

pension merely on the basis of six months imprisonment. Many great persons who had sincerely and actively participated in the freedom movement may not have undergone imprisonment for exactly six months. However, the significance of their participation ought not to be ignored. The least that the Government can do for these great men and women who have sacrificed their youth, their professions, their possessions and their family life for the cause of the nation, is to make their last days a little easier by making pension more easily available to them. Whatever may be their term of imprisonment, whether it be a couple of days or a couple of years, it is their participation that deserves recognition and it is only fair and just to extend pension facilities to them irrespective of the period served by them. Hence pension rules may be appropriately altered to cover also those who had undergone imprisonment even for a couple of days.

Since the generation of freedom fighters is fast vanishing—they being well advanced in age—it is imperative that benefits should be made available to them without further delay.

(ix) **Need to declare Patna University as a Central University for rapid development of education in Bihar**

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : Bihar lags behind in the field of education and is listed among the backward States educationally. It is the second largest State. Keeping in view the rapid developments in the field of education and the introduction of new education policy, it is imperative that one of the universities of Bihar is declared as Central University. Patna is one of the oldest universities and is centrally situated in the capital. It should, therefore, be declared as a Central university to accelerate the pace of education in Bihar.

12.35 hrs.

MOTION Re : THIRD AND FOURTH REPORTS OF COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE
 MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR.

RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

“That this House do consider the Third and Fourth Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82, laid on the Table of the House on 10th August, 1984 and 23rd January, 1985, respectively.”

As the hon. Members of this House are aware, these Reports were laid on the Table of the House on 10-8-1984 and 23-1-1985 respectively, but no discussion took place at that time. So, now we are here to discuss them. The Commission has made 78 recommendations in their Third Report and 20 recommendations in their Fourth Report. These Reports may now be taken into consideration for discussion by the hon. Members. I am sure, we will be immensely benefited by the suggestions that the hon. Members would be putting forth with reference to the recommendations made in these two Reports.

As you are aware, our Government is committed to the eradication of poverty, and as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population is at the lower rung of the economic condition of our country, therefore, the 20-Point Programme is there to accelerate the work so that the standard of living of these people is improved and poverty is eradicated from the country. But still we have to do a lot more. I will listen to the valuable suggestions of the hon. Members and then at the end of the debate, I will sum up the whole thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That this House do consider the Third and Fourth Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 laid on the Table of the House on 10th August, 1984 and 23rd January, 1985, respectively.”

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,