

[Shrimati Usha Rani Tomar]

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th December, 1987."

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do agree with the Forty-fifth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 9th December, 1987."

*The motion was adopted.*

16 37 hrs

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RESOLUTION RE : MEASURES  
FOR UPLIFTMENT OF TRIBAL  
PEOPLE—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now continue further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria about measures for upliftment of tribal people.

Shri Arvind Netam.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, the other day I was discussing about the tribal development schemes. The people generally think that development of an area is possible only through industrialisation. But at least I think that in the tribal areas development is not possible only through industrialisation or that the desired development is not possible. This is the reason why we are facing problems in these areas even though all the natural resources in our country are mostly in the tribal areas. The Government's approach to the 7th plan have a few salient features. Under the planning process there is the Orientation programme for beneficiaries, alienation of exploitation and infrastructure development etc. My submission to the govern-

ment is that "assessment of sentiments of the tribals" should also be included in it. I feel that it has not been kept in view by the Government. Now, the need of the hour is to include the assessment of sentiments of the tribals in the Plan process and then formulate the scheme accordingly.

I would like to tell you how the impact of industrialisation has effected the tribal areas in today's "Hindustan Times" the middle page carries an article.

[English]

"JHARKHAND TRIBALS WANT A FAIR DEAL" by P.R. Rajagopal, Retired Director-General of Police.

"More than one-fourth of the county's mining activities and 20 per cent of the total public sector investments in industrial activities is based in this region."

[Translation]

A Punjab university sociologist has said something about the Jharkand area of South Bihar in his survey. I would like to quote him here—

[English]

The bulk of them, ranging up to 66 per cent hails from Bihar Tribal communities.

[Translation]

About migrant labour he has said—

[English]

and that is in spite of the industrialisation in Bihar.

[Translation]

This implies that despite industrialization in Bihar the migrant labour in Punjab is 66 per cent. Most of them belong to Bihar's Tribal communities. Further, he writes :

[English]

According to one estimate, though in the Chhota Nagpur area the tribal comprises about forty per cent and in some part, even sixty per cent of the population, none of the major industry has the labour force of tribals which is more than five per cent.

[Translation]

On one hand heavy investment has been made in these areas but even then 66 per cent of the labour force has migrated to Punjab whereas not more than 5 per cent of the labour is working in industrialised areas. This is very strange. The Government should think over it. I am referring to the assessment of sentiments of Tribals in the Plan process. I have a book "ISLANDS OF DEPRIVATION" which deals with the impact of industrialisation. Fortunately, the journalist who has written this book has stayed in my district Bastar. After surveying a particular tehsil he has written about the impact of industrialisation there. I would only like to mention the kind of impact which could go against the tribals, pointwise :—

[English]

- (a) Water pollution
- (b) Increase in immoral traffic (exploitation of tribal girls)
- (c) Discrimination against the tribals in the social and professional fields in the Complex.
- (d) Interference in the tribal life
- (e) Further displacement of tribals
- (f) Land alienation; and
- (g) Increase in urban oriented crimes.

[Translation]

This is about the Beladila Iron ore Project in my own district—how it has affected that area and how it essentially goes against the Adivasi way of life. Its impact has not been good. So therefore, I want that the Government should adopt

a separate policy for planning and industrialization in this area. The Adivasis have had their own way of life for centuries. Hence, they prefer to live in isolation. The 5th and 6th schedules of the Constitution are the best instruments to safeguard the interests of tribals. The 5th schedule is in force in Central India. I want the 5th schedule to be replaced by the 6th schedule and the latter should be enforced in majority of the tribal areas of Central India. I am of the view that provisions in favour of tribals have not proved to be useful till now and therefore, the 6th schedule could be effective. I am quoting a newspaper :

[English]

'The Times of India' dated 2nd Nov., 87.'

"AP bid to woo Telengana tribals"

'The Government has now rebuilt the memorial, despite the police opposition, in a move to appease the tribals and lure them away from Naxalites following the Alampalli ambush in August last in which ten policemen were shot dead by the Naxalites.

In what appears to be a knee-jerk reaction, the Government also announced a largesse of Rs. 179 crore to develop the tribal-dominated Naxalite infested Adilabad district under a programme to be completed before June 1989

"We rebuilt the memorial as part of our strategy to win over the tribals who have been turning to Naxalites for redressal of their problems", said the district collector, Mr. C.V.S.K. Sarma.

He said the administration has geared up its machinery for speedy implementation of land reform laws to restore to tribals lands which were taken away by non-tribals and ensure payment of minimum farm wages. The Naxalite movement has been drawing support as it claims to ensure these benefits for the tribals.'

[Translation]

The 5th schedule has been mentioned in the Andhra Pradesh Governor's report also.

[Shri Arvind Netam]

I think reviewal has been done in the Governor's report. Our current President has mentioned a point in this regard. I would like to quote a few lines from the 'Financial Express' of 29th October :

[English]

"The President pulled up erring governors for their failure to submit on time the reports on the administration of scheduled areas in their states."

[Translation]

I am saying this because the 6th Schedule can be effective now, not the 5th Schedule. So the Government should think over this matter. Because of industrialization large number of Adivasis are displaced in South Bihar. Their rehabilitation is not done properly. The Labour Commission had categorically remarked and recommended in its report about their rehabilitation about 25 years back. It also recommended a Land-for-Land policy in its report. If the Labour Commission's report had been enforced properly there would have been less discontentment in the Adivasi areas. The matter of displacement should therefore be taken seriously by the Government. Today there is no area, surplus land or forest left where the Adivasis can go and settle down.

I want to say something about language. I feel that the Adivasi language is facing extinction in this country. No society wants to witness the extinction of its mother-tongue. Being an Adivasi myself, I feel that our language has been gradually facing extinction.

