

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

AN HON'BLE MEMBER : Now please take up 377.

MR. SPEAKER: That will be taken up in the end.

14.00 hrs

[English]

What do we do now? Should we take up the discussion or break for lunch?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Sir, it is purely your discretion. I can hardly say anything. It is better to take it up at 6 O'Clock so that there will be continuity. Otherwise, after half-an-hour, there will be Private Members' Business and then if we take it up again, it will disturb the whole sequence. Moreover, there is nobody here to listen to what I have to say ... (*interruptions*) ... In this case, with all due deference to everyone, I am not going to speak unless the Prime Minister or the Home Minister be present in the House. This is not a light matter. I request you and beg you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Then, should we take it up at 6 P.M.?

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: I have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Let us have it at 6 P.M. because, as you said, by discussing for half-an-hour and breaking the discussion, it will disturb the continuity.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now adjourn for Lunch to meet again at 3.30 P.M.

14.01 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty-five Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Private Members' Business. Shri Khagapati Pradhani.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
AND RESOLUTIONS

Forty-fifth Report

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): Sir, I beg to move:

"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 23 August, 1995."

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 23 August, 1996."

The motion was adopted.

15.36 hrs

Resolution Re : STEPS TO PREVENT ATROCITIES ON SC/ST.—[CONTD.]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we shall take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Satya Deo Singh on the 16 December, 1994 on the steps to prevent atrocities on SC/ST.

Time allotted for discussion on the subject was six hours. We have already consumed 5 hours 42 minutes; time left is 18 minutes.

Yes, Pradhaniji, would like to speak on this?

SHRI K. PRADHANI (Nowrangpur): No Sir.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, please increase the time for discussion on this subject.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Satya Deo Singh.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): Sir, I have already made my submissions on this. The response should come from the Government.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Let the reply come from the Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU) : Sir, if no other

hon. Member wants to speak on this, then I would reply to the debate.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : If any other member is interested to speak on it, you may give them chance to speak. Perhaps, Shri Nitish Kumar wants to speak on it.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Let Shri Nitish Kumar Ji speak on it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Why only me, why not you?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Nitish Kumar, would you like to speak on it?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : No Sir. We want that the discussion on this should go on.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Okay! Now, the Minister would reply.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am extremely thankful to all the hon. Members, who have participated in this important debate, in general and to Shri Satya Deo Singh in particular who has brought forward this Resolution and initiated the discussion. Sir, while initiating the discussion he has informed the House about the attitude towards SC/ST community in the country particularly in relation to Uttar Pradesh ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: This Bill had been moved by Mulayam Singh ji. Now Mayawati has become the Chief Minister. So they have lost interest otherwise they would have pursued it further.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Nitish Kumar Ji, such a change in Uttar Pradesh has become possible only after I brought forward this resolution.

15.41 hrs.

[Shri SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : Sir, the hon. Members have drawn attention of the House mainly to incidents of rape, molestation, harassment of women belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and urged the Central Government to take necessary steps and remedial measures under the Constitution. Sir, it is most unfortunate that members of this community are still being subjected to various types of social oppression and also they are made victims of violence unleashed on them by dominant social groups.

Earlier, people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes suffered the trauma of humiliation and violence silently. However, with growing awareness among

the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes due to education and other programmes which are enunciated by the Government of India and various State Governments, they are today trying to assert their rights and resist the exploitative practices such as untouchability.

We all know that the major problem they face is with regard to land and another problem is nonpayment of wages to the majority of the agricultural community, the agricultural labourers in particular. The oppressors are from the land-owning community and the dominant castes throughout the length and breadth of the country. In every State, this is the phenomena. Sir, the Government fully shares the anxiety of the hon. Members over such incidents. Various measures have been taken to check crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. A special legislation, namely, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 provides for deterrent punishment for perpetrators of atrocities. For providing speedy trial, special courts have been set up in almost all the States under the Act. This Act has been given wide publicity.

Training courses have been conducted to the officers, particularly to the enforcing authorities. Committees consisting of officials and non-officials have also been set up at various levels to assist the Government in implementation of this very important Act. Sir, provision has also been made for adequate relief and rehabilitation measures to the victims of atrocities. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1995 has been notified in the Gazette of India, after framing the rules, on 31.3.95. Among others, the rules also provide for enhanced norms for relief and rehabilitation of the victims of atrocities.

