerned, much of them are misused. They are eaten away by the middle persons. Though the backward classes comprising of mainly Scheduled Tribes and not Scheduled Castes constitute 52 per cent of our population, yet no recognition has been accorded to them under the Constitution. It should be seen that they are accorded due recognition under the Constitution. Further schemes like slum clearance, farmers' debt relief and adequate pension to the disabled and veterans of all services should be specially implemented.

Many of the people of weaker sections, particularly in rural areas, are ignorant about the facilities that are being offered to them. A wide publicity drive should be launched by the Government to bring to their notice the various schemes so that these people can take benefit of these schemes intended for them.

There are problems of women labour, bonded labour, child labour, inter-state migrant labour and so on. These should be viewed seriously. We have been stating these things for a long time. Government should take necessary action in these matters. We have no doubt abolished child labour to a great extent. But we cannot do anything about it outside, because of the economic condition of our people. These children would be much better off as future citizens if necessary schooling and formal education be provided to them. We must therefore think of some means by which these aspects could be implemented. Furthermore, Juvenile and distribute Homes throughout the country taking much care and rehabilitation of the numerous juvenile delinquents should receive proper financial assistance from the Government to enable these institutions to continue their laudable humanitarian work.

About the vast unorganised sector, the

labour are working in terrible conditions. They do not get even the statutory minimum wages. We have passed many good laws to benefit different sections of this unorganised sector. But they remain only on paper. The beneficiaries do not get what they are supposed to get out of those laws. So, we must devise some sort of machinery, by which the people for whom these laws are made can also participate in the machinery of implementation. More than 70 per cent of the workers are working in the rural unorganised field.

They are not getting the medical and other facilities. With a view to provide them the medical facilities, ESI benefits and provident fund, etc. it is necessary for the Government to bring a comprehensive law.

Further, Ganjam District, geographically located in South Orissa is an agricultural-based district. One of its Parliamentary constituencies, Berhampur which I represent, comprises of 7 Assembly segments of Chatrapur, Gopalpur, Berhampur, Chikiti, Mohana, Parlakhemundi and Ramagiri. It is sad to observe the poor drinking water and irrigational facilities in all these areas. Even the existing sources provided by the philanthropic and far-sighted luminaries of the yester-years are in a total state of neglect.

There are a number of villages, particularly in the agriculture-dependent Chatrapur and Ramagiri Assembly segments, which have neither irrigational nor the basic drinking water facilities. In the case of Chatrapur, the irrigational project have not been implemented as yet, while in the case of the tribal-dominated Ramagiri, even the few available water sources have become inaccessible, due to lack of proper road-link system in the villages. Immediate attention of the Government is earnestly requested to these burning problems.

Our parliamentarian and legislators are the ideological middlemen between the people at grassroot level and the government machinery. It is only through our learned parliamentarians and legislators as ambas-

sadors of goodwill that we can instil proper confidence among the people, of the protection of rights and welfare of the vital labour force of our country.

SHRI D. AMAT: (Sundergarh): At the outset, I thank you for having given me time to speak. I would not take much time of the House. I will only mention some of the specific points.

First of all, I come from an agricultural area which is dominated by tribal people. I will speak something about agriculture and the people dependent on it.

India is the Fourth largest agricultural country in the world. It comprises 2.45 per cent of the whole land mass of the globe. It is greater than Great Britain eleven times in geographical area. India is comprised of 900 million acres of land. Out of that, 225 million acres are drought and cyclone prone areas, 125 million acres of land is sandy with erosion, 50 million acres is saline land, 100 million acres is comprised of rivers and mountains and 25 million acres come under railways and roads. All this comes to 550 million acres. Rest comes to 350 million acres. That means, 35 crore acres. The total population in India is 80 crores. If that land is divided on socialistic pattern of society basis, per head it will come to .41 acre. But that area also is shrinking in size day by day due to fragmentation. In every 2 (two) second an Indian is born. In a year 2.5 crores are born. That way, the land is shrinking. How to solve this problem? This way, we are not going to solve unemployment problem. In our Thar area people do not want work but they want water. Why that is so? Because the population is growing in such a way and we have to feed every mouth and provide job to every hand. It is only water that can bring up agriculture. There are 382 towns and cities and 5.57 lakh villages. 80 per cent of the people live in villages. They want water. But by erecting these big dams you cannot do that. I am dead against these big dams. Day before yesterday, some friends were talking about flooding of DVC. Why I am speaking like that because your DVC is silting up at

least 300 acre feet and the Nagarjunasagar dam is silting at the rate of 217 acre feet. Even our Hirakund dam is not free from siltation. In the summer season, people divert the water towards agriculture. There is no water for the turbines to move. If the water is directed towards power channel, there is no water for agricultural fields. So, agriculture and industry are supplementary to each other and inter-dependent. These dams are silting up every year and the bed is rising up and up. In rainy season, what is happening is that flood water is spreading sand over the land every year. So, I am against all these big dams. This is a criminal wastage. I am not in favour of small, minor and medium irrigation. I am in favour of dugwells and tubewells to fetch the sub-soil ground water and divert it towards agricultural fields. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are discussing not Agriculture but Labour and Welfare.

SHRI D. AMAT: I should be given an opportunity to discuss this. Indo-Gangetic plains are fertile. South Bihar, Western Orissa and some parts of Madhya Pradesh are hilly, undulating rainfed and rock land. In Eastern Orissa the land is plain and fertile. In Haryana 18 acres has been fixed for ceiling whereas in Orissa it is 10 acres. It is a discriminating ceiling. So, land ceiling should be fixed on production basis and not on acreage basis.

Lastly, I would like to say that ESMA should be repealed. It is a carbon copy of the British Rowlat Act which was brought by the Britishers after the Second World War. It is meant to oppress the opposition leaders, trade unionists and workers and even gave the mouth of the Press reporters. It is a black rule. This should be repealed.

My area is a hub of industrial belt. Here the Labour Office is not well-equipped with men, money and other materials to look after the welfare of the labourers. They should be provided all facilities.

I am grateful to you for giving me some time to speak on this Demand. I support the

[Sh. D. Amat]

Demands of the Labour Department brought forward by our Minister. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Madam Chairperson, I draw the attention of the labour Minister to the fact that already a law is there for the Plantation Labour. But, this Act is there from the beginning itself. Tea gardens have completed two hundred years. But, the condition of the labourers working in the Tea gardens is as it is as it was hundred years before. The facilities given to them by the welfare section of the Plantation Labour Act is not at all adopted in the plantations. The Management is not following any rule and the authorities in the Management do as they like and they have not done anything good for the workers in the tea gardens, even after more than 40 years of independence of the country. O, Madam, I know that the Labour Minister is very energetic and he must look after the welfare of the plantation labour. Not only that He should look after the welfare of the whole sections in the tea gardens and whatever laws are passed for the welfare of the labour, they should be implemented in letter and spirit by the Management which is in charge of the tea gardens.

Madam the tea gardens are earning more than Rs. 700 crores as foreign exchange for the country. But the plight of the labour in the tea gardens is getting worse. They are not treated as human beings but they are still treated as sub-human beings in the tea gardens, in the civilised country of ours. There are 191 integrated tribal development projects and 268 Modified Area Development Approach. The articles of the Constitution which have direct bearing on the development of Scheduled Tribes are; 15(4), 16(4), 19(5), 46, 164, 244, 275(1), 330, 332, 334, 338, 339, 342 and the 5th and 6th Schedules of the Constitution. So, so much safeguard is given by the Constitution. But the Government is keeping silent. They are not at all working according to these Articles in the Constitution which are for the welfare of the tribal people. The hon. Mem-

bers who spoke before me were very sympathetic and mentioned about the living conditions of the tribal people in the country and they are the most suppressed and oppressed people. They are the most neglected people and they have yet to derive the fruits of the independence of the country. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that the tribal people get their due share of benefit of the development in the country. As you know, the tribals are at the mercy of the State Governments such as Bihar and other States which are caste-ridden. The State Governments are not spending the money that is allocated for the development of the tribal areas in their States. That is why I pointed out that an inquiry should be made into the working of developmental plans for the tribal people. A parliamentary delegation consisting of Tribal MPs should go to those areas and enquire as to how much money has been spent for the tribal areas out of the funds allocated for this purpose. They should find out who are the persons in charge of spending money for the development purposes and what developmental schemes have been executed for the tribal people.

Madam, I now come to industry. There are number of industries, both small and big industries, in the country. In these industries, closure, lay-offs and lock-outs have become the order of the day and because of these, the working class are suffering. They become unemployed and their families are very much affected because of lay-offs, closures and lock-outs. Why don't the Government punish those people who are playing with the life of the poor people of our country? Why should these people be given licences to start other industries when they make the previous units sick? They do not invest in those industries which have become sick. It is very easy for them to declare lock-outs, closure and incite labour for lay-offs without caring for the country's economy and the poor people of our country. So, Madam, these people should be punished any they should not be allowed to declare closure or lock-outs of their factories. If one factory is sick, Government should take over it without giving any compensation to the

owner. The interest of the labour must be kept in mind always.