I would like to cite an example in this connection. Let us take the example of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Paraganas. The medium of instruction for a Santhal who lives in Singhbhum is Singhu, whereas a Santhal living in Dhargram, in West Bengal has Bengali as the medium of instruction. A Santhal who lives in Mayurbhanj, Orissa has Oriya as his medium of instruction. Nowhere does he get a chance to study his own language. I am not saying that it

should be his medium of instruction upto the high-school level but it should be taught at least upto Class III. Otherwise it is but natural for the Adivasis to think about their identity.

I once again quote from the 'Times of India' of 2nd November in which the leader of the Jharkand Movement has quoted Dr. Keshari and with which I agree :—

[English]

"Dr. Keshari with a PH.D in Nagpuri language, has done some pioneering work in tribal literature and has several books to his credit." Our literature and culture is one of the richest in the world but it has not received much exposure. If immediate steps are not taken, Jharkand tribals will also be wiped out from the face of the earth like the Red Indians."

[Translation]

I believe that whatever is happening in South Bihar today is a cultural revolution. People have raised their voice about a lot of problems, particularly language, which plays a key role in keeping the identity intact. If the Government cannot provide tribal languages as the medium of instruction upto the primary-level it should be done at least till the Class III level.

When the children in Europe learn three or four international languages, the children in our country should also learn the regional languages such as Bengali, Oriya or Telugu and Hindi in addition to their mother tongue. They may be educated by that language which can become the medium of instruction. Therefore, as far as the language is concerned the Government should pay special attention to this subject.

Shri Tiraky is not present here but he has mentioned about the Adivasi Panchayat in this very House. I fully agree with him because the Adivasi Panchayats have their own peculiarities. They have been in existence for centuries. They have not only been Panchayats but also the institutions of social reforms and from time to time they have made amendments in the Social Laws.

They had been guiding the community but are now facing extinction. I do not say that they should be given encouragement in all areas but at least in some areas we must give encouragement to these traditional Panchayats. Otherwise the present Panchayat system shall not suit the lives of Adviasis and they will not adjust themselves in this system. The Panchayats have a key role in guiding the lives of people. Before Independence the Panchayat System was recognised in the Kolhan region. It was continued there later due to some important factors. At least in the modern times the tribal people should be involved in all walks of life.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : You have to distinguish between traditional Panchayat dominated by the elders and the elected Panchayat. You are confusing with both of them.

[Transliteration]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : What I mean is that some powers should be granted to these traditional Panchayats. Wherea an eighteen years old young man can also become the *Sarpanch* of an elected panchayat, not much weightage is given to him in the traditional Panchayat. Secondly, traditional Panchayats guide the community and besides making social reforms. No individual family has as much importance as the Community "as a whole". That it why I said that the traditional Panchayats have an important role to play and therefore they should be involved in some areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, now I want to say a few words about the forests and forest-policy. The forest-policy which was enacted in 1952 is still in force in our country. We did not make any other new forest policy even though there have been many changes during this period. The State Governments are more responsible than the tribals deforestation in our country because after independence they treated the forests as a source of income. There is no doubt that tribal life depends upon two things i.e, the forest and land and that is why I was talking about the sixth schedule which provides for the administration of forest,

administration of law, Customary Laws and judiciary etc. Particularly, in the Central India, the tribals have no contribution in the forest management and that is why they have to face many problems. Therefore, I want that the tribals should be involved in the forest management under the new policy otherwise there shall always be Comfrontation between the forest department and the tribals. Tribals think that the forest department is their biggest enemy whereas on the other hand the forest department considers the tribals as their biggest enemies. The tribal is more concerned about his day-to-day necessities. You may have observed that no tribal family stores firewood in advance for one or two years but they store it according to their requirements.

The Government should bring the forest policy as soon as possible and involve the tribals in the management of forests.

So far as forest produce is concerned, Shri Bhuria has stated in his resolution that 60 to 75 per cent of the tribal economy depends upon this source. It has a very important role to play. This is the only source by which they earn money directly. They get indirect benefit from all the developmental programmes of the Government whereas forest produce gets them direct benefits. I had said in a meeting earlier that we may take I.R.D.P. and all other family benefit-oriented programmes together but even then we cannot raise as much income as through the forest produce. I believe that the income from forest produce is the highest. The tribal economy is based on forests and they get the money directly from it. Therefore, it should be streamlined properly.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to organise the marketing of different States in a systematic manner and we have been making changes from time to time. Even today there is a difference of 100 to 300% between the market price of the forest produce and the price that the tribal gets. That is big difference. I would therefore request to minimise the difference of 100 to 300 per cent in the marketing produce and try to give the surplus income to the tribal so that their economy flourishes.

[Shri Arvine Neatm]

I think all the beneficiary programmes are working all right but if we provide more benefit to tribals by reducing this margin that will boost their moral to a great extent.

Some of the States have good arrangement for forest produce, but the same is not true of the other States. Tribals are being exploited even today. Central and the State Governments should jointly make efforts to remove it.

Although you have set up LAMPS but it is not functioning properly in Madhya Pradesh due to poor financial condition, as a result of which not only distribution but also marketing has been totally disturbed. The same is true of many other states also. I want that the difference in margin of forest produce should be minimised so that the tribals are benefited and are able to sustain themselves.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : You say whether the Government should purchase it directly or through cooperatives or through both the ways.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Ranga Sahib, only in 3 States i.e. Andhra, Maharashtra and Gujarat we have cooperative base, but there is a mess in the other states where there is no cooperative base. Government should come forward for direct purchase where there is no cooperative base. I agree with what you have said.

This system must be improved somehow. If need be Government should purchase the produce directly.

With the words, I support the Resolution regarding Tribal Development moved by Shri Bhuria and I hope that Government will give attention towards these points.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chairs*]

17.30 hrs.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : Sir, I welcome the mover of this Resolution for upliftment of the tribal people of the country. It is guaranteed in the Constitution, in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, that the tribal people should be properly safeguarded in so far as their culture, heritage and way of living is concerned.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Socio-economic conditions.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : And in particular their socio-economic conditions. Thank you very much.