Sir, the procedure for payment of relief has also been streamlined due to our Court experience, we have streamlined the payment of relief in a systematic manner and it has been made obligatory on the State Governments to make part payment of relief within the specified time. For example, in case of insult, intimidation and harassment, 25 per cent of the relief amount is to be disbursed to the victims when the charge-sheet is sent to the Court and the rest on the conviction. Similarly, in case of outraging the modesty of a woman, 50 per cent of the amount is to be paid after the medical examination and the remaining 50 per cent after the conclusion of the trial or the conviction.

The Government of India provides assistance to the States on 50:50 basis, the matching grant, for this very purpose. During the financial year 1993-94, as against the total Budget provision of Rs. 6.50 crore, an amount of Rs. 7.06 crore was released to the States and Union Territories. For the year 1994-95, as against the Budget provision of Rs. 6 crore, we have released about Rs. 9.75 crore to the States and Union Territories. The provision made for the year 1995-96 is to the tune of Rs. 12 crore.

Sir, while maintaining constant vigilance, to safeguard the interests of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled

Tribes, we have requested the State Governments to ensure the following measures:

(1) Atrocity cases are disposed of on priority and reasons for delay are investigated and expedite disposal;

(2) Due protection is given and allowance is paid to the witnesses in the case of atrocities;

(3) Officers with proven integrity and sympathy towards the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe community are posted in atrocity prone area cutting across the age level; and

(4) A watch may be kept on major areas of disputes between the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the dominated groups through the District Officers and to ensure preventive action wherever necessary to avoid untoward instance.

These four measures are yielding results today and we are, time and again, getting the reports from various District Collectors and there is a mechanism in our Ministry that whenever any instance takes place, they have to report within twelve hours of the instance. The District authorities are directly in touch with our Ministry. My Ministry is having a separate cell. The moment we get the information, the information is being transmitted to the concerned State Chief Minister and the Chief Minister in turn takes a decision and they are trying to do their best in this matter.

As and when the instances of atrocities on SCs and STs come to the notice of the Ministry as I mentioned, Sir, we take immediate remedial measures, not only we just get information but also we take the follow-up measures. In a recent case, where a Dalit girl was blinded in Katnayakanpattu village in Salem District. The matter was taken up by me personally with the Chief Secretary and with the concerned District Collector and due to our personal approach, immediate action was taken against the concerned teacher. I personally visited the hospital and talked to the doctors and today, Sir, I am happy to inform that the girl has got her eyes back. At the same time, we have taken stringent measures against those officers. Likewise, my senior colleague, Shri Sitaram Kesri had rushed to Bihar, where six persons were massacred on 6th July. In the same way, recently he visited Bihar again where there was a case of atrocity against the Scheduled Caste people. He visited the place and he personally saw to it that the administration takes up a vigorous action against those culprits and immediately the people were arrested. And from our Department, we have sanctioned Rs. 25 lakh to the State of Bihar to give assistance to the victims, the widows' families. This is one of the examples. As I mentioned earlier, we do not want the occurrence to continue. That is why, we have been insisting the State governments to take appropriate and formal measures, whereby the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities are not subjected to atrocities. I would like to assure the Members of the House that our Government is committed to protect the

persons, the honour and the property of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as also their all round development.

Various schemes for their socio-economic development activities are being implemented with a substantial finance allocation over the years. To quote a few examples, under the IRDP, between 1985-86 and 1993-94, out of 281.76 lakh families assisted, 74.37 lakh families were Scheduled Castes and 59.14 lakh families were Scheduled Tribes.

Similarly, under the Indira Awas Yojna, between 1985-86 and 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 1957.67 crore has been spent to construct 16,45,952 houses which have been mostly handed over to the scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe families.

Again, under the Village Works Scheme, which was started exclusively for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, between the year 1988-89 and till date, about 6,97,819 wells have been constructed at a cost of Rs. 2189 crore and they were exclusively handed over to them. These are some of the illustrations I wanted to present to the House.