The employment situation is like this. There are 332.1 million registered job-seekers in the country and among them 61.09 are women job seekers. So, Sir, we know that a maximum number of people are only the educated persons who have registered for jobs and who are to get jobs. This number is increasing every year and it is not decreasing. Every year lakhs of people are coming as addition in the registrars of the Employment Exchanges and there are no jobs for them. Those who are rich are becoming richer and the workers are becoming poorer and poorer. So, if we call our Government a socialist government, I would say that a socialist government cannot exist like that. At least there should be living wages to all persons. It is the duty of the Government to see that essential commodities are supplied to the poor people and the labourers at a subsidised rate. Otherwise, there will be rebellion. Today itself all the Leftist Parties have risen against rising prices and they will fight till the end. The living wages should be touched and the Commodities should be supplied to the labourers at subsidised rates. The Government should give serious consideration to this and black money should be got rid of. This is a disease in the country and if Government want do anything, why don't they ask the people to report wherever the black money is? Within 15 days all those people who are having black money should bring it out. If they don't do it, they should be punished.

With these words, I thank you very much.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU (Visakhapatnam): Madam Chairperson, thank you for having given a woman the chance to speak. (*Interruptions*)

I would like to dwell today on only two issues. One is about the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other one is about women. There are social inequities in respect of these two sections of our society.

Now, Madam, I would like to point out that the Government is all the time paying lip service to the upliftment of the lot of SC and ST, but this is only matched by their callousness and their irresponsibility towards them. They are silent when atrocities are committed on SCs and STs. They seem to be promoting the Rajabs' legacy of Thakur interests above everything else. Madam, I want to tell you that in the hon. Prime Minister's constituency the Thakurs flex their muscles and Harijans are burnt alive. Every day we hear of atrocities in Fatehpur, every day we hear of atrocities during the festivals and the government remains silent. I construe their silence as complicity, I construe their silence as consent. Why does the Government not come out against these atrocities? Why does the Government not spell out what is their stand on the SCs and STs? I would like to know from the hon. Minister why we cannot have a specific programme for the SCs and STs as the Congress Party has always envisaged? First, they had the urban rural divide as I call it, then they tried to divide the country on linguistic lines and today on the caste basis the Government is trying to divide this country. I would like to tell the hon. Minister to take note of the fact that the SCs and STs who are children of God as Mahatma Gandhiji always called them, are being neglected and are still being neglected by the Government.

Now, I would like to come to the issues pertaining to women. In the agricultural sector, it is the women who are always exploited. There is so much disparity in the wages given to them as against the wages that are given to the men. When it comes to the land *pattas*, the *pattas* are given to the men and not to women. I would like to say that drinking is very common in the villages and the men drink away the property. So, I think it would be a very good idea if the women get the *pattas* instead of men. Even in public sector undertakings, women are treated as second class citizens. I am particularly referring to the Vishakapatnam Steel Plant which is in my constituency. I have time and again requested the Minister and said that when the Government sets up a public

[Shrimati Uma Gajapathi Raju]

sector undertaking, they have to reserve 30 percent of the jobs to women. Why can't they take this stand? Why are they silent? Their silence means that they are only prepared to pay lip service and have committees and then decide nothing in the matter. How can we expect anything of a Government which has a Deputy Prime Minister, who as the Chief Minister of Haryana tried to pass the infamous Bill which said that women have to be disinherited of their parental property after marriage? How can we expect anything of a Government which has Shri Kalyan Singh Kalvi in their Treasury benches, who on Doordarshan went on record to say that he supports the murderous act of sati? How can we expect anything of a Government which has Shri Jagdeep Dhankar as one of its Ministers?*

I wish this Government takes note of these things and decides to do something for the women of India.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILE AND MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING (SHRI SHRAD YADAV): Whatever is being said about Shri Dhankar is not correct, Shri Dhankar is opposed to sati practice.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore): Madam Chairperson, I would like to say a few words about the Ministry of Welfare. The prime objective of the Ministry of Welfare is to do Welfare of the entire society. In 1887 Justice Ranade has said that if the country is to march forward, both politics and social welfare should proceed together. He had expressed these views in a Congress session. He had said that there must be a social council. When we talk of social welfare today, it includes Children, women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Adivasis and the Government also provide assistance for their development. Crores of rupees are being allocated for their develop-

ment. But it is a matter to be seen how much money is actually being spent on this work. A number of social organisations have come up at various places and lakhs of rupees are being given to them for their activities. But it should be seen as to how much money is being actually spent by them to achieve this objective.

Today, a Backbone or spine centre has been set up for the benefit of the Physically handicapped. But the children are the real backbones of the country. In order to ensure development of the nation, it is necessary to pay attention to children. There is need to build the character of children. Then only can the character of the nation be built. The children are the future of the nation, but what is their position today. Lakhs of them are picking rags from dumping ground and about 44 per cent do not go to school at all. Today we are talking about the handicapped children, but there are lakhs of children who suffer from malnutrition.

14.55 hrs.

[SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE *in the Chair*]

The Government runs nutrition centres. But these centres do not utilise the sanctioned amount fully. They spend only a paise out of 50 paise. The food supplied to these nutrition centres does not reach the children in the required quantity.

There are a number of such institutions in Madhya Pradesh and enquiry into their activities had been ordered long ago. After enquiry it was found that they were not functioning properly. But no action was taken against them. This was the state of affairs during the rule of previous Government. When it was decided to take action against the defaulting institutions and the central officials reached there, they were manhandled. The culprits who manhandled the central officials had the protection of the then Minister of State. During the last 40 years various

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

schemes were launched and crores of rupees were sanctioned to implement these schemes. But today a stage has come when these institutions are being run by some individuals in their individual capacity. Funds have all along been provided to such institutions. In this way the benefits of these schemes could not reach their real beneficiaries.

Now I would like to make a submission about the creches. Though there are 8,000 creches on paper, actually only 4000-5000 creches are functioning in the country. The remaining creches only receive grants-in-aid. Actually they are not functioning. It is being claimed that there are as many as 25 children on the role of a crecher, but in certain creches the number is far below. The children in these creches do not get proper food.

We talk of physically handicapped persons and providing assistance to them. There are two types of handicapped persons—mentally retarded and physically disabled. If suitable pre-cautionary measures are taken mental and physical disability can be prevented. If nutrition food is given to expectant mothers and they are taken proper care, both the types of disabilities can be prevented. But it is not being done. If proper attention is not paid to this, it is but natural that the coming generation will be born as handicapped. Necessary measures should be started right now. There are about 12 lakh physically handicapped persons excluding the mentally retarded persons. Separate centres are being run for them. There are certain industries, firms and private companies which provide employment to physically handicapped persons. I would like to urge the Government to give them some taxes relief. The employment problem of physically handicapped cannot be solved by opening such centres or by providing funds companies which provided jobs to physically handicapped will have to be given incentives. We have also to think about providing marketing facilities for the goods produced by the physically handicapped persons. Sanctioning grants-in-aid or giving other types

of assistance to them will not serve the purpose. We have to think in terms of making them self-reliant. Physically handicapped persons who are marching ahead on the path of progress with their own efforts should be rewarded suitably.

Apart from this, we have to think about old persons. This subject also comes under the Ministry of Welfare. It has become imperative to think about them. In fact, this situation is not that serious in our Indian culture, but due to some social factors problem of aged has also raised its head in our society. It is not a question of their bread and butter, nor is it a question of providing medicines to them when they are sick. The problem is they feel lonely which is psychological. This phenomenon is attributed to some new developments in the society. For example, in big cities there is acute shortage of accommodation and in most cases the entire family has to put up in one single room. The old persons find it difficult to adjust themselves in such an environment. This gives rise to a number of problems. These who sacrificed a lot for the future of their children feel isolated. I recollect a poem I had read in my childhood. It is in Marathi. An old father tells his son that he wanted to make his son's future bright. He asks him to enjoy as much as he could. He says assertively that he would never bother if his hands are cut or hands start bleeding. This poem is on a kite.

"Unch unch re patagn ghei tu bharari,
Kanch lal hath jari sanwarin dori,
Shinalekhya bham jiwa ka backa tu
rajiva,
Nabhi vikas sab wgawa hock hour
bhari"

Your take flights in the sky. I shall catch hold of the string, because you are the only hope of my old age.

15.00 hrs.

The oldman goes on making all out efforts for the future of his son with this aim in his mind. He feels lonely at the later stage. Population of such old persons is about 5.5.

[Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan]

crores in the country. I want that a national policy should be evolved for them. Their problem cannot be solved simply by paying them at Rs. 100 as old age pension. It is not going to serve any purpose. In order to remove their loneliness they could be engaged in some vocation or given some work in a social organisation. It should be ensured that these social welfare schemes run properly. The social organisations should extend their cooperation in this task. This will help old persons and they will not feel lonely and would contribute their lot for the progress of the society. Swami Vivekananda had said that he considered the educated people as traitors who did not think about the society and who did not utilise their knowledge for the upliftment of the society. If such 'Sanskaras' are imbibed in the children right from the beginning, the Ministry of Welfare would have succeeded in its efforts.