Sir, for the last forty years although many achievements have been made by the country and the Government has done a lot for the tribal people, many things remain to be done, which needs immediate attention of the Government for the upliftment of the tribal people.

Sir, I am coming from a State of the North-Eastern region, that is, Assam, which is one of the most backward States in the country so far as the problems of the people are concerned. There one-third of the total population are tea garden labourers, those who were taken by the Britishers to employ them, to engage them, in different plantations of about 775 tea estates in Assam and the people are socially and economically backward and their States of origin are Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and part of U.P. These tea garden labourers mostly belong to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They have been given the constitutional mandate in those States as Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. And about 40 lakhs of people have been demanding the State Governments as well as the Central Governments that they should also be honoured with the Constitutional right under Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution because they are tribals. Sir, after 40 years of Independence these people have remained in darkness, they have not been given their constitutional mandate as yet. As a result of this, these people remain

backward in so far as their social and economic conditions are concerned, in so far as their education is concerned and in so far as their political status is concerned—that is in all respects they remain in darkness and they have been demanding through social organisations, political organisations and various other organisations that they should be given their constitutional rights under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. And we being the representatives of the people have been moving from pillar to post but it appears that our cry is a cry in the wilderness. I do not know whether the Government is going to consider this aspect of the matter also very seriously. I am a tribal by caste, by culture, by tradition and I am not being given that mandate where my counterparts in the other States are enjoying. Then where is your commitment under Article 15 of the Constitution? It is a clear case of discrimination and a violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

The Government should not consider this aspect only on political consideration that whether I am AGP, or Communist or Janata or whatever it is. They should not consider it. The Government should consider this matter whether these people are actually tribals or not. Now, the Tea Garden labourers in Assam are the most exploited community in the country. A woman working at the tea plantation is paid Rs. 5.88 paise a day. She does not get even minimum wages. That is the treatment given to us, what to speak of equal remuneration. Even the minimum wages she does not get. There is a machinery both at the Centre and in the State. But this machinery is nothing but a silent spectator; that is our experience. Government has an obligation to examine the demands of the people. But to our experience, Government is not taking this matter very seriously. That is a surprise to us. They are not considering the matter. 14 lakhs of people in Assam are regarded as tea garden labourers. A community working in any industry cannot be regarded as working class, cannot be a class. They have got a definite heritage and culture. They are proud of that also. We are proud that we are tribals. But we have not been recognised. The Constitution says that we are tribals. But the Government does not

consider this aspect. Adivasi Council of Assam has been fighting for this demand. Assam Cha Mazdoor Sangh, Assam Tea Tribes Youth Association, Purvanchaliya Cha Mazdoor Sangh, Assam Tea Tribes Yuva Chhatra Parishad and other organisations have been fighting for this demand for the last 30 years. But why is the Government keeping quiet and silent? May I know the reason from the hon. Minister?

When you speak about industry, we see only the public sector industry. We do not see the private sector industry, what is happening inside. Even under the provisions of law, they should get it. Those who are working in 775 tea estates do not get housing accommodation. There is no school. They do not have schools for their children. There are no drinking water facilities. I have come across so many tea estates. I have gone there. I have seen the miseries of life, the grim picture of human life. You should express concern not only about Sati in Rajasthan and starvation deaths in Kalahandi district but also about such situation in other places. We are equally concerned about that also. Government should not keep silent. This particular type of people, tribal people have lost the confidence in the Government. It is the tribals who have protected the interests of the country as a whole when there was an attack by the Chinese in the North Eastern part of this country. Another communities fled away from their places. It is the tea Garden Labourers and tribal people who said, "We are the people of this country; the country is our motherland. We will protect whatever may come, at the cost of our lives." But the rest of the people fled away. That was in 1962. The tribal people have the utmost love and respect to their motherland. You must also have love and respect to the tribal people and you must protect the interests of the tribal people. Otherwise, the Constitution is nothing but will remain a scrap of paper. Under VI Schedule of the Constitution, it is a constitutional obligation to protect the interests of the tribal people. You must try to protect their interests accordingly as otherwise you cannot save your neck because necessity follows no law. There may be a volcanic eruption if you continue to

[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

go on exploiting them. The tribal people are the economically and socially backward people who have always been fighting for the cause of justice and fairplay. Those people who work in the factories and industries are the poor and backward people. What is your commitment? The laws are there to protect them under the provisions of the law in force. But there is no machinery to protect them. He may be a tribal or backward or scheduled caste or scheduled Tribe man and if he is thrown out of employment, nobody is interested in him. The other day I said that the Supreme Court had its sitting into the midnight to grant bail to a very big industrialist in this capital of the country a few days back. Had a poor man been there, asking justice at the feet of the Supreme Court, I doubt whether the Court had its sitting at midnight. This is the condition prevailing in the judiciary of our country so far as the poor people are concerned.

Our country is proud of the tribal people who are economically and socially backward and they demand that they should be protected and it is the obligation of the Government to protect their interests. But to our knowledge, their interests have not been protected properly. The other day, I went to your State, Orissa. I found that there is no road connecting the villages. There is no road, what to speak of electricity, and in my State, Assam also, if you go and see, it is horrible. Don't go there in the rainy season. You may not be able to cross the Brahmaputra. There is no road, no bridge, except one or two bridges over it and no place to go. All the places are full of flood water. These areas remain submerged for months together.

Let me point out one example, of Mr. Kamalamiri who was a martyr who laid down his life for the cause of the motherland in 1942. He was a martyr but you will be astounded to see that there is no link to his village. If anyone wants to post a letter to his relatives in other place, he will have to go 12 miles to purchase a post-card spending the whole day because there is no post office in the village of the martyr! There is no hospital, no school, nothing of the sort there. But when you organise a political meeting, you eulogise

his name that he laid down his life for our country. He was a tribal. He laid down his life for the country. He was a martyr. I am surprised why don't you accept the constructive suggestions being made by us and protect the interests of the illiterate tribal people instead of publicising this matter for your political gain in the media? You must do something positive.

