

and cheap medical system and medicines of West Germany in India. This establishment has been requesting the Government to accord its recognition to this new and fifth ranking scientific medical system of electropathy. The hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has already issued directives for the formation of a sub-committee of experts to examine whether this system is scientific and effective. An early decision of the Government in this regard may prove beneficial and useful for crores of poor patients.

So, I would request the hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India to grant an early recognition to this system of medicine so that the people of this country may get benefit of the cheap and effective medicines.

- (vii) Demand for setting guidelines for checking the quality of blood donated to the Blood Banks.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Most blood banks in India do not conduct the Elize test for detecting AID and Hepatitis 'B' before supplying blood to needy patients. Some blood banks send random samples to the Institute of Virology and other allied institutes to test blood for infectious diseases. However, by the time results come, the blood is often administered to a patient. It has been observed that blood banks get blood mostly from sick beggars and drug addicts. As a result, blood of very poor quality and low count of haemoglobin with every danger of infection is administered to needy patients.

The Health Ministry must set guidelines for checking blood donated to blood banks. The poor quality and infectious blood must be eliminated from blood banks. The test ought to be conducted on the blood of professional donor before being accepted by the blood banks

[English]

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

12.15-1/2 hrs.

### Atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis in different Parts of the Country— *Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will go to the next item of today's list of business. Now, we will take up further discussion on the atrocities on Harijans & Adivasis in different parts of the country raised by Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalia on the 2nd August, 1988. The time allotted for this item was only two hours. But we have already taken 5 hours and 6 minutes. Now, I would like to know the sense of the House whether we can extend the time of the discussion for this subject.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : We can extend the discussion for this subject by two hours. Now, new incidents have taken place and the hon. Members have been agitated over the incident. So, we can extend the time by another two hours.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think the House may accept it. Now, we are extending the time for discussion on this subject by two hours. I would request the Members to be brief in their submissions. They can mention the points for consideration, in their submissions.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : The Home Minister went to the spot where the killings took place. I would request him kindly to make a statement. The incident took place in Jelanabad District. I would like the hon. Home Minister to make a statement.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : The Home Minister will come and intervene in the discussion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : But he should make a statement. He was there in Jehanabad the day before yesterday.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : I also went there.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Then we are very much interested to know about the incident that took place in Jehanabad District.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Already the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs has said that the Home Minister will make a Statement.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : When ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : He is now in the other House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Mahabir Prasad Yadav to continue his speech.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I began my discussion the other day by saying that the problems solved create new problems. After 40 years of Independence new problems have come up. The Government is not only for the non-Harijans or Harijans, they must be the Government of the people, for the people and by the people. It is not a fact that atrocities are committed only on Harijans. Sometimes the atrocities are committed also on non-Harijans. I have heard every Member speaking here. All Members have not yet decided how and where atrocities are committed and by whom they are committed.

Sir, Bihar is a fertile field not for free ideas, but for free casteism. There the problems are quite serious. About 18 Harijans have been killed in Jehanabad, Government is so much particular and

Members are also very particular, but when 41 Rajputs were killed at Dalei Chak in Aurangabad District, no notice was taken thereof, and that problem was not taken notice of seriously, and such ghastly killings are going on. I would like to draw the attention of the Home Minister that the problem should be examined by the Committee of the Members of the House in totality, not in part. We have to see the problems in totality. 'Atrocity' does not mean simply 'killings' or 'murders'. Atrocities may be in different forms. You can imagine the anguish, the anxiety of non-Harijans when the Harijans or the tribals grab their land. I can give you several examples. 300-500 bighas of land of non-Harijans have been grabbed by the Harijans and tribals and there the Government is silent, and doing nothing. Will the Government take notice thereof? I can give you one example. It is not a fact that atrocities are committed only on Harijans, there are so many non-Harijans who are suffering on this account and let it be inquired into by a Committee of this august House. Has the august House ever come to the conclusion that all the non-Harijans have combined and conspired to commit atrocities on Harijans? The answer is 'No' it is not a fact that all the non-Harijans have combined and conspired to commit atrocities on Harijans. Harijans are not the only children of God and non-Harijans are not the only children of Satan. There are good and bad elements in every caste. Every caste is a blend of goodness and badness. No one can say that any caste is only bad and any caste is only good. Goodness and badness prevail everywhere and we have to take notice in that way. I am giving you one example. I will say that atrocities are also committed on non-Harijans. Suppose there are reservations for the Harijans, very good, they are downtrodden, they should be given reservation, in service. I do not object to the reservations for the Harijans. But when a junior officer is made senior on the ground of reservation, then the former senior officer becomes demoralised. So, can it not be considered in that way authority why the senior officer is made to bow down before the junior officer later on?

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : You are opposing reservations ?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : I am supporting reservations, to not opposing but. (*Interruptions*). Please let me have my say. (*Interruptions*). Let me have my say (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please, Order.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I do not oppose the reservation for the Harijans by the Government. But I am bringing to the notice of the Government that this is causing mental torture, Mental tension to non-Harijans where the junior Harijan civil servant goes up to the higher position on account of this reservation policy. I do not oppose this. What I am telling is, it causes demoralisation and mental tension. And, therefore it is in a way, the atrocity on the non-Harijans.

Take another example. When any Harijan or tribal takes possession of the land of the non-Harijans by force, what is the Government doing ? Why is the Government sitting idle ? Is it a Constitutional provision ? I can quote hundreds of examples where the lands of non-Harijans have been grabbed by Harijans. It is a fact which must be taken notice of. It is a fact that certain Harijans, 18, 19, or 20 have been killed in Jehanabad, Bihar. But why is notice not taken of killings and murders in Motihari West, Khagaria, Monghyr Bhagalpur and Rohtas districts. Thousands have been killed there. I will not say, who is at fault but it is the Government which has to examine it. There are problems which should be examined in totality, not in part. It should be examined thoroughly. Rape was committed in Paradia village of Bhagalpur district. 9 people have been killed in Monghyr district. Non-Harijans have been killed. In Khagaria, there have been killings. Why did the Government not take notice of that. It is not corrects to say that only the Harijans bear the atrocities. It is the committed policy of the Government to protect everybody. The atrocity problems should be examined in

totality, not in part. When 41 Rajputs were killed in Dalel Chak in Aurangabad district of Bihar, why did the Government not take notice of it ? Is it not a fact that 41 Rajputs were killed. I never object to the Constitutional provision that Harijans should get reservation. I do not object to it. But, I simply mean, wherever the atrocities are there, let that be examined thoroughly. Power and justice must be brought together so that whatever is just must be powerful and whatever is powerful must be just. Power should always be mingled with justice. If justice is injected in politics, it is very good. But if politics is injected in justice, it is very bad. I simply say that politics and justice should go together, never separately. Everywhere justice should be given to every one. The Honorable Members of Opposition and ruling Party, forget those days, when the particular caste was the vote bank for a particular Party. You have seen in Allahabad that Kashi Ram got equal number of votes as Sunil Shastri. We have to take notice of that. Harijans say that nothing has been done for them. Harijans say that nothing has been done for them. They are getting their education free. They are getting reservation in service. Even the minorities say that nothing has been done for them. Mr. G. S. Rajhans was talking about land reforms. Harijans are not getting land. It is not only the problem of haves and have nots. The problem is psychological. The problems have been caused by three things, superiority complex, inferiority complex and defects in Government laws.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Is it your policy ?

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : What the Government is doing ? Will the House agree that there should be nationalisation of land ? What is the advantage for the land owners ? If a landowner has got 50 acres of land, he has not that living standard as a pawnwala in an urban area. Let there be equal opportunity for land-owners, Harijans and non-Harijans. A man is ready to take a service in the Government by selling his land. It is the conviction of landowner that he is ready to

[Shri Mahabir Prasad Yadav]

part with his land in order to get a service and everybody says that nothing has been done for the Harijans and the minorities as if this country only belongs to the Harijans and minorities and non-Harijans and other people are out of this country. Let everything be done in proper perspective and justice be done for all, for minorities and for Harijans and for a l.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Is it the Congress policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : It is individual opinion.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : I was saying that Harijans should be given priority in matters of service.

How atrocity is committed on Harijans, I shall give you one example. There was one Harijan BDO. He was saying that Uppar Aasman, Neeche Paswan, aur beech mein Koi Nahin.

[Translation]

I cite one or two more examples.

[English]

Are the Harijans not committing atrocities on non-Harijans ? What is the condition of Harijans ? I am giving you one example how non-Harijan gets atrocities from the hands of Harijans.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : You are championing Shankaracharya.

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : Three BDOs were transferred. All these BDOs should have been relieved at a time. But, two non-Harijans were relieved at one time and one Harijan BDO was retained for ten months. One non-Harijans BDO applied for retention for a month to get his daughter married. He was not given time. But two other non-Harijan BDOs were relieved at once but

the Harijan BDO was retained by the Harijan DM for ten months. When it was brought to the notice of the Chief Secretary, then that BDO was relieved.

I am giving you this example to see things in total perspective. (Interruptions) They should be seen in proper perspective taking into consideration all the people living in India or in Bihar... (Interruptions) In a democratic form of Government, there should be healthy discussion on various matters. Certainly, people will have to express themselves-express their views. But at the same time, they have to express their views in a constructive, healthy and democratic manner so that all the differences will be ironed out and unity will prevail. Even the Opposition is a part of our democratic system and is expected to function in a constructive way.

I would like to add one last sentence. Let everyone of us work for social harmony. I am pained to say that at present there is no social harmony in Bihar.

That is the tragedy. In Bihar, there is caste feeling; there is a caste war going on at present. I will bring it to the notice of the hon. Home Minister that if at all the matter is going to be looked into and investigated, it should be done in totality, in a thorough manner and in true spirit and in a complete and comprehensive form.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Jehanabad incident took place first on the 16th of June. Within the span of two months again there was another incident. In the first incident, 17 Harijans were killed. That was a ghastly murder which happened in the dead of night. Again, within the span of two months, another such occurrence has happened. In the second occurrence, 11 Harijans were murdered. Definitely, this is a serious thing. Sir, I would like to point out that Bihar



is a caste-prone area, that too the Jehanabad District. Has any measure been taken in this regard? These incidents were reported in the Press. What is the Government doing there? I do not know whether any Government is functioning there or not. I do not know whether the Bhagwat Jha Azad Ministry is in Patna alone or elsewhere. I would like to pose this question to this Government.

Sir, we are going on discussing this subject since 1947 onwards. I don't have the exact figures with me now. But I think so many times we have discussed this subject in this House. The hon. Minister is here. The hon. Minister has also made a statement. It was just like a philosopher's and social reformer's. We know that, in Pre-Independence period, the social reformer also made comments on this issue. In this country, long long ago, the great Saint Swami Vivekananda said :

‘On Indians! Do not forget that those down-trodden people, those poor people are your brothers. Those cobblers and scavengers are your blood and your kith and kin.’

Sir, who cares for his teachings now? Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore said in his poem :

*“Paschate felicha jare se tomare paschate taniche”*

It means : If you go ahead by throwing away the down-trodden people, you cannot make progress. Those down-trodden people will pull you back. Mahatma Gandhi also spoke so many things about this. But who cares for those teachings? Is the Government really serious about this matter? I would like to ask this question. Are you serious to solve the problems of Harijans and Girijans? I think the Government is not so serious because these problems are there in our country for a long time.

Here is a Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is the Seventh and the latest Report. If you go through this Report,

you will find that there are some problems for which atrocities are going on. They are : land reform—distribution of land to the landless; landless agricultural labourers and their wages; the problem of social forestry; and job reservation and anti-reservation.

Just now, the Hon. Member spoke—I know he belongs to the ruling party here. What is his version about reservation and anti-reservation? What is his version about land reforms? I do not know. But the constitutional provision is there. I do not know whether he has gone through it or not. The problem of reservation and anti-reservation has come to particular stage in the State of Gujarat. *(Interruptions)*

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : But in Jehanabad, it is the extremists who are reported to have killed. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : No, No I am coming to that point. You cannot deny it. You will be astonished to know this.

I think, the hon. Minister will reply that land reforms has been done. But what is the report? You will be astonished to learn about what happened there. About 11,200 hectares of land has yet to be settled in Jehanabad and 8,000 hectares in Gaya district. No land reform has been done. That is the main problem. If at all, the Harijans and Girijans have got right to land, no land is allotted to them. It may be in paper only. But practically this is not so. *(Interruptions)*

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Then why should extremists kill Harijans?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : It is not because of extremists. You can go through the report, you will find that it is not so. It is because of this Government's attitude.

On the other side, Shrimati Bibha Goswami raised a point about atrocities on the Girijans of Tripura and rape on

[Shri Amar Roypradhan]

the adivasi women. At that time, they protested and some Members on that side also protested. I think, you will not deny this report in the 'Sunday'. I think, you are very much hobnobbing with this Tripura Upajati Sangh (TUJS). It is reported there. I do not want to mention that it is the Forward Block's opinion or it is the CPM's opinion or Left Front's opinion. But it is said that there is a coalition Ministry with TUJS having alliance. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA (Aurangabad) : I want to know one thing. Does this report contain a reference to the fact that DM of Gaya has already distributed 35,000 acres of land? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : Whatever it is. It is reported in the Amrit Bazar Patrika of 19.6.1988 *(Interruptions)* Land was not distributed properly. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : The District Magistrate of Gaya distributed 35,000 acres of land to the landless people in the district of Gaya in the presence of the then Chief Minister on the 14th November, 1987. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I would like to know whether those lands are with the Harijans or Girijans or with whom. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : I would like to know whether actually they were allowed to take possession of the land or not. That is the question. *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : On this particular question, in both the Houses we have replied and we have said that facts stated in the paper are not correct and investigation was being made. It was given in the Tripura Assembly also. So I will humbly request the hon. Member... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : You should go through the Report first.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : I have gone through the Report. I will request the Hon. Member not to quote that.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is the statement of Shyamacharan Tripura. It is his statement that the hon. Member is referring to

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : You may deny it. But it is there. It says :

"Shyamacharan Tripura's statement that 18 tribal women have been raped, was supported by a detailed report on the incidents submitted to the party chief by the militant students wing of the TUJS, the Tribal Students Federation (TSF). A four-member TSF delegation had recorded the statements of the 'rape victims' at Hatimara, the nearest village with a road head from Ujanmaidan".

Have you got the guts to file a suit against this newspaper, Sunday in which it was published in its 26 June to 2nd July 1988 edition? Now you are saying that you have protested.

Now I will refer to the statement of the hon. Minister Mrs. Bajpai about the position of the reservation. This statement was circulated by the hon. Minister to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Members in the meeting with the Prime Minister.

Even in the Central Government, in Group A posts, out of a total of 5592, only 5554 SC and ST officers are there. What is the percentage? In Group B posts, out of 76623, only 9041 are SC and ST people. Of course, in Group C, it is almost covered up. Out of 2124377 posts, they are about 3.9 lakhs. In Group D only it is fully covered up where sweepers and scavengers are there. Out of 1199206 posts, they are 398665.

But what about the Banking and other public sector undertakings? There, in Group A it is only 8%, in Group B it is only 10%, in Group C it is 14.23% and in Group D it is 19.36%. Only in Group D it is covered up. Why is this the position?

After 26th January 1950, in this long period, you are not able to cover up the quota. There is a huge backlog. You never tried to fill up this backlog. And now the crime has gone up.

Just now we have heard a Member from your Party who was saying about the same thing. The atrocities and riots are going on in that particular area of Gujarat. Have you considered all these things? I think never. Never did you take note of it. You give only some lectures here just like the saints and philosophers. We shall have to speak so Harijans and Girijans going to their fields and contacting them in order to find out as to how to solve their problems.

Have you gone through the SC Commissioner's Report? How much have you developed the SC and ST communities, is given here. It is not my report, it is your report. It is the 7th Report of the SC Commissioner. In this Report it is clearly stated on Page 43, Para 5.9 :

"The Commission is of the firm view that the progress in poverty alleviation programmes has not at all been commensurate with the investments. There has been no attempt to strengthen the machinery for follow-up, monitoring and evaluation. Consequently the economic condition of the SC does not appear to have undergone any perceptible change".

So nothing has been done for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. This is what your official report says. Further I quote :

"The Commission strongly recommends that IRDP should

undergo a thorough overhaul as minor changes so far contemplated would not simply do."

On page 46 the Commission's report further says :

"It would thus appear that several of the Central Ministries and the departments have not made serious efforts for monitoring the Central programmes of development of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Commission would accordingly recommend that all Ministries may be called upon to indicate clearly the programmes undertaken by them for the welfare and development of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in a separate chapter of their annual reports."

Not a single Ministry excepting your Department or the Department of Agriculture has done it. No other Department has done it. Why has no action been taken against them? So you are against the development of Harijans and Girijans. Their condition has not improved. Let us all be united to solve this problem of the poor people.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the august House is today discussing a very sensitive subject, that of atrocities on the Harijans and Advasis. On 16th June, atrocities were committed on the harijans at Nonhi and Nagma. 19 Harijans were killed in it. The wounds of this incident had not yet healed when another incident of this kind occurred again some 3 kilometres away from Nonhi and Nagma. We cannot hold the Government responsible for it and say that it was failure on the part of the Government because such incidents are the products of society. They are the products of frenzy of our caste based society and until such tendencies exist, regardless of whichever Government is in power, this will continue. During the Janata Rule, a similar incident occurred at

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Belchi although the Janata was in power in the State of Bihar as well. The Harijans had to suffer atrocities at that time also and 11 of them were burnt alive. Therefore, I want to submit that until there is a change in the attitude of the people themselves, such incidents will continue to occur regardless of whichever Government is in power, whether the Lok Dal or the Janata or the C.P.M. we are thankful to the Hon. Prime Minister for sending Buta Singhji and the hon. Minister of Welfare Dr. Bajpai to these places immediately. I was also a member of that team and I saw that there was no political issue involved in it. If we make it a political issue this discussion will not lead us anywhere. Time has been allotted for discussion on this subject in this august House so that we can sit together and try to find a solution to it. If we make it a political issue this matter will be blown up unnecessarily. We have to consider as to how to take the 25 crores harijans and adivasis into confidence and this is a matter of serious concern. The issue is not to find out who is at fault. I want to submit to the hon. Minister of Home Affairs and hon. Minister of Welfare that reservation in promotion and recruitment should be carried as it being done today but they should also assure the harijans of this country in the House that even if the harijans have to stay hungry in their huts, they are safe. We require such an assurance because the harijans apprehend today whether they will survive or not. What is the history behind the massacre at Nagma and Nonhi. People were killed at Damoa Khargi as well and what is the reason behind such conflicts? I think that it is the product of our caste based society where frenzy of casteism is at its pinnacle because our society is patronising it.

The hon. Chief Minister visited Nagma and Nonhi on the 18th and made the following three announcements (1) that the gun licences of licence holders would be seized; (2) that punitive taxes would be imposed and (3) that the disputed land would be distributed. But when I enquired from the hon. Chief Minister in this regard he said the same thing which has

been stated by Dr. Bajpai also, that no action has been taken there so far. Will this not boost the morale of those criminals? Will they not feel safe? Who are the persons involved in this incident? Ramashish Yadav, Rajdev Yadav, Kapil Yadav were behind this incident. These persons had been behind several other incidents as well and it is strange that the Police Force could not arrest these 7 persons. When the assailants were assaulting the harijans, people were saying that 19 harijans have been massacred at Nagma and Nonhi and they will not hesitate to kill more harijans and that is what has made them so daring. This puts a big question mark on the ineffectiveness of Bihar Government and our society. This is the most serious issue today.

The Hon. Prime Minister has expressed his concern in this matter. In his address to the nation from the ramparts of the historic Red Fort, he expressed his concern regarding the excesses in Jehanabad, and about ensuring the safety of harijans and girijans. It is certainly a matter of serious concern but I can see how much interest the Opposition parties are taking in this matter. Does the Opposition consist of only 3 Members? I think you do not have the time to share our pain but you have ample time to make political capital out of every issue where is the Opposition today. Where is hon. Prof. Dandavateji who is constantly drawing the attention of the House on every petty issue. *(Interruptions)*

Shri Ram Bhahadurji you too do not have words to submit regarding the atrocities on harijans.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : The Hon. Prime Minister have cooked up details.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Had it been cooked up it would not have been said from the ramparts of the Red Fort. *(Interruptions)*... Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from that area only. Whenever such incidents occur, the I.P.F. or the Naxalities or some other such group are blamed but I want to submit that they are hardened criminals and they should

be considered as such. They should never hide under political cover. If these people had a leftist thinking they would never have killed harijans. I want to ask whether 50 year old Birjudas, 8 year old Sanjay and 5 year old Ranjit, were all naxalites? How can killers of such people have any political ideology? They can only be criminals.

13.00 hrs.

Even if incidents of dacoity occur in that area people say that naxalites are behind it. The real criminals are hidden behind such cover. During our tour of the affected areas, the harijans wanted to know whether we could ensure their safety in future. We have left this question to you. I was also present there. There can be 3 reasons behind current state of affairs. The first can be that the deprived sections were assured of getting land they never used to make such demands earlier. Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had stated in 1975 that land reforms and Minimum Wages will be implemented besides liberating the bonded labour. This reached every village of the country and consequently a new awareness was created among these people and they became aware of their rights. There are several other reasons behind the atrocities on harijans. The distribution of Government land and of surplus land among the landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes also resulted in disputes. The opposition never mentioned land reforms or minimum wages. It is only the Congress Government which has implemented them. The Opposition never did anything ..... (Interruptions) ..... when hon. Shri Dandavate was the Minister, land reform programmes were initiated under NREP and RIEGP... (Interruptions) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my considerable time has been wasted because of interruptions and therefore, let me make my submission. As regards surplus land being distributed to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes, difficulties arose in giving them possession. How much was the minimum wages fixed by the Government. Not even 1/2 kg. of foodgrains worth of wages was being given. Even the grains were of a very coarse variety. The people said that

they would not accept less than what has been fixed by Government. This led to disputes. Thirdly, the harijans and adivasis have become aware of their constitutional rights today. Today, in every village at least 5 or 10 harijans are literate and they get aware of the Government programmes for their welfare through the mass-media or the newspapers. If we view the Nagma-Nonhi and Damunha-Khagri, incident, there are three or four reasons behind it. But the dispute is not on wages. At Nagma-Nonhi one Rajnandan Singh was involved once in a dispute regarding wages. Disputes in this regard are thus non-existent. I have been told that it is the handiwork of hardened criminals and it should be viewed in that way. The hon. Chief Minister did not get the licensed and unlicensed weapons confiscated and I cannot say anything in this matter. In Jahanabad and Gaya land reforms are being implemented and people are aware of them and as a result this kind of thinking is slowly being suppressed. Consequently, the police there has also become ineffective and useless.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH (Banka) : They have become weak.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : I would say useless and not weak because they appear to be dauntless but actually they have become the tools in the hands of the land lobby. If any harijan is arrested under Rule 107, then the name of the sub-inspector should also be included who picks him up at 2.00 A.M. and such other odd hours and puts him behind bars. And these very sub-inspectors, celebrate with those who are behind the massacre of harijans. How can the harijans feel safe? They are very scared and refuse to divulge facts. Still we came across several persons who are very displeased with the D.S.P. of Jahanabad and the sub-inspector of Kakor thana. They say that it is on account of these two officers that the criminals are getting protection. Hare Ram is one of the criminals and another's is Ramsheesh. Later is brother in law of the former. Hare Ram runs a country made liquor and hooch distillery. D.S.P. Rajden Singh is in collusion with him, takes money from

[Shri Ramswaroop Ram]

him and provides him protection in return. I was thinking why immediate assistance could not be provided to those harijans who were being assaulted only 3 or 4 kms. away from the police station. The Police station. The Police is in collusion with both the land lobby and the criminals and therefore there should be a change from top to the bottom. As regards the Collector, it is being said that if a harijan Collector is posted in a harijan dominated area, such operation can be controlled but in Jahanabad district the Collector is a harijan. Who after all is going to ensure the safety of harijans if it is not being done under a harijan District Magistrate. We have requested the hon. Home Minister and the Chief Minister to suspend both the Collector and the S.P. as both of them are ineffective. An incident of this sort takes place only 5 kms away and the entire district administration fails to check it. A report in this regard was later submitted to the Chief Minister by the S.P. and the District officials. The State Government is a failure because the criminals are able to get away with their deeds in spite of a large police force and the DG, DIG, SP and DSPs etc. It is very unfortunate. Where was the administration at that time? In the Seventh Report the Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has provided the names of sensitive districts in the country. In Bihar, Patna, Nalanda, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Gaya, Vaishali, Samastipur, Jahanabad, Bhagalpur, Begusarai, and Ranchi are very sensitive districts so far as atrocities on harijans and girijans is concerned. Why cannot the police force be modernised there? Can't they run the administration in a new way? Can't special courts be set up in these sensitive districts to punish those who commit atrocities on Harijans? We see that a large number of cases are pending in high courts, district courts and lower courts. Some of them are pending for the last ten years or twenty years. Meanwhile the criminals are free and they regularly commit crimes. Special courts should, therefore, be set up at the earliest in all the sensitive districts of India, where atrocities are committed on harijans and girijans, so that criminals can be punished.

The District Magistrate and the S.P. of that district should be held responsible where such incident occurs. Besides, land reforms should also be implemented strictly. We often talk of imposing community tax. You may be aware that for four hours the shooting spree went on in that village, but not a single person of high cast came to their rescue. Women were raped and such horrible things were done which cannot be told in this House. But no one came to their rescue. Until collective fine is imposed on them, no one will come to save them. Impose a fine of Rs. 1000 on the holder of one bigha land and Rs. 2000 on the holder of two bigha land. Impose the tax of Rs. one thousand per bigha. If this will not be done, no one will save the harijans. It will go on like this. Without this harijans cannot be saved.

The hon. Minister of Home Affairs went there and he must have got all the information. I have come across a report. In the Nonhi Village, a Lalâas Paswan, his wife, five months old daughter Pinki and 22 year old Karu Mochi were killed.

I would also like to submit about the incident of Bihat village in Muzaffarpur district. Twins were born there in a harijan's home. Some one asked him what names would he keep of the new born. He replied that he would call one Ram and the other Lakshman. The person said that they were his Gods. Why was he keeping these names? The parents were then told only because they had kept these names for their sons. They were asked to call one 'Duba' and the other 'Dhudhva'. Such is the condition of our society.

Today we are discussing this in the House. But this conflict is not new. It is going on for the last five thousand years. This conflict is between Manusmriti and the Constitution of India. We have to see whether the Hindu social system in which we have been living for the past five thousand years will give us equal opportunities or not. Shankaracharya treats us as untouchables. We are not allowed to enter the Nathdwara and Badrinath tem-

pies. I would like to ask the Shankaracharya whether we, the 25 crore Harijans and tribals of India are not believers in Hindu religion? Actually, unless we adopt Indian Constitution instead of Manusmriti, such incidents will go on happening. We have been suppressed for years in the name of untouchability, religion and caste. Even today we have to live on outskirts of the villages, where there is no drinking water facility for us. In spite of this we are nationalists. We have toiled in the villages of India, produced crops and made the country self-reliant in foodgrains. So we are no less faithful. But in spite of all this, we are still exploited.

With these words, through you and through this august House, I would like to request the hon. Minister that special courts should be set up for the summary trial of cases of atrocities and guilty should be punished. I am sad about these incidents, but hope that the Government will take proper steps for the protection of Harijans and tribals of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Mr. Basudeb Acharya. Please take five minutes. Please state your points briefly. The hon. Members are anxious to listen to the hon. Minister also. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): That is why we wanted that the Minister should make a statement before the discussion. It would have helped us in discussing the subject.

When we are discussing the atrocities on Harijans, another gruesome incident has taken place in the Damua village, in the same district of Jehanabad. This shows how the State Government of Bihar is callous. This also shows criminal negligence on the part of the State Government of Bihar. The Government of Bihar has failed to stop the recurrence of these incidents. The Government has described the situation as 'not serious'. The statements made—which appeared in various newspapers—by the Chief Minister and even

the Home Minister Mr. Buta Singh seem to say that the problem is merely a law and order one. That is why it is said that more forces can cope with this situation. Maybe to some extent, it is a law and order problem. But it is not merely a law and order problem. It is a political problem. It is now being described as a 'caste war' or an 'inner party clash' by the different breakaway factions of Naxalites and extremists. But it is not a caste war. It is not an inner party clash of different breakaway factions. If you describe it thus, then you will fail to go deeper and to the bottom of this problem. The problem is economic, the problem is political. It is a fact. In the report, the number of atrocities and cases pending or disposed of, is mentioned. From there, you will get the impression as if no incident took place in the year 1984. It is mentioned in this report as 'Nil', as if there was no incident in 1984.

Two years back, about 104 peasants and agricultural labourers—among them there were Harijans—were killed when they were holding a meeting near a rural library. No action was taken against these culprits, these Police people who killed innocent persons who were holding a meeting. They were demanding an increase in their wages. They were killed by the police. Out of 100 agricultural labourers, a number of them were Harijans. They were killed by the police in the presence of SP, but no action was taken against them.

In the first week of June, three persons in a village Bhabua near Sasaram in the broad day-light at 11 O'Clock, when they were returning from their farm, were killed brutally by the Bihar Military Police, but no action was taken against them. The Chief Minister announced that a judicial enquiry Committee would be set up, but, up till now, no judicial enquiry Committee was set up. This is the situation in the State of Bihar.

As I have stated, this is a political problem; this is not mere a law and order problem. These agricultural labourers,



[Shri Basudeb Acharia]

these Harijans, these Adivasis are now rising from their slumber; they are now becoming conscious about their rights; they are being organised and you will see so many senas formed by landlords in the rural areas. Though they are declared illegal, still they are operating; they are having licensed and unlicensed arms. Unless this problem is solved, the tension in the rural areas will prevail in the true sense of the term.

After 41st years of Independence, today also 40 per cent of the land in our country is in the hands of the 5 per cent of the people who are not peasants. Unless you take away this land and distribute it among the agricultural labourers and landless peasants, you will not be able to solve this problem, the problem of unemployment, the problem of poverty; this is the crux of the problem. Although to implement land reform was mentioned upto the Sixth Five Year Plan, in the Seventh Five Year Plan, it was not mentioned, as if this land reform has been implemented in our country, as if we have abolished landlordism. The feudal system is still existing in our country. In Bihar, you will be surprised to know that land-lords are having 1000 acres of land, 2000 acres of land, 3000 acres of land. Even in this House also you will find that members from the ruling party are so having hundreds of acres of land.

An incident took place in Jhalumgaon, in the District of Palamu, in Chota Nagpur Subdivision, where 7 persons were killed, the exploitation has been going on by the money-lenders not only in the mining areas but also in the rural areas; they are at large in the rural areas. Unless you stop all these things, exploitation by the money-lenders, exploitation by the zamindars, this tension will remain. These atrocities also will go on. You will not be able to stop them by sending more forces, as Shri Buta Singh assured us as if by sending more forces they will be able to cope with this situation. That means you still fail to realise the crux of the problem. You still are not going to the bottom of the problem. This is also

because of the class character of the Government.

After 41 years of independence, Swami Agnivesh had to take a march of Harijans with him to the Nathdwara temple and when there was a question in this House, it was suddenly announced by the Madam Minister that after a long persuasion the temple was thrown open. The next day we saw the news, how the temple was thrown open.

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja) : Washed with milk !

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Yes, they were purified. The Government had to persuade these priests. When the Harijans were purified with milk, then they were allowed. And we have seen what the Left and Democratic Government in Kerala did in Guruvayur temple where one Harijan boy was employed there, in the temple. It was thrown open and this Government had to pursue. The Minister had said, that after a long persuasion, after Harijans were being purified with milk, they were allowed to enter the temple. That is the situation.

So, unless the situation is defused, unless you implement the minimum wage, you cannot solve this problem. Even the minimum wage is Rs. 11/-. I do not know what is the rationale behind fixing minimum wage at Rs. 11 when even agricultural labourers get much more than Rs. 11 in West Bengal, Haryana and Punjab. In Bihar it is still below Rs. 11 that you have fixed. Minimum wage for the agricultural labourer is there, but they are not getting it. There is no law enforcing agency. The landlords were not paying these minimum wages to the agricultural labourers. What action has the State Government taken ? Have you taken up the matter with the State Government or not ? This is the crux of the question. Why are the land reforms not being implemented in letter and spirit ? Why has the surplus land not yet been distributed among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes ? Scheduled tribes have been displaced from their villages, from

their land for setting up of industrial projects, but no proper rehabilitation has yet been done. They have been displaced up of projects. It has been stated here in this report.

These are the reasons for the tension. Unless you go to the bottom of the problem, unless you implement land reforms, unless you implement minimum wages for the agricultural labourers and Harijans you will not be able to solve this problem. If you consider it a mere law and order problem in Bihar, and that by sending more forces as assured by the Home Minister Shri Buta Singh, you think that you will be able to get out of the situation, you will never be able to solve this problem. You will never be able to solve this problem unless you think seriously about this.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : The subject of atrocities on Harijans is being discussed every year both in Parliament as well as in almost every State Legislature and it has become a practice to find fault with each other whichever is the ruling party either at the Centre or in the States. But the experience tells us that no party has proved total sincerity in rectifying this situation. Maybe measures have been taken by various Governments. Even presuming that there are mistakes in the implementation of various measures by the Congress Government, but the experience tells us that the situation is much worse in non-Congress Governments. For example, you take the case of Andhra Pradesh. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who spoke so much about Harijans and almost wept at a public platform after seeing their pathetic situation and suffering they are being subjected to for centuries, did not take action till today in the Karamchedu incident where five people were killed and 18 injured three years back. This indicates that this subject is being used only for political ends and no sincerity is being shown by them. Or possibly, this subject is being used only for getting votes. This is quite unfortunate. This should not repeat. Stern measures should necessarily be taken by all the people. And this subject has to be discussed above party lines.

It is true that for centuries the Harijans have been subjected to insults, discrimination and suffering particularly in rural areas. The reason being, it is said, that 92 per cent of the Harijans have been living in rural areas and 89 per cent of them are either farmers or farm labour.

The experiences are too many. Several atrocities are being committed on Harijans almost everyday in some or the other part of the country whether there is Congress Government or non-Congress Government. Unless all the members in this House unitedly, with one voice, bring out some legislation which is so stringent that it deters people to think even to commit atrocity, I do not think, the problem is anywhere near solution.

In a way, I do feel that criticism of each other on this issue is better and does some good, but that does not solve the problem. Atrocities on Harijans are invariably because of their economic dependence and poverty. Even the Government and officers are helping those who commit atrocities on Harijans. The present Government in Andhra Pradesh claims everyday that it is for the welfare of Harijans and it is beating its drum everyday that rice is being given to them at Rs. 2/- a kilo. But it has not done even one act to infuse confidence in the minds of Harijans so that they can live with confidence and security. In my own constituency thousands of acres of waste land is there. One of the ex-Congress legislators was fighting on behalf of the Harijans so that that land does not go into the hands of vested interest but it should be distributed to the poor Harijans of the local area. But the State Government has not taken any steps for the last three years to distribute those lands among the poor Harijans. On the contrary, the State Government has filed cases against the Harijans, making them go round the courts, making them economically wretched and depriving them of the few chips they had. This clearly indicates that all these politicians who are weeping, who are shedding tears on the public platforms, do not have the sincerity of implementing these measures with full heart. I only request all the hon. colleagues of mine in this House : let us rise

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above the party lines and let us suggest solutions. Not only we should suggest solutions but let us educate the people and let us see that this ego built up in the privileged sections of the society is reduced.

When we go to the villages, we find that the same yardstick is not being used for all the communities, particularly for Harijans and non-Harijans. For example, if a Harijan were to touch a girl of a privileged community, it is an extremely serious offence which cannot be tolerated. It will be a matter of discussion in the area. But if the same thing is done to a Harijan girl, it is not taken seriously. It is almost a routine affair or a common thing, not to be taken so seriously. This cannot be prevented unless every one of us were to think in a new direction, not in the same old lines, not on the basis of class or community or caste.

Today, the realisation among the Harijans is also more. Years back they had a fear that the Government may not support them or that they are in minority, they are totally weak, they are economically poor and that the richer sections will do them great harm in case they opposed or raised their voice. But I am very happy to tell you—it is my own experience in my own areas which is supposed to be one of the rich districts of the coastal belt of Andhra Pradesh—that in the initial days, when Indira Gandhi had come to power, there was a jubilation among the Harijans. They felt that here was a leader who could come to their rescue, no matter how far off she was. Even the richer sections of the area used to be scared of misbehaving with the Harijans. But after the TDP Government coming into power in Andhra Pradesh, there is jubilation in the privileged sections of the society. They have no fear now to commit any atrocity on the Harijans. Harijans have lost their hopes. They have lost their confidence. They are not certain when the Government will come to their rescue, to protect them.

Instead of repeating the incidents of several atrocities which have been committed in various parts of the country, let me

mention the solutions also, which I feel are appropriate in the present juncture. I am of the definite opinion that special courts must function in a good number for speedy trial of the offenders. If severe punishment is given to the offenders without any loss of time, then the temptation to commit atrocities will go down. So long as they are of the opinion that they can take shelter under the judiciary which takes ample time, years together—by which? time the people will forget about the incident—things are going to be repeated for ever. So the solutions that I am suggesting are: setting up of special courts, special task forces, special police stations, particularly to sort out the problem of atrocities on Harijans, with a time limit for sorting out their problems. Similarly, millions of acres of wasteland which is lying in the country, must immediately be distributed among the Harijans, Scheduled Castes and the poorer sections of the society, so that they can increase their economic strength and get confidence to fight the atrocities or injustice done to them. Similarly, while posting the officers, it must be ensured that either Harijans or Scheduled tribes or committed officers from other sections of the society are posted to the sensitive areas to see that they take immediate action and act impartially, without any prejudices. This problem is more because of the complexes which are there in the minds of the people—either inferiority complex in the minds of Harijans and Scheduled tribes or superiority complex in the minds of other sections of the society. I wish special coaching centres are set up, special efforts are made for infusing confidence in the Harijans and Scheduled tribes and for preparing them and making them believe that they are no less intelligent compared to any other people in the country. It is only with the necessary infrastructural facilities or the environmental condition provided that the lot of the Harijans and the Scheduled caste people can be improved. If these things are created in right earnestness, I am of the definite opinion that the confidence of the Harijans will go up and they will be in a position to face them, fight against them and they can make representation against them. Sir, in this, the press has also got a great role to play in bringing it to the notice of the people

of the country and create a sense of fear among other sections of the society who are committing these atrocities.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara):** Sir, it is rather shameful for us to discuss this matter again. When this matter came up for discussion at the beginning of this Session, this kind of atrocities was not there. But subsequently, after that, we are again sitting here and discussing in this House the atrocities committed on Harijans and Adivasis a few days back in some parts of the country. The Bihar incident is a symbolic one which has taken place a few days ago. The news has come that the Chief Minister's face was blackened by the youngsters. This is a clear example of blackening the face of the nation. In fact, the person who has done it has shown to the public that we are incapable of taking up the cause of Harijans and Adivasis and by that action he has shown that not only the Chief Minister's face, but the nation's face, the Prime Minister's face and everybody's face has not been spared. The atrocities on the Harijans and Adivasis could not be controlled by the Government. This is the clear example and symbolic one.

Sir, I would say that the problems faced by the Harijans and Adivasis have already been mentioned by my friend Shri K. S. Rao. I am fully in agreement with him. He said that the problems should be dealt with in a different way. We should create a society where equality should be given to the people. The Harijans and Adivasis should be equally treated in the society like anybody else. But unfortunately that is not happening. The system which was prevalent in this country centuries ago was created on the basis of the work done by the people at that time. The result is that the caste system prevailed centuries ago and this has system followed centuries after centuries. The caste system is said to be the immobile class; for the purpose of doing certain work first the people were divided and subsequently that had become immobile. In that caste system, they were doing certain work and they were considered to be lower caste and some other

people were considered to be upper caste and finally a section of the people were considered to be superior in the society and some other section of the people inferior in the society. Unless and until we get rid of this inferiority complex among the Harijans and they themselves feel that they are equal and they share the fruits of the country's economic advancement equally, the stage will not come when nobody else in this country will rise against them. In our Constitution, equality of every citizen has been guaranteed. Unless we are in a position to safeguard the provisions of the Constitution and solve the problems faced by the Harijans and Adivasis, there is no use talking so much here and outside. In every State, this problem is there. But it is too much in the States ruled by the Congress, because the economic policies which are construed by the Congress Government and also the promotion which is given to the upper caste and communal leaders ultimately help the upper caste people to hold power everywhere. This is the reality. If you look at the West Bengal and Kerala Administration you will find that the problem is much less.

**SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore):** In Kerala, one harijan boy was forced to consume human excrete.

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS:** By whom? He was in the Congress Government. Of course, the present Government has taken action against him and they are taking action. But you compare the things which are happening there. In Kerala also it is happening I am also fully aware of it. The upper caste who want to continue and the people who want to make the United Front with the majority people, say that there should be reservation on economic reasons. The Congress make allowance and fight the elections but finally the upper caste people come to the front. They do these things. It is politics of the people in the majority of the people who are there, 60 per cent of the people who are Harijans and Adivasis and the backward classes in this country, if they are properly projected and their

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proper share is given, then the entire thing will change. What Mr. Rao said is : How to overcome the inferiority complex of the Harijans ? Are you ready to put a Harijan as the President ? Are you ready to put a Harijan as the Prime Minister ? Are you ready to accept a Harijan as the Leader of the nation ? No, at all times. We have Sankaracharya of Puri or Sankaracharya of other places and the caste and communal leaders who have come and they will bargain with the Congress saying that 'such and seats are necessary for our community' and they are the forward community people. That is the ultimate result of this. Harijans and Adivasis are still being exploited and their due shares are not given.

Sir, the economic situation in the country is also mainly responsible for this. You see the Harijans and Adivasis, for what purpose they are used. One day it touched me very much when I was travelling by train, I saw in Agra Railway Station just like cattle or ducks or hens are put in a net, people from all round the area, the Adivasis and Harijans, are brought in as bonded labourers to take them to U. P., to the landlords there, to the Kulaks there to work in their farm. The men and women of a community or people who belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being treated as cattle to go to the farmland of the Kulaks in Northern India and work under them as bonded labour. Could you do anything ? How many bonded labourers we could release from the clutches of the Kulaks of this country ? They are still using them. That is the economic situation by which they are going on. Sir, could the Madhya Pradesh Government still prohibit the supply of kesari dal which is supposed to be the most criminal act ? By supplying kesari dal a generation is put to difficulty, whoever eats the kesari dal. And kesari dal is given as wage by the landlords in Madhya Pradesh. *(Interruptions)*. I am thankful to many of the press reporters that they are the only people who go round and make these reports and they go round and study in the villages & publish articles. They published the article on this with photographs of the

people who are paralysed because kesari dal is given to them as wages. Thousands of agricultural workers who belong to Harijans and Adivasi classes are becoming paralysed because this kesari dal is being given as wages to them. Could we raise our hand against it ? Could any Government prohibit saying that kesari dal should not be given ? In spite of the prohibition, the landlords give this. What education we can give to them ? In Bihar, if you look at, you will see that every landlord is having his private forces, private police. With private police every landlord is moving around. The landlord if he goes to his farmland to see how the workers are working there, he moves with his own police, his own gunmen, his own private forces. How in this country it could be permitted ? I have greatest respect for Mr. Bhagawat Jha Azad. He took over as Chief Minister of Bihar. Today his face looks ugly with blackened colour, it is a symbolic one. I congratulate the person who did it, and I say that not against Mr. Bhagawat Jha Azad, I say that he has done it on the correct moment to show to the world that the poor people are being exploited and no effective steps could be taken by the Government to see that the interests of the poorer classes are secured. Therefore, what I submit is that this caste system, the system by which the economic situation in this country is now being controlled, unless that is changed, nothing could be done and in that we have to delicately move—I am proud to say that I come from the State of Kerala. Guruvayoor Temple was supposed to allow only entry for the upper castes, no Harijan could get there. This time, now, the Harijans are doing panchavadya there. I am proud of it when a person who was converted from the Harijan community was made a member of the Governing Council of the Guruvayoor Temple. All the Congress people, all the upper classes started shouting against it. Can a non-Hindu become a member of the Board of the Guruvayoor Temple ? Finally, he himself resigned, of course that is for some other reasons by which he did not want to create envy, but I see how these people are still governing the system in the manner in which they control. Therefore these priests can only be condemned and controlled by strong actions.

You give these people, their due share, for what they are entitled to. Treat this as one of the most important economic problems. See that the person who is in charge of the area is responsible for this type of incidents. The administrator, the district magistrate should be given pinpointed responsibility for any of the misdeeds done against Harijans or Adivasis in his area and he should be answerable and accountable to the Government for any atrocities committed on them. Special force should be there. Effective remedial action should be taken.

Women folk of the Harijans and Adivasis are raped. It is nothing new. Every day we see that. Most of the rapes taking place are against Harijans and Adivasi women, exploiting all the social situation against them.

I am very thankful to Mr. Ramoowalia for bringing forward this discussion. But when he brought it, this much was not there. When he brought it, this much of atrocities has not been committed. From that day onwards, till date, we should take into account all these things. Every day this is taking place and would like to say that jointly we should see that these atrocities against the Harijans are stopped by all our efforts.

**SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA** (Shajapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I Thank Shri Ramoowalia for initiating this discussion on atrocities committed on the harijans and also expressing views in favour of harijans and tribals.

Besides, atrocities that are committed on harijans in our society they are dishonoured and massacred. This has become a daily affair. There is nothing new in it. This has been going on for centuries now.

Harijans have always been exploited by the other three classes of the society that is the brahmins, the Vaishyas and the Shatriyas. Brahmin exploits the harijan through intelligence, Vaishya through his pen and the Shatriya through arms. These three classes have always been after the harijans and the tribals. How can they

get respite from these classes? These classes want to make the harijans and tribals their slaves.

Every day we read in the newspaper about the atrocities committed on the Harijans. Now seven parties have come together. Among them except one or two, all other parties are of feudalistic tendency. These parties are not organising themselves against the Congress or the Government, but against the harijans and tribals, if these parties get united, it will be impossible for the harijans and tribals to live in this country. They will be exploited to the maximum.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, harijans and tribals are afraid of these seven parties. They are thinking that if Congress is thrown out of power what will happen to them. If these parties from the Government, it will be impossible for the harijans and tribals to live here. People who commit atrocities on the harijans and massacre them belong to these parties. So harijans and tribals are afraid of these parties. These parties are not getting united against the Congress. Why these atrocities are committed on harijans or tribals. This is because the harijans and tribals support the Congress. They are associated with Congress because Congress helps the harijans, provides them security and works for their upliftment. That is why harijans vote for Congress only. Due to this, atrocities are committed on them. Harijans are the main spirit behind the Congress. They are tolerating all these atrocities, and are still with Congress, because Congress has a soft corner for them. Today we can find this everywhere. Here also we saw that when harijan leaders as well as other leaders of Congress spoke, the latter had more sympathy for the harijans.

So, on one side there are Congress leaders and on the other, there are those who commit atrocities on the harijans. If such people get organised and form a party, then there will be more massacres. I would like to submit to the hon. Prime Minister that such parties which commit atrocities on the harijans should be banned. What happened in Nathdwara? One



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of these opposition parties supported those people who were against the entering of harijans in the temple. This is their mentality. These are their narrow considerations. They are against the harijans. On one hand they want the welfare of harijans and on the other, they work against them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is matter of deep regret that this curse of untouchability which is to be found nowhere in the world is prevalent only in India. Nowhere in the world, except India, untouchability is practised. This is a blot on the face of our country. The Hindu Society is responsible for this blot because untouchability is being practised only in India and narrow minded people live here. How we can claim that Indians are broad minded because this is the handi work of parochial people. We will have to remove this blot. Unless and until we remove this blot we will continue to face many problems.

I am not being parochial when I say that every country of the world is governed by the Government of its majority community. Europe is governed by the christians and Arab countries by the Muslims. Similarly, in India, the majority community is Hindu and they govern the country. But we will have to take care of the communal organisations. If the attitude of the Hindu community remains unchanged and the four Dharam Gurus do not mend their ways, the day is not far when Hindus will be in minority. Today, in the whole country large scale conversion is taking place in the country particularly in the States of Nagaland, Tripura and Madhya Pradesh. At certain places population of Hindus has gone down by 80 per cent and our religious heads are witnessing it silently. Harijans and Adivasis are adopting christianity because they are giving them all sorts of facilities whereas the Hindus commit atrocities on them. If such a situation continues, Hindus will become the minority community one day and they will require reservation.

14.00 hrs.

Today, people talk about humanism but do not practise it in reality. Some people wear the saffron clothes and others wear clothes of some other colour and talk about humanism but they have no regard for their fellow brothers. The people believing in humanism worship man. These types of things cannot be the symbol of Hindu religion. If somebody sticks to a particular religion, he will only pursue his own religion. If the atrocities or massacres on Harijans is to be stopped, all the communal parties will have to be banned otherwise it will not be possible for Harijans to survive. Today their women and daughters are dishonoured and other atrocities are being committed on them. If any Harijan or Adivasi dares to grow the lion type moustaches (one of the three types of moustaches viz, the curzon type, lion type or the goat type) the feudal lords beat him and get his moustaches shaved off. Such types of atrocities are being committed on them. The women in the village cannot pass in front of the Landlord with sleepers in their feet. Nowhere the Harijans are allowed to survive peacefully. The Harijans should be protected as soon as possible. Congress has brought the Harijans forward. Due to the efforts of Congress Party some Harijan boys have got education and have made progress. Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI MOTILAL SINGH (Sidhi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after 41 years of Indian Independence the House is still discussing about the plight of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is a matter of distress for this House that their economic condition could not be improved till today. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are being exploited economically, socially, educationally and politically in our country.

14.03 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN in the Chair]

So long as they are subjected to exploitation their development in these four



areas is not possible whether they belong to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh. Their plight is same everywhere. The boys belonging to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes are not able to get good education and hence they are not making any progress. Even after getting education they have to face many obstacles in getting jobs be it the lower post or the higher post or the matter of promotion. They are disqualified. This is for the Government to see. Unless Government officers are made responsible, their development is not possible. The Harijans are brutally murdered every day. The Government should see why they are murdered and exploited socially. They are being exploited even today and they will always be exploited. The Constitutional rights are of no use to them. No doubt, laws are there but who is responsible for their implementation. Government is responsible for the implementation of these laws. Unless you make efforts to control these atrocities, entrust responsibility to some one for the implementation of the laws, there will be no use making laws and schemes because these are not implemented. The Central Government formulates several programmes such as I.R.D.P. for their development and allots funds which is given to them through the State Governments. But actually they do not get this Money. The Money which is sanctioned for constructing dams etc. goes directly into the pockets of landlords and feudals and they misuse this amount. The officer, entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring the funds does not ensure it properly and thus shirks his responsibility. The Governments should ensure whether the officer deputed for these works has done his work properly and if he has not done so he may be dismissed from the service. Unless you make such an arrangement, there will be no use discussing it in the House. Under the Land Ceiling Act, Government have distributed land to the poor people, but it is on paper only. The fact is that they have not got possession of land. If somebody tries to get the possession of land, he is shot dead. As far as wages are concerned, after working for full day, they do not even get enough to make their both ends meet. Who should be held responsible if such things are allowed to continue even after so many years of Independence. The

persons who have exploited the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes and the people belonging to upper castes of the society are responsible for this. If Government really wants their development it will have to think about raising their political, educational, social and economic standard. If they do not progress then what is the use of making all these schemes and doing propaganda. Efforts are being made by the Government to provide all sorts of facilities to them, but the fact is that all these facilities are not reaching them. Therefore, unless somebody is made responsible for this it will not serve any purpose. They are exploited politically also. If the provision for reservation had not been made, they could not even get elected as a member of the Village Panchayat. If there had been no provision for reservation, we, the S.C. and S.T. MPs, sitting in this House would not have come here. But how long will the provision of reservation continue? It is required to be fully implemented. Even after 40-42 years of Independence their plight has not been ameliorated. Therefore, the Schemes made for their development should be implemented properly. Whenever a projects, is set up, be it a coal project or a Thermal Power Project the land of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is acquired at the first instance. It becomes the responsibility of the administration to allot them land once they are displaced and pay proper compensation, to them but this is not being done. They are not heard even in the Courts. This is the responsibility of the Government and the administration to see that such things do not happen. If these things continue to happen, the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is not possible. The Constitution guarantees rights to them but it is not being followed accordingly. The candidates of every political party-whether he belongs to the ruling or opposition party-tries to allure them in one way or the other to seek their votes. All of them make efforts to divide them. There is the need to take care of all these things so that there is no obstacle in the path of their development; Government gives money for installing pumps and digging wells but actually it does not reach them. Where does it go? This is for the Government to see. Loans

[Shri Motilal Singh]

are drawn in their names but their wells are not sunk and lands of other people are irrigated. Unless special attention is paid towards their schemes, they will not get any benefit on social level. They are neither getting the benefits of educational institutions nor are being benefitted politically. Where shall the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this country go? All of us will have to think about this. On the one hand we claim ourselves to be secular and talk about entering the 21st century but on the other atrocities are being committed on Harijans. 11 Harijans were massacred 4-6 days back in Bihar. Is it not an atrocity? The murderers must have been none other than the landlords and the feudals of the same village. After this incident, it becomes the duty of the Government to take stringent action against the people responsible for it. I would like to submit that some people in Harijans/Adivasi predominated areas of this country should be granted gun licences in the same way as are granted to other persons. Some people keep gun without a licence. You may possibly say that this will increase the class conflict. But I am of the firm view that this will not happen. If a proper equilibrium is maintained between both sides there will be no class conflict at all and no one would make attempts on the life of other. With these words, I thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Thank you for your indulgence in giving me an opportunity to speak on this subject, Mr. Chairman. About the big incidents which have hit the national press and have created a lot of tension, many of my Hon. Co-leagues have already referred and I am not going into them since they have already been referred to here by my Party as well.

I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a place where I myself very often go, that is in the State of Bihar, in the District of Singhbhum near Chakradharpur. This is a scheduled tribe belt. I have a friend called Ms. Laro Janko, an Adivasi trade union leader who has

made a mark by fighting for the workers there against the interests of various mineral companies of which there are very big companies also. They have very big goonda gangs.

On the 17th of July, Laro Janko's brother, Bijoy Janko was murdered in front of his wife and his eldest daughter. After this murder, Bijoy Janko's wife, Nitima walked 18 kms. to the Chakradharpur police station. She reached there at 2 a.m. at night on the 18th and asked the police to accompany her so that they can take charge of the dead body. A few policemen came along with her upto half way and then they said that they were going back and tomorrow they shall come with a big gang.

Well, tomorrow came. But neither a big gang nor even a single fly from the police station came to take charge of Bijoy Janko's body. This body was removed by the murderers. This is not first case in this police station. This is why I am raising this point of how the Scheduled Tribe people are being treated there.

Laro Janko herself was assaulted while she was inside the Labour Commissioner's office by the same goondas of the same mineral company proprietors. When her father and brother went to complain, it was they who were put in jail for a whole month. When her mother and sister went, they were also jailed for three days. Neither the police investigated, nor they arrested anybody who actually assaulted Laro Janko in front of the Labour Commissioner, nor did they take any other step.

This is the same gang of people who had assaulted Laro Janko, actually killed Bijoy Janko. But uptill now nothing has been done. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Home Affairs. The Minister may please lend his ears. This is a very serious question. I also draw the kind attention of the Minister of State for Welfare. It is a very serious question. Despite Mr. Indrajit Gupta's sending a telegram and the mineral workers' union making a representation that this case be investigated and the police posted at this

village and that the senior officers from Patna take up investigation and the victims should get relief till today nothing has happened. This is not the only instance. Under this very police station on 3rd July one Mr. Buran Singh Angaria was murdered at Gandamava Village. Though FIR was lodged police neither came nor investigated or arrested anybody. Then on 25th December, 1987 under the same police station an adivasi women called Nandi Chaki of village Hijia was gang raped by 10 persons and done to death. This case was also brought to the notice of the Chakradharpur police station but no action has been taken. Nothing has happened so far. This is what is happening under Chakradharpur police station. I am giving these concrete cases and drawing the attention of the Minister of State for Home Affairs. It is not for nothing that the entire belt of Chhotanagpur scheduled tribes are up in arms. This is the kind of treatment they are getting from the police. Since the police comes under the State Administration it is the Bihar Government which is responsible for this. When even after six months no action has been taken then what do you expect to happen in the minds of those adivasis and how would they react. So it is not fortuitous today that in the vast territory of land our harijans and adivasis are feeling that they are not being backed up. There are no land reforms. There are no minimum wages and protection of workers' rights. Then there is obscurantism used against them and the top administrative machinery is behaving in such a way that police force know that they can go scot free. If this is the situation then imagine why there should not be a big upheaval there. So it is a situation of economic exploitation. It is a problem of obscurantism and economic offenders are taking advantage of obscurantism. It is a problem of State machinery being indifferent to them. It is a problem for all the parties who are in power either at the Centre or in the States that if they do not see the writing on the wall then thing in our country will go from bad to worse for which none of us bargained on 15th August, 1947.

I can congratulate myself for coming from a State of West Bengal. It is not just because Leftist government is there,

West Bengal has a tradition of Ram Mohan Roy, Vivekananda, left Congressmen, Leftists, Communist movements and also big movement for land reforms and finally the Left Front government. That is why today in that State we hardly ever find any such case. So, please understand that. Try to learn from that. Incidentally, I urge upon you to take some concrete steps against the personnel of the Chakradharpur police station about which I have given you certain facts.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, yesterday honourable Prime Minister while addressing to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort expressed his deep concern and grief over the Jehanabad incident which was expressive of the feelings of the whole nation, the feelings of the general public. Indeed whatever is happening in Jehanabad of Bihar is a matter of great shame for the entire nation. All of us to whatever caste, religion and party we may belong, should feel ourselves basically responsible for the incidents taking place in Jehanabad.

Even after 40 years of independence we have not been able to create such conditions in our country in which a person of any caste and creed may live with honour and pride. There cannot be any other thing of greater sorrow than the situation when a person, though given all those fundamental rights under the constitution which are admissible to the people of higher castes, is treated inferior just on the basis of his caste. Therefore, we need go deep into the root cause of this problem.

I have been stressing this point as we have not brought in any politics in it and if we also try to bring politics in it like our friends in the opposition, that won't be a good thing. If they try to bring politics in it, we will also counter it as a political issue. What is basically required is that we rise above party politics while discussing such issues because levelling of allegations and counter allegations would automatically give it a political colour.

[Shri Harish Rawat]

Today the question is not only that of the Harijans because they are being murdered. But if such incidents continue to occur, we won't be able to exist as a nation or a democratic entity.

If the people of such a big community called 'Harijans' continue to be murdered and we do not come to their protection, the people of other countries of the whole world won't come forward to give them protection, and such a situation will certainly shake their faith in the institution of democracy. Once the faith of the poor in democracy is shaken, it will pose a threat to the institution of democracy and no power can save it from its doom. If you think that only the Government can protect them, it is only an illusion.