It is an accepted fact that historic and unfortunate process of subjugation of Scheduled Castes, as I mentioned earlier, agriculture remains one of the main areas of source of income. Therefore, the liberation should also start mainly from the field of agriculture related areas. It is due to this realization, that 48.87 lakh beneficiaries have been distributed surplus land of 50.58 acres in our country so far. Out of the total 48.87 lakh beneficiaries, about 36 per cent was chosen among the Scheduled Castes and 14 per cent was among the STs. It is due to all these relentless measures that have been continuously formulated and implemented by the Congress Party's Government at the Centre and also at the States, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been, today, able to improve their position. From the Sixth Five Year Plan period to 1994-95, 3.32 crore Scheduled Caste families and 1.40 crore of Scheduled Tribe families have been provided assistance for the socio-economic development so that they can cross the poverty line.

In the year 1994-95 alone, the SCP outlay was to the tune of Rs. 4311 crore and TSP outlay was Rs. 3057 crore constituting 10.97 per cent and 8.37 per cent of the total State plan outlays.

Sir, the main objective of all these measures is to develop and bring the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population at par with others so that they can also enjoy and occupy a dignified and a respectful place in our society.

The Government has also been ensuring reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes in the educational institutions and Government jobs to enable them to have their due share in the governance of the country. Sir, recently the Parliament voted a Bill for the protection of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

In the Mandal case the judgment was against the SC/ST employees of the Government. But this hon. House unanimously passed an important milestone Bill and made them happy. It is not enough and we continue to do this kind of work for the welfare and development of the SC/ST people normally. We will see that our brothers in the SC/ST communities do not feel isolated or do not feel left out and they are also with us in our socio-economic development. They must be part of this. That is our main aim.

In the Sixth Five Year Plan about Rs. 27,127 crore was provided for SCP. In the Eighth Plan for SCP the provision is of the order of Rs. 36,799 crore. Similarly, for the TSP—Tribal Sub-Plan—Rs. 21,950 crore was earmarked in 1993-94. All these measures should lead to an atrocity-free society in the long run. That is our aim. Whatever money we earmark, whatever has been spent on the SC/ST population must reach them.

Recently, I know that a number of hon. Members made certain allegations that the Government of India is not doing so. But I must say that all these facts and figures establish that our interest is very clear. We are interested in seeing that the SC/ST population of the country gets all the power and it is not because of their belonging to SC/ST but because of their being part of us. If any hon. Member has any apprehension that we are not interested in the development of SC/ST people, it is wrong. We have been consistently helping them; not only helping but seeing that they get all the assistance from the Government. That is our duty.

As I mentioned in the beginning, our Government is constantly watching and constantly deliberating on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long more will you take?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will take another five minutes or so.

This process will continue. Wherever the atrocities take place it is brought to our notice. My Ministry is taking care to see that a proper contact is made, proper action is taken and thereby we would like to stop the atrocities on a continuous basis.

Our Government has also been monitoring atrocity-prone districts. We have selected about 48 districts where atrocities are being committed very often in these districts. We have advised the State Governments to see that officers with proven quality, with proven track record and with a commitment to the cause of SC/ST or the weaker sections of the society are posted as Collectors and SPs and even inspector level or lower level so that they can work with a commitment and the atrocities do not occur time and again. Especially the community at large is not committing this kind of crime, that is setting one section against another. That is our commitment and we want a society where the SC/STs and other communities live together.

We would like to see that the SC/ST population gets every patronage from the Government and also from the

public. It is our duty to see that they should not be isolated, they should not get that kind of injustice. It is this House, the Members of Parliament and the public of the country, all of us must educate our people that they should not be treated like that.

In this manner if all of us work together with the same zeal and enthusiasm, along with the Government's efforts and interest, the money allocated will be properly utilised for the betterment of the community. We will do all our best to see that an atrocity-free society is established in this country.

With these words I would like to mention that there is no need for the hon. Members to press for the Motion.

16.00 hrs

I request him to withdraw it.

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS (Jaipur) : Sir, I want one clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN: From whom? Technically speaking the time is over. We will extend the time by fifteen minutes more.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANADI CHARAN DAS: When atrocities are perpetrated on these people they are killed and their houses are burnt, Government pays them Rs. 10,000/- by way of compensation. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Government propose to increase this amount and arrange to build a house costing Rs. 3 lakh for a person whose house is burnt and also pay Rs. 2 lakh in addition as compensation. This will merely go a long way to reduce the number of atrocities being committed on them. Secondly, the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes always look for their saviour. I would like to know the number of people who were really benefited by the person whose name and whose action you mentioned. I would also like to know as to what additional action Government contemplate to take to reduce the number of atrocities being committed on these persons.

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: The hon. Member is right. Earlier, the compensation was Rs. 10,000. Now, we have raised it for which many hon. Members have been demanding for a long time. The Government is considering for enhancement of compensation.

The hon. Member is well aware and he has been fighting for this issue for the last so many years.

In every Consultative Committee meeting of the Ministry he will not sit without raising this issue.

I am happy to announce that our Government is serious about this issue. We must go with the trend and we also go as the wind blows. We will certainly come up to his expectation and in the coming days, we will be able to announce something quickly.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring certain facts to the notice of the hon'ble Minister. It is a very serious matter and the hon'ble Minister must be aware of the sentiments underlying the resolution that I had moved on the 16 December. Today also, many Members tried to express their views on this resolution. All the Members are of course equally important but it was my heart-felt desire to hear the views of those Members who have genuine interest in this issue.

While initiating this resolution in the House on the 16 December, I had said that it was a great tragedy that in each session, the atrocities committed on Members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as also on women are discussed and reported in the press but unfortunately these atrocities continue to be committed unabated. I from the bottom of my heart, thank all those Members who expressed their views on this serious issue and drew the attention of this august House to it quite emphatically.

As the hon'ble Minister knows, crimes have continued to be committed in the country in the past and will be committed in the future as well. Ever since the man was born, the crimes have continued to be committed. You may pat your back that the Congress Government have made a good deal of progress in this regard. You have also presented certain statistics in support of your claim but I feel that this House is not satisfied with your statement. Statistics cannot fill an empty belly. By presenting statistics here, you cannot mitigate the heinousness of the atrocities committed and the gravity of the crime. It is only the weaver who knows where the shoe pinches: Only the victim of the atrocities know his pain.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, crimes like murder, rape, burning of houses and crops are committed in a usual way. But there are other reasons also behind the commission of these crimes. Sometimes, spurt in crimes is dictated by economic needs. But the crime of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is being committed due to a dispensation which has no place in a civilized society and the society in which such a dispensation exists, will have be able to progress. These atrocities are committed on them just because they happen to belong to depressed and backward classes. How sad it is that women belonging to these classes are paraded naked and raped! And these crimes become all the more serious when they are committed to pander to a strange perverted taste. Therefore, any punishment provided for such crimes would not be adequate. When such crimes come to light and the attention of the entire world is drawn towards them, this does not project any

good image of our country. Even after so many years of our independence we have not been able to remedy this state of affairs.

Mr. Chairman, Mahatma Gandhi took up the issue of upliftment of the Harijans in the country and he worked for it in right earnest. Sir, I feel that it was Mahatma Gandhi who was genuinely interested in them. Dr. Ambedkar also fought for them but Mahatma Gandhi, though not belonging to the depressed classes, understood their plight in proper perspective and he had a genuine concern for them. So, if we really want to do something for these underprivileged persons, we should follow the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi I wish to state it in categorical terms that were enactment of the legislation would not taken us anywhere. In fact, every Member sitting in this House should realise that it is his bounden duty to practice what he preaches in real terms.

Mr. Chairman, the Hon'ble Minister stated that in this resolution I had referred only to Uttar Pradesh but you will recall that while moving this resolution, I had mentioned Bihar also Mr. Nitish Kumar said that I had ceased to have any interest in this issue. As such, I, through you, would like to inform this august House that I had not brought forward this resolution merely to seek a debate on it. The fact of the matter is that in the state or the district I come from such atrocities are committed, to the utter dislike of one and all. Leave aside the perpetrators of these atrocities. The persons living in the villages in the Mohallas where such atrocities are committed disapprove of them from the bottom of their heart. That was why I had made a particular mention of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Some Hon'ble Members stated that such atrocities were being committed in the entire country. I agree with them but then I have already clarified why I mentioned the names of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Now Ms. Mayawati's Government is there in Uttar Pradesh. She is a Dalit woman but prior to that such crimes continued to be committed there as also in Bihar under the political patronage and protection. The perpetrations of these atrocities were getting support and cooperation from the political parties which were in power. That was why I made particular mention of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. By the grace of God, the rule of anarchy has come to an end there and Ms. Mayavati has come to power. (Interruptions)

Sir, please give me five minutes more.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): Now Manu's Government is there.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: You want to say that Manuvadi Government is there. Do you have any objection to Ms. Mayavati being in power there?

SHRI ANIL BASU: No please.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: If you have no objection, please let it come on the record. By making such comments, please do not give the signals that you are opposing it. I know you oppose it and you are not happy with it. (Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAIN MANI TRIPATHI (Kaiserganj): Mr. Chairman, this reference of high and low should not be made here. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please address the Chair. Please continue your speech. Tripathiji, you please sit down.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: I would request the Hon'ble Members to cooperate with me for five minutes keeping in view the gravity of the subject. I know more of the Members here feel inclined to agree with me.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair, please do not talk to each other. You continue your speech.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, I am trying to continue my speech. They are all my friends. Some of them want me to speak and some want that I should not speak.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HUSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Chairman, we want to listen. But as far as the gravity of the subject is concerned, you please see for yourself that all the benches are lying vacant. Please have a look at the other side also. There are the Members belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and their Minister are sitting. In the centre, we all here are sitting. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : We are not Scheduled Caste M.Ps.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Mr. Satya Dev Singh, we do not belong to S.C. We are here ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: Mr. Chairman, the hon. Members present on that side are there to support the second resolution that is to be taken up shortly. Some days back, the Supreme Court, giving his verdict against a judgement of the Madhya Pradesh Government, ruled that the section 18 of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act is not violative of Article 21 of the Constitution. This section has been incorporated for certain reasons. I wish to draw the attention of the House to this fact because this section applies to no other crime except the one concerning the Harijans. In this section, it has been stated:

[English]

Making a member of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe to forcibly eat or drink any obnoxious stuff.

[Translation]

This is exactly what is happening and hence this section is in the law. Today, even 45 years after our independence, Harijans are forced to eat or drink such obnoxious stuff as excrement or issue. The saddest part of it is it happens in

the police station. *(Interruptions)* For this we had to knock at the doors of the High Court and the Supreme Court because this matter cannot be discussed in the House. The Supreme Court said that the persons indulging in such excesses will not be granted anticipatory bail. I feel that the Government should welcome it and make necessary laws so that there is no scope for anticipatory bail in such cases. It has been further stated in it:

[English]

Removing his or her clothes forcibly and parading him is the second thing. The next is about wrongful disposition, making him bonded labour, forcing him to vote or not to vote according to his conscience.

[Translation]

I feel Marxist party people will agree there. They should be allowed to cast their votes in the next elections.

[English]

Outraging the modesty.

[Translation]

It often happens. But outraging the modesty of a woman just because she happens to be a Dalit Woman and that too in a savage manner is really something most despicable. I would request the hon. Minister to take necessary steps in the light of the said judgement of the Supreme Court. It must be a very small judgement as it pertains only to the anticipatory bail and its scope is limited to the judgement of the Madhya Pradesh High Court.

[English]

I feel that this is a high landmark judgement to prevent atrocities and such type of brutal behaviour towards any section of the society.

[Translation]

Sir, so long as bonded labour continues, agriculture labour and labour on brick-kilns continue, the rape of women cannot be stopped. The atrocities will continue to be committed on them. What steps do you propose to take to prevent them? I remember that when our old Bharatiya Janta Party had formed its Government, we were of the firm view that we would not be able to uplift the oppressed by doing small odd jobs sporadically. For the upliftment of these Dalits, the need of the hour is to give them proper education. By reserving certain posts for them in the services would not help much. They must get their due share in the wealth and property of the country as also in agricultural and commercial fields. That was why in the Economic Television Programme, we had demanded that if any Dalit wants to purchase a truck or a taxi, he may just arrange 7 per cent of the total amount of money required and the remaining amount should be guaranteed by the Government because