There, in his name, you can at least establish some schools; establish some hospitals, name some roads after him and open some post-offices and other things which are necessary. If you concentrate your attention only on very big, powerful States and big cities, that is not enough. You must look to the remote places in this country also. The burning problem of the tribal people must also be seriously considered by you. Under the provision of the Plantation Labour Act, the tea garden labourers who are tribals, are entitled to get all the benefits. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to compel the management to implement all the provisions of the law. But till today you have failed to do so.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : There is a State Government.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I have nothing to say about it. Of course, it is the State Government which has to look after them. Now, the AGP Government has come to power in Assam. The AGP Government is in power for the last 36 months only. Prior to that, for the last several years, the Congress was in power. I would request you to look things back, right from the beginning. It is not only the responsibility of the AGP Government. But the Congress Government is also equally responsible for squeezing the blood of the tribal people for the last 38 years. This has become a reality now. That apart, the workers who have been employed in tea plantations, their mothers and sisters have been exploited in many ways. You cannot imagine. You cannot think of it. They are not being given the wages by many of the industrialists and many of the plantation owners. Even, the minimum wages are not given to them. What to speak of the equal wages to that of men. Further, no medicines are available in the hospitals.

No school buildings are available there ; no teachers are there and other sort of things. But at the time of elections, we go to the people saying : "you are great people. You cast your valuable votes to us and we will give the necessary facilities." But they turn out to be false promises. This is our experience. So, my humble submission is that it is the obligation of the Government in terms of the Constitutional provisions. Under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, they should be given all the facilities and they should not be ignored. All the facilities should be provided for their economic and educational upliftment. The tea-garden labourers in Assam have been demanding that they should be considered as Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community under the provision of Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution. In view of that provision, amendment should also be made. I would like to request that the matter should be very seriously considered because their counterparts in other States Like U P., Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar are treated as Scheduled Caste/Schedule Tribes people in those States. I am not being recognised as a scheduled caste or a scheduled tribe man, although I am a scheduled tribe man. But my counterparts, my brothers and sisters, my uncles they are enjoying this benefit. This aspect of the matter should, therefore, not be ignored. This is my humble suggestion. Government should try to very deeply consider this matter in the interest of the tribal people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the allotted time for this item is over. There are many Members still to speak. What is the sense of the House ?

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : We can extend some more time. Many speakers are there.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already extended that time. Do you still want to extend the time today also ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended by two hours.

[Translation]

\*SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsasore) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I would like to extend my thanks to my friend Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria for bringing this important and essential resolution. Sir, I would like to speak in my mother tongue Oriya for which I have intimated earlier. So necessary interpretation service may kindly be arranged.

Sir, the tribal population in the country is 8% of the total population. It is very necessary to ensure their alround development. So, I welcome the resolution of Shri Dilip Singh Bhuriaji who has moved this resolution. But, I doubt that there will be real upliftment of tribals if we simply pass this resolution.

The hon. Member Shri Bhadreswar Tanti who preceded me was blaming the Congress Govt. for the backwardness of the tribals. I have nothing to say if he was criticising the Govt. for the sake of criticism. Knowing fully well that the Congress Govt. is taking all possible steps for the upliftment of tribals, he is showing his ignorance about it and unnecessarily blaming the Govt. for the poor performance of tribal development programmes. If any Govt. has taken steps for the welfare of these downtrodden people it is only Congress Govt. Sir, you are aware that the tenure of the seat reservation for SC & ST in Lok Sabha State Assemblies was going to be completed in 1980. In 1979 it was felt necessary to further extend the time limit to provide reserved seats for SC & ST in Lok Sabha as well as in State Assemblies. At that time Janata Govt. was in power at the Centre. The Janata Govt. simply overlooked this fact and the SC & ST people were going to lose this facility after 1980. However the Congress Govt. under the leadership of Smt. Indira Gandhi came to power in 1980 with massive mandate. She did not behave like the Janata Govt. A Constitution Amendment Bill was moved in this House and further extension of reservation of seats granted to SC & ST in Lok Sabha and State Assembly.

\*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Chintamani Jena]

So instead extending his thanks to Congress Govt. he thought it proper to blame the Govt. for the backwardness of tribals. It is really very unfortunate.

The former Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi was always thinking for the upliftment of tribals. Our present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is equally concerned for the upliftment of tribals. Like Smt. Gandhi Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also taken various steps for the upliftment of Scheduled Tribes. Sir, our Prime Minister Shri Gandhi has recently visited the drought affected areas of your district. During his last trip to Orissa he personally went to the cottages of tribals. He asked about their problems. He enquired from the tribals about the availability of drinking water. He asked if they are really getting any benefit out of different economic upliftment programmes which are being implemented in their localities. Shri Tanti has referred to starvation death in Kalahandi as reported in some paper. This is not doubt an exaggerated report. But, some hon. Members from opposition perhaps thought that the news items is correct as the lives of Vedas. Therefore if any Member say something about starvation death in Kalahandi on the basis of misleading reports of the press, I shall certainly say that he is insulting the tribals, he is mocking at the poverty and misering of tribals. This is high time we must find out the reasons of the backwardness of tribals. One of the main factor responsible for the backwardness is lack of education. It is really a matter of regret that the literacy rate among tribals is very low when compared to the literacy rate of other communities. Only 8% of total tribals are educated and rest of these societies are not protecting the interest of the tribals. Some of those employees are exploiting the innocent tribals. Therefore, they are not getting the remunerative prices of the forest produce. They are selling the forest produce, the products of their cottage industry as well as handloom at throw away prices. Naturally if they do not get any benefit out of these they cannot work with zeal to increase their small scale and cottage industry products so we have to eliminate the middlemen and protect the interest of tribals.