Sometimes we see the things from a particular angle of votes and our own conveniences. But the fact is that the root cause of this problem lies in our caste-system and we have not been able to fight it out as openly as it was required. Unless and until the people who have permeated this caste system, are put behind the bars, our country cannot be redeemed.

It is a matter of great regret that a Shankaracharya, who claims to be the spokesman or the representative of a particular religion, should openly declare that Harijans should not be allowed to enter temples and on the other hand the Government tries to get entry for a group of Harijans to the temples, what can be more shameful than this situation even after so many years of independence. We are very much aggrieved to think of the impression people will gather abroad about our country when such incidents are cited there.

I would like to make an appeal that the Government should come out openly against this caste system and it should put a ban on all such religious books which propagate and support the caste-system. As it is in the case of Punjab, the people indulge in politics in the name of religion it should be banned because such people are an imminent threat to the law and

order situation in Punjab. Similarly the persons who treat the people of a particular caste inferior to others just on the basis of his caste, are no less a menace. We can solve the problem of Punjab by improving the law and order machinery and by changing our political strategy but until and unless we strike at the very root of this caste system, we won't be able to remedy the situation. Nothing can be more shameful than the fact that in this country of Lord Rama, Mahatma Buddha and Gandhiji such incidents frequently recur and Harijans are massacred or burnt one in the same area of the village and atrocities are committed on their womenfolk.

Recently the honourable Home Minister had visited Bihar on the directions of the Prime Minister. He will certainly come out with some action plan before the Parliament to check the recurrence of such incidents in Bihar which we considered in various fields a leading state and whose people made great sacrifices for the freedom of their country. We should also be told as to what action the State Government of Bihar and its Chief Minister are going to take or propose to take to check such incidents and how the Central Government is going to contribute in their efforts.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, for all such incidents, people having their vested interests in our villages are mainly responsible and I would like to stress that unless and until our Harijan brothers get landownership rights and become financially self-sufficient, these atrocities will continue in spite of the law already enacted against this menace. In order to root out this evil and to improve their financial position it imperative that all out efforts on social as well as on economic fronts are made so that they could be made economically strong and the persons planning to assault them may be afraid of the retaliation they could have from them. I want to tell you that even the law doesn't help a poor Harijan. Instead, it comes to the rescue of the stronger of the Harijans. Hence the existing law requires reconsideration. For Harijans, land may be the one source of income and the employment may be the

second one but as regards the quota reserved for them in services, many State Governments have not been able to implement it. It is not being adhered to. This should also be looked into.

Besides this, there are some sections of Harijans who are still living at the lowest rung below the poverty line. The Government should give them maximum financial assistance. If there is any such fund with the Welfare Ministry, it should be made use of to help these poor directly whether it is in the form of pension or otherwise. On the analogy of the widows, the handicapped and the old persons who are granted pensions by the Government, these people also may be granted pension. If we succeed in making the harijans financially self-sufficient and also the Government is capable of taking certain measures for them, we will be able to check the incidents of atrocities to a great extent.

With these words I request you to consider my suggestions and the suggestion given by my friends in the ruling party and those in the opposition. Finally, I would urge upon the Government to take such legislative measure as to stop the recurrence of such incidents and their exploitation in future on the basis of caste and religion. They should also not be looked upon with a scorn. While framing laws to that effect, Government should take the Parliament into confidence.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been discussing the issue of atrocities committed on Harijan and Adivasis very often. It is a sorry state of affairs. Mahatma Gandhi had also been referring to untouchability and discussing it in detail. He had said that there is no difference between one man and the other. The name of 'Harijan' was given by Respected Bapuji. Such a sacred name could come from respected Bapuji only.

Shri Ramswaroop Ram has correctly said that sometimes Harijans are barred from entry in Nathdwara Temple, sometimes declarations are made that Harijans

cannot enter into Badrihath Temple and Shankaracharya of Puri supports this view. It is a matter of great regret.

I request the hon. Members of this August House that we should take a pledge that the temples in which Harijana and girjans are not allowed to enter, will also not be visited by us. If we the members of this August House take such sacred pledge, I firmly believe that not only Shankaracharya and his supporters but God himself will have to agree with us and He will come himself to give us 'Darshan'. I take a pledge and request all other members of this August House to take pledge not to visit a temple which is barred to Harijans as per saying, "Man Change to Kathoti mein Ganga."

As it is well known that Bhakat Narsi Mahta left his house and did meditation alongwith Harijans and showed a new way to reach God. He had renounced all worldly things and all his problems were solved by God. This Narsi Mahta of our Cujarat belonged to entire India. One couplet written by him used to be recited by even Gandhiji, "Vaishnav Jan to Tene Kahiaya, Je Pir Parai Jane Re." This is his devotional song. If we work with devotion and faith, 5000 years old problem will also be solved. If we shall work unitedly and do not give political colour to any problem, it will be solved. The opposition by giving political colour, are trying to grind their own axe but it will not be possible for them to succeed, on the other hand the country will go to dogs. When Harijan leader Shri Jagjivan Ram had a chance of becoming Prime Minister in 1977 what had the opposition done? Why he was not made the Prime Minister? At that time, the opposition did not play any positive role but the time has come now when we should work unitedly. I feel that the sole aim of incidents which are being occurred in our country is to create instability. Some-time muslim leaders are incited in the name of religion, Harijans are massacred and an incident of breaking an idol has also occurred in my border area Kutch. There is no discrimination among Hindus, Muslims and Harijans but conspiracy is being hatched to create disturbance there also. Our Home Minister and Social Welfare

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

Minister are sitting here. I want to say that whenever conspiracies are hatched whether in border areas or somewhere else in the country, there is a strong need to be vigilant. Whenever a Chief Minister or the Prime Minister does some good work, something is created to incite the public. What has happened yesterday? An M. L. A. was killed on 15th August. The Chariot procession was taken out nicely, nothing untoward happened but efforts are being made to make the Government unstable. When the Prime Minister of our country did commendable job in Sri Lanka, efforts were made to murder him and the entire good work was upturned. When good work was done in Punjab, Longowalji was assassinated.

I only pray to God to bless one and all. We should take such a pledge that Sikh, Christians, Girijans and Harijans are all Indian. If Shankaracharya says something to its contrary, the Members of Parliament should resolve that they will not visit temples.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am taking part in this discussion today with deep anguish. Even after 40 years of independence we have to listen to such things that Harijans, Adivasis, minorities, weaker sections are passing through such ordeal in our country which makes us to hang our head in shame.

The matter which is being discussed today in this House is related to the atrocities committed on Harijans in Bihar. Very strange situation has developed in some States which include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, some parts of West Bengal and Orissa. Some parts of these States have been affected, some terrorist elements are operating in the name of leftists there. They pose in a way as if they are well wishers of the poor, as if they are struggling against the exploitation. But the experience gained by us reveals that it is a very repulsive, ugly and savage type of campaign. All the decencies of humanity have been ignored. It pains a lot to see such repulsive incidents. It appears that it is not an idea-

listic campaign but it is an exploitation of the poor on large scale. No doubt, many steps have taken by the Central Government and the State Government, but there is some lacunae in their implementation and still much has to be done with regard to land reform, minimum wages and bonded labour as well. All these things are quite essential. There has definitely been some progress in that direction but not to the desired extent. It is wrong to say that nothing has been done. There have been significant development in rural areas during the last 40 years which has mostly benefited neglected sections of the society. The work is being done under our 20 point programme and component plan. Work is also being done under tribal sub-plan. These are such plans which directly benefit the poor, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes. This money cannot be directed for other purposes. There has been great upliftment, development and expansion of education. Education has reached inaccessible parts of India and much work has been done there. Of course there is a need to do lot more.

SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN : What has happened in Jahanabad.

S. BUTA SINGH : At the very outset I mentioned this thing but a very ugly type of blot exists in our society that people belonging to scheduled tribes and scheduled castes fall victims to such incidents in which they are butchered in a way which is worse than that of animals. I had just mentioned Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. According to the information available, with us violence has increased there by 23 per cent in 1988 vis-a-vis 1987. It may be observed that there had been 245 incidents in Andhra Pradesh and 87 incidents in Bihar. Violence has increased by 93 per cent in 1988. Combining the both. This is the position with regard to these two States.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This is the figure for Harijans.



S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, use of violence among the tribals in that region. This is the Report which I have got.

[Translation]

It reveals that the victims of leftists and terrorists belong especially to two states viz Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. For sometime, good atmosphere prevailed in Bihar but then horrible incidents occurred one after the other in a very short period. When the incident happened in Jahanabad district, the Prime Minister called the Chief Minister immediately who was in Delhi at that time. He was immediately instructed to go back to make arrangements so as to console the people and to apprehend the culprits to give them deterrent punishment. The next day, I along with my colleagues, hon. Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, the Deputy Minister hon. Shri Baitha and several hon. Members of this House as well as the other House visited the site and met the affected people. It is unfortunate that this is the second incident to have occurred under the jurisdiction of that police station and in which 5 houses were plundered and 4 women were molested. And specially on the night of 11th and 12th the Harjans were attacked in Dumuh village and Khagri tola and a number of them were killed. As per the details received regarding this incident, it seems that these elements have become a sort of challenge for the local administration and in fact, they were openly challenging the administration while those incidents were taking place. It means that these gangs are operating in some particular areas only. Subsequently, we held a meeting with the top officials of the State Government in which the Chief Minister and other Ministers also participated. We have come to know that the areas where militant gangs, armed gangs and criminals are operating have been identified. The Centre, on the instructions of the Prime Minister has directed the Bihar Government to formulate a time bound programme and an action-plan in this regard. All the resources necessary for this purpose will be provided by the Central Government including the Para-Military Forces, if required. The most notable point which has come to our notice is

that the district administration has very little information in this matter. It means that the extremists have created such an atmosphere of terror that the people are too scared to come forward to provide information. This is even a more dangerous trend. As information does not reach the Police stations, action is not taken. These are some of the facts which we have received from there and measures have to be taken to deal with them. The State Government has been directed to prepare an action plan including building up of a strong intelligence network which is essential for their identification and taking action against them. The State administration was also directed to fix the responsibility. If a police station is responsible for such an incident, it should be made accountable for it and similarly, responsibility should be fixed at the subdivision and district level accordingly. These are some of the measures we have suggested to them. The Central Government has issued similar directions to other States as well. The Chief Minister himself went to the victims accompanied by the Chief Secretary and the D.I.G. of Police and gave maximum on-the-spot assistance. Rs. 20 thousand were given to the next of kin in case of death, and Rs. 500 were given to the injured who are undergoing medical treatment at Government expenses. Similarly, arrangements have been made for the supply of essential commodities including cloth at controlled prices and in case they want to build houses, they will get full assistance from the Government. There are many other steps which the Government has taken but I do not want to go into them.

An incident had occurred at Nonhi village earlier also. That village also falls within the jurisdiction of the same police station. 11 criminals of that incident have been apprehended so far. 7 criminals are absconding. Efforts are being made to catch them. We got their names from the site of the incident. The State Government is taking action on the basis of the information received from there so that the criminals are apprehended. I had myself written a letter to all the States on behalf of the Central Government.



**SHRI HARISH RAWAT :** It is my suggestion that this amount should be increased to Rs. one lakh so that the family of the victim is able to become self-reliant and capable of countering such atrocities in future.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Regarding the suggestions given by the hon. Member. I want to submit that as this matter does not relate to one state alone but is a concern of all the States, so this amount has been fixed after consulting all the States. Government grants additional funds as well. I shall convey your suggestions to the hon. Chief Minister. It was evolved at the all India level to grant this much amount as minimum immediate assistance.. *(Interruptions)* I would request the Chief Minister to extend as much of additional assistance as they want.

**SHRI ATAUR RAHMAN (Barpeta) :** It will be better if the Chief Secretary is not made into the law and order officer. It is not possible for the Chief Secretary to make on-the-spot enquiries. If this is to be done, then you will require not one but thousands of Chief Secretaries. The very basis of your administration will collapse.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** As such, in many of the States, this responsibility is entrusted with the Home Secretaries. Still, your suggestions may be somewhat valid. We shall make efforts to talk it over with the States and fix responsibility in this regard. The Home Commissioner could be made responsible for it. I think this responsibility should be fixed specially on the district magistrate. It should be reflected in his annual confidential report. Only then, effective steps will be taken. I shall try to convey your suggestions to the concerned State Governments... *(Interruptions)*

I was saying that when this trend was noticed in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal, the Union Home Secretary called a meeting of all the Chief Secretaries and Home Secretaries of different States in Delhi.

*[English]*

**SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :** Atrocities on harijans and adivasis.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** But unfortunately they are the victims. Ultimately whether it comes from left adventurism or casteism, the receiving end is the tribals and the Scheduled Castes.

*[Translation]*

Subsequently, I myself talked to the Director General of Police and other officers. Wherever and whatever assistance has been sought from the Central Government, we have not refused and, in fact, I talked to the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** West Bengal is not Andhra Pradesh.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Madam, I am talking about the whole country.

If you want only Bihar, I can talk about Bihar only.

**SHRIMATI GEEJA MUKHERJEE :** In some of the States, I have said due to various traditions, these atrocities are not taking place. It cannot be on par with the other.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Madam, when I started, you were not here. I started with the trend in the society.

*(Interruptions)*

Madam you were not here in the House when I started. I said this has risen and if you want I am sorry I will have to take more time. I can give you the details of the incidents that have taken place. I am not saying anything from my political purposes. I am saying this is the fact of life. In four-five States, this kind of extremism has developed. Your Chief Minister-the Chief Minister of West Bengal-is on with me in fighting out these forces. I do not know why you are objecting there.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We are taking about atrocities on Harijans and Adivasis and not... (*Interruptions*)

S BUTA SINGH : The West Bengal Government was the first to respond to the suggestion made by me. But in Bihar, the dimensions are a little different.

[*Translation*]

When we went to Jahanabad, we discussed this matter with the people and also with their representatives. Thereafter, we discussed it with the State Ministers and the Chief Minister. Following these talks, we reached the decision that Central Government will render full assistance to Bihar Government and it will make efforts to provide full protection to the Harijans in future. We shall have to identify these areas where such incidents are occurring and Police and district administration have to be streamlined in these areas. We cannot say that everything will change overnight. However, if there is a recurrence of any such incident we shall take stern action against the concerned persons. The current situation is not very satisfactory. We are concerned about it and we shall extend full assistance to Bihar Government in tackling it.

SHRI GANGA RAM (Firozabad) : S.C.S.T. Commission has already identified these areas in their report. It will be more appropriate to declare those areas disturbed areas and take necessary action.

S. BUTA SINGH : We are thinking somewhat ahead of what you have submitted. Apart from the I.P.C., we shall take steps under residual laws if necessary. It is of no use to elaborate on it at present.

The Centre has asked the Bihar Government for a time-bound action Programme so that identified villages or areas and identified gangs could be sternly dealt with. Details of the Programme will be received in a day or two and immediate action will be taken. I want to convey the Government's seriousness in this matter. Criminals who indulge in

merciless killings of Harijans will be apprehended at all costs.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrui) : When the hon. Minister visited Jahanabad, what did the Bihar Government specifically ask for from the Centre ?

S. BUTA SINGH : The Bihar Government asked for para-military forces only. As I said earlier—the hon. Member was not present in the House at that time sending forces alone will not solve the problem. The entire local system has to be geared-up. A situation, in which no action is taken even when weapons are snatched from the police in the vicinity of the police station calls for an overhaul of the system. For this purpose, the Centre asked the Bihar Government to submit a plan for approval. The hon. Member has watched the developments in Punjab from close quarters. Ordinary police cannot handle this situation. A special force is needed for this purpose. The Government will consider ways to liquidate the 2-4 gangs which have been identified.

[*English*]

14.54 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH  
*in the Chair*]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi) : The hon. Home Minister, while intervening, mentioned that nobody was coming forward to give any information. From this, I derive the conclusion that, actually, the downtrodden people are under the grip of terror there, and that there is no sense of security. Our first and foremost duty is to bring a sense of security in the minds of the downtrodden, the Harijans and the Adivasis there.

On the 19th August, i.e. yesterday, the Prime Minister himself has used this word with regard to the Jehanabad incident, viz. that this is a blot on the face of the nation, and we hang our heads in shame.

[Shri Jagannath Pattnaik]

That is the feeling of any general man who is a believer of human dignity, who is a believer of democracy and socialism because democracy and socialism and human value cannot progress, cannot exist with this type of inhuman and shameful existence and economic and social inequalities.

It is the belief of many persons that with the growth of industrialisation, with the growth of mass literacy and with the growth of urbanisation, gradually the caste system evaporates. But, unfortunately, the hon. Minister himself has admitted it and the statistics of the Fifth Report of the Government of India also shows that it is true. The comparison is like this. The number of atrocities on Harijans was 13,976 in 1979; it increased to 14,834 in 1983; the growth is 6.4 per cent. The number of atrocities on Adivasis was 2,134 in 1979; it just increased to double the figure in 1983. Taking the analysis for the whole country, I am not going into the figure and into the names of the States because I have no time. But for the purpose of general inference, I conclude like this. Where the land reform is not implemented properly, where there is a feudal culture, where there is economic exploitation, the number of atrocities is more. This is a general conclusion that I draw taking all the Reports into account.

Secondly, we know that SC&ST are mostly agricultural labourers, and tenants also. So, the crux of the problem is that when they demand their basic rights, when they demand their minimum wages, there is a confrontation because the land-lords do not want to give them their minimum wages. When they demand social justice or any other justice, it means that they are deprived of their legal rights, because they are not getting their minimum wages, they are not getting their legal rights, they are not getting their share from the crops. Actually, this is the position where this confrontation comes in and these atrocities take place. Here I will differ with my friend Mr. Yadav because he told that atrocities are not only being committed on Harijans but Harijans are also

committing atrocities on other castes. But, here, that is not the basic philosophy; that is not the spirit in which we are discussing these things here. Should we not go back to the historical and proletarian revolution of 3000 years of this country? Is there any other caste which looks down upon a caste because that caste belongs to a particular caste? Is there any other caste which prohibits a particular caste from entering into a temple? Is there any caste where 300 people are killed on psychological basis because the people of the other castes are in thousands? There is no question of physical fitness or something like that.

In the Constituent Assembly, taking all the aspects into view, the learned Members, in order to save the prestige of the country, in order to give minimum basic human dignity, gave some constitutional protection to these people, not for nothing, but because they were socially exploited for long. Then it was further amended in 1951; that was the first amendment. It reads as follows:

"Nothing in the Article 29, Clause 2, shall prevent the State from making any special provision for the advancement of any socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the SC&ST."

Then Pandit Nehru said in 1954 in the Congress Parliamentary Party meeting as follows: I am not quoting the entire quotation because there was no time; I am quoting only the last sentence.

"If we don't equalise, undoubtedly casteism will flourish in a most dangerous way."

Now, I am quoting one sentence from the judgement of the Supreme Court given by Mr. Justice Gajendragadkar. There is no question of economic exploitation. I will mention that there is no economic justice at all. It is the main

road for justice, but the actual way is the social way.

15.00 hrs.

Mr. Justice Gajendragadkar, ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of India, in a judgment had said :

"Class according to the dictionary meaning shows the division of society according to status or rank. In the Hindu social structure 'caste' unfortunately has an important bearing determining the status of the citizen."

This is the class character of the social expression. That is why the basic question of economic and social backwardness of the downtrodden and especially the Adivasis and Harijans this is not looked into anywhere. But we could not ignore all those things. Anywhere if there are killings of any caste, anywhere, that is inhuman. Even if a guilty person or a murderer is charged without a trial, that is also illegal. That is the crux of the problem here. That is not what we are discussing. Even today also Shri Sankaracharya of Puri had said something. Actually, there can be no religion which distinguishes man from man. The Hon. Speaker also said it on the other day. But Shri Sankaracharya till today had been advocating something else.

Shrimati Meira Kumar on the other day, emotionally but logically said that it was only due to the Hindu society that some Harijans were converted into Islam, and due to the upper class exploitation towards them and they had to take drinking water from some other source and also had to go to some other area to do their *Namaz*. The Harijans were forcibly converted because of the reaction to the exploitation by the upper class Hindus. Shrimati Meira Kumar rightly said that this was not the problem of the caste Hindus only, but definitely due to the conservative and fundamentalist class and conversion of Hindus those who were advocating their cause. I must say that this is the problem of the whole Indian society.

Shri Buta Singh was mentioning about some stringent action to be taken. There was a special law to give protection to Harijans in the ancient Hindu society. Many laws, many amendments and many provisions are there but the problem is they are not being implemented properly. Secondly, the persons who are in charge of implementing them, whether they are economic reforms or land reforms, or law and order situation, they are having such a class character, their education is such that they themselves have an unfriendly attitude and outlook towards the Harijans. That is why despite the legal provisions they are not getting proper justice.

When we, the politicians, come across some administrative matters, the officers say, that the politicians are interfering. True, day to administrative affairs, let the Collector and the SP, let them manage and maintain the law and order in the district. But if they utterly fail in protecting the rights of the Harijans, is it not our right to take action and to see that they are least suspended? Are they not accountable for it?

I was hoping that the Home Minister, will come forward with a statement and say that he was going to take some action against some of the top officers those who are in charge of law and order. But I was really sorry not to find any such thing in the hon. Minister's statement. I hope that in the future the Home Minister will give a categorical assurance to the House about this. Our Prime Minister has expressed his anguish on behalf of the whole nation. We do hope that in order to create a sense of security and confidence some strong measures will be taken so that the Harijans those who are in the grip of fear some vested interests will get a sense of security in their minds.

I suggest that some strong action should be taken, that special courts should be set up for this and the guilty should be punished so that the persons who are guilty do not go scotfree. They say,

[Translation]

"What harm can they do to us?"

[Shri Jagannath Pattnaik]

[English]

This type of feeling should not be there, and they should not be allowed to commit the crime and get away.

Sir, I agree with Shri Ramswaroop Ram hundred per cent that there should be punitive tax on those people who reside in those areas, who have no human courage to come and protest when a poor girl or a woman is being raped. All of them should be found guilty of this immoral act so that they also realise that they have a sense of citizenship and a responsibility towards the society. This also should be borne in mind.

In Military, Driver training and other technical works, more and more reservation should be given to these people.

Finally I would like to say that we all should be ashamed of an incident in Jehanabad and the Government should come forward with the most stringent action in the form of a legislation and its execution, so that the down-trodden people, the sons of the soil will have a sense of security. Otherwise, our democracy, socialism, our achievements and observance of 40th year of independence will not be of any consequence.

[Translation]

CH. SUNDER SINGH(Phulaur) :Mr. Chairman Sir, standing here in the House, I would like to urge the Government, through hon. Shri S. Buta Singh, to pay a compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs to the next-of-kin of a Harijan who is killed. Hon. Members make a lot of noise when Harijans are killed, asking the world at large for sympathy. But who really sympathises over a Harijans's death? Certainly not everybody in the world.

In Punjab and Haryana, I got Land allotted to Harijans after talking to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Harijans are such that they are content even if they receive Rs. 500 out of the Rs. 1000 they are entitled to from the Government. This is the plight of Harijans in our country. Where-

ver Harijans are killed the Congress (I) M. L. A. of that area should be held responsible. It is their carelessness which allows these crimes to continue.

In my constituency, besides myself these were two Jat Harijan candidates in the electoral Jay. I defeated both of them and won the election. I told the voters that they should vote for me if they wanted to see my rivals defeated. The tendency of both the rival candidates to fight with Harijans left a bad impression on the people over there.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had once told me that if I stopped opposing him he would make me full-fledged Minister in his Cabinet. But I did not agree. I told him that if he did not want me to oppose him he should allot land the tillers. Pandit ji acceded to my request and allotted land to landless people of Haryana and Punjab. Today these people fight among themselves and kill Harijans. When a Harijan is killed, his family should be paid a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh and not Rs. 20,000. This will help in checking atrocities on them.

In most of the States, Congress (I) is in majority. The masses have voted for it in order to get benefits, not for perpetration of atrocities on Harijans. The Congress (I) being in power, it should hold its local M.L.A. responsible for Harijan killings in a particular area. The family of every Harijan killed should be paid Rs. 2 lakh as compensation. Landlords in villages are responsible for these incidents. The class which has been oppressed for centuries needs to be uplifted.

When I was not a Member of Parliament, I too was denied entry into temples & gurudwaras. Then I collected a few men belonging to my caste in Hoshiarpur and we all proceeded to the temple. We told the priest that if he did not let us in we would all go to a mosque. The temple priest asked us not to do so.

I urge the Central Government to increase the financial assistance from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakh. The offenders should be severely dealt with.

At the time of elections, politicians woo the poor Harijan voter with tall promises. Later, when these\*\* politicians succeed in achieving their objective, they fail to keep their word.

This is a surprising thing. Whatever is happening in our country is not good. If the Government wants to stop the atrocities on Harijans, it should provide for severe punishment to the perpetrators of these atrocities.

The Land allotted to poor Harijans after my persistent efforts during Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru's time has been cornered by some vested interests. The Land Reforms Act has not been properly implemented. People who own land are given a lot of importance but the Landless are treated with disrespect.

Our Ministers do not do anything worthwhile. They give importance only to those who can benefit them in some way. They make tall claims about their sympathy towards poor Harijans. When it comes to actually working for the welfare of Harijans, they back out. In my constituency also numerous atrocities are committed on Harijans. No\*\* comes to their help. If the compensation amount is increased to Rs. 2 lakhs the Harijans will consider the Government as their benefaction.

In the end I thank you for giving me some time to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Unparliamentary words will not go on record. I will examine and expunge them.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this has been the routine work of the Parliament that in every session we are discussing about the atrocities on Harijans and *Adivasis*. We all must have to find out the reasons for these atrocities that

are going on unabated. Even after half a century of our Independence, these things are going on. That is shameful on the part of the Government and our country. We must be ashamed of the situations of this kind.

We are speaking about the killings but what for these people are killed, we are not thinking about that. The only reason I think is that the condition of these people who are the real workers, who are the builders of India, who are called for whenever some heavy work or manual work is required to be done, who are working very hard everywhere, even in Delhi and in other big cities also, is the lowest in the society. They are neglected in the society—socially, economically, religiously and in every other manner. They are still treated as sub-humans. That is why this kind of atrocities are going on. Now, what is needed to be done? I have very often told this House and the Minister also that these people must have political power. Without political power they cannot stand. That is the only reason why these people are so much neglected and so much harassed by the people who have the political right to govern themselves. We have to see who are the killers—whether they are Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains or of some other religious group, or whether they are Brahmins, Kayasths or of some other caste; as you know, there are so many castes in India. So, that should be identified castewise, religiously and politically also. I ask the Home Minister who are the killers and which party do they belong to. Who are these *Zamindars* and which party do they belong to? Mr. Home Minister knows who are they. *Zamindari pratha* is still going on in Bihar, though long ago it had been abolished. Who are these *Zamindars*? They are the Congress secretaries, presidents and organisers of the area. Can the Party have the guts to expel them from the Party? I do not think so. It is not my party, the RSP, which is involved in these killings. It is not the CPI or CPI (M) people who are involved in these killings. They are the Congress men. Just enquire about it. The Party should see what for the people are following the Party. The Party should protect the rights

\*\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri Piyus Tiraky]

of the individuals to live as human beings. *(Interruptions)*. Let me speak, later on you can have your say... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : Sir, I strongly oppose this *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): It is not proper to criticise another Party. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : I am asking who are these people. *(Interruptions)*.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry I have to react to the hon. Member's remarks. Let him not on the track that he is trying to project in this House. When the whole thing is investigated you will know that the boot will be in the other leg. I am sure let him not take this pious stand here on the party-lines, especially in these districts what has happened, let him not say because it is premature and it is under investigation. I do not want to name anybody or any party. But let me tell you that no political organisation in that area is free from this activity. Somehow or the other, in the name of the so-called left-extremists, some of the progressive parties are also involved in these things, I do not want to name the party. Therefore, I would appeal to the hon. Member not to mention and political party by name because it will be an exercise in futility and also it will jeopardise the investigations. If he is referring to Congress, I am sorry for the purpose of the debate he can refer to this, but I can repudiate all the charges made against the Congress Party, against the Congress office bearers. No Congressman can stay in the party if he indulges in such a kind of activity.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : I am not blaming any party. But we work in political parties. In India so many parties are there. I would request the Home Minister to identify those people and which party they owe allegiance to. That

must be identified. I am saying that because most of the influenced people here in Bihar, I suppose, are the followers of the ruling party. They may not be, but they should be identified because first in the beginning muslims were seeking help for their protection. Religiously they were one group and in this way the religious group is now nowhere to protect its own community members. Now, the political parties are supposed to protect their members. But who are these followers and which party they belong to ? Naturally all the people are supporting either one party or the other party. That must be isolated from the party and from the society itself and if it is so why don't you ask all the parties who are involved whether they are working there, they are having meeting there or finding out what is happening there ? Bihar is the State where casteism is followed vigorously and what kind of policy are, they following ? In Bihar, the Police personnel, the Magistrate, who are in charge of the particular region do not belong to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community. In Bihar, so many educated people belonging to these communities are there. But they have been ruled by others. In West Bengal, one tribal is a Commissioner who is in charge of Jalpaiguri Division. Likewise the people in Chota Nagpur and Santhal Parganas can be protected. Why don't you put the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe persons in Police Service there ? When atrocities are committed there, why don't you deploy a regiment, if not Sikh regiment, Scheduled Caste regiment or Scheduled Tribe regiment ? What prevents you to do it ? If you have a little thinking about giving protection if you make a person belonging to this community a Minister in charge of this subject, the District Magistrate or the Commissioner who can take case of the tribal people and the Scheduled caste people, they can be protected and prevent atrocities perpetrated on them. If you bring in casteism and religion in the administration and divide them, how can you protect the people. Muslims are killed like this and other people are killed in this way because at the entry point itself casteism and religion and class are brought in. If this is not the class organisation and the political party cannot protect its members,



then it is not at all a political party. They are taking shelter under the administration and they are killing the small people, poor people and innocent people. So, it is a very big rot inside and Bihar politics is of casteism and exploitation and zamindari pradhana is still going on there. So, it is not enough just to send a few more military or a few more para-military persons to save these people. Why don't you give arms to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people? When you are giving arms in Bihar to Zamindars and other people, give the arms to them also. No community and no caste can be saved by the police and administration. They can be saved by their own strength and the strength should be given by the Government. And what is the meaning of all this here, Sir? Suppose this Government and the Bihar Government are the well-wisher of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But how many educational institutions they have opened? Some missionaries have opened educational institution. If the missionaries have not gone there, they would have been still naked in that area and would have been exploited. What is the remuneration they are getting? Their priest was arrested, their well has been poisoned and there are so many other atrocities that they cannot go there with their social activities to serve the poor people. This kind of politics is going on there only to threaten these people and suppress their political rights and social rights. (*Interruptions*).

You know the tribal people speak different languages. All the languages of India are foreign to them. They have their own language. And why don't you rightly take the decision to introduce English for their education purpose? Why don't you start it in Chotanagpur and why don't you see that English is the language for their education purpose? If you want to bring them into the mainstream, this is the work you have to do. Now, what is happening? People here say that the missionaries should be driven out because they are doing bad work there. This is the slogan of some parties and interested people. This is the condition. Missionaries are welcomed in Delhi. All

the big people send their children to missionari schools.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No further. The Minister has to reply. Please conclude.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY ; Only one minute, Sir.

They are welcoming missionaries in Delhi and other places because the Ministers will get their children admitted in their schools. If the missionaries go to the tribal areas and jungles, you say that they will exploit these people and they should not be sent there. Then why doesn't this Government say that all the missionaries should be driven out from Bombay and other big cities to go to the jungles? Can you say like that? But if the tribals and scheduled castes people go to the English schools they can be educated properly. And your Government is asking these people to learn the regional language and the Ruling class should learn English so that they can occupy the positions and even come here in Parliament. This is the thing going on. How can you save the poor people, the Scheduled Castes and the Harijans and other backward classes? Your policy is totally wrong. In Bihar the Congress has failed to protect the rights of the tribals and Harijans. They have no business to suppress them. I thank you, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Mr. Chairman grateful to all the Members who have participated in this debate. They have made some very useful suggestions and that results in making all our policies and decisions in future. But let me tell the hon. House that our policy from the very beginning of independence is quite clear and I do not agree with the last speaker that our policy is totally wrong. When we got independence and Congress Government came into power, we adopted the policy which is still continuing. There may be some shortfalls, there may be sometimes, you can say, some atrocities, this and that. But when you evaluate the whole thing how we have made the progress in the last

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40 years, then you will be able to say, it is not only the black side of the picture but there is other side also. I am really pained that every hon. Member who spoke about the atrocities had painted only one sided picture and nobody has said what welfare work has been done, what is our education policy, what is our developmental policy, how we are able to eradicate untouchability and how we are working for the people who are the poorest of the poor so that they can come out of the poverty line. All these things have been forgotten and Members have spoken only of the atrocities

We are committed to protect them. I must say, in the beginning that the Government is totally committed to fully protect and safeguard the interests of the scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to be very categorical on this basic issue. Irrespective of which State in which the offence is committed, the stand of the Central Government in this regard is very clear. We are conscious of the social disparities and economic disparities from which they suffer, which make them vulnerable to exploitation and harm by others. Any atrocity on these weaker sections of our society is not only a matter of shame and anxiety but also a blot on the tradition of *ahimsa* which Gandhiji taught us. So, I want to be very categorical on this point and our Government is committed to this. One of the hon. Members was saying that, at least, you give us protection. For giving protection, Government is committed and nobody should think that Government is not aware of all these things.

As you have all mentioned, only yesterday, when the hon. Prime Minister was speaking from the rampart of Red Fort, he mentioned about Jehanabad incident. That means, the Prime Minister himself and so our Party is very much concerned about this. The Prime Minister has directed us, as hon. Home Minister has said just now, and we all had gone to Jehanabad and we had high level meeting there. We will try that in future such incidents do not take place and are avoided and we take stringent action on such things.

But as things stand today, we should not take only the pessimistic side of the picture but the other side also. We have to try and try again and we must go on these lines, by which the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes can come up from condition which is still prevailing in our country. Though Government has passed P.C.R. Act and under the P.C.R. Act, people are convicted, FIR is lodged whenever there are atrocities in all the States but still there are acquittal also. We have to see what are the causes of these atrocities, why these things continuing and why Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes are subject to such atrocities. As some hon. Members said there are some historical, social and economic reasons and to remove these, Government is trying to bring about their economic development and to educate them, so that they come out of their social backwardness and at the same time, we have to see that these people who are the working class, agriculturists and landless labour, get proper employment and they are engaged in their jobs.

One point is mentioned again and again that the people in Bihar and elsewhere, specially in Bihar, are not getting the minimum wage at all and it is not implemented properly and that there should be minimum wage and when Scheduled Caste labour ask for minimum wage, the higher caste landlords or agriculturists, the big farmers, beat them or put all sorts of atrocities on them. The Minimum Wages Act is more or less applicable in all the States.

In Bihar, Rs. 10/- is fixed as minimum wage for agricultural and landless labour.

In UP, Rs. 11.50 to Rs. 12.50.

In Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 11/-.

In Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 11/-.

In Karnataka, Rs. 9.50 to Rs. 11.50.

In Kerala, Rs. 12 to Rs. 50

In Punjab, Rs. 18 to Rs. 48.

In Haryana Rs. 16/- to Rs. 25 plus food and Rs. 20.80 without food.

In West Bengal, Rs. 16.34.

That is the minimum wage fixed for the landless labourers, in these States.

Minimum wage is fixed and States are trying to implement it. But it may be, I do not rule out, that in some places these labourers are not given the proper wage and that may be one of the causes. This discussion started with the Jehanabad incident. In Jehanabad, while we were discussing about the June incident, last Thursday night perhaps, again second incident took place and it is the concern of all and we had gone there to visit that village where atrocities were committed. One of the causes of the immediate murder and looting and all these things was, we were told, that somebody wanted to have illegal bhatti. They make this Desi sharab bhatti in those villages. There were only four houses in that place where the bhatti is situated. These Scheduled Caste families objected to that. Because they objected to that, last year that bhatti was demolished. But those persons who were having that or running that bhatti were very angry with those families. They went there, then they murdered, looted their belongings and all types of atrocities were committed.

Sir, there are gangs operating in some of the blocks in Bihar. As the hon. Home Minister has stated, these gangs are abetted by political extremists groups and these are the extremist groups which have got affiliation with some of the political parties. As the investigation is going on, I will not name the political party. But it is because of the political support and political support of these leaders of that area, these types of things are going on. It is not that the Scheduled Caste people in Jehanabad were tortured only because they were Scheduled Caste people.

SHRI HET RAM (Sirsa). Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is your point of order?

SHRI HET RAM : The atrocities on

Harljans have been there prior to the existence of red parties...

MR CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Please tell me if any rule has been infringed.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Sir, I have not named any political party.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You wanted clarification. This is not a point of order. Please wait. I will give you a chance after the Minister's reply is over.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Sir, some of the hon. Members have raised certain points, I would like to give some information about those points. One thing is that Shri Tulsī Ram, Smt. Bibha Ghosh Goswami, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh and Shri Kammodilal Jatav had all referred to the need for the speedy implementation of land reforms specially in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. They said that the issue is regarding land and that is one of the main causes for the atrocities. As you know Sir, it was Smt. Indira Gandhi who had started this land reform and during her time it was implemented by all the States. I agree that in all the States, the land reform is not very satisfactory. But at the same time, I will say that the States have tried to do it. In Bihar and Uttar Pradesh they still need speedy implementation. But it is not true that no action is being taken in the distribution of ceiling surplus lands to Scheduled Caste people. I will give some figures in this regard.

In Bihar, till the end of 1987-88, 1,50, 727 acres of ceiling surplus land was distributed. Out of this 78,312 acres were distributed to Scheduled Caste people which is over 50 per cent of the total land distributed. The number of Scheduled Caste families covered was 98,282. During 1988-89 we have a scheme-13,845 acres of surplus land allotted to Scheduled Caste families is proposed to be developed at a cost of Rs. 130.45 lakhs. We have distributed the land not only in Uttar

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Pradesh but at the same time in Bihar also. In Bihar, we are trying to develop those lands which have been distributed to Scheduled Caste people there. The poor people are facing all those problems. Atrocities are committed in some blocks & in some districts. It is not that in all the districts, there are cases of atrocities. In the Magadh area of Bihar there are some districts like Bhojpur, Nalanda and some parts of Jehanabad which are affected. Jehanabad is altogether a new district which is affected. At the same time, Government has distributed land and again it is trying to look to their difficulties. In Uttar Pradesh, till May 1988, 1,96,567 acres was allotted out of which 1,42,650 acres was distributed to 1,49,927 Scheduled Castes families. Thus about 70 per cent surplus land allotted was distributed to Scheduled Castes. In 1988-89, Rs.44 lakhs is proposed to be used for developing land allotted to Scheduled Castes. Patta has been given and then possession has also been given. It is not that only land has been allotted. But Government has seen that they get possession of the land as also the land is developed. So, it is a new scheme that we are trying to provide to Scheduled Castes families so that they can have the full benefit of the land distributed.

Now, some of the districts in Bihar...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : Are you satisfied?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : No. This is not a question of satisfaction. Action is going on: implementation is going on. They need more speedy implementation and every year, programme is taken up by the Government. It is not that we will stop in somewhere. It is a continuous process. Wherever there is surplus land it will be distributed.

In Bihar, legal aid is provided to Scheduled Castes who are involved in litigation arising out of untouchability. That is the PCR Act. If there is any atrocity, legal aid is provided. During

1985-86, a sum of Rs 3 60 000 was spent on it and persons with annual income of Rs. 3,600 are eligible to get legal aid. This is in Bihar.

Then about the appointment of officers. For that, officers have been appointed for initiating supervision over prosecution under the PCR Act. A Harijan Cell has been established in the Home Police Department under the officer of the rank of DIG. Besides that, a Harijan Adivasi Cell has been established at State level in the Home Department. Such cells have also been established at divisional, district sub-divisional and block levels. I have seen in Bihar, there are *Thanas* where it is written 'Harijan *Thanas*'  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : You have given the statistics. But the real problem is that...  
(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let her complete.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : In Bihar, the Government is trying to tackle this problem. (Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA : The problem is the land which is given to a Harijan is being re-grabbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let her complete. You can have clarification later on.  
(Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : The question is that the Government has distributed the surplus land. For the development of that land, another programme has been taken up. But as you are saying, it is not re-grabbed. For these types of problems, arrangements have been made and 11 Harijan Adivasi *Thanas* have been established. I have seen personally some of these Harijan Adivasi *Thanas*. Places like Patna and Nalanda are the identified areas where atrocities are going on. These *Thanas* are established and the Government is trying to stop the atrocities. For that this arrangement

has been made. Nalanda, Rohtas, Bhojpur, Gaya are also identified as the affected areas. That is why in Gaya, Vaishali, Samastipur, Bhagalpur, Monghyr and Ranchi the Harijan Thanas are established.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :**  
What do you mean by Harijan Thanas ?

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI:**  
You were mentioning about the special court so that cases are cleared quickly and justice is done. So, they have established Thanas where the Scheduled Caste people can go and report, their FIR is lodged and they can get help from the Government, from the District Officers concerned. This arrangement has been made to meet out the difficulties of Harijans. For the implementation of PCR Act this has been done. It is not for anything else. One of the grievances is that the PCR Act is not implemented; that is why this has been done.

One question was raised about the monitoring. In Bihar they have done it. To facilitate monitoring in the sub-plan areas, a Harijan Cell has been created in the office of the Tribal Welfare Commissioner at Ranchi. This Cell has been created to see that the tribal problem is also solved.

**SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY :** Who is the head ? Is he a Tribal Commissioner ?

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI:**  
In the office of the Tribal Welfare Commissioner one officer has been appointed.

The Bihar Government is trying to help SC and ST people. Bihar Government is also trying to tackle this problem. For that, all these establishments have been made. A Committee called, the Civil Rights Act Implementation Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Bihar remains constituted which reviews the progress of the various schemes under the PCR Act...  
(Interruptions)

You must understand the seriousness of the problem. You must also understand what the Government is doing to deal with this serious problem. It is not that the Government is just sitting idle and doing nothing.

The PCR Act was brought to deal with this. As you all know, in the Constitution under Article 17, untouchability is abolished. But to make it practical and effective the PCR Act was enacted in 1955 and one Committee at the highest level, at the Chief Minister's level, has been constituted now in Bihar. They review things periodically. They will chalk out what further steps should be taken.

Another Committee called Bihar State Scheduled Caste Advisory Board under the chairmanship of the Minister in charge of the Welfare Department gives valuable suggestions to the Government towards improving the lot of Harijans.

In Bihar, as the problem is so serious, the Government is also actively looking after all these schemes. These Committees are there at the Minister's level and at the Chief Minister's level. In these Committees the members are MPs, MLAs and prominent social workers as nominated members, besides, high officials of the State Government are there. All the public representatives are represented on these Committees and they can give their advice. Whenever there are certain problems they can raise that issue in the Committee. Certainly, their suggestions and advice will be listened to by the Government.

Then there are special courts. Bihar has taken care to constitute special courts in those districts where this atrocity problem is quite grim. Special courts have been set-up at Patna, Hazaribagh, Muzaferpur and Purnea to try offences under the PCR Act so that PCR Act is implemented properly. These special courts are already working in Bihar. These courts are headed by judicial magistrate first class. I do not want to go into the details about the jurisdiction of these courts. They have tried to cover almost all the

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identified districts where this problem is more. These courts hold circuit courts according to their specified programme at the respective sub-divisional headquarters within their jurisdiction. So these courts are not only functioning at the district level but they also go further down to the sub-divisional headquarters so that scheduled caste people can take advantage of their presence and hope for the justice.

Atrocities prone areas where untouchability is prevailing have been identified. The project of identification of untouchability prone areas has been completed by L. N. Mishra Institute of Economic Development and Social Changes. So they have tried to identify it. They have published a report on untouchability in seven districts where this problem is more prominent. Untouchability is an offence under the Constitution. So we have to remove it. We have to see that in the coming years untouchability is completely removed from these districts. They do a periodic survey also.