"Mansasa satatam smaraniyam
Vachasa satatam vandaniyam
Lokhitam sam karaniyam"

A spirit of doing good to others should spread everywhere. There are organisations which are working with this spirit. The Government should seek co-operation of these organisations for the successful implementation of various welfare scheme being run by them. The Ministry should also function with this spirit.

I would like to make a few submissions about the scheduled castes and the Scheduled Tribes. 40 years ago when reservation was provided to them Dr. Ambedkar had said at that time that they did not want to avail reservation facilities for more than 15 years. They wanted to be self-relevant. Several other schemes were launched thereafter. I have inspected some of the Adivasi Hostels. The Schemes have been drawn in such a manner that their benefits do not reach the beneficiaries. In fact, the schemes were not made for their welfare and of some were made they assisted on paper only. Funds continued to be spent but the actual

benefits which could up lift their communities did not reach them .

We are celebrating this year as the year of the girl child. But what is the use? Even today animiocenasis tests are conducted and plans are made to kill the girl children the womb itself. Only by celebrating the year as the year of the girl child would not serve any purpose. We will have to think about it. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has launched a health scheme for Adivasis girl students in their hostels itself where medical check up is undertaken and follow up treatment given. Similarly creches have also been opened in several centres. But facilities for medical check-up are not available these. I would, therefore, like to urge the Government to introduce a scheme on the lines of the one introduced by Government of Madhya Pradesh. Instead of granting only grant-in-aid to them, plans should also be made in such a way that they become self-reliant as propounded by Swami Vivekananda. A national policy should be evolved for the aged so that they do not develop the feeling of loneliness. We should not think that our duty ends with the sanction of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 as old age pension. If we proceed on these lines, the objective of this Ministry of securing mass welfare and mass-happiness will have been achieved. Besides, schemes should be drawn for the upliftment of poor, adivasis and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

SHRI P. PENCHALLIAH (Nellore): Mr. Chairman Sir, at the outset I congratulate the hon Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan for taking over the Ministry of Labour. He is young and hardworking. I hope during his tenure the workers in this country would get better treatment.

India has got abundant workforce—both skilled and unskilled. We are also one of the ten industrially most advanced nations. We have a very sound scientific and technological base. But unfortunately the workforce which is behind all these achievements

continue to be neglected in the country. Their living conditions are deteriorating day by day. Whether it is a suicide by a scientist or a hunger death of a worker of a closed mill, it shows the utter negligence on the part of the Government.

Many industries in the country are being closed as sick units. The mill owners draw huge loans from financial institutions and instead of utilising that amount for the promotion of industry, they pocket the entire amount. One fine morning they declare their unit sick and throw all their workers out of employment. These poor workers and their families die of hunger. The so-called industrialists are cheating the financial institutions, the workers and the very economy of the country. It is the primary reason why in spite of the enormous amount of talent available, the country is not able to take any step forward. Hence stern action has to be taken against such offenders.

Agricultural workers in the country constitute a majority of our population. Ours is an agricultural economy. These workers get employment for only three or four months in a year. Rest of the year they will not have any work at their place. Usually they migrate to other parts of the country searching for some livelihood. Often they are exploited. Hence steps should be taken to ensure employment to these workers at their place. As everyone knows, they are the unorganised labour and they do not have trade unions or leaders to fight on their behalf. The Government should do justice to this unorganised class.

The Minimum Wages Act is not being implemented strictly and hence these poor agricultural labour do not get proper wages even during these three or four months of their employment. Hence, the Government should see to it that the Minimum Wages Act is implemented strictly in their case.

Sir, the bonded labour system is still prevalent in many parts of the country. No doubt, the Government and several voluntary organisations have shown considerable inter-

est in rooting out this evil. But unfortunately this system still prevails. There should be proper coordination between the Government and voluntary agencies so that this system is wiped out of the land as early as possible.

Successive Governments have been saying many things and have been enacting many legislations banning child labour. But, unfortunately no effort has succeeded in this direction. No amount of legislation can be successful in preventing child labour as long as the country continues to be poor. Teeming millions will prefer their children supplement their meagre income. The survival of these families depend on the employment of children. A piece of bread for every starving mouth of every starving family has to be ensured first before we think of eliminating child labour system. We have national policies on each and every subject. But so far, no integrated policy has been evolved in the case of child labour. What we need at this hour is a perfect and comprehensive policy which takes care of the poor children, their employment, in case there is no alternative to it, their health and education. The only, we can succeed in preventing children turning out to be child labour. These hapless children should be given extra consideration. It is a national responsibility. I hope the hon. Minister would show special interest in this regard.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR RAVI YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Labour and Welfare. A number of suggestions have been made in the House and the hon. Members expressed their views. A little earlier, Shrimati Raju and Shrimati Mahajan expressed their views. While expressing her views Shrimati Raju went to the extent of calling this Government as the Government of Thakurs. She also made a mention of the atrocities being committed by Thakur and also of Fatehpur

[Sh. Ramendra Kumar Ravi Yadav]

incident. She has conveniently glossed over what this Government inherited from its predecessor and what the National Front Government has done since it was formed. During this short period it has made many national commitments and taken many welfare measures, be it labour welfare, welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, welfare of the backward classes or providing reservation to them. It is formulating comprehensive schemes for organised and unorganised labourers, skilled and unskilled labourers and others and has adopted a liberal attitude in this regard. I would like to sum up the commitments made to the people by the National Front Government in the following manner.

"Yaha Rashtriya Morch Ki Sarkar,
Rajniiti Ko Naya Sanskar Dena Chahati Hai,
Satya Sarita Ko Naya Bahaw Dena Chahati Hai,
Admi Ko Shilka Bhandar Dena Chahti Hai,
Nitiyon Ko Adarsh Ka Sansar Dena Chahati Hai,
Shoshakon Ko Ek Nai Phatkar Dena Chahati Hai,
Naujawanon Ko Nai Samajwadi Talwar Dena Chahati Hai,
Rah Gaya Jo Rajtha, uth Gai Thi Jo Nitiyan,
Unhi Khoi Hui Nitiyon Ko Dhundana Hai Phir Chahati,
Aur manav Matra Sehai Khana Chahati."

(The National Front Government would restore respect for democratic institutions, value based politics and dignity of man and create an ideal society, punish the exploiters and ensure new social order for the youth). For undertaking any work, be it related to welfare, functioning of a Ministry or Department, it is necessary that there must be peace and prosperity in the country. Without these two things no construction and development work can be undertaken. We all wish that our country should march on the

path of progress and perhaps the resolution of the National Front Government also stands for that rather much more than that. I express our feelings in this regard in the following words:

"Badne Do-Desh Ko Band Karo Ye dange
Dene Do Vastra Unhe Jo Ghoom Rahe Hain Nange
Dene Do Anna Unhe Jo adhpeta Sorpat Bhukhe Hain
Kam, Rojgar, Bekari, Ashiksha, Andhkar, Bimari
Karne Do Door Unhe, Chalne do Sudur Unhe
Gadme Do Itihas Desh Ka Navya Vihan Rachne Do
Matgholo Rang Sampradayvad Ka Mat Phenko Jahar Jativad Ka
yah Dharti Hai Maranta Ki Bharat Hai Balidani Ki
Are Roko-Roko Assam Band Shiya-Sunni Ke Jang Band
Kashmir Mein Pakistaniyo Ki Ghospaith Band
Punjab mein Khalistan Ki Aag Band."

Kya Hindu aur kya Musalman
Veer Bhagat Singh ya Shaheed Ashfaq Shaheed Azad ya Abdulvari
Yeh sab shabdon ka ulat-pher hai
Matlab sadho ek jan hai
Ham sab ka arman ek hai
Bade hamara desh gagan tak
Chade hamara pran lagan tak
Ham pahunchan Bapu ke sapnon tak
Jan-jan ko diye geeton tak".

