

they are sent back on the plea that children cannot be put to work then I would like to ask what scheme the Government have for these children? May I know whether they will be provided education and also how you propose to provide for the livelihood of their parents and families? This is a very important issue. I would urge the Government not to resort to cheap popularity but to adopt pragmatic attitude towards this problem. I would like to say that those children of our district, who are working in the factories particularly in the carpet industry in thousands, should not be displaced and sent back to their parents just to starve. It would be better if residential schools are opened for such freed children where arrangement of boarding and proper education are made for them. You will also have to take care of the interests of their parents.

In the last session a question was asked whether child labour in thousands in engaged in Mirzapur? An enquiry was ordered. The position became clear. Some boys were freed but they were left in a more miserable condition. There they were getting Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 as wages. What I want to say is that when there is bounded labour in the country on such a large scale, a balanced arrangement should be made under which the work of the country may not suffer and their wages are also increased. Legislation should be enacted to increase their wages and facilities. But you just take them away from their jobs in the name of freeing them and to earn cheap popularity.

I would like to relate what happened in my area. There wages were given under a system prevalent among the farmers. The officers also went there and raised objection on the plea that wages were not as prescribed in the law. This created friction among the rich and the poor. You got them challanged and the labour were removed from their jobs and they are still wandering in search of livelihood. What is happening there is that the officers in connivance with the middlemen ask the labourers, even if they are not bonded labourers, to give in writing that they are working there. In this way the officers and middlemen usurp the grant among themselves and the labourers are deprived of that grant.

Some State Government are not willing to reveal the number of bonded labourers in their states just to conceal the extent of the problem. Thousands of labourers belonging to chota Nagpur and Bihar are working in Punjab and Haryana. The tribal labourers of Orissa are working in many other States but if you ask the District Magistrate of that area whether there is any bonded labour there, he would reply in the negative. You are amending the Bonded Labour Act. But there is no state level machinery of the Central Government to monitor its implementation. You only issue guidelines to the State Government but never try to see whether the Act, enacted in the interest of the labourers, is being followed or not. This is a dangerous situation for the labourers. If you want to improve the situation the Centre must establish its machinery in every state particularly in the these areas where adivasis and harijans are in large number so that these poor are not exploited.

In the present age this type of exploitation should be put to an end. I hope the hon. Minister will take steps in this direction. With these few words I convey my thanks to the hon. Minister and support the Bill wholeheartedly.

18.36 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : VISIT OF PRESIDENT
OF PAKISTAN

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : The President of Pakistan, His Excellency General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, paid a brief visit to New Delhi today, the 17th December on his way home from an official visit to several countries in the region.

The President of Pakistan and our Prime Minister held talks on various matters of mutual interest. The talks were held in an extremely cordial atmosphere.

The two leaders reaffirmed their determination to move rapidly towards complete normalisation of relations between the two countries and, to this end, to take positive and constructive action in coming weeks.

[Shri B. R. Bhagat]

The following decisions were taken :

- (i) Finance Ministers of the two countries will meet in Islamabad from the 5th to 7th January, 1986 to consider agreements on expansion of trade and economic relations.
- (ii) The Foreign Secretaries of the two countries will meet in Islamabad in the third week of January, 1986 to continue discussions on a comprehensive Treaty and to discuss other confidence building measures.
- (iii) The four sub-Commissions set up under the Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission will meet towards the end of January/early February, 1986 to finalise their work. The full Joint Commission led by their

respective Foreign Ministers will meet towards the end of February, 1986.

- (iv) The two sides have agreed to work out an agreement whereby each will undertake not to attack the nuclear installations of the other.
- (v) A cultural agreement will be signed between the two countries.
- (vi) All the above measures will culminate in our Prime Minister's visit to Pakistan during the first half of 1986.

18.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday,
December 18, 1985/Agrahayana 27
1907 (Saka)*