92% are uneducated. Because they are uneducated they are not able to enjoy the facilities being provided to them. In this context, I would like to give one or two examples. Take the case of forest produce. As Shri Netam said in his speech the tribals are not getting proper price of their forest produce. Now, Govt. have set up some societies which undertake the sale and purchase of the forest produce. These societies are called LAMP. But the problem is that the number of LAMP's is very small. The employees. There is another unfortunate thing that I would like to bring to the notice of this House. Simply because they are illiterate and poor, they are being converted into other religions. There are many such incidents taking place in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Some developmental measures are taken to attract these people. Some benefits are given to them. When these poor people get those benefits they get converted to other religions. Our hon. Prime Minister realised that the existing education system is not helping the students in getting any vocation on completion of their study. So when he came to power he said that the existing education system needs changes. He lay emphasis on the vocational education. Now in the new education policy provision has been made to introduce vocational education in school and college curriculum. So, it will go a long way in helping the students becoming self dependent on completion of their study. The tribals students will thus be benefitted out of this vocational education. There are some tribal villages in my constituency. Out of the seven Assembly constituencies in my Lok Sabha constituency two are reserved for scheduled tribes. I have been visiting those areas. I have also gone to many tribal areas in Kalahandi and Phulbani district of Orissa. The State Govt. has set up many schools in those tribal areas. The number of teachers posted in those schools varies from village to village. But at many schools I found that the strength of the students is very low. Though the names of the students are in the attendance register, but physically they are not present. I asked the teachers as to why the guardians are not sending their children to

schools ? Even the number of students are very less where the hostels have been set up by the State Govts. I came to know that the poor parents engage their children in work to supplement their income. If they send their children to the schools they cannot assist the family. They have an impression that the students reading schools cannot do any manual labour. So they do not send their children to school. Perhaps they carry this impression only because they are illiterate. The Govt. have made reservation of jobs for ST & SC. But the posts reserved for them are not filled up in all cases as suitable candidates are not found. So we have to find out the reasons of dropouts among tribal students. We have to assist the poor tribals economically so that they will not engage their children in manual work and they will send them to schools. I thank the Govt. of Orissa for taking steps to check dropout rate. Orissa Govt is the first Govt. setting up residential schools in the tribal areas. The State Govt. have set up hostels for the SC & ST boys and girls. I would also like to thank the Govt. of India for assisting the State Govt. in this matter. I have also visited some tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh. The tribal areas in both these States have some common problem. I would like to request the Govt. of India to increase the Central assistance to these States to set up hostels in the tribal areas. The Central assistance which is being given at present is just like a drop in the ocean. The hon. Minister of State for Welfare is sitting here. I request her to make a study of the educational problems of the tribals students. The number of hostels for SC & ST boys and girls should be increased. Adequate central assistance should be given to the State Govts. for the construction of such hostels.

Sir, some hon. Members have said that the Congress Govt. being in power for 40 years have not done anything for the upliftment of tribals. I oppose this baseless charge. If you go through the history of the Congress Govt. you will find that Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru the first Prime Minister of India introduced adult franchise in this country. When he was making this provision in the Constitution some friends were opposing adult franchise. They were say-

ing that it cannot work well in a country like India where large number of people are uneducated. I do not wish to mention their names. Pt. Nehru did not care them. He introduced this system which is working very well today. Everybody extended their support when adult franchise was introduced after independence. So I advise my friends from opposition to look back to the history of this country. If they really look into it they will find that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandbi have really done something for the upliftment of tribals. Instead of shedding crocodile tears they should see what Shri Rajiv Gandhi is doing for the all round development of tribals. Therefore at the beginning of my speech I have said that the upliftment of tribals will not be made possible simply if we passed the resolution of Shri Bhuria. Rather I would suggest that we should give a serious thought as to how the tribal upliftment programmes will be implemented successfully. We should monitor various developmental programmes and made them great success if we really want the upliftment of the tribals. I would like to request to the Govt. to send directives to the State Govts. in this regard.

Sir, Shri Arvinda Netam has said that the tribals are being held responsible for the destruction of forests. But they have no other alternative. They have been living in the forest for generation together. They have been depending on the forest produce for their livelihood. The forests are not destroyed because of collection of firewood. If we think that they are felling trees for that purpose it is not proper. If we make alternative arrangement of their fuel they will not collect firewood. Therefore, I would like to suggest to the Govt. to promote non-conventional energy sources for them. Biogas plants should be set up for them where it is feasible. LPG is not available for them. There is no storage facility for LPG in the towns located in the forest area. We have to open LPG agencies and take steps to send LPG to the tribal villages. Hon. friend Shri Netam is not present here now. I have gone to his area. There is acute shortage of fuel wood in his area. The Govt. should see the LPG reaches to such area.

Now I would like to say a word about imparting education to the tribals in their

[Shri Chintnmani Jena]

mother tongue. There are some tribals living in my constituency. They are 'Santal' tribe. They speak 'Olchicky' dialects. Books have been printed in this script. For a long time they have been demanding that education should be imparted to the children of this tribe in Olichicky script. They want that their children should at least be imparted education in this script in primary schools. We should adopt three language formula in those areas and this script must be one of them. If we do so more and more students from that tribe will continue their study. So we have to pay attention to it. We have to encourage the children of Santal tribes to get education through their own dialects.

A word about the promotion of tribal culture. The tribal culture is very ancient culture. Media plays a vital role in the promotion of any culture. I would like to suggest to the Govt. to use the very powerful media of the days T.V. and Radio to promote tribal culture. For that I would suggest to the Govt. to set up Radio and TV centre in tribal areas and their culture should be properly projected through T.V. If TV centres are set up in the tribal areas they will come to know about various schemes which are being introduced in their areas for their upliftment. They cannot be exploited by middle men. The vested interest cannot harass them. Besides promoting their culture the TV can also educate them. They will be acquainted with other parts of the country.