It is our dream and the dream of the National Front Government. I want to say that if policies were made keeping in view the economy and social structure of the country, our country would not have been so backward even after 42 years of independence. Today we also want to become as prosperous as England and America but even today so many years after independence communal riots and riots on the basis of caste are taking place in our country which are doing a lot of damage to our economy. Our economy gets disturbed by these as a result of which

we are not able to progress and develop to the extent, we desire. Working in haste, we fail to recognise the importance and utility of labour. Today there are problems relating to skilled and unskilled labour. Similarly there are different problems regarding organised and unorganised labour. All whether they work in public enterprises or they are in private sectors, collieries and mines, they have their own problems. The economic and social condition of the labourers working in public enterprises is some what better than those working in private factories.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that present Government has promised to make the right to work a fundamental right. It is gratifying to note that the present Government has at least felt the necessity of it. They have shown a desire for it. I consider it to be the first example of the humanity and morality of the National Front Government. We have taken such a courageous ethical, practical and social step. We cannot dilute the importance of labour and that of an individual. It is also correct that the existing labour laws formulated by the Government contain provisions relating to the problems of child-labour. Our Government consider it immoral to take work from the children of 14 years and below, but it is not implemented. It is my submission to the Government that there should be a ban on employing children who are below 14 years of age, by industries etc. It is my request to you that a committee should be constituted to monitor this thing. It should ensure that children of tender age, who are the future of this country, are not exploited by factories etc. by employing them in such tenderage. After all they are the citizens of this country. Employment of children by factories etc. in their tender age leads to malnutrition and also hampers their mental growth. India is constituted of villages and the farmers. It is regrettable that the condition of rural labour is most deplorable. It is correct and we are not an industrialised country. 80 per cent of our people depend on agriculture. Rural labour totally depend on it but Indian agriculture being dependent on rains, excessive and scanty rains or drought have a great bearing on

agriculture and the persons engaged in it as agricultural labourers. Sometimes agricultural labourer has to remain idle for even three months together during floods. The condition of the labourers working in fields is more difficult than those working in factories. Sowing has to be stopped for want of water and rains and these labourers have to sit idle for these days. The Government should pay attention towards these labourers who are living in the situation of uncertainty and doubt. Labourers who work in big factories like Bharat Heavy Electricals and in those in Durgapur, Bhilai, Katihar and Dhanbad, have very able Trade Union leaders to look after their interests. 80 per cent labourers who live in villages and work in fields and who are unorganised, have to face lot of problems. Factory labourers are living in cities and their children are able to get education but in the village schools, children are not able to get that education to which they are entitled. It is laborer who built this country. There are so many fine examples of architecture in our country. Today those labourers stand neglected who constructed Taj Mahal and Qutab Minar. Their future and their living conditions are being ignored. We come here and make statements paying scant attention to the actual builder. So, this is not what the Great Author of 'Poos Ki Raat' and 'Kafan', Munshi Prem Chand, who was the bridge between idealism and reality, dreamt about India. The same dream had been dreamt by Mahapram Nirala who wrote a 'Todti Pathar' and 'Bhikshuk'. Mahashaveta Mahadevi Verma who had drawn sketches of characters like 'Badlu' and 'Rama' had also dreamt likewise. They had expected progress and prosperity for the country and for all individuals whether they belong to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes or socially and educationally backward classes. It requires a healthy thinking and a pure heart. The policies and programmes formulated for this purpose should be implemented. In view of the atmosphere which is being created by the present National Front Government and the culture and circumstances sought to be created by the Government, the day is not very far off when disparities would end and our country would become prosperous. With these words I

[Sh. Ramendra Kumar Ravi Yadav]

support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour and Welfare.

PROF. YADUNATH PANDEY (Hazaribagh): I want to draw attention of the Labour Minister to my constituency. I belong to Hazaribagh area of Bihar which is totally undeveloped where coal mines are in abundance. The condition of labourers there is very pathetic. They are facing great hardships. Even potable water is not available to the labourers working in these coal mines when today in cities fifteen liters water goes down the drain each time the flush chain is pulled. Big cities like Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta have so much of light in the night that it becomes difficult to say whether it is day or night but in our area people light lamps even today. They have no shelters. It is usually observed in our country that the son of a Prime Minister becomes a Prime Minister and son of a doctor becomes doctor, similarly the son of a lawyer becomes a lawyer but in our area of Hazaribagh a son of a coal miner cannot hope to become even a labourer. Many middlemen take Commission there under rule 943. In medical test a fit person is declared unfit and unfit person is declared as fit person. So the son of a labourer cannot become even a labourer. Under the patronage of the Government which ruled there for 42 years and Union like INTUC forcefully enrol them as its members by creating terror among them. Therefore, I would demand that if elections of unions take place there, it should be done on the basis of votes and ballot papers because the unions enrol them as its members forcefully. Check-up system should be done away with there. Many labourers give in writing that they are not the members of INTUC but even then their membership contribution is deducted. Till now they have got nothing in the name of facilities. Only big contractors get coal slurry there, it is given to the company like Naresh Kumar Tikan but local people are deprived of it. Till this slurry is not provided to the local people and the sons of the labourers, condition of these labourers will not improve. Just now we have celebrated 'May Day', many

rallies have been organised on 1st May wherein many promises must have been made and previous years performance must have be scrutinised and plans for future struggle must also be on way. Hon. Labour Minister often says in his speeches that neither there is dearth of leaders nor policies, it is only the intention which is lacking. Friends, today I want to demand that measures and policies should be implemented in this regard with healthy intentions and the grants meant for this should be speech properly on them. Today many mills branded as sick mills are lying closed rendering thousands of workers jobless.

I would like to give a suggestion that permission should not be granted for the import of those products where role of indigenous labour is negligible and it can be produced only with foreign raw material and labour.

Basic industries should be developed in the Public Sector. In addition, it is necessary to increase production in the Public Sector by maximum use of financial and human resources.

In eastern regions improvements should be made in the field of agriculture. The production of pulses and oilseeds should be increased, however, growth rate of wheat and rice should also be maintained. On one hand it will help in the development of backward areas and on the other foreign exchange will also be saved which is spent on import of pulses and oil.

Efforts should be made to minimise the losses incurred in distribution of electricity and for maximum use of production capacity. There is a possibility of saving about Rs. 20,000 acre in this sector.

In industrial sector emphasis should be given on labour based industry like electronics, telecommunication, food processing, agriculture based production and all other industries.

The export of the goods of labour con-

suming industries like textiles, jewellery, diamonds and jewels, leather goods, handicrafts and art pieces, light engineering items etc. should be encouraged. It will not only help in increasing employment opportunities but also minimise the competition in international market due to cheap Indian labour.

It is necessary to encourage small scale and cottage industries as it can provide more employment opportunities and make integrated development possible. Besides this, small scale industries never depend on the imported raw material and machinery and their share in export is also increasing.

Multi National Companies should be allowed to function only in that field where it is necessary for improvement in technology. The permission should be granted on certain conditions like transfer of technology, use of Indian labour in production and earning of foreign exchange.

The problems of poverty, unemployment, inequality and slow growth rate can be solved when increase in employment ratio and decrease in capital investment ratio go side by side. Emphasis should be given on the development of this type of technology in Eighth Five Year Plan so that integrated development of economy can take place and profit of development can be percolated down to the poor.

I would like to suggest that a national pay scale should be evolved. The labourers of Bihar are getting lowest wages.

With these words I conclude and thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Labour and Welfare.

As per the Census of 1981, nearly 23 per cent of the people of India belonged to

the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After 43 years of independence, they are victims of injustice and atrocities. All avenues for a decent life are closed for them. Most of them are illiterates. Most of these people earn their livelihood as agricultural labourers. They are not getting their minimum wage also. They get work only for four months in a year. All tall talks for minimum wages are nothing but a farce. The Government has not got the political will to enforce the laws. What is their plight? Because 52 per cent of the cultivable lands are owned by the so-called *Kisans* who constitute only 10 per cent of the population, most of these agricultural labourers are poor landless farmers. In a society where feudal relations still dominate the rural scene, most of these people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have to live in perpetual fear of the landlords and their goons. These landlords, who are generally high caste people, exploit the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These unfortunate people have no human dignity. They live like animals in dire poverty. When they demand higher wages and when they demand security for their women-folk, then their huts are burnt and their women are insulted. The laws always protect the landlords and the police force are always on their side. Hence what is required is the speedy implementation of the land reforms programmes. Only if lands go to the actual tillers of the soil, only then the poor, downtrodden people will be able to lead a life of courage and human dignity. Such is the experience of West Bengal, Kerala and Tripura. For example in West Bengal, upto December 1989, the State Government took possession of 12,67,942 acres of vested land, and distributed 8,79,225 acres among the landless people. The total number of beneficiaries is 18,51,945; the total number of Scheduled Caste beneficiaries is 6,84,945 and that of Schedule Tribes 3,51,938. The total number of share-croppers as recorded by the Barga operation is 14,05,442. The total number of homesteads has been recorded as 2,48,000 among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As a result, in West Bengal, SCs and STs have got every right.

[Sh. Purna Chandra Malik]

I would like to utter a few words on the plight of the contract labour, and also about mines safety. The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 was passed by the Central Government; but this law is not implemented in the private sector, and public sector undertakings also do not implement. They are doing a perennial nature of job, but they are not absorbed as permanent workers. They are not provided drinking water, civic and medical facilities and other amenities. On the other hand, the private mining contractors exploit the workers to an extreme degree. These contract workers are not paid adequate wage. The provisions of various laws regarding the welfare and safety of the workers are violated by the contractors. I would like to request the hon. Minister to intervene in the matter personally.

I am sure the present Government, and especially our young and dynamic Minister of Labour and Welfare will deal with the problem in its totality

SHRI MANKURAM SODHI (Bastar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views on Demands for grants of Ministry of Labour and Welfare presented by the Hon. Minister. I will express my views regarding Department of Welfare, particularly about those tribal sub-plan areas where welfare schemes are being implemented. As stated by the hon. Minister about Rs. 16,000 crore have been spent on these tribal sub-plans. But the results have not been satisfactory in proportion to the expenditure incurred. It is a fact that those people for whom these plans have been formulated have no knowledge about it because of illiteracy. The Government has not formulated any schemes to provide education to them. If such schemes had at all been formulated the middlemen had created hurdles in the proper implementation of these schemes and people did not get desired benefits from these schemes.

