

Government need immediate amendment in respect of certain provisions like, housing accommodation, drinking water, medical facilities, maternity benefits, creches, sanitation etc. The Government have totally failed to implement the Plantation Labour Act and the Rules made thereunder in the country, more particularly in about 800 tea estates in Assam, as a result of which, the tea garden labourers who have been employed in the tea estates in Assam have been deprived of the benefits provided under the said law. The said law is so lenient that the Government cannot compel the managements to implement the same. The labourers have lost all confidence in the said law as it is not being properly implemented. The labourers have been frustrated and there may be agitation by the labourers at any time. It is requested that the said law should be amended drastically by providing compulsory fine of rupees fifty thousand and imprisonment for minimum two years for violation of the said Act by the Managements of the tea industry.

(viii) Need to improve service conditions of
Coffee Board Employees

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Coffee Board Employees are agitating since long for their genuine demands for rationalisation of Pay Scales and reservation of posts for SC/ST community. But unfortunately these problems have not been settled so far. The Board is only adopting dilatory tactics by appointing Committees, sub-Committees, staff grievances Committees, vigilance enquiry etc. The reports and recommendations of these Committees are gathering dust in the archives of the Board but no action has been taken on these reports and recommendations. These documents are merely being forwarded to the Central Government.

The Coffee Board employees are neither treated as Industrial employees nor like Government employees thereby depriving them of benefits available to Industrial workers and also the benefits of Fourth Pay Commission available to the Central Government employees. Coffee Board employees have no scientific basis of work evaluation. They are even deprived of the benefits available to their counterparts

in the Tea Board and in the ICAR. Although they were paid bonus as per Bonus Act still they are not being treated as Industrial Workers for all purposes. Similarly their wages remain stagnant despite continued rise in prices of essential commodities. The mechanism available to Central Government employees to partially counter the price rise problem is not available to Coffee Board employees. As such nearly 4500 coffee board employees are suffering and agitating for a fair deal. I urge upon the Government to intervene and end their exploitation by the Coffee Board.

12.37 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA—
Contd.

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sittings held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.
- (ii) In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 1988, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 21st March, 1988, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill,