May I, therefore, request that the Government of India should immediately take necessary steps and consider the demands of the Railway employees so as to avoid further agtiation by them.

12.22 brs.

APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1987

AND

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)
ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL—CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: The House shall now take up further consideration of the following motions moved by Dr. Chinta Mohan and Dr. (Smt.) Rajendra Kumar Bajpai on the 12th November, 1987, namely:—

"That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1887." "That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghalaya, be taken into consideration."

Shri P. Namgyal to speak.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh): Mr. Deputy Speakar Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill 1987 which seeks to include the tribal communities of Boro-Kacharis, Koch and Raba or Rava of Meghalaya State in the list of Scheduled Tribes which were not included in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order of 1950.

This is a welcome step, though belated; as the proverb goes, better late than never'.

All these years, these communities could

not derive the benefits of the various safeguards provided for the Scheduled Tribes community in the Constitution. Which includes reservation of seats in the Meghalava legislative Assembly. With the inclusion of these communities in the list of scheduled tribes, I am sure, they will derive the maximum benefit,

There are many such tribal communities as well as scheduled caste communities in our country in different States which have been left out of the list of the scheduled tribes and scheduled castes Order of 1950. More and more demands are coming in from various communities residing in various States and one such community is the people of Ladakh.

The Ladakhi people have been agitating for long to declare the people of that area as scheduled tribes. In this connection as far back as in 1683 the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi in a letter addressed to me vide No. 266-PMO/83 dated 18th April, 1983 assured me that the Government of India has decided to grant scheduled tribes status to the people of Ladakh subject to certain Constitutional requirements.

I quote para 4 of the letter of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi:

"The delegation from Ladakh also spoke to me about recognising the people there as tribal. I have no doubt that these people have a distinctive life-style customs, etc. Therefore, the Government of India has decided to grant tribal status to the people of Ladakh. However, before this can be implemented the Government of Jammu and Kashmir will have to take necessary steps in terms of Constitutional requirement under Article 370. We have written to the State Government in this regard."

Now a word about the Constitutional requirement. All these formalities have been completed, namely, application of Article 342 to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Without applying this Article we cannot declare a scheduled tribe. That has been done. Census and surveys required

[Sh. P. Namgyal]

under the Constitution for fulfilment of this demand have been done. On the 12th December, 1986 our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi visited Leh and he has kind enough to assure the people of Ladakh in a public meeting that decision in respect of declaring the Ladakhi people as scheduled tribe will be made during the year 1987.

Sir, my submission is that now the year 1987 is about to end; only one month is left. My apprehension is that sometime back. I received a letter from the honourable Home Minister stating that it will take some more time for compilation of the report of the mini-census already conducted and the final decision will be taken during the year 1988. When the Prime Minister of our country has assured the public of Ladakh in a public meeting saying that the decision in respect of granting of Scheduled Tribes will be taken in 1987, the Home Minister says that decision will be taken in 1988. So. I feel that it is the duty of the concerned Ministry to fulfil the assurance given in a public meeting by our leader in December, 1986. not during election. If the Ministry does not fulfil the assurance of the leader, then it will damage the image of our leader before the simple, straightforward and loyal people of Ladakh who always stood by the unity and integrity of our country.

So, I request the hon. Minister, Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpai, through you, to kindly pursue the matter with the Registrar General of India if the report has not reached the Ministry so far. If the report has been received, then there is no reason why the Government should not take the decision within the next few weeks. these words, I support the Bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribe) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise to this Constitution (Scheduled support Tribe, Order (Amendment) Bill of 1987. This Bill is to provided for inclusion of certain tribes, Boro Kacharis, Koch and Raba in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Tribes in respect of Meghalaya. Now, the Bill seeks to replace the ordinance. This ordinance was brought in 9th September 1987. Therefore,

the question is, this was brought to influence the voters of Nagaland; otherwise this could have been brought in the last monsoon session or in this session. It is only to influence the voters that this ordinance was brought. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that a comprehensive review of this reservation and development of the Scheduled Tribes must be taken up speedily, There is a question of scheduling re-scheduling, de-scheduling. This should be looked into properly and every State must give the Central Government a report of what they are doing for the development of these tribal people in their respective States.

There are some defects. We know that some communities which are treated as scheduled tribes in West Bengal or in Bihar are not treated so in Assam. Many of the tribal people working/in Assam tea gardens and other areas are not treated as scheduled tribes and consequently are deprived of the benefits which they would have got otherwise. Such lacunae should be removed.

Then, in West Bengal there is one community Deswali Majhi. Their culture is that of scheduled tribes. They have been demanding for their inclusion in the list of scheduled tribes for a long time. The Government of West Bangal has also suggested that that community should be included in the scheduled tribes list, but nothing has been done. In my constituency also, one community has been demanding for a long time for inclusion in the list of scheduled castes and the West Bengal Government has also recommended that they should be included in the scheduled castes list, but nothing has been done. Therefore, piecemeal legislation would not do. I would request the hon. Minister to give a serious thought to it because a constitutional guarantee has been given to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes,

I request the hon. Minister to bring a comprehensive Bill in this house taking into consideration various aspects like rescheduling, descheduling of certain communities

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to

support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill. 1987. Everybody will welcome the inclusion of the castes. Raba and Rawa, in the list of Scheduled tribes. The question that arises is that nobody heard their voice for 37 years from 1950 to 1987. They have all along been victims of injustice. As a result thereof, they remained backward. Now at least other similar castes should not be made to wait for another 40 years for their demands to be met. This is my request to you. You should consider seriously the demands of other similar castes in different States and justice should be done to them also in the same way as is being done to these castes.

With regard to the item No. 17 relating to Raba, Rawa, I would submit that when it comes to the interpretation of law, they indulge in hairsplitting. We came across a. case in which a single comma upset the whole scheme of things. We have two castes Gond and Govari-in Maharashtra. the course of printing, comma between Gond and Govari was left out in advertently and as a result thereof we have not been able to provide justice to Govari community uptil now. I had written a number of letters in this regard and so did my predecessor. but all our efforts were in vain. Therefore, I would submit that you must pay it attention and if Raba is at No. 17, let Rawa be at No. 18. Otherwise in the event of a printing mistake, a blunder will be committed. the consequences of which we are suffering even now.

The second thing which becomes clear from the Objects and Reasons of this Bill is that the Central Government can consider the matter only after the State Government make recommendation to this effect. But Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that different political pressures work in different States. we have seen that injustice has been done to poor castes in different States under political pressure, It is for the Central Government to ensure that no injustice is done to the weaker sections. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to do justice after removing the discrimination done by the State Governments because you have the machinery. You have undertaken research in this field and you have the required statistics. The Central Government should provide justice to them on the basis of these statistics and should not wait for the recommendations of the State Government. If they do not forward any recommendation for 40 years the poor people of that caste will continue to suffer. The Government should take it seriously and make its position clear. We expect that when any matter is discussed in Parliament, the Central Government should mete out justice to these people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some acts were enacted in Maharashtra. These acts are not proper. We have a caste named Halwa in our State. The people belonging to this caste are extremely poor. They toil hard to make their living. Their main occupation is weaving. They are called as Halwa-Kosti, The word Kosti is used there for weavers. The imbroglio on the term Halwa-Kosti has been going on for years. The people belonging to the caste Halwa in Vidharbha area are being supressed even today and they have not been given justice. The rules and regulations are so rigid that the Tribal Officer has laid down a number of formalities. He asks as to where your father was boin, If you name the birth place in respect of your father, he will then put the similar question about your grand father asking for a proof. Once a person migrates from village to the city. how can he produce a birth from a village of 200 persons where he was born 40 years ago? Now-a-days there hospitals and municipalities where one can get a birth-certificate, but from where will they produce a proof for so old a time. If a youth aged 30 years was born in a village 30 years ago, from where will he produce the birth-certificate? Therefore, this type of red-tapism should be stopped. Thus, the people are being harassed by enacting such Acts. I hope, the Central Government will certainly provide them justice.

Halwa-Kosti, Gond-Govari and Mana castes are yearning for justice. Thousands of representations have been sent in this regard to the Government. A number of M.Ps including myself have also written in this connection. The replay which the hon. Minister has sent to us says that the matter be

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[Sh. Banwari Lal Purohit]

taken up in the Parliament. These castes which are backward for the last 37 years have not been given justice. We were expecting a comprehensive Bill from the hon. Mintster in this very session in this regard. The whole House will welcome such a Bill unanimously. The hon. Minister has a soft corner for these castes and I hope she will certainly mete out justice to them by bringing forward a comprehensive Bill for this purpose so that the tears from the eyes of the poor could be wiped.

In the end, I would say that the Bill which she has brought forward is a very good step and and I heartily support it.

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is nothing in this Bill which calls for a long discussion. However, it is a fact that there are many castes in different States whose social and economic condition and way of living are similar to those of Adivasis and Harijans. There has been a long standing demand which has been raised inside the Parliament also from time to time that these castes should be included in the list of Adivasis or Harijans, chapter is open for a long time now. What is needed is to give it a thought to close it. A comprehensive Bill to include those castes in the list of Adivasis or Harijans, which the Government thinks should be included, should be brought forward. The Government should have no objection to it.

In this connection, I would like to submit that there is a great resentment among the people in Bihar on this issue, Processions are being taken out and demonstrations and public meetings are being held. The people say that there is a move from the Central Government to delist castes like Paswan Dusadh and Pasi from the list of Harijans and include them in the list of backward castes. I do not know whether the Government is thinking on these lines or not. But a number of responsible persons are associated with this agitation and there is a wide spread resentment on this issue. If this matter is not resolved soon, it may create law and order problem in Bihar in the near future leading to unrest. There is a great resentment among the people on this score.

If, in fact there is such a move, I must say that the Government should drop this idea because the condition of the people belonging to Dusadh and other castes is not better than that of Harijans. They have not achieved any substantial progress. Therefore, they should not be delisted and but in the list of backward castes. That is all I have to say.

With these words, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV (Madhepura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I support the Bill whole-heartedly. I am not going to take much time of the House and I have only one suggestion. I believe that principle is always better than experience. There are so many castes in so many States which deserve to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, A piecemeal legi-lation does not do justice to all the caste, For example, in my parliamentary constituency and in other constituencies of Bihar, there is a caste known as 'Seyur' caste. Just now, Mr. Purohit also mentioned that tf those castes which deserve to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not included in that list, then great injustice is done to those castes. I appeal to the conscience of the hon. Minister and pray that this caste 'Seyur' may also be included In this connection, a Central in the list. Team also gone into this issue and a recommendations from the State also has been made. And yet, this caste is not included in the list. I hope that the Minister will look into this matter and remove the injustice being done to the Seyur caste.

I want to mention one point more, It is a fact that Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are given reservation for employment in Governmental service. Reservation for Scheduled Castes and S heduled Tribes is very good. But when promotions are also given on the lines of reservation, somehow or the other it leads to demoralisation in the general administrative set up. Reservation as such is fine and I do not object to it at all. But promotions should not be given on the ground of reservation. I have

heard that it causes heart-burning in the service cadres. If it is possible, Government should look into this matter. Promotion on account of reservation should not be given. I request the Government to consider this aspect so that we can avoid causing heartburning or creating a sense of injustice in the Government servants.

Lastly, I want to say about PASI and PASWAN castes - As Mr. Vijoy Kumar Yadav has just now told that these castes should not be delisted from the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I also support the statement that this delistment should not be brought into effect.

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill which provides for inclusion of three tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Meghalaya State. While saying so, I would like to raise certain points. It is all right that these three tribes are being included in the Scheduled Tribes list. It is admitted that they are educationally and socially backward. They are entitled to the safeguards which are being provided by the Constitution itself.

For the last 37 years, these three tribes were deprived of the safeguards provided for them in the Constitution. Who is to be blamed for this? The Government is to be blamed for this. Not only these tribes have been deprived for the last 37 years from the safeguards which are being provided the Constitution but there are several hundred castes and tribes in all the States which are socially and educationally backward and which are entitled to these safeguards are also deprived of these safeguards. Till now the Government has not done any hing to give them justice. So. I would like to urge upon the Government that instead of bringing in such sort of piecemeal legislation, justice should be done to all these castes and tribes which are really entitled to these safeguards.

Now, I will come to another point. It is very good that you are going to include three Tribes in the list. But one of the backlogs which has been created in the last 37 years is regarding the reservation in employment and also reservation in educational institutions for admissions both at the Central and State levels. They were entitled to get all these safeguards but they were not given. I would like to ask the hon. Minister to explain whether the backlogs which have been created during the last 37 years will be cleared in the coming years and if so what provision will be made to clear all these backlogs?

Next I will come to land reforms. So far as the distribution of land is concerned, priority is to be given to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. This is there in the Constitution itself. But they were deprived of all these facilities. Regarding land reforms, the laws are already being passed. Whatever surplus lands are available are being distributed to the persons who were entitled to it. Is there any land available for distribution to this particular tribe which ought to have been given to them at that time only? If justice was done to them at that time only, it would have been much better.

In addition to this, there are many other castes and tribes which are entitled to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes which have been provided in the Constitution order of 1950 In Maharashtra, there is one tribe called Kohri. In the Constitution itself, certain names of Kohri tribes have been given. The State itself has provided that in-stead of giving facilities to the Kohrl t ibes, which have been provided in the Constitution, they changes that if the have made certain Members of a particular community live only in certain Talukas or in certain districts, then only they will be entitled to this benefit. I do not find any logic in this. There are many other things that can be said, but as this has reference to Meghalaya, I will not go into details.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the hon. House to this: here, justice is being done to these [Sh. D.B. Patil]

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of Constitution (S.T.)

particular tribes. In our country, 52% of the population is said to be socially and educationally backward. It has reported upon by the Mandal Commission which was appointed for the purpose of going into the merits and demerits of the case, under Article 340 of the Constitution-i e, to suggest ways and means of helping other backward classes, The Mandal Commission was appointed in 1978, and it submitted its report December 1980. For the last seven years, that report is gathering dust. Commission has said that in the whole of the nation, 53% of the population belongs to these other backward communities and backward classes, and that they are socially and educationally backward. The number of such backward classes and communities is to the extent of 3750, or something like that. Till now, justice is not being done to them. They are socially and educationally backward; they are entitled to be provided safeguards under the Constitution. But the safeguards are not being provided under the Constitution, they are being deprived of all those facilities and safeguard even they though socially and educationally backward.

The gap between the socially and educationally backward people, and socially and educationally forward, is widened by the decisions of the Government. Let us take the example of the New Vidyalayas Education Policy. Navodaya have to be established. In these Vidyalayas, Government is going to spend to the extent of Rs. 500 per head, i.e. per capita. Here, these communities which form 52% the population, are not going to get any advantage or any facilities, so far as their education and other facilities are concerned. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and of the House to this fact. I would particularly like to know. as far as backlogs are concerned, what Government is thinking, and whether the backlogs should be removed or not. I am of the opinion that the backlog which has been created during the last 35 years sofar as these three tribes are concerned, should be taken into consideration. Will it be taken into consideration? I would like to

know from the Minister what the position of the Government is, on this point.

PROF NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): I support the Constitution (Amendment) Bill presented to this House by the hon. Minister of Welfare, replace the ordinance for this purpose. promulgated on the 19th September 1987. It is a welcome measure, because it removes a long-standing lacuna; and three munities are being included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. This is some sort of a contingency step, because the Election Commission is going to hold the elections to the Meghalaya Assembly next year, Seats are being reserved, and these tribes will also stand to benefit.

I would like to support the claims of these tribes, and thank the Government and appreciate the stand of the Government in taking these steps. In the same direction, I would also support the demand of another tribe in that very area, viz. the Tamang tribe which is mostly in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal, and in Sikkim; and a few of them are living in Meghalaya also. Because this Bill particularly refers to Meghalaya, it may not be regarded as a valid ground, for suggesting the inclusion of this Tamang tribe at this moment; but in order to press the point, and because some of the Tamangs are also living in Meghalaya, I would suggest that the Minister may take this into view; and in any future inclusion of other tribes into this list, the case of the Tamang tribe may also be taken into account, and they may be included. These Tamangs are tribes to Lepchas, and the case for their inclusion has been supported by the Government of Sikkim.