you want these Dalits to join the mainstream. By paying just a pittance of Rs. 10 or 12 by way of wages to a bonded labour or Rs. 100 or Rs. 50 as compensation to the victims of crimes like murder or rape, the problem of victimisation of Dalits would not be solved. This is only creating further problems. The Atrocities Act is being grossly misused to set people against one another and to implicate them in false cases. A very typical case was brought to our notice in our District in which the family members themselves killed one of their kith and kin as they were going to get more money. All these dangers are associated with it. You said that you were going to regulate payment of wages. You presented statistics with which you are satisfied. Besides, you also gave statistics regarding the atrocities. You had earmarked a sum of Rs. 6.50 crores for being paid to the victims of the atrocities in 1993-94 but you had actually to pay Rs. 7.07 crore. Similarly in 1994-95, you had set apart Rs. 6 crores for the said purpose but you had actually to pay to the States Rs. 9.75 crore for being paid as compensation. A sum of Rs. 12 crore in anticipated during the year 1995-96 for this purpose. Keeping in view the policies and the philosophy of the Government as enunciated by you as also the action taken by Government in pursuance thereof, these amounts of money ought to have come down but they are going up. Why? It is because the atrocities are increasing and you are forced to increase the amount of compensation year after year. If this amount had become zero during your term of offices, I would have thought that the Ram Rajya has returned to this country. Then you could have patted you on your back and we would have agreed that the Congress Party's Government was functioning in the right direction. You have been ruling this country for the last 45 or 50 years on the votes of Dalits giving them false hopes of eradicating their poverty. Despite all this, it is indeed a very state of affairs that today such a resolution has been moved and discussed in the House.

You referred to IRDP and Indira Awas Yojana. Mr. Chairman, even in your area, these must have been the talk of the town. You spent huge amounts of money in Indira Awas Yojana. What is the result? Very often it has been pointed out in this House that the corruption is on a very large scale in both these schemes. On paper it is shown that so much amount has been provided to so many Dalits, so many houses for them have come up, so many Dalits have been accommodated etc. etc. but in actual practice, nothing of the sort happens. As far distribution of land, it is being done in a very perfunctory manner. Possession of land is eluding in the case of 50 per cent of the leases. Persons with these pieces of paper run after the M.Ps and M.L. As to seek their help in Patna, the capital of Bihar. On the leases of 1982, 1984 and 1992, the ownership has not been transferred till this date. The harassed man does not go for his work but would run after the brokers, greases the palms of the brokers, Kanungo, Tehsildar, S.D.M. etc. to get the lease—a lease that does not get him the possession of land and even for this piece of land he is made to run from pillar to post. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up. The time for this Resolution is over.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH: It is a very imotional issue. It reflects the political genius of the country as also the dignity of this House. If this sort of victimisation of Dalits and women continued, it would also deal a blow to the unity and sovereignty of the country. This will weaken our country. So, we have to give a very serious thought to this issue.

I appeal to the Hon'ble Minister and the Government to correct this distorted psyche and the mental observation of victimisation of Harijans. For this we may have to educate our people and follow the policy of adjustents and, if certain people still choose not to see reason, the provision for stringent punishment for them. Then only our country will develop along smooth lines. Presenting statistics and spending money will not yield the desired results.

I hope the entire House will appreciate the sentiments expressed by me on the issue. I pray God to grant the Congress Party the needed clairvoyance to take concrete steps in this behalf. If you are satisfied, I have nothing to say in the matter but our society is not satisfied, our country is not satisfied. Such atrocities, in whichever part of the country these are committed, whether these are committed in the Congress-ruled state or BJP-ruled State, are very shameful and should have no place in our society. Under whichever political dispensation these are being committed, they are disgraceful for all of us, and are an insult to our Constitution, to this House and the humanity at large. On the whole, it is an insult to our country.

With these words, I think you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing or pressing your Resolution?

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Sir, of course, I am withdrawing my Resolution but I am not withdrawing my protest.

I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Satya Deo Singh be withdrawn?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up the next item, i.e., the Resolution moved by Shri Sudarsan Raychaudhuri on 26 May, 1995.

Shri Chitta Basu.