Sir, there is a tribe called 'Lodha Tribe' who have been living in my area. This tribe was known as a 'criminal tribe' in the past. They were committing crimes like theft, dacoities etc. and thereby earning their livelihood. Now the present Govt. in Orissa have taken a number of steps for their social reform and their economical rehabilitation. So they are gradually changing their criminal attitude. They are trying to live in the society as true citizens of this country. Still there is a need to make them economically sound. If we want to make them self dependent, we have to undertake some new programmes so that they can completely forget their past lives and join the national mainstream. I am happy that

the hon. Deputy Minister of Welfare is sitting in the House. He belongs to scheduled tribe. He represents a tribal constituency too. Perhaps 10% of the total voters in his constituency are non-tribals and the rest are tribals. I would like to request him to look into the problems of Lodha tribe and see that they are properly assisted and rehabilitated economically.

Sir, the tribal areas are industrially backward areas. The Govt. of India have been taking steps to set up industry in the backward areas. I thank the Govt. of India for that purpose. At the same time I would like to request to the Central Govt. to give early clearance to the proposals for setting up industry in tribal and backward areas. This will go a long way in generating employment among the tribals. Forest-based industry should be set up in the tribal areas. There are a large number of mines located in the tribal areas. I would like to suggest to the Govt. to set up mineral-based industry in those areas. We must provide proper training to the tribals in the field of technical education. ITI schools should be opened in the tribal areas. If they get employment in the industry set up in their locality.

Then I would like to say a word about legal aid. The Govt. of India and the State Govts. are giving legal aid to the poor and weaker section of the society. But I would like to tell the hon. Deputy Minister of Welfare that one per cent of legal aid is even not being given to tribals. Because the media is not active in giving due publicity about the legal aid which is being provided by the Govt. for those people. Therefore, I would like to request to the Govt. that more and more publicity should be given in Radio regarding legal aid facility. Publicity should be given in their local language or through their dialects. Then they can avail the opportunity of legal aid.

Sir, the other day it was being discussed that some Govt. employees are not willing to work in the tribal areas. A Govt. employee was posted in Lakshadweep. But he did not go there. When Govt. employees are not going to the tribal areas, the programmes of the Govt. are not being imple-

mented properly. So most respectfully, I would like to submit that Govt. should provide some additional facilities for its employees who are posted in the tribal areas. The Govt. should make a provision that if an employee did not serve in a tribal area for a period of not less than two or three years he will not get any promotional benefit. If this provision is made mandatory then each and every employee will be bound to work in the tribal area.

Lastly Sir, a word about the Jharkhad movement which has been recently spearheaded in some parts of the country. In this context, I would like to say that this movement is not new. The demand of separate Jharkhand State was raised long ago. The main reason behind this demand is that the tribals are not getting the benefit which they deserve. Perhaps they think that they will get some additional benefit if they have a separate State. I do not support their demand. But I would like to say that the tribal representatives should be given some power at the panchayat level so that they can do something on the upliftment of their people and their areas. Their minimum demands should be fulfilled. Steps should be taken for the development of agriculture and irrigation facility which should be ensured in their areas. Provision has been made under the 20-point programme of Smt. Indira Gandhi to assist the tribals in the development of their agriculture. Such provision have also been made in the Land Reform Act. These programmes should be properly implemented. Surplus land should be distributed among the tribals. The Tribal sub plan may be extended to Integrated tribal development agency and areas under Hilly Area Development Programme. If these programmes are implemented the demand of a separate Jharkhand State may come to an end. I hope in the interest of the country the Government will take necessary steps in this regard.

With these words I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion and conclude my speech.

\*SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK  
(Cuttack) : Mr. Chairman, Sir: I rise to

\*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

express my views on the resolution moved by Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria. Sir, while speaking on this resolution I would like to speak in Oriya. Tribals are living in different parts of the country. They form 7.8% of country's total population and they number 53.8 million as per 1981 consus. Some States have a sizeable tribal population. Some of their leaders have made significant contribution in nation's building. The people of this country particularly the States which they belong to feel proud of them.

Orissa is an epitome of Indian culture having the synthesis of three mainstreams viz., the Aryan's, the Dravidians and the Nishada's or the Adivasi. This is reflected in the cult of Jagannath who is the presiding deity of Orissa. The scheduled tribes have their glorious past. They have their way of living is different from many other people. But they are one with us. So it is necessary to make their allround development.

Sir, we are discussing about the upliftment of tribals. The Central Government has been allocating funds for the upliftment of tribals under different schemes every year since independence. The State Governments are also spending money for the welfare of tribals. But it is unfortunate that the tribal people have not got all the benefits of the development programmes. Therefore the hon. Member Shri Dilip Singh Bhuria has rightly expressed his concern for the Scheduled Tribes. Many hon. Members have stated that the tribals have not been developed to the desired level despite the fact that a huge amount of allocation has been made for them. I also join those hon. Members in expressing my concern for those people.

Like the non-tribals, the tribals who are living in different parts of the country have got some problems or the other. Therefore the tribal area have been brought under the tribal sub plan MADA and YTDA. Special efforts are being made to raise the tribal people above the poverty line. Steps are being taken to provide infrastructural facilities in the tribal areas like roads ; transport etc. Thus, the situa-

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnik]

tion in the tribal areas is gradually improving and they are on the path of progress. But there are many people particularly the primitive tribes, who are living in the far flung and inaccessible areas. The sign of civilization has not yet reflected on them. The development of those people is very necessary. I am glad to say that our Government have left no stone unturned in providing fund for the development of different communities. Micro projects have started for primitive tribes. Our Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is very much concerned for the scheduled tribes. The Hon. Member who preceded me has rightly stated that Shri Rajiv Gandhi is taking special care of the scheduled tribes. He is personally visiting the tribal areas in different States where they face the problems like drought, flood etc. Whatever may be the difficulty, he is bent upon meeting the SC & ST people even in the inaccessible areas. Everybody is aware that the former Prime Minister Late Smt. Indira Gandhi had great love and respect for the tribals. She was touring the tribal areas every year. In one of her visits to a tribal village in Orissa she met a poor tribal family. She showed great affection for a girl of that family and said perhaps in her previous life she was born in a tribal family and therefore she had so much attachment with them.

Sir, I would like to make an appeal to the hon. Members of Parliament of different parties that they should involve themselves in the tribal welfare programmes. They should identify the lacunae at the implementation stage. They should identify the middlemen and other elements who are exploiting tribals at different stages in different areas. The MLAs and the Chairmen of different blocks should assist the MPs in identifying the lacunae and irregularities in the implementation of tribal upliftment programmes and they should bring it to the notice of the districts as well as the State Administrations. The Members who got the opportunity to represent the tribals have a special role to play in protecting the tribals from exploitation. They should see that the real benefit reached these people. They should help the tribals in making

the proper use of the fund which is being provided to the beneficiary groups under different centrally sponsored schemes. This is possible if they directly involve themselves in the tribal development programmes.

Sir, during the first five year plan a sum of Rs. 1100/- crores was spent for development of tribals. During the 6th five year plan, this amount was enhanced to Rs. 5000/- crores. During the 5th five year plan period Rs. 190/- crores of special central assistance was spent on the tribal areas whereas this amount was enhanced to Rs. 490/- crores in the 6th five year Plan. The allocation made under tribal sub plan and special central assistance for tribal development programmes further increased in the Seventh Plan. A target was set to raise 40 lakh tribal families above the poverty line during the 6th five year plan and an equal number of tribal families was proposed to be raised above the poverty line during the 7th five year plan period. This shows how keen the Government is to raise the status of the scheduled tribes.

Sir, a large number of people belonging to various scheduled tribes have not been included in the list of ST. The State Government have submitted proposals before the Centre to include those tribes in the list of ST. The Government of Orissa has also submitted a proposal for inclusion of some tribes in the list of ST. So taking into account the suggestions of different State Governments, a comprehensive legislation should be brought forward in this House in order to expedite the revision of ST list. The State Governments have taken some steps as per the directives of the centre to give protection to the tribals in service matters. The Government of Orissa has recently passed a bill in the State Assembly to regulate the employment of tribals under the provisions made in that Bill on Employer/Appointing authority or the Recruitment Board is liable to punishment if found denying employment to the SC & ST candidates against the posts reserved for them. A fine of Rs. 1000/- and other penal provisions have been made in that Bill. So no employer will now dare to fill up the vacancy of SC & ST

post by general candidates in the plea of the non-availability of suitable candidates, Besides a provision has been made to maintain a list of vacancies and the progress made in employment in every calendar year. This will no doubt give due protection to the SC & ST candidates in getting employment.

While speaking on this resolution Shri Pius Tiraky had said that the tribals shall be given political rights. As you know Sir, reservation of seats in State Assemblies and Lok Sabha have been made for SC & ST. I do not understand what more political rights does he want ?

Sir, while taking part in the discussion some hon. Members have made a mention about Jharkhand State. Some even went to the extent of demanding the formation of Jharkhand State. I have read the resolution of Bhuriaji very carefully. I did not find any mention of Jharkhand State in that resolution. Then where is the need to bring Jharkhand issue within the purview for discussion. When some hon. Members have raised the voice for the formation of a Jharkhand State, I would also feel it my duty to make my stand very clear. Unfortunately the so called Jharkhand leaders have demanded the inclusion of Keonjher, Mayurbhanj and Sundergarh districts of Orissa in that State. So I shall be failing in my duty if I do not express my views on this issue as I am a Member of Parliament from Orissa. As you know Sir, the Oriyas were neglected for many long years. We did not have a separate province. Finally we got a separate province in 1936. But after independence Kharsuan and Seraikela where majority of Oriya speaking people are living, was separated from Orissa and merged with Bihar. We know the plight of the people of Seraikela and Kharsuan. Both the tribals and non-tribals live in Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Sundargarh districts. Like the non-tribals the tribals in these three districts are peace loving. These three districts are part and parcel of Orissa. Not a single man in any of these districts want that any part of the district should merge with the proposed Jharkhand State. They feel proud of Orissa and of being Oriyas. These three districts abound in iron ore, manganese, bauxite, dolomite, coal and

some other previous minerals. Perhaps the so called Jharkhand leaders are after these precious minerals. As a member of Parliament from Orissa I would like to express my independent view in this matter. I say that demand of Jharkhand State is not justified. The inclusion of Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh or any other part of Orissa in the proposed Jharkhand State or any other State is out of question. However, I sympathise with the tribals as a whole. I would like to give a few suggestions for the development of the tribals.

Firstly we have to educate them. We have to find out the reasons of the dropout and take necessary steps to check it. Some hon. Members have suggested that the tribal students should be imparted education in their mother tongue. We have to take suggestion of the experts and see whether they can be given education in their mother tongue upto class III or till they complete primary education. The literacy rate among the tribals is very low. So residential school should be set up in every Gram panchayat. Vocational courses should be introduced in those school so that the tribal students can read and simultaneously learn to work. Free food and uniform should be given to them. Because of their poverty the poor parents send their children to the forest to collect fire wood or fruits or other forest produce. If the children are given free food the parents will send them to school. Low cost schools should be opened in the tribal areas. The Govt. of Orissa has taken some steps in that direction. Still it is difficult to spread education among the tribals. As I have said earlier the literacy rate among the tribals is very low. The literacy rate among the females are much less than the males whether they are tribals or non-tribals the females and the males are half and half in the society. So we must try to spread education among the tribal women. Some tribal people are well-to-do. But their female folk are not educated. If they do not get education the whole family will continue to remain backward. So womens' education is very important.