The Government of West Bengal has observed rilence on this issue though the Deputy Commissioner of West Bengal in his Report has supported the case of inclusion of this tribe; and the Report has been submitted to the government. But here is a moot point. In case one State Government supports the inclusion of one tribe into the list of Scheduled Tribes as referred to under Artilce 342 and in another State the same tribe is also living. State Government does not give commitment or opposes it, what is the duty of the Central Government? The Central

Government should in all fairness be convinced about the stand taken by the government supporting the claim on ground of logic, on ground of tradition, on ground of habits and customs of the tribes having been recommended for inclusion in one State. It should not be subject to injustice in other States because some political motive may be behind it. Therefore, I would suggest that the ground that the West Bengal Government has not supported inclusion of this tribe into the list of Scheduled Tribes should not be a sufficient ground when another State of the Union which has an equal status in the Constitution that is State of Sikkim supports this demand and upholds the claim; it should be the duty of the Central Government to see that justice is done to all tribe and all communities whether they are being supported by one State or not.

Secondly, I would like to suport the case of Ladakh, the people of Ladakh as highlighted by my friend. Shri Namgyal, Earlier it was guggested that Article 342 had no jurisdiction over the State of Jammu & Kashmir by an Act of the State Government, but also by a Notification of the Central Government issued on 4th December, 1984, it was notified that the extension of the Article 342 has been extended to, has been made to cover the whole State of Jammu & Kashmir including Ladakh. another point also. So, there is no hitch. The Central Government, in all fairness should give the same treatment to the people of Ladakh by including them into the list of tribes when the people of Lahaul and Spiti speak the same larguage. Lahaul is in Himachal Pradesh and the people speek the same language, have the same dress, thehabits and the customs are the same. When they stand included in the list of Scheduled Tribes for the last 3-4 decades, why is it that the government is not agreeing to the just demand of the people of Ladakh for their inclusion. This is a just demand and I would suggest that it should be accepted immediately. The people of Ladakh are living in as hostile a climate and in as traditional a manner as the people of Lahaul and Spiti. So, on the consideration of parity and justice I would also request that the people of Ladakh may be included as a tribe in the list of Scheduled Tribes. with these words, I support it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for lunch and will reassemble at 2 P.M.

13,30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at six minute past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

PROVAL OF CONSTITUTION (SCHEDU-LED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE, 1987

AND

ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL-CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Uma Kant Mishra.

[Translation]

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, much has already been said on this Bill and, as such there is no need for a long speech, The Bill has a limited objective. While supporting this Bill and availing of this opportunity, one submission that I want to make is that there is a caste nemed Kol in Mirzapur. Allahabad and Banda districts of Uttar Pradesh and Rewa district in Madhya Pradesh, The Uttar Pradesh Government does not recognise these Kols as Adivasis as a result of which they are deprived of the benefits which are otherwise available to Adivasis. They are the descendents of Shilbri and belong to a very old tribe. Therefore, I would request that Kols of Uttar Pradesh should be included in the list of U.P. tribals and the benefits of the schemes and programmes which are formulated for the tribals should be given to them also, so that they too are able to achieve progress

[Sh. Uma Kant Mishra]

and raise their heads high. My only demand is that the Kols of Uttar Pradesh should be included in the list of Adivasis

SHRI GANGA RAM (Ferozabad): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1987.

However, I would like to submit that at present are 636 scheduled tribes including 14 tribes of Meghalaya, in the whole of India. With the passing of this Bill, this number will go up to 639 and that of Meghalaya to 17. Similarly, there are 1085 scheduled castes in the country. According to 1981 census, the population of schedu'ed tribes and scheduled castes in the country was 5, 16, 28, 638 and 10, 47, 54, 623 respectively. Based on this census, the total population of Meghalaya was 13, 35 819, of which scheduled tribes numbered 10, 76, 345 which was 80.58 per cent of the total population of the State and 0.91 per cent of the total population of the country which stood at 68, 51, 84, 692, at that time.

As I have already said, there are 14 scheduled tribes in Meghalaya at present. With the passing of this Bill, three more tribes, namely Boro Kachari, Koch and Raba or Rawa, will be added to the list. The scheduled tribes are specified under Article 342 of the Constitution and seats concerned Legislative Assembly are reserved for them in the basis of their population under Article 332 of the Constitution. Tois Bill will help the Election Commission in the process of making reservation of seats for scheduled tribes on the basis of their population in the State of Meghalaya.

I think that the apprehensions in respect of this Bill are ill-conceived and baseless, and there is no need to discuss them. This is a system to help the Election Commission and it would have been better if the lists of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes had been reviewed after the 1981 census. Even now, I request the hon. Minister to get this review done at the earliest.

I am emphasizing on it because a misconception is being created by the newspapers particularly by the opposition parties which is leading to an atmosphere of mistrust against the Government, that about 8 castes Viz. Paswan, Pasi, Jatav. Chamar, Mochi, Dhobi, Mahar and Kori which constitute about 8) per cent of the total scheduled castes population, are being removed from the scheduled castes list. This is causing a great resentment and anxiety among these castes. Similarly, the State Governments have sent proposals for inclusion of many scheduled tribes in the list it scheduled tribes, but these are pending since several years and have not been reviewed. This needs urgent attention.

In this connection I want to cite the example of two areas of Uttar Pradesh viz, Uttar Kashi and Tehri. When I was District MagIstrate in these two districts I had sent a proposal that the people of Jaunpur and Rawai should be included in the list of Scheduled tribes, because the area of Jaunsasi near Dehradun had already been declared as tribal area. But the matter is still pending and so far no decision has been taken, I therefore request that at least this area should be declared as a scheduled tribe area.