One of the hon. Member mentioned that what is the use of public schools when scheduled caste people are not getting help from these and they are not admitted there. I think it was Shrimati Nawal Prabhakar who mentioned this. Some of the newspapers have also written about this. On 20th July, 1988 I have written to Shri Shiv Shanker that a number of reports have appeared in the newspapers that scheduled caste and scheduled tribe students are not being admitted into reputed colleges like Khalsa, Miranda House, St. Stephen, Jesus and Mary and Hansraj in Delhi though the Central Registration Centre of the University had issued necessary admission slips to them to the extent of reserved quota. My Ministry has brought it to the notice of Vice Chancellor of Delhi University as well as the Secretary, Education Department, Ministry of Human Resource Development so that proper action could be taken in this regard. So we have already taken up this matter and brought it to the notice of Ministry of Human Resource Development and, I hope, some concrete steps will be taken by these

people. I hope that some concrete steps will be taken by these people.

16.00 hrs.

About Navodaya Vidyalayas a report has appeared in today's *Patriot*. I want to say a few lines about that. That study has told that over 60 per cent Navodaya Schools belong to the weaker sections. More than two-thirds of the children studying in the Navodaya Schools in the country come from the low income group families. According to a study about the socio-economic profile of the students, nearly 41 per cent of the children studying in Navodaya Schools, started under the National Policy of Education last year, are from families with income level below the poverty line. According to the study conducted by the Navodaya Vidyalayas Samiti, the annual income of the families of 20 per cent of the students is below Rs. 3,000. The study shows that in the case of 20 per cent of the students, the annual family income is below Rs. 6,000. The breakdown along occupational lines prepared by the NDC, shows that new educational schemes to provide education of comparable quality to students from rural areas on par with their urban counterparts benefit a number of families covering a wide area. So, this is a recent study. When this new education scheme and Navodaya Vidyalayas scheme were launched, we had said that it will benefit the rural population and also the weaker sections of the society. The study indicates it is very interesting and you must know that the parental occupations include: agricultural labour 10 per cent; general labour 8 per cent; agriculture, as a whole, 25 per cent; and business and commerce 10 per cent.

A remarkable feature of the scheme reveals that the maximum benefit has accrued to students from lower middle class families and children whose parents are illiterate. So it has gone to that level now. The Navodaya Vidyalayas, I think, will help all sections of the people living in the villages. The study report indicates that 50 per cent of them are scheduled caste boys and girls. This is a very encouraging fact.



These are the things by which this gap can be reduced. The Government is against all sorts of atrocities which we are now listening about. But we have to see how we can remove the causes of atrocities. One of the causes is poverty. Poverty can be removed by educating them. Education will bring them up and then the gap will be reduced. So, these are the efforts which the Government is making to remedy the situation.

Shri Ramoowalia spoke about amendment of the existing list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes for inclusion of *Bahjaras* and *Rai Sikhs*, etc. At this stage I can only say that all representations and suggestions for inclusion in the existing list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are under consideration of the Government in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of SCs/STs.

Any amendment in the existing list can be done only through an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. Well, I cannot say that the by such-and-such time, it will be done. But we are trying to expedite the process of a comprehensive list. I hope that we will be able to bring it before the Parliament.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Legislation ?

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : I cannot give you a specific time. But we are trying and we may try. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : The Government expects that the comprehensive review will be taken. (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : We will be coming and it will be coming before Parliament. Without Parliament in session, I cannot announce it. We will try to bring it in this session. I cannot give you the specific date about that.

Some of the Members have asked to provide adequate economic assistance to SCs &

STs so as to raise them above the poverty line. I do not want to take much time of the House. You know after independence, the Government of India has committed itself to the rapid development of SCs and STs. It is our commitment and it is our deliberate policy to raise their socio-economic level and for that we are very much concerned. We are implementing all our central policies. Whatever policies which are formulated by the Central Government, are implemented through the State Governments. There are some schemes which are sponsored directly by the Central Government, that is, the centrally sponsored schemes. There are schemes where 50 per cent finance is from the State Government and 50 per cent is from the Central Government. I will give you one or two examples that considerable investment has been made for their development though the strategy of special component plan for Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan. The Tribal sub-Plan was made in the Fifth Plan. The Special Component Plan was formulated in the Sixth Plan. In addition to that, we are giving special central assistance as an additionality to all these programmes which are under Special Component or Tribal Sub-Plan. Central Government is giving some additional finance also to generate income and more income generating schemes are taken up under these schemes. You all know that we have also set up TRIFED as an apex body for ensuring remunerative prices for the products procured by the tribals. Tribals are not getting the right remunerative prices which they ought to get. In between the contractors and the business men who take advantage of their ignorance or their poverty, get the benefit of that. To avoid this for the tribals to get more remunerative prices, we have just constituted this TRIFED and it is now working. This year some of the projects which TRIFED has taken has given good results. For example, one project is about the sal seed. The prices have gone up. If it was Rs. 900 per tonne, they are getting Rs. 1100 per tonne. Like that, it is coming up. I hope that after establishing all the infrastructure this TRIFED will help in giving more remunerative prices to minor forest products to tribals. We have established like that now and the Cabinet

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has also cleared it. National Development and Finance Corporation for SCs and STs has been set up. We have registered it and for that a special officer is going to be appointed. They will start working. Central Government will give financial help to them. In the beginning, we have allotted Rs. 50 crores for this. This Corporation will also come to the rescue of the poor people and will help in creating more jobs and more income to poor people. When it is implemented there will be a sea change and people will understand our developmental programmes and that would be the real answer to all these problems of atrocities. When these poor scheduled castes and scheduled tribes will be economically better, nobody will question them about their caste etc. Our society is dominated by money power and when these people will have money power, they will also be treated as equal people and this disparity in the society will be removed.

Shrimati Meira Kumar wanted that the Government should provide legal aid to the victims of these atrocities. I have said that in Bihar it is already there, in UP and other States this legal aid is provided under the Protection of Civil Rights Act and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are helped in civil and criminal litigation. We have also taken care to compensate for the loss of wages of the witnesses who have to attend the courts. Those labourers who go to attend the courts for evidence, they are given wages for that day for cases under the PDR Act. We have also suggested to the State Government to adopt similar schemes for offences under Indian Penal Code where the victims belong to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. We have suggested that to the State Governments.

One suggestion was made the laws should be made more stringent. I also feel that; we can review the PCR Act and whatever lacunae are there, we can remove them and bring in some more clauses and make it more stringent so that the type of atrocities committed on these

people are brought under the clutches of law, if not, already there.

Shrimati Meira Kumar, Dr. C. S. Tripathi, Shri Ganga Ram, Shri Sultanpuri and some other Members wanted special courts to be established for such cases. I have already said about Bihar. In order to dispose of such cases relating to atrocities as well as cases under the PCR Act speedily, we have issued guidelines to all the States to set up special courts. It is not that there are no special courts now; there are 52 special courts and mobile courts in various States. In Andhra Pradesh, there are 17. In Bihar 4, MP 11, Rajasthan 8, Tamil Nadu 8 and Orissa 4. Maharashtra has also agreed to set up three special courts; Karnataka has issued orders to set up two special courts. These States who do not have special courts are going to have these. In UP one Magistrate has been nominated in each District for trying such cases. So, we are pursuing the matter with the State Government so that the Act is implemented properly and those people who are indulging themselves in committing atrocities or acting against the PCR Act can be punished or convicted.

An hon. Member, Shri V. Srinivas Rao, wanted that SC/ST officers should be posted in the sensitive areas. This guideline has already been issued by the Central Government to all the State Governments. They are advised to post officers belonging to SC/ST as District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police, Sub-divisional officer and so on in the areas identified as the sensitive areas. We have already suggested, from our side that the Station House Officers belonging to SC/ST should be posted in the sensitive Police Stations. As you know, the DM of Jahanabad is a Scheduled Caste person. I have already written to the Chief Minister of all the States regarding the need for making administration sensitive and responsive towards the SC/ST. I have written this letter to the Chief Ministers of all the States. This particularly applies to the top leadership in the State. The report is that the State Governments have started posting the SC/ST officers in different sensitive areas.

Shri V. Srinivas Rao and some other hon. Members also wanted that there should be liberal issue of arms licence to SC/ST so that they can protect themselves when they are attacked. As far as the question of issuing of arms licence is concerned, there is no discrimination in respect of the SC/ST applicants. Whosoever is eligible, he is supplied with the licence. It is the duty of the concerned State Government to see that these poor people are not harassed and atrocity is not committed on these helpless people.

S/Shri Y. P. Yogesh, Tulsi Ram and Ganga Ram said that one of the main causes of friction which to the atrocities being committed on poor people was the non-payment of minimum wages. I have already said that the Minimum Wages Act is applicable in all the 19 States. Some minimum wage is fixed for them but the implementation part of this rests with the District Authorities and their supervising officers. We will again alert them that they should strictly comply with this.

Smt. Sunderwati Nawal Prabhakar suggested that the system of scavenging should be removed and that the local Government authority should look after the interest of the scavengers and sweepers. As you all know, we have a policy, a scheme by which the scavengers will be completely eliminated. Scavenging is in a way linked to untouchability and it is our clear policy. Government feels that scavenging of dry latrine is a dehumanising and obnoxious occupation. We have been pursuing a scheme for the liberation of scavengers by getting the dry latrines converted into water-borne latrines and rehabilitating the liberated scavengers in the other dignified occupation. Under this scheme 166 medium and small towns, i.e. towns having a population of about 1 lakh, have been taken up. Of these 32 towns have already been made scavenging free. About 10,000 scavengers have been rehabilitated. The amount invested in this programme upto the end of 1987-88 was Rs. 37.13 crores. The allocation for 1988-89 is Rs. 11 crores as against Rs. 9.5 crores during the year 1987-88. The scheme is being implemented on a matching grants basis with both the Central

and State Governments spending 50 per cent each. In this year and in the next year in the Seventh Five Year Plan, we will try to implement this scheme in as many towns as we can. I may reiterate that we are very clear on this point and we will be able to free all the scavengers from this dirty job. There will be modern and mechanised type of latrines such as the water borne latrines and Sulabh Sauchalayas in all the rural areas. All the houses that are constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana and other housing schemes are going to be equipped with this type of latrines. This is a clear cut direction from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : The time by which this work is likely to be completed. You might have fixed a target in this regard.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : It is quite difficult to fix a target in this matter, but we are trying to achieve this end as soon as possible. Completion of this work depends on finance and many other things.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : If the funds have been allocated for this purpose.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Funds are being allocated. As I have already told, 166 towns have been adopted under this scheme, of which the work has already been completed in 32 towns.

[English]

We are taking a whole-town-approach in this matter. First we have taken the towns which have a population of one lakh. After covering these towns, we will then go to big cities. As per the new municipal Act, no new house can be constructed without a water borne latrine. This is the rule all over the country. As regards the old houses which do not have modern water borne latrines, these also should go in for this type of latrines in the place of dry latrines.

[Translation]

**SHRI R. S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the matter of Bihar has been raised here and as I belong to Bihar, I am fully aware of the intentions of the Central and the State Governments and I praise the steps taken by them to provide facilities to the harijans. Some very good steps have been taken to check the atrocities on the harijans. But here the major thrust is on giving the compensation on one hand and punishing the Government officials on the other. In my opinion, there is one man behind all these things and until he is apprehended, atrocities on harijan cannot be stopped. Just now, it was mentioned that many thousand acres of land has been distributed. I urge upon the Government that there are dozens of Members in Bihar Assembly and in this House, who are still holding in their possession, the land rendered surplus after the enforcement of land ceiling act, in the names of their dogs cats or servants. On behalf of the House, I urge upon the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to get prepared a list of the landed property and other assets of his party members and get it investigated to find out as to how many of them are still withholding the surplus land covered under the ceiling and committing atrocities on harijans. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** Regarding the clarification sought by the hon. Member, I would like to inform him that the laws enacted by the Government concerning land ceiling are applicable to each and everybody and if any cases of their violation come to our notice, appropriate action will be taken on them. The Government is fully committed to it. There cannot be any deviation in it.. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

An hon. member raised the question of reservations. I agree with the hon. member that we have not been able to fill all the reservation posts. With the help of the Department of Personnel, we can fill up all these posts. We are making all efforts in this direction.

In the end, I want to mention just one thing and that is about our policy with regard to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Before you conclude, I want one clarification.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Let the hon. Minister complete her speech please.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** About reservation, hon. Members were saying that the posts are given to other candidates and they are not given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Prime Minister has categorically said that there will be no dereservation of the posts which are reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. At present the rule is that if the appropriate candidate is not available, they will again advertise it. They will advertise it three times and then only will request the Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission.

So I can assure the House and the hon. Members that the guidelines given by the Prime Minister will be followed and there should be no fear of dereservation. We are trying to fill up the backlog.

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Please take your seat, madam. Mr. Het Ram. What is your point for clarification?

**SHRI HET RAM .** 72.5 per cent of the unreserved posts are filled. Now it is said that because appropriate candidates are not available, it was dereserved. 'Appropriate candidates' is a vague term. The Reservation Policy should be if 10 per cent Scheduled Castes are taken, proportionately general candidates should be taken. If 15 per cent Scheduled Castes are taken, then only the candidates from the general category should be taken.

**DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI :** I am saying this was the condition. Now the Prime Minister has made it quite clear that there will be no dereservation. So whatever reservation is there will be

given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

One thing I want to say is that, our country is governed by the Constitution, which is supreme not Sankaracharya or Manu or for that matter anybody else. There is no need of burning this Manu or anything. Forget all these things. We are now in the modern age. After independence we are governed by our Constitution which is secular. It has given all the fundamental rights to everybody. There is no discrimination under our Constitution and the Government is committed to that.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHARJEE : During my intervention I drew the attention of the Minister for Home Affairs and the Minister for Welfare giving very concrete facts about the Chakradatu Police Station...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : I have taken note of it, I will take action.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Bijoor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the hon. Minister has said that there will be no dereservation. But I am seized of a very specific case of U. P. S. C. which gave an advertisement for a reserved post in which the qualifications required for the post was Ph. D. in economics and 10 years experience. 3 candidates of the reserved category applied for that post. All of them had the required qualifications and one of them had even some more qualifications. He had 19 years experience, but in spite of all this, they were rejected in the interview and that post was dereserved.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, to set right the faulty practice of the past and which happens to come down to this date, it has been decided that posts will not be dereserved. Whatever has happened earlier, will be recouped. I request the hon. Lady Member to give it in writing. I will look into it.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Let the hon. Member write to us. In case we have to reverse the decision. We will reverse the decision, if necessary

16.30 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :  
DISAPPROVAL OF NATIONAL  
SECURITY (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1988 AND NATIONAL  
SECURITY (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we take up the next item. Shri Indrajit Gupta, Shri Ramoowalia, Shri Narayan Cheubey and Shri Ramashray Prasad Sing are not here.

Now Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee may move her resolution and speak on it.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA (Sangrur) : Sir, I have now come back. I had gone to the lobby. All my baggage was here.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no. Mr. Ramoowalia, your baggage will not speak. The hon. Members will speak—not their baggage. Madam, you please proceed.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the National Security (Amendment) Ordinance, 1988 (Ordinance No. 4 of 1988) promulgated by the President on the 26th May, 1988."

I also oppose the National Security (Amendment) Bill.

The reasons for opposing the Ordinance have been stated in this House during the last two debates