As I said earlier their life style is different. Their food habit is different. They may not like to eat the same food which we eat. We eat fruits and vegetables like

[Shrimati Jayanti Pata nik]

arum and radish. They also eat those vegetables. Besides, they get fruits from the forest and therefore they are accustomed to those fruits. But it is said here that they are eating forest fruits as they do not get any other food to eat. It was further stated in this House that there were starvation deaths in Kalahandi. Whenever any subject is taken up for discussion some hon. Members of the opposition bring Kalahandi in the discussion. Perhaps they feel that the discussion will remain incomplete if they fail to say something about Kalahandi. It is unfortunate that they do not care to verify the facts. They have raised Kalahandi issue on the basis of the Starvation deaths reported in some sections of the press. But it is a baseless and false report.

Mr Chairman, Sir, we have to see that the tribal families make improvement in every sphere you are aware that the tribal students are getting IAS, IPS and other allied cadres posts. They are joining in civil services and thereby getting prestige in the society. Some of them are going for inter-caste marriage. Suppose a tribal boy got a IAS. Because he is IAS he married a Brahmin girl or any other non tribal girl. After that he forgets his family. We have to convince such IAS officers to change this attitude. As a duty towards the family they must help the family members to develop

The tribal culture must be preserved. We have to promote their welfare through the media, because the tribal culture is very ancient and it is linked with our glorious past.

Then a word about the need to provide employment to the tribals. We have to set up industries in the backward and tribal areas. Before setting up of any industry we have to ensure that the industry will get raw material, water, labour and other infrastructural facilities in that area. If the area is ideally located for the establishment of the industry then the local tribals will get employment. Moreover the industry will not fall sick. Therefore, the employees will not be out of job. Some tribal families are bound to be displaced if an industry is set up. So they should be *rehabilitated nearby the industry. Com-*

pensation should be paid to them suitably and at least one member of the displaced family must be given employment in that industry. There are some iron ore mines located in Orissa. Thousands of tribal workers earn their daily bread in those mines. When the loading and transporting works decline the mine workers are thrown out of employment. So we have to see that such situation does not arise. Mineral-based industries should be set up near the mines area. The local people can get job in those industries. They will not be out of job as these industries will run smoothly. The tribal women should be engaged in the plantation programme. We have to see that different income generating programmes are implemented effectively. We have to watch the activities of the bureaucrats. As the interest of the tribals involves in the implementation of the income generating programmes I request that the hon. Members who represent the tribal constituency must see that the bureaucrats do not create any problem that will delay the pace of implementation.

Finally Sir, a word about the forest produce available in Orissa. Sal seed is one of them. Earlier a private trader had the monopoly of sal seed trade in Orissa. The entire profit was enjoyed by him. As it is the main forest produce in Orissa, the State was losing a huge amount of revenue every year. Moreover, the private trader was not protecting the interest of the tribals in the collection and extraction of sal seed. The State Govt. received several complaints regarding the irregularities in the payment of wages to the workers under the circumstances the State Government could not remain as a silent spectator. So the State Government had to nationalise the sal seed trade in Orissa. The main intention of the Government of Orissa is to create more and more employment avenues for the tribal workers in the sal seed trade. These wages can now be revised. The State Government will get revenue which can be spent on the development of the tribal areas. As you know Sir, that private trader was guided by some vested interest and waged a war against the State Government. He filed a case in the State High Court where he lost the case and then he went to Supreme

Court against the Orissa Government where also he lost the case. So the State Government has to fight the case to get justice. The State Government fought the case to give benefit to the tribal people.

Sir, we have to help the tribals in the development of their agriculture. They will definitely live in the periphery of the forests. But due to lack of proper knowledge about environment they are adopting shifting cultivation. As a result of which the valuable forest wealth is being destroyed. Moreover the yield is also not more in the process of shifting cultivation. They are destroying the forests, because they do not have land. So they should be given alternative land and shifting cultivation should be prevented. Because we have to save our valuable forest wealth, the wealth of the country, the wealth of the tribals.

It is regrettable that the resentment is growing among the tribals. These simple and innocent people are agitated and demanding justice. Wherever they may be, but their demands should be carefully examined through discussion. While finding solution to the problems of the tribals we have to rise above the party lines. Unfortunately, some opposition members blamed the Congress Party for the backwardness of tribals. Perhaps they are criticising the Congress Government for the sake of criticism. Because if anybody has done anything for the welfare of the tribals it is the Congress Party alone. Our late lamented leader Smrimati. Indira Gandhi had adopted several measures for the upliftment of tribals. Everybody in the House and outside knows about it. The present Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi is giving top priority to the development of the tribals and tribal areas. Therefore, the allegations of the opposition members is not correct. I am happy that Shri Bhuriaji has given me an opportunity to discuss about the problems of scheduled tribes through his resolution. Therefore, I extend my thanks to Shri Bhuriaji. With these words I support the resolution and conclude my speech.

SHRI MAURICE KUIUR (Sundargarh) Mr. Chairman Sir I thank you for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Sir, may I suggest that we adjourn now and take up the discussion later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : As the Member has already started speaking, so let him speak and then we will adjourn.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV (Morena) : You are allowing Members from Orissa only.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN : I am only calling the names as per the list.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Sir our proposal is that we adjourn the House now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He wanted to speak only for a few minutes.

[Translation]

SHIR MAURICE KUJUR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been elected from a tribal area. There is no motorable road in that area. I have myself seen the miseries of tribals and have also learnt about them from others.

But I want to speak on a few points only. Fortunately, our tribal areas are rich in a number of natural resources such as forests and minerals and that is why many new projects are coming up in tribal areas. According to the report of the commission for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr Kujur. The House will now adjourn. You may continue your speech next time.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Manday, December 14, 1987/Agrahayana 23, 1909 (Saka)*