I would also like to submit that when a working group of our Parliamentary Committee visited South, we found that thousands of people in Karnataka and Tamilnadu were working for the last 15 to 20 years on the basis of fake scheduled tribe certificates. This should be enquired into and the guilty should be punished.

With these words, I support the Bill.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishan-ganj) I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words on this Bill which I rise to support but at the same time, I have some misgivings and some thoughts which I would like to place before the hon. Minister.

I hope that the two points that have been raised by a number of speakers regarding the possible political motivation behind the timings of the Bill and more importantly whether there has been a misses of the ordinance making power of the Government by binging this ordinance just a few days before the House was scheduled to assemble, shall be answered by hon, Minister.

I would like to raise a general issue. Megh alayais a tribal majority state. Just now, the hon. Member who preceded me informed the House that 81 per cent of the population of Meghalaya is tribal. With the addition of new categories, perha s it may rise by a few decimal points more and not very much The fact remains that it is a tribal majority state and the thought come to me that we made the original provision in the Constitution at the time when the Constitution was being drafted, we had no tribal majority state as such.

We envisaged the situation of tribals forming a minority in a larger social and population complex, and, therefore, they had to be protected. We accepted the puinciple of protective discrimination. What I am thinking about is whether in tribal majority States, the non-tribals need to be protected and there should be some reservalagislations in favour of the non-tribals who are living in the tribal States After all, the tribals are very secure once the entire State power is controlled by them in a tribal majority state. I do not wish to refer at this stage to the recent happenings in the State of Meghalaya. That has also prompted me-prompted my thinking-and I would, therefore suggest that when the time comec to review the situation, perhaps we should apply our mind on whether the minority is tribal or whether the minority happens to be non-tribal in a tribal State, and both deserve cerrain amount of administrative and political pretection. That is to say, I am suggeting that we should apply what the U.S. Supreme Court has called reverse discrimination!

The other point that has also been nade by a number of speakers, but I would also like to add my voice today, is the possibility of having a more up-to-date national list. This arises

in two ways. First, there are communities which were perhaps ignored because they were not very much in the picture or they were not politically conscious at the time when the list was drawn up and now they have come up and they want to assert themselves and they wish to be included. That, of course, has to be judged on merit as in this particular case. Number of communities have been asking for similar protection in other States and their case ought to be taken into consideration. But the more important aspect of the matter is that there are tribal movements acro.s the country, that people migrate from one region to the other. For example, I know that from Bihar, a large section of tribal population, over a number of decades, has moved out towads the North-East. In fact. In fact, in Assam, in the chat bagans, they form a large section of the population. Now, I would like to know why on migration they lose their Constitutional status as a protected ethnic group. In my view, once a certain group has been declared and recognised as a tribal element, then and wherever it might live in the country. must be recognised as such and wherever it is in a substantial population, it ought to receive the due facilitie, as a tribal element. So, this is the other aspect of the matter that we have got to take into account and we should have real y a sort of an understanding that once a particular social group has been recognised for a particular State to be a tribal or ethnic group, then all over the country that particular group should be recognised as a tribal element. That alone will solve the problem.

My final point is that we have not yet, the best of my knowledge, published, the detailed ethnic tables of the 1981 census. That is why it is not possible to determine, with exactitude, the exact proportions of the different tribal groups or different ethnic groups in various parts of the country. Therefore, I would like to add my voice to this demand that the tribals list should be revised in accordance with the 1981 census. This information is fully available with the Government today, although it has not yet been published. I would, therefore, suggest that in the light of the 1981 census, the i entity of the tribal groups,

[Sh. Syed Shahabuddin]

wherever they might be, throughout the country, in all the States and Union Territories, be determined and some sort of a national list should be drawn up. With these observations, I would like to support the Bill that is before us. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Bill providing for the inclusion of some Scheduled tribes of Meghalaya in the scheduled trite list, which was moved in the House by the hon. Minister on 12th November, 1987.

Sir, prior to me many of my friends belonging to differnt States have expressed their views on the Bill. I have listened to them carefully. I would also like to give some suggestions in two minutes in regard to the Bill which is exclusively in respect of the State of Meghalaya, I come from Maharashtra and belong to a scheduled tribe. There are Halba, Halbi and Kosti tribes in Maharashtra, where Thakurs also belong to these tribes and a conflict is going on about the inclusion of these tribes in the list of scheduled tribes. The Maharashtra Government has declared Halba and Hulbi as tribals. But here I would like to submit that there are others like suryawanshi Koli, Macchimar Koli, Mahadev Koli, Tokre Koli and other Thakur castes such as Kathakur, Mathakur belonging to Thana district who are getting benefiits in the name of scheduled tribes,

The Maharashtra Government has opened a Tribal Research Directorate, A Committee has been set up headed by the Director (Tribals) which scrutinises whether a tribal is genuine or not and then takes a decision. An appeal against that decision can be made to the Additional Commissioner (Tribals) who in turn declaces even non-tribals as tribals. I would suggest that the Tribal Commissioner of Maharashtra should be divested of his powers and the Centre and the State Government should provided facilities to all the Adivasis living in hill and forest areas in States, besides providing separate facilities to those castes living in cities, the people belonging to which can be termed as people belonging to weaker sections and not as tribals, and who are presently claiming the facilities meant for the tribals whether in the field of employment, education or politics. We have no objection to this. The Central Government should pay attention towards such Adivasis and prepare separate lists of Adivasis residing in each State and take the sanction of Parliament in that respect.