Need of the hour is to make education more effective. If it is done only then people will be able to desire maximum benefits from

these schemes otherwise these will remain on paper only. Crores of rupees will be spent on them and these people will remain undeveloped as before. Therefore, it is necessary to pay special attention towards education. Aanganbari system has been introduced in the field of education. If this system is monitored at the initial stage, all round development of a child could be ensured and these schemes will become popular. But these schemes are still being neglected. The officers are not taking interest in the proper implementation of these schemes. At present, the people of villages and panchayats have no role in these schemes. They should be involved in these schemes. The officers engaged in this, are working arbitrarily and they do not bother about local conditions. Local people should also be involved in these schemes because if it is done at the initial stage and if these schemes are implemented properly in backward and far flung areas, they can become popular.

Several schools and colleges have been opened at various places but they are not of required standard. It is also a mockery that where schools are available, children are not coming for education and where children want to study, schools are not available. They are being taught under the shade of a tree. At many places, teachers and lecturers are not available and set up is also not disciplinewise. At some places only one teacher is available and he alone teaches all the five classes. If improvement is not made in the education system, the people will not be able to derive benefit from all these welfare schemes on which the Government spends crores of rupees. Therefore, more attention should be paid towards education.

Similar is the case of health service. Good health services are available in cities and people are getting benefits also. Several people are earning their living through these services. The tribal people have started discarding superstitions and are attracted towards modern health services. But there are no hospitals in tribal areas and far-flung areas and where facility of hospital is available, the doctors and other staff are not

available there as proper accommodation etc. is not provided to them. At some places, if doctors are there, medicines are not available. The doctors and other employees should be provided proper accommodation etc. The availability of these facilities are necessary for the upliftment of the tribals and backward classes, as only then health services can be provided to tribals.

Today, we talk about atrocities committed on Harijans and tribals. These atrocities are increasing day by day and they will go on increasing. The main reason for these atrocities are awareness among these people. These people are protesting against injustice being done to them, and consequently atrocities on them are also increasing. Therefore, special courts should be set up to settle their matters and give justice to them so that atrocities can be stopped. Under this arrangement, the people of backward classes will feel that they are also the part of the country and the world. I would like to give an example of these atrocities. A 30 year old tribal named Sunder Lal, belonging to Fadali tribe and who was community head (Adivasi) of Boodha Gaon, Tehsil Silwani of Raisen district of Madhya Pradesh, was working in the fields of Shri Narendra Singh Kaurav as bonded labourer. He left the work because he was fed up with this state of affair. The owner of the field sent his nephew, Manna and Sarjan to bring him back. They brought him back by force and tied him with a tree and cut his one hand. Even now he is admitted in Hamidia hospital of Bhopal. This incident occurred at 8.00 a.m. on 7th April, 1990. This type of heinous crimes are being committed on bonded labour. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has announced compensation of Rs. 5000 to Rs. 10,000 but that will not serve any purpose. The persons, who are responsible for this barbaric act should be punished and the Government should provide employment and make arrangements for the livelihood of the victim.

I would like to tell several points about reservation. The schemes of reservation have not been implemented properly inspite of fixed targets and programmes for it. It should

be implemented according to the programme stipulated by Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It should be implemented sincerely because mere formulating of reservation policy is not sufficient. The machinery should also be improved as intended by the Hon. Minister. The Government should see that the scheme is being implemented properly or not. These can not be implemented merely by making statements or propoganda. The Government should take interest in it and implement these schemes properly by making improvements in the implementing machinery. The hon Minister has expressed his wishes to implement these schemes sincerely and he made a promise in this regard also. I would like to give my best wishes for its success and hope that Harijans, living in far flung areas and who are victim of atrocities will get benefit.

SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: (Arrah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views about the Demands for grants of Ministry of Labour and Welfare. There are two sectors in the field of labour. One is organised sector and other is unorganised sector. We have not been able to calculate the number of workers working in both the sectors separately and also the number of surplus workers. It has also not been indicated anywhere that where this surplus labour can be used. Surplus labourers are being exploited. They are forced to do work on less wages. They have to work for 12 hours in Manihari Piao-whereas there is a movement all over the world for reducing working hours to 6 hours. These are the problems of unorganised sector.

80 per cent of village people are engaged in agriculture. They have no certain income. They are facing many problems to make their both ends meet because they have to take care of their family and their animals. Their living conditions are worse. They are living in this condition even after 40 years of independence. No new policy has been formulated to improve their condition. It is needed for providing them equal rights. There is an urgent need to improve the miserable condition of farm labourers who

[Sh. Rameshwar Prasad]

are forced to live in piggeries with their pigs. They are forcibly taken from their hutments by the Zamindars to work in their fields. If they refuse to go with them, they are killed even. So there is a need to enact laws which ensure safety to their life. Their women folk are raped, but nothing has been done till now to check such atrocities. It is necessary to provide safety to their life and honour of their womenfolk. Their women folk are raped by the police also. They are being attacked by private armies such as Sun Light Sena operating in Palamau, Bhojpur, and Rohtas districts in Bihar. Their villages are burnt. Is it the kind of social protection provided to them? Recently, as many as 600 houses of labourers were set on fire in Bhita and they were rendered homeless. There is an I.P.S officer of Paliganj. He is posted in the Vigilance Department of the Government of Bihar. As many as 80 houses of harijans were destroyed under his protection. Is it the sort of social welfare we are talking about? Are this our achievements in the last forty years? Many other heinous crimes are committed under the protection of this officer. His family members are destroying the houses of other people under his protection. This Officer is deputed in the Vigilance Department in Paliganj in Bhagalpur. These people are treated as second grade citizens and nothing is being done either by the Bihar Government or by the Central Government for their development. So how can they think this country as their own? What are we doing to inculcate the feeling of belonging in them? Today they are being driven out from there and atrocities are being committed on them. Even today, the tribal women are forced to become Devadasi in the country. They are treated as a thing of enjoyment. This is the social setup of our society. I would like to demand that this religious system of forcing tribal women to become Devadasi be immediately banned. Only then we can bring them in the national mainstream. It is the responsibility of the intellectuals, the Members of Parliament and the Government to bring them in the mainstream. If we cannot do it, they are not to be blamed. It is our fault.

Shri Paswan also belongs to Bihar. His policies are good but these are required to be implemented properly. In Hazaribagh, the coal miners have blocked the road for the last five days. They are demanding regularisation of their services but nothing is being done by the Bihar Government in this regard. Today I met the Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav who has asked the Collector to crush their agitation by resorting to firing. This is highly improper on the part of the Chief Minister. Instead, the Chief Minister should tell the Collector not to resort to police firing on the agitating workers. These miners are on the production side and they want that their services should be required. But due to contract system, their services are not being regularised and are being exploited. Similarly, the workers in the F.C.I. godowns are also being exploited. They work on a temporary basis. The hon. Minister of Labour should pay attention to all these things. He should ensure that this contract system in the work of temporary nature should be stopped. The present laws are not at all effective in this regard. Contractors do not pay wages to the labourers in full. This matter should be enquired to and these workers should be made permanent, so that they do not have to wander here and there. Regarding labourers in rural areas, committees should be formed in the villages on the basis of secret ballots of rural labourers.

16.00 hrs.

A register should be maintained by the Committee, in which details of the employers whether they are zamindars or the contractor or the brick-kiln owner should be entered. The person who hires the services of the labourer should ensure full payment of wages. If any worker is murdered, action should be taken against the person who engages him. services. If such action is taken, only then atrocities can be checked. Such law should be made. It is often seen that the poor belonging to Harijan community in Bihar are implicated in cases under sections 107 and 109. This reason why a large number of persons belonging to this

community are becoming dacoits and criminals. It is necessary to enquire into all these matters. I would like to request that the sections under which these poor people are implicated should be amended. Besides, a check should be exercised on arbitrary action of the police, so that these poor harijans can be protected. The poor harijans and labourers who are the backbone of this country can not be given real justice unless all these lacunae in the law are removed. So efforts should be made to take the country forward by formulating a national policy.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI (Rewa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while supporting the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour and Welfare, I would like to express my views on the present condition of labourers in the country. Sir, for the last 43 years, there has been total anarchy in the labour sector. Though some laws were made for welfare of the labourers yet no justice has been done to them. There is no uniformity in wages in various industries in the country. What is the rationale behind it? No Government till now has been able to decide the basis on which the minimum wages should be fixed. As a result, whereas labourers in coal fields are getting a minimum wage of Rs. 62/- a day, in Maganese mines Rs. 22/- a day, in sugar mills, Rs. 25/- to Rs. 26/- a day and in rural areas, Rs. 6/- to Rs. 7/- a day only.

16.03 hrs.

[DR. THAMBI DURAI *in the Chair*]

This is the situation prevalent in our country. Is it not an anarchical like situation? When the nature of work is same and workers irrespective of their place of working are facing hardship on account of price-rise, why this glaring disparity in their wages exists. No country can make progress like this. It is being said that we are developing the country in a well-planned manner. But what type of planning is this where there is no basis of fixing the minimum wages? The future of any country depends on the labourforce of the country. A country in which injustice is done to the workers cannot make progress. The

country will achieve success neither in terms of production nor in terms of national wealth. Now the National Front has come to power in the country and there cannot be any other progressive and dynamic Labour Minister than the present incumbent. His views are mature at the same time he has inclination to do good to our working class. He is in favour of providing justice to them. So, the working class have a high hope from him. Firstly, I would like to submit that a uniform policy should be made for them. A national policy should be formulated for fixing the minimum wages. It should be such that the workers who are in a position to put pressure, get more wages or where their union is strong and they can stop the work and bring the economy to standstill, they are given more wages.

Instead, a policy should be formulated under which all workers get need based minimum wages. We have to fix wages according to the golden policy prevalent in the world since long that worker has to work according to his capacity and he should be paid wages according to his need. We are hearing about the need based minimum wages since long, but nothing has been done till now. So I would like to request the hon. Labour Minister that the need based minimum wages for all the workers in the country be fixed and this policy be implemented in the entire country uniformly. Different wages should not be fixed in different States.

Different opinions have been expressed by the Members who spoke prior to me in the House. It is true that the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act is in vogue in our country for a pretty long time, but the time has come to review this Act. We have observed that all the laws made in this regard are violated deliberately. In regard to private sector, it is understandable, because their sole aim is to earn more and more profit and so they have scant regard for the laws and they exploit workers, but labour laws are openly violated in public sector industries also. The Government should set an example of an ideal employer. It is a matter of

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regret for all of us that laws passed by this Parliament are being violated even in the Government concerns. As already stated by me that it should be made obligatory on the part of the management to get themselves registered for engaging workers on contract. It should be essential for the contractors to obtain a licence for this purpose. But as we have observed in the coal mines in my constituency, these rules are observed nowhere. Hardly any contractor obtains licence for this. Nor has any management registered itself for this. In spite of all these things, the contract system is very much in vogue. Besides this, as per the provisions of the Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act some kind of work such as loading and unloading, razing and cutting of stones etc. cannot be done by contract labour. But in our coal mines, all such work is taken from the contract labour by the management. There are many public sector undertakings and other factories, where this Contract Labour Act is openly violated, but no action has been taken against them till now. Even the Railway departments take such work from the labourers of the contractor, which are not permissible under the aforesaid Contract Labour Act. This is an open violation of the provisions of the Act. Today, we have a new Labour Minister. He should ensure that no unauthorised work is taken from the contract labourer.

The condition of labourers in my constituency is worse. They are paid Rs. 10/- a day as minimum wages by the contractors. I put a question in this regard. It couldn't be included in the starred list, but I have got a written reply from the hon. Minister, in which he has himself accepted the fact. The minimum wages fixed by the Government for other labourers should at least be paid to the labourers working under contractors. Today, the situation is that no complaints are heard or entertained and justice is denied even if the doors of the courts are knocked. In Bilaspur area, a case filed by the coal miners of the Geora Coal mines has been pending since 1983 and no decision has

been arrived on till date, though now, it is 1990. The case was taken up even with the Chief Labour Commissioner, but even he has failed to decide it. Thus, the workers are being terribly exploited. If they are paid Rs. 10 as wages they are made to work for 13 to 18 hours by the unscrupulous contractors and their protests are not heard by anyone. It is a matter of happiness that the National Front Government has decided to make workers' participation in management, a reality. From now on workers' would be participating in management and they would be on the board of directors too. I would like you to take this decision on the basis of secret ballot. There are two long standing demands of the workers, one is that they should be allowed to choose their representatives by means of a secret ballot, the second is that they should be made participants in the management. I wish that workers should be made not only participants in the management, but also partners as far as profits and income are also concerned. I am sure that, the day is not far off when this dream would be realized. The National Front Government would not only make worker, participants in managements, but also make them partners in the income and profit of the units. It is necessary to take the help of the secret ballot system in order to give recognition to the various unions, and to keep the bogus unions at bay. The representative unions should be given recognition on the basis of a secret ballot. This could be done, as is done in the case of elections to the Lok Sabha. There are only three crore workers in the organised sector. Out of them, one crore and sixty lakh workers are employed in the Public Sector, about ninety lakh are employed in the private sector and other 50 lakhs are employed elsewhere. Thus, there are three crore workers. Out of them, only one crore are members of the various unions. There are 38,000 unions and out of them 63% do not submit their accounts etc.. There are 22 crore workers in the unorganised sector who do not have any facilities and out of them 8 crore are employed as farm hands. Out of this 8 crore, 50 lakh are bonded labourers. What a grave injustice? It is a matter of disgrace for our country. You

yourself can imagine the plight of a country, where there are 50 lakh bonded labourers, even after 43 years of independence. What do these landless labourers in the unorganized sector get as remuneration? Even the minimum wages fixed for them differs from State to State. While in Orissa, the minimum wage is fixed at Rs. 25 per day, it is mere Rs. 16 in Madhya Pradesh and these too, they do not get. The Government of India had accepted the I.L.O. (International Labour Organisation) Convention 141. When the Janata Party Government assumed power in 1977, it signed the I.L.O. Convention 141, but today, it is not being implemented. Honorary Rural Organisers have been appointed as showpieces. About 15,000 unions are in the rural areas. Nobody knows what these 150 rural organisers appointed by the Government are doing. The organisers are not able to organise the workers as it is an obscure job. They will get organised in course of time.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up. The time is over.

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: Kindly give me a little more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am interested to do it. But the problem is that many other members are waiting. They want to speak. The Minister is going to reply at five O'clock.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD SHASTRI: So, Sir, I was saying that we should pay special attention towards the workers in the unorganised sector or the rural areas, because they are in a very large number and are victims of injustice. Neither they have medical facilities nor do they have any job guarantee. Now, our Government has decided to include the right to work in the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution. It would be a revolutionary and historic step. If this is done and I am sure it will be done soon, then the National Front

Government would be remembered for ever: as long as the sun and moon are there. This country's youth will remember for ever that the National Front Government had included the Right to Work in the Fundamental Rights guaranteed under the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, now, I would like to say something regarding the handicapped people, as we are discussing the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Welfare and this subject comes under its purview. Sir, it is a matter of grief that our country has the largest population of the blind people in the world. One-fifth of the world population lives in India, so also, one-third of the blind population in the world also lives in India. It is because our country is poor and malnutrition is a major problem here. As far as protein intake is concerned, if the per capita consumption is mere 40 grams of pulses, it is but natural for any country to have such a large number of blind people. What arrangements have we made for one crore blind people living in this country? In the entire country, there is a single institute for training the blind, that is the National Institute of Visually Handicapped at Dehradun. Is one institute adequate for the one crore blind people of this country? This was established for name-sake, by the previous Government. It was done with the aim of showing the world that India has a national institute to look after its blind population. The mockery about it is that, the National Institute is not having a director for the past one year. A blind but very capable director was wrongfully removed by the previous Government and since then, that Institute is without a director. Thus, a cruel joke is being played on the blind people. 11 Centres were opened across the country for the rehabilitation of these blind people. They have not done any work. The previous Government made an assessment of these centres, through the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad and the report presented by them says that these centres are not doing anything worthwhile. What is the use of such rehabilitation centres then? There is an institute for the blind in Dehradun, another institute for the orthopaedically handicapped/retarded is situated in Calcutta

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and similarly, there is an Institute for the deaf and dumb in Bombay. Thus, only four institutes have been opened for people suffering from various handicaps, across the country, and even they are not doing any worthwhile work. The previous Janata regime had given 3 per cent reservation for the handicapped in Class III and Class IV jobs. At that time too, I was an M.P. and I had raised this issue and consequently, these reservations were made for them. The hon. Welfare Minister, in his reply to our question has said that the Government proposes to make reservations for the handicapped even in Class II and Class I jobs. These reservations should be filled up and proper arrangements should be made for their rehabilitation. With these words, I support the Demand for Grants of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Welfare.