Once again I support this Bill and hope that the Centre shall pay attention to my suggestions.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support and give a few suggestions in respect of the Bill which has been taken up for consideration in the house and which seeks to include a few tribes of Meghalya in the list of scheduled tribes.

Social and educational backwardness was the main basis for inclusion of castes and tribes in the list of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and granting them certain facilities under the Constitution. The question of reservation is of national importance and our Government is making constant efforts in this regard by filling up the reserved quota in every department. Here, I would like to urge the hon, Minister not to include the tribals in the list under political pressure or merely because they live in the forests or hills without making preliminary enquiries. I am, however, not opposing the inclusion of tribes like Boro, Kachris, Koch, Raba, Rawa of Meghalaya but it should be seen that nontribals are not included in the list in the name of these tribes. I fully agree with my friends who have pointed out that by merely living is forests or hills, nobody becomes an Adivasi. The Government should therefore verify the facts about these tribes because there are many such non-Adivasis who are enjoying those facilities which are meant for Adivasis. Every day we come across newsitems that a particular person has become IAS by producing a fake certificate of being a Harijan and on verification it was proved that he was a Brahmin, Thakur or belonging to any other high caste. There are many such examples before the Government and the Home Ministry. Many people have been punished on being found guilty. Therefore, I would urge that thorough enquiry should be made before inclusion of tribes in the list of scheduled tribes.

I would like to submit one thing more. The population of Harijans in the country is about 17 crores, whereas of Adivasis it is 7 crores. This means that the total population of Harijans and Adivasis taken together is 24 crores. They have been guaranteed certain rights under the Constitution but it is unfortunate that even after 40 years of Independence our society has remaind caste ridden. A person belonging to a scheduled caste or an Adivasi,, is treated indifferently howsoever highly educated he my be, I think that this is must unfortunate. I do not want to make any comments but the issue of social sanctity is posing a question mark to our society, Just now Shri Ganga Ram pointed out that we should review these lists. (Interruptions) I am concluding, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it was mentioned here that castes like Chamaar, Jatav, Pasi and Paswan should be excluded from the scheduled caste list. I would like to submit that the Government should not excludes these communities merely because Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan or Shri Ganga Ram or myself wears good clothes. This should not make them believe that these communities have been uplifted and therefore their case should be reviewed immediately. Till caste system continues to exist in this country and untouchability is not eradicated de-reservation should not be resorted to. I want to strongly against such a move.

I want to submit one more point. Additions are being made in the lists but the reservation quota i.e. 14 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 10 per cent for Scheduled tribes remains the same Every State is sending names of other Castes for inclusion into the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I want these castes to be included in the list but along with it the reservation quota should also be proportionately increased. If this quota is not enhanced the lists of Harija is and Adivasis being long, we will not be able to uplift them. Therefore, when you include more castes in the lists of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe, then you must proportionately enables the Reservation quota also.

I will conclude by saying one more thing. It is being reported in the newspapers in Bihar that there are certain castes like Dushadh and Pasi, which have been excluded from the list of Scheduled castes This sort of confusion is being created. A clarification has already been made by the hon. Minister of welfare in this regard, However, I would like that when the hon. Minister replies to this discussion, he should make it clear that Dushadh and Pasi castes will not be excluded from the Scheduled Casts liset.

With these words, I support this Bill.

The said of the said of the said of the said

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jajpur): I want to only say that area restrictions should be done away with so that if a certain tribe is recognised as a scheduled tribe in a particular area, it should be recognised as such in every other area as well in order to ensure that the people belonging to this tribe are able to get the benefits available to Scheduled Tribes.

[English]

TOTAL THE RESIDENCE OF STREET THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJEND-RA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Mr. Deputy -Speaker, I am extremely grateful to all the hon, Members who have participated in this debate. I am also grateful to all of them that everybody has supported the proposal and the Bill. It has given them an occasion to express their views and they have done it. Before going into details or replying to some of the questions, on one point about misgiving in Bihar, I want to clarify. On Nobember 10, 1987, our Ministry has categorically stated that such reports were entirely baseless and mischievous. There was no such proposals anywhere nor was it, at any time, under the consideration of the Government, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I come from Bihar. I am a daughter of Bihar and I know the caste system prevailing there and also the major communities among the Scheduled Castes, namely Paswa, Dusadh and others. The question does not arise. It is completely baseless. I again categorically deny it on the floor of the House; there is no basis of such rumour.

of Constitution (S.T.)

[Translation]

RAMSWAROOP RAM should be published through the media.

[English]

Dr. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI : Now you all will be the mass-media and you can do it.

Well, Dr. Chinta Mohan, in his speech, did not raise any specific issue except that why the ordinance was issued in a very hurried manner and that it could have waited. I have already explained in my opening remarks why this was necessary and how this ordinance came it into being,

At that time the House was not meeting and both the House of Parliament were not in session. So, we had to bring that Ordinance. After the House met, we have come with this Bill. It is a simple one. Only three castes are added in Meghalaya List. Meghalaya Chief Minister was very eager that before the coming elections in Meghalaya which is most probably in February that those tribes which are left out in 19:0 Presidential Order may be included because those tribes should not be deenied all the facilities which they should get. It is a simple proposition and that is why we have come with this Bill.

You all know that under Article 342 of the Constitution, it is stated:

"The President may with respect to any State or Union territory and where it is a state, after consulation with the Governor thereof, by public notification, specify the tribe or tribal communities or part of or groups within tribes or tribal communities which shall for the purposes of this Constitution be deemed to be scheduled Tribes in relation to that state or Union territory, as the case may be,"

The second part of it is that;

"Parliament may"

It is only Parliament which is empowered to do it.

"Parliament may by law include in or exclude from the list of scheduled Tribes specified in a notification issued under clause (1) any tribe or tribal community. or part of or group within any tribe or tribal community, but save as aforesaid a notification issued under the said clause shall not be varied by any subsequent notification."

This was the necessity of coming to Parliament because it is only the Parliament which is empowered for making such change or addition or substitution and this power is with the Parliament.

Hon, Members have been writing to me from the last 1 1/2 years. I am receiving many letters from all parts of India from all the hon. Members about this inclusion of Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Caste. I have always replied that under Articles 341 and 342 of the Constitution only Parliament is capable of declaring such order and we are looking into it and we will come with a comprehenrise list at an appropulate time.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): It is an endless hope.

Dr. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI; you all know that since 1967, it is pending. Only in 1974, once a matter came in Parliament. Then there was a Select Committee. again there were some other Committees. It was discussed and again in 1976, it came in the form of removal of area restriction in some of the States.

The whole question of inclusion of those who are tribes or those who are castes in one list or the other has been bending since 20 years. In 1987 I am speaking to you in Parliament. But this matter is pending since 1967. The matter was not easy. What you are saying is that it should be done as quickly as possible. We are trying to do it. We have done much of the home-work on this and we had discussed it with all the past records and with all the reports and we are trying to make it as comprehensive as it may

The matter is not a very easy one. have all expressed here that some tribes are treated as belonging to some other caste in one State: One caste is treated as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled tribe in other State. But that is not the case. There is an example of the Assam Tea Garden labourers. Some people have migrated from Bihar or U.P. and they are working in the Tea Gardens there as labourers. But there, the Assam Government has not accepted them as tribals. They are accepted as OBC-Other Now, the question be-Backward Classes. fore us is whether they should be in the tribal list or not. Some of the hon, Members have raised this question here. Government is also seized of the matter and we are looking into it as to whether the list can be comprehensive. One thing is quite clear. I have gone through all these exercises. I personally feel about what Shri Shahabuddin has said. He has raised a right question that one ethnic group, if it migrates to other State, what will be their position. Some of the groups or tribes or castes are in difficulties. If such a person's son wants to study in that State, he is not getting the Scheduled Caste Certificate or Scheduled Tribe certificate. So, these are the difficulties. Government is looking into this problem also, as to how we can remove these difficulties because these are the real difficulties. I feel that when the father is belonging to SC or ST and if he is in U.P. serving in All India Service and if he goes to some other State where that caste is not treated as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe, then what will be the position of his wards? What about their future prospects. That is a very important issue which we have to decide and you have all expressed your opinion here. That will be taken care of.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): There are people belonging to Andhra Pradesh and Orissa who serve in Assam in the Tea Plantations.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Dr. Venkatesh has said that there are thousands of communities which deserve to be included in the list of SC and ST: Some community included in one State is not included in the other State. The point is that fhe social condition of a community varies trom area to area and hence area restrictions have been imposed. That is the present

situation and it varies from State to State. Moreover, Article 341 and Article 342 of the Constitution state that SC and ST are specified in relation to each State, Union Territory separately. Whatever Presidential Order that might have been issued, that would have been done State-wise because every State has got its own social order, social, conditions.

The other point that has been raised here is: Why not to have an All-India list of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes ? As I said, the social custom of the society differs from place to place. That is the whole difficulty in having the All India or a National List, a compact list. Someone was saying that a comprehensive Bill may be introduced in respect of this. Under the provision of Article 341. and Article 342 of the Constitution, Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are specified in relation to each State. Theer cannot be an All-India list. Even a comprehensive Bill will have to be State-wise. If we bring that Bill, we have to say that in Andhra Pradesh these and these tribes or castes are included in the list; in U.P. such and such castes are included and in such Tamilnadu these are included and like that we have to say. We cannot say that everywhere the same caste is belonging to Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community. That is why, the Constitution has every clearly stated about this.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): In the case of Brahmins, they are considered as Brahmins throughout India and they cannot be said to belong to any other community in any State.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: That is not the case.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Terpur): But Brahmins are not listed.

(Interruptions)

DR. RAJENDRA RUMARI BAJPAI: It is not a question of any controversy because social conditions differ from place to place, from State to State. That is why [Dr. Rajendra Kumari Bajpal]

this question has arisen. Though under the Constitution, untouchability.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: But untouchability is everywhere.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Under the Constitution, untouchability is abolished. That is clearly mentioned in our Constitution. It is just to bring up Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes so that they do not remail socially backward. That is why, reservation is there, they are educated, and their economic condition is improved. Though in the beginning reservation was only for ten years, but now we have extended it to 40 years because of the social backwardness and other things. This was the intention of giving reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I want to say a few words about what Mr. Namgyal has said about his Ladakh region. About Ladakh region, the Registrar General of India has been asked to undertake a mini census followed by specific survey in all the three regions of J & K so as to identify the names of specific tribes, communities which deserve inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The RGI has completed the work for Ladakh region. But the same is yet to be completed in Jammu and Kashmir region. They will submit the report after the work is completed in respect Further action will of all the three regions. be taken after the report is received from RGI. The matter is being pursued. are keen to implement the assurances which our late Prime Min ster Smt. Indira Gandhi had given and again given by our present Prime Minister. We are going to stand by that assurance and we will expedite that. We will see that where this comprehensive list comes before the Parliament, it is included. By that time, we will request RGI to complete their work...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: By the end of the century.

DR. R JENDRA RUMARI BAJPAI: No, no. That is not the point. We are very much eager to give justice to rhose people who are still not included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, though they are Scheduled Tribes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU: After 40 years of independence.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: No, no. Forty years of independence is one thing. But it is not that in the 40 years of independence, we have at only with the 1950 Order. From time to time, there we e not fications about the Scheduled Tribe lists. There are about 5 lists since 1950 Order. It is not that we are just sitting for the last 40 years. From time to time, Government has considered it and we have included it. That is not the intention.

Regarding the complete review and tribal unrest mentioned by Mr. Dora I have already said about it. Now, a comprehensive review of the progress of various programmes undertaken for the development of Scheduled Tribes is made by the Government from time to time. The Commissioner for Scheduled Tribes who has been appointed under Article 338 of the Constitution reviewed the working of the various safeguards provided for the Scheduled Tribes under the Constitution. The Office of the Commissioner has been recently strengthened suitably and two senior officers of the rank of sacretaries have been appointed to assist the Commissioner in the discharging of his duties. So, our policy is quite clear and the Constitution also provides all sorts of safeguards; but for the implementation part, we have now strengthened the Office of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commissioner. Whatever grievances are there, they can be looked into and we will see that all the constitutional safeguards are put in practice. will also see what is going on in the States. I hope after this implementation part, it would give satisfaction of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people.

I have nothing more to say about this.

I think I have clarified all the points raised

by the Hon. Members. I hope that this Bill will be passed unanimously and Dr. Chinta Mohan will withdraw his Resolution.

(Interruptions)

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati): The welfarism of the Welfare Minister is like a water bubble and probably it would lead to Dalit pamperism tomorrow—that is the feel ng of the people outside. There should be immunity for these tribals from political exploitati n.

The tonguless tribals are starving in the sunken social status and are dying in the distant hills today. The tribunals or the select committees of the tribals and for the tribals; then only the welfarism of these multi-programmes and the essence of Panchsheel of Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru will go to the corners of the country where these downtrodden people live.

Today tribals want political democracy, economic democracy, social democracy and not the pseudo democracy that is going on here in the society. Today some of the self-styled savinors of tribals have come and they are preaching every now and then. Every tear from every eye of tribals should be wiped out; then only the mission of Mahatma Gandhiji and Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru will come alive

The criterian for the selection of tribals should go in a methodical way. There is a big danger that some forces may try to enter into this. Even the civil servants so many IAS and IPS officers, including the Chairmen of different nationalised banks - are entering in the name of tribals and encreaching upon their powers. The criterian for the selection of tribals should be worklessness landlessness and illiteracy; apart from the geographical distinction. You have now selected Koch, Boro-Kacharis and Roba or Rava for inclusion in the tribal community. I want to know what is the degree of their hutlessness, worklessness landlessness and illiteracy. When you give us the clear picture then only can we accept

that these three communities cad be included in the list of tribals. If you don't have the clear picture and the satistics about this, you don't have the right to introduce this Bill here today.

Further there is a big gap between the word and deed of your Ministry. There is big gap between the promise and the practice of your Ministry. I do not know in what direction you are going.

I would also like to know as to what are the recommendations of the Joint Select Committee about Bero Kacharls, Koch and Kaba, Rava which have been included in the list. I want to knew what are the recommendations of the State Government of Meghalaya. Why they want to include these communities exclusively? You also said that whenever the State Governments recommend the Centre will accept. I want to know how many recommendations have come from other State Governments and why you are not able to take any positive action in that direction? Why you are exclusively going for Meghalaya? You said Election Commission has recommended. I Want to know the date on which Election Commission wrote the letter to the Government. What are the contents of tue letter? If you can give this information that may satisfy us but your present argument is not satisfactory.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: The question is:

"That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987." Those in favour may say 'Aye'.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: Aye,

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: Those against may so 'No'.

SOME HON, MEMBERS: No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: I think 'Noes' have it.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: 'Ayes' have 15.02 hrs. it. I press for Division.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let the lobbies be cleared.

15.00 brs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the lobbies are cleared. The question is:

That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (Ordinance No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987."

The motion was negatived.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now I shall put the motion for consideration of the Bill to the vote of the House. The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of certain tribes in the list of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Meghaleya, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the

Title were added to the Bill.

DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKAR: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

NATIONAL HOUSING BANK BILL — CONTD.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let's now take up item No. 8 on the agenda-National Housing Bank Bill. Shri Vijoy Kumar Yadav may continue. He is not present.

Now Sharad Dighe may speak.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Sir, I rise to support wholeheartedly the National Housing Bank Bill to establish a bank to be known as the National Housing Bank to operate as a principal agency to promote housing finance institutions both at local and regional levels and to provide financial and other snpport to such institutions.

Sir, the idea was there in the air for a long time and it was finally announced by the Prime Minister in this Budget speech on 28th February 1987. At that time, paragraph 26, he had said. financial structure will be created to provide funds for housing. At the apex level, a new National Housing Bank will be set up by the Reserve Bank of India with equity capital of Rs. 100 crores". announcement that was made at that time is being implemented by introducing this Bill. Before that announcement was made, the idea was stated in the Seventh Five Year Plan also. Not only that, the Development Ministry with the support of the Planning Commission had initiated this idea and appointed a Committee for the purpose of examining this idea. Accordingly, that Committee had been appointed under the Charimanship of the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank, Shri Rangarajan on 17th June, 1986 to examine the proposal of setting up of National Housing Bank. The report of that Committee was received on 4th February 1987 and it recommended the establishment of this bank. A mention was also made in the national housing policy draft and in paragraph 8.1, it was stated:

"A new financial structure will be created to provide funds for housing;