[English]

SHRI VAMANRAO MAHADIK (Bombay South Central): Sir, during the last four months I have been seeing that whenever any tussle comes up between the ruling party and the opposition, the opposition charge the ruling party that they are imported from the Congress party and the ruling party say that they have revolted from it. But whether they are imported or revolted, it does not make any difference. That is why I request the Government to differentiate themselves from the previous Government in the way of functioning. At least, for these two subjects of Labour and Welfare, they should give a White Paper whereby they can tell the House as to what they want to do, so far as these two departments are concerned. For example, I was glad to hear that the participation of labour in the administration would be granted. This is a very good thing. But, to my astonishment I have been seeing in Bombay that many factory owners have started declaring closures of the factories and lock-outs. They are dividing their work on departmental basis and give that particular work on contractual alternative basis outside the factory, as a result of which the factory is being closed. The Bombay Metal

Works is a glaring example for this kind of mischief, as a challenge to the Government's announcement of participation of labour in the administration. What has the Government done to stop this? I have requested in this House that some kind of announcement be made by the Government to stop this mischief on the part of some of the enterprises. Then, some enterprises, even though they are in public sector, want to hand it over to private sector and change the place also. The Bharat Electrical Company want to change their place from Tadoja in Maharashtra. It is fetching Rs. 10 crores by making black and white television sets. If they start making colour television sets, then it will fetch Rs. 100 crores and all the workers are prepared to take it on a cooperative basis to run the factory. Now, the factory is proposed to be shifted to the private sector. Such things are going on. This is a conspiracy which is being done to see that this new Government is brought under a shadow of misunderstanding

Secondly, Bombay is supposed to be the Manchester of India, so far as the textile industry is concerned. Today, after the imprudent strike done by a veteran leader like Dr. Datta Samant who was here in this House, the whole industry is crushed now and there are nearly one lakh workers at present who are suffering without any job. Their provident funds are not given; their gratuity problem is still pending. Nobody is caring to rehabilitate them. The previous Government had started National Textiles Cooperation to take over sick mills. But, our Government recently declared that no more sick mills will be taken. The Government of Maharashtra has declared that it has decided to take 10 more sick mills. Why can't our Government also take all the sick mills under the control of National Textiles Corporation? I have seen that these Spinning Departments and Processing Departments are with the mills and Weaving Departments are put up in Bhiwadi and Icharkaranji. I do not know what kind of profit the National Textile Corporation is getting. But thereby curtailment in the employment of labour is going on.

No Officer from the Labour Department is coming for the protection of the labour. I have got a challenge with the Government. They can find out whether during the last ten years, either the Labour Department Officers, or the Labour Court or the Labour Officers have come forward to give a kind of protection to the labour and whether any legislation was made accordingly. I now request that all these veteran judges in the Labour Courts or the Labour Commissioners should be brought together and a common meeting should be held. With all their experience, let them see that there is no increase in unemployment.

This Government was interested in having Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. It has worked successfully in Maharashtra during the last ten years. In the rural areas, whosoever has got no work, who is a landless labourer, some work was given. But for that also, the minimum wages should be there. There are many Acts which can protect a labourer from exploitation by some agents, even the Government agencies. Nothing is done for that. I do not know what has happened to Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. This problem can be solved because labour in the rural areas can also be brought up in a proper manner

The third point is that so far as labour problems are concerned, the labour laws and Acts meant for the upliftment of labour are not known to labour. Only the Unions look into them. I am very sorry to say that some Union Leaders have become capitalists. They want to quarrel for that. But those who are sincere, will look to the betterment of labour and see that labour and capital go together hand in hand. There will be no strikes. Government should call these leaders and take them into confidence. I am proud to say that my labour union, Bharatiya Kamgar Sena, have got 550 labour unions. But there is not a single strike there. You can take such people into confidence.

Though minimum wages are promised by the Government off and on, the Government machinery itself is not for the imple-

mentation of those wages. A declaration should be made in the newspaper about the minimum wages.

The Welfare Department was especially referred to by me. I fully agree with the Government. But are we going to create casteism giving welfare to the people or are we going to see that the economic backwardness norms are created which will enable any man from any community which is poor can get the benefits of it. We will not allow all the poor people to come to casteism. For instance, in Gadchiroli district, the poor people, the Adivasi people, are helped by a particular religious missionary. That is why, they are converted into that religion. It should be stopped by the Government. The Government must declare their policy in press on the services it will render to the lame people, women and children etc.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM KUMAR DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with reference to the Demands for Grants of the Ministries of Welfare and Labour, I would like to speak on behalf of those people, who keep us well informed and at the same time take us to task, if we do not work properly. I am referring to the media people. Though the Bachawat wage board was constituted and it has come out with its report, but the recommendations made by it are yet to be implemented. They are not being paid, accordingly. They had also suggested the Constitution of a tripartite Committee to supervise whether the recommendations are being implemented properly or not, but even that Committee has not been formed. The Newspaper Employees Act has become quite obsolete. All the unions have repeatedly demanded that amendments should be made in the aforesaid act. I request the hon. Minister of Labour and Welfare to take the necessary steps to amend his Act. The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ) have repeatedly demanded that the retirement age should be raised from sixty to sixty five. Those employed with the newspapers

[Prof. Prem Kumar Dhuma]

do not get any medical allowance. They should be given D.A. at par with that given to Central Government employees. The maximum H.R.A. given is 15 per cent and that does not exceed seven hundred or eight hundred rupees. Now, where will a journalist working in Delhi get an accommodation for seven hundred or eight hundred rupees? You yourself can draw an imagine. This should be improved.

All those who have spoken before me have unanimously agreed that the Unions should be given recognition on the basis of a secret ballot. I support it and I feel that this is the proper way to evaluate the strength of any organisation. The Government should pay full attention to protect the interests of the workers, but along with it, I would like to add that productivity too should be linked with wages.. E.S.I. (Employees State Insurance) Scheme is working under the Central Government. I am a member of that, being a union representative. I have observed that the spirit with which that Act was formulated is no more there because the small workers and workers of small-scale industries are not able to derive any benefit from it. They often purchase their medicines from the open market, instead of going to E.S.I. dispensaries. I urge the hon. Minister of Labour and Welfare to pay more attention to the E.S.I. beneficiaries. It is a big problem. The small workers are not able to derive any benefit from the E.S.I. Scheme. They have to generally purchase the medicine from the market. A common complaint is that doctors are not good.

With these words, I thank you specially for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI PALAI K.M. MATHEW (Indukki):
Sir, I rise to make a few comments on labour with special reference to plantation labour. Now, recently, I got some statistics which say that there is a working population of about 30 crores in India and out of this, only

two per cent are organised. That means, 98 per cent of the working population remain unorganised and uncared for. I am stating this fact in order to show how heavy and how burdensome is the responsibility of the Government for bettering and ameliorating the lot of the less fortunate section of our society.

Any scheme for the betterment of the labour should fit in with the overall planned economic development as well as the framework of social justice. It should also be a part of the economic planning as well as educational planning. The ultimate aim should be to harness and properly utilise the country's abundant human resources and also improve the capabilities for the development of the working classes. What is lacking in the present approach of the Government is that they are not sufficiently aware of the vastness of this problem. Their labour policy is not based, as I have suggested, on economic as well as educational planning.

I would like to discuss specifically one or two problems of the plantation labour. Because the problems of these suffering classes are very acute in my own State Kerala and especially in my own constituency Idukki which is famous for its plantations and plantation labour. There are about twelve lakh plantation workers drudging in tea, rubber, cardamom and coffee estates. The unfortunate fact is that 15% of the plantation workers have no houses at all and 70% of them have only one room houses. 34% have only *Kutcha* houses. Their wages are meagre and their life is miserable. The facilities for housing, hospitals, dispensaries, schools especially elementary schools and water have to be radically improved. Women should get equal wages as men. Training in useful handicrafts such as tailoring, knitting, basket making, etc., should be adequately arranged for the working class who have got sufficient spare time. Recreational facilities should also be sufficiently arranged.

Special care should be taken about SC and ST job seekers. A vast number of them remain outside the field of employment. They

should be taken special care of.

What I am suggesting is that in this vastly unorganised sector some cosmet changes will not do. Radical overhauling of the whole system has to be envisaged and radical legislation as well as radical steps should be taken for the betterment of the labour all over India.

SHRI PIYARE LAL HANDOO (Anantnag): Mr. Chairman Sir, I must at the outset make a plea to our dynamic Labour Minister as also the Minister in charge of Welfare. I would request him to visit the State of Jammu and Kashmir because he would be the first Labour Minister in the history of India ever making an effort to visit the State of Jammu and Kashmir and see for himself the problems that the working class in Kashmir State have been facing and are facing.

This is perhaps very necessary because it was in the year 1965 that the wiser among the wise thought it necessary to extend over 23 labour laws to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Extension of labour laws was motivated by a plea that this would strengthen the State's integrity with the rest of the country. The hon. Labour Minister will find that despite the extension of labour laws in the year 1965, up-to-date there never has been an attempt, even an effort made, to review the working of the centrally extended labour laws to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The process of integrating the State with the rest of the country has not been even attempted at. Mere extension of laws have also not rendered any service. If the hon. Labour Minister accepts my plea—in the present context he will perhaps have an element of surprise—then the first thing he will find, will be the lock ups, the closures, the demonopolisation of industries and much more than that, the disarray in which the working class today is, because of the latest phenomenon of terrorism. I would request him, if he finds time in the hot month of June, to pay a visit for a week to the State of Jammu and Kashmir and call for a conference of the officers in charge of administration of labour laws; let it be held in Delhi, otherwise it will be

possible to invite the Members of Parliament from the State of Jammu and Kashmir also to participate in it to see what is the magnitude of the problem and perhaps that would give him the glimpse of how things have gone wrong in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Immediately I would like him to examine the closure of HMT Unit in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Only two days before, I was in the premises of HMT which is a single unit of public enterprise investment in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. You will be surprised to know that except for the industrial police force, there was none in the HMT Unit. On an enquiry it was found that a notice was pasted on the Board that till further orders the Unit is closed, with the result that as many as 858 workers are completely demobilised. Even the minority community members, the female members who are working in the mill are without subsistence today, being left with no other option, but to leave the State of Jammu and Kashmir and come to other places in Delhi or in Jammu.

The second important unit which you will find closed is one run earlier by the great yoga master, Dharendra Brahmachari. It is a unit of his trust property. He was running that for years together in Katra Vaishnov Devi, it is closed now. I would like the dynamic Labour Minister to find out the reasons therefor. He will be surprised perhaps to know that since June 1989, the workers of that Unit are without pay. You will find, on a thorough search being made in Delhi, 52 of the employees have been in Delhi for the last 11 days, seeking and knocking at the door of every authority in Delhi. Hon. Labour Minister will also find that a century old industry, running in Kashmir and getting laurels not to the State of Jammu and Kashmir alone, but to the entire country, was a Sericulture industry. For good, bad or indifferent reasons, the demonopolisation was undertaken a year before. I would like him to examine the cases of those workers who are now without work who are in total disarray, as a result of the demonopolisation of the industry.

Above all, one important fact which is of course caused by the recent developments

[Sh. Piyare Lal Handoo]

is closure of 80 per cent of both privately run industrial units and publicly run industrial units. If he slightly exerts and goes into reasons, each one of them can be opened. Those of the Units which are run by people outside the State of Jammu and Kashmir can be opened by arranging a conference of those entrepreneurs in Delhi and giving them semblance of future hope. I have a feeling, as a man from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, that the Labour Minister's visit will see that 80 per cent of the units which have been closed down will certainly be opened and that may perhaps add to the state of normalcy in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. His visit, I am sure, will not disturb the rhythm of administration of the Governor at all. The mighty State administration is not capable of ensuring the running of an industrial unit which is owned by the State itself. The Labour Minister will also find that we have a large number of people in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, who are dependent on tourism. Six lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir in 1988. In 1989, 20 per cent tourists did not come. As at present, tourism has fallen by more than 80 per cent. I would like the Labour Minister and the Minister of Welfare to consider the fate of seasonal labourers who are totally dependent on tourism. If normalcy is to be created in Kashmir, it can be created by providing some work to more than 80,000 people who are completely dependent on tourism and who have nothing else to depend upon today except the good wish of the Labour Minister. A visit by him will, perhaps, help the local administration. The last submission which I want to make is dear to him also, namely, the question of agricultural labour. The problem of agricultural labour is as good or as bad as in the rest of the country. When the Labour Minister will visit Kashmir, he should also have a look at the present situation of the defence labour, particularly in the Uri Tehsil which is on the border of Pakistan. He must see the total disarray in which those people are living there. They have to be helped to keep them living. They have to get something from the State, if they are not required

today due to some strategic reasons. They should not be forced to leave the State. I want to tell him that more than six villages which are on the cease-fire line are already de-populated. I request you to kindly go there and intervene as the Labour Minister of this country and see that labour, which used to work for the defence and which for strategic reasons are not required today, is provided with some relief and some subsidies and food stuff like wheat so that they are not forced to leave the villages which are on cease-fire line, despite the conditions which are prevalent today. With these submissions, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the debate.

[*Translation*]

DR. KIRODI LAL MEENA (Sawai Madhopur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has provided reservations for the down traden which is being discussed today. This community is in pitiable condition also socially and economically backward. The adivasis who predominate Udaipur Division of Rajasthan are being forced to eat the bread made of grass and leaves.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, crores of rupee are said to have been sent on the development of this region by the way of Tribals development Project, but this region did not develop. No one knows as to who pocketed all this money? For forty years this region was ruled by Congress and despite the fact that money was sent for development, destruction is as more than development. The money spent for economic development and social upliftment of tribal during the sixth five-year plan was Rs. 4.54.66 crores while during 4th five-year plan it was just Rs. 25.80 crores. During the two years of Janata rule Rs. 69.75 crores were spent for same. Rs. 348.37 crores were provided for the seventh five-year plan, out of which Rs. 130.34 crores were for irrigation and Rs. 72 crores for electrification. Due to the money spent many irrigation project, many big dams like Mahi Jakhm, Smakamada, Somkamla and Amba projects were completed. But the tribals were displaced and no alternative arrangement

were made for them. All the areas coming under such irrigation-projects have been appointed by non-tribals and the tribals people are wandering searching for a home a health. Thus, the condition of tribals is tragic, there.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, sometimes ago a tribal lady of Kotta Tehsil was forced to have her hunger-stricken child in the forest which was carried away, and eaten by wolf. So, he is the blight of the tribals. It is manifest that money sent for development was not utilised properly. I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards the tragic fact that money allotted for tribal development is invested in other projects like Phosphate construction plant and other big industries. And none of these projects are beneficial to tribals. As a result discontent is brewing up in that region. I would like to convey to the Government that neither, completed projects nor the projects under consideration are of any good for tribals. This money was gobbled up by Congress leaders in connivance with beal people. It should be investigated.

The educational-standard is also utterly poor there. The average literacy percentage of Rajasthan is 34.38% while among tribal it is just 10% and that too up to just secondary and higher secondary level. As a result this region has produced no I.A.S. or I.P.S. officer. We have been discriminated against. This tribal area of Sawai Madhopur is a plainland and has enough water. Despite all this is has no big project, no tribal M.P. nor development in economy and agriculture.

Now-a-days, the contractors are felling the trees in connivance with the officials and the forest cover of that area has been devastated. No project meant for tribals was implemented properly and I would like to suggest that the forests of tribal areas should under the ownership of tribal people. They should be entrusted with the work of afforestation and ownership of the forests. The Government should make provisions in this regard. The Central Government has the schemes

like I.R.D.P. and N.R.F.P. but these schemes are victims of large scale corruption. And these tribals are not being benefited by these schemes. Our labour and welfare minister has made very welcome announcement and assured their whole-hearted implementation. But the present condition is extremely pathetic. The backlog of reserved posts have not been cleared. The previous Government had launched a special drive. In this regard but that was a political and electoral propaganda. I would like to see that you take special care in this regard and issue a department and series-wise list which may indicate the possibility of job for a 10th pass tribal boy of a poor adivasi squatting in a hut. I wish your this special drive may help them and you should try your best for it.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, the prevented of Atrocities on scheduled caste and scheduled tribe Act' 1989 of the Government provides for our protection but whenever scheduled caste and scheduled tribe. Officials tried to implement it, they were transferred and all the upper caste officials lined up against them. The Government should take strict actions against such upper caste official, whoever they may be. You should appoint scheduled caste and scheduled tribes officials in every district which has predominating population of scheduled caste and scheduled tribes people.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please wind up. At 5.00 o' Clock the Minister has to reply and there are some more Members who want to speak. You please take your seat.

Yes, Mr. Sukdeo Paswan.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please take your seat. I have called Shri Paswan. Whatever the hon. Member is saying will not go on record.

(Interruptions)*

16.53 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Labour and Welfare. Shri Paswan ji is a Minister of this department who has been vociferous champion of the causes of Harijans and Advasis and raised the issues concerning them and opposed the atrocity on them inside and outside the Parliament ever since 1973. The plight of rural population of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe is beyond description. Even now their children toil in the homes of landlords and factories of mill-owner. They are aged between 7-12 years. They are unable to go to the schools. I would like to request the hon. Minister to introduce compulsory education for the children of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes from primary to post Graduate level and make the Government bear their expenses. Secondly, the atrocities on Harijans and Advasis have been persistent during all these 40 yrs. in almost every part of the country. They have been unable to own even these plots of land for which lease-deeds have been given to them. This work can be accomplished only if Government provides full assistance in every respect. Other-wise, it would be impossible.

I would like to say one more thing. In almost all the provinces of the country and particularly in Delhi the Paswan Caste has not been included in the category of Scheduled Caste despite the fact that it has been grouped as one. I would like the hon. Minister to recall that after being elected to Parliament he had demanded from the contemporary Government for the immediate inclusion of this caste in Scheduled caste list. But this has not been done yet.

In the last 40 yrs crores of rupee have been spent on scheduled caste to the schemes made for the welfare of scheduled tribe but just 20-25% of it was really invested in the rural areas. I would like to request the

Government, particularly, the Hon Minister that he should appoint a committee which should ensure the cent-percent expenditure under and project designed for their welfare. With these words, I conclude.

16.55 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Eleventh Report

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As decided by the Business Advisory Committee today, all outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the year 1990-91 will be Guillotined at 6.00 P.M. today. The connected Appropriation Bill will be taken up thereafter. After the Appropriation Bill has been passed, the Finance Bill, 1990 will be taken up today for consideration and the House will sit upto 8.00 P.M.

Now, I request the hon. Minister to commence his reply. But you are in a very tight position. You have to start from 5 O' clock and finish it by 6 O' clock—not two minutes before or two minutes after.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF BAIG (Betul): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have listened to the whole discussion. Before the hon. Minister gives his reply, I would like to draw his attention to an important subject. We all know that this is a year of the girl child, yet girls constitute 20 percent of 20 lakh prostitutes in the country.