

already received the required recommendations from the State Governments then what is the difficulty in including these castes in the list? If any Bill is required for this purpose, please introduce that Bill. If you include new castes in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, their number will increase. Today, they have been given reservation in proportion to their population.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we would request you to take a decision this year at the earliest to identify castes for inclusion in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes List. Keeping in view the consequent increase in their numbers the constitution should be amended accordingly to enhance the reservation limit from the present level of 50 per cent. Therefore, it is my request to do away with the 50 per cent limit by bringing a comprehensive Bill for the just and integrated upliftment of the society.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with the introduction of this Bill by Shri Reddaiah Ji. I got opportunity to express my views. For this I thank Shri Yadav and you. I strongly support this Bill and request you to accept it. It would be a immense achievement.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to Shri R.P.Reddaiahji for introducing this Bill, which was being demanded for a long time.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Suryanarayanji, will you please take your seat just for a minute? The Minister of State for Home Affairs wants to make a statement. So, you can continue your speech after that. I am permitting the hon. Minister to make the statement.

17.47 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Escape of LTTE Cadres from the Vellore Special Camp, Tamil Nadu

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Members are aware about the escape of 43 LTTE inmates on 14/15 August, 1995 from the Special Camp at Tippu Mahal in Vellore. The State Government has confirmed the incident and have also informed us of the various follow up measures taken by them subsequent to the incident.

According to the information received from the State Government, Chief Minister, Tamil Nadu, has ordered a judicial enquiry into the incident by a High Court Judge of the Madras High Court. A red alert has been sounded all over Tamil Nadu, Special Police parties have been constituted to launch a massive manhunt all over the State to apprehend the escapees. Road checks/vehicle checks have been undertaken. In pursuance of these steps, 11 persons, who had escaped have been captured by the State

Police of whom 2 persons, however, committed suicide by swallowing cyanide. I got an information just before I came to the House that one more person has been arrested. So, out of 43, 12 have been arrested. The ten persons who have been captured alive by the State Police are being interrogated. The State Government has announced a reward of Rs.10,000/- to any person providing information leading to the arrest of the remaining escapees. The Superintendent of Police, North Arcot Ambedkar District and the Camp Commandant and others concerned with the security of the Special Camp have been placed under suspension, pending disciplinary action. A fact-finding team consisting of senior State Government officials has been sent to Vellore to make an on-the spot enquiry into the circumstances leading to the escape of LTTE cadres.

Even as these steps have been taken by the State Government following the incident, the Central Government has indeed been concerned over the incidents of escape of LTTE cadres and their militant activities. Over the last three years, 8 incidents of escapes involving LTTE cadres have been reported from Tamil Nadu. These incidents include two incidents of jail breaks. These incidents included escape of 42 person out of which 21 were traced and one was killed in a bomb explosion when cornered by the police. Repetition of such incidents have a grave security threat to the country and hence special vigilance is indeed called for on the part of the State Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents. The Central Government has been constantly in touch with Tamil Nadu and other State Government on the strengthening of intelligence aspect of the functioning of the State Police; effecting better and actionable sharing of intelligence; besides providing adequate financial and other assistance to modernise the police forces. In as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, with the object of curbing the activities of LTTE, the Central Government has been assisting the State Government by way of providing Central Para Military Forces and augmented financial assistance for modernisation of State Police etc. Recurrence of incidents such as at Vellore however calls for comprehensive review of the law and order and security related infrastructure by the State Government and posting of such officers as are competent and sensitized to security aspects in sensitive positions. The State Government have informed that they are alive to the gravity of the matter and are taking due action.

Yesterday, during discussions, one of the Hon'ble Members had mentioned that the State Government of Tamil Nadu had sent a proposal for delegation of powers under section 3(2) (g) of the Foreigners' Act to the State Government. It is true that such a proposal was received from the State Government in December 1995. The proposal was examined by the Ministry of Home Affairs in consultative with the legal experts. It was viewed that the powers under section 3(2) (g) of the Foreigners' Act were conferred only on the Central Government which can exercise the same after it has formed the option on its part for issuing special orders as may be considered expedient to give effect to the provisions of the Act. According to

State Government was informed of this position in March 1994. The State Government was further informed that they had adequate powers already delegated to them under the Foreigners' Act to tackle problems in respect of Sri Lankan nationals in Tamil Nadu. In July, 1995, the State Government has again reiterated its request for delegation of powers to the State Government. In the wake of the present security scenario in Tamil Nadu, the Central Government is re-examining the proposal in consultation with the Department of Legal Affairs.

Even as the legal frame work as above can be re-examined, what is important is that incidents such as the one at Vellore, as I mentioned earlier, do call for a serious review by the State Government of the on-ground implementation of the existing provision which are available to and within the compliance of the State Government. Let me assure the august House that the Central Government on its part would spare no effort and would provide all assistance to help the State Government in strengthening the security of the country.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL-Contd

(Insertion of new Article 330 A and 330 B etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support the Private Member's Bill introduced by Shri Yadavji whenever there was a move to provide reservation to the Backwards, as per the Mandal Commission's recommendation, there was an uneasiness. Gradually it became a burning issue. There is now no opposition to reservations being given to the OBC and those in annexure 1 or annexure 2. Now there is no such opposition in the country. Lok Sabha has also accepted the question of providing reservations, be it because of the prevailing conditions in the country or out of helplessness or being forced to do so. This has been accepted even by the Executive. There are no differences on this count. Just now our colleagues were saying that the Congress was against providing reservations. I remember I was not in Congress when the Mandal Commission was implemented. This is evident from the proceeding of the House. Even at that time I did not consider Congress to be guilty. Some other party was guilty, which still holds Congress guilty for not implementing the Mandal Commission Report. When Late Shri Rajiv Gandhiji was in the opposition and we were the ruling party, he had only said that he did not oppose reservations. He was all for giving reservations. He conceded that there had been a delay in this and accepted his responsibility also in the delay. He concluded by urging Shri V.P.Singh to include in annexure 1 and annexure 2, the Karpoori Thakur formula. All this he had said. We did not accept it. Mandal Commission provided for 27 per cent reservation. Shri V.P.Singh was in favour of implementing the provision in it. This issue was settled after the court gave its verdict. Hence, I do not believe that the Congress is opposed to it. Recently, when Karnataka was under the Congress rule, the Government had a resolution passed in the Assembly to provide 89 per

cent reservation to the backwards. It was then sent to the Lok Sabha. You all agreed to it. I want to prove that Congress is as much in favour of reservation as you are. The question now is, how to implement it. The Minister of State as well as the cabinet Minister were present in the House. We had an in-depth discussion on it.

I thank the hon. Speaker for taking keen interest in conducting debate on the issue of Mandal Commission recommendations at every time. Therefore, it is incorrect to say that he does not intend to remove the differences between classes.

Now the question is that how it could be implemented. I admit that there is difference of opinion on this issue throughout the country. Some State Governments do not wish to implement it like the Janta Dal Governments in Orissa under the Chief Ministership of Shri Biju Patnayak. But it can not be called a fault of Janta Dal. How I can say that Janata Dal does not accept it. It is not so. Nitishji has rightly pointed out that objections are raised on petty matters. If the last date for submitting. The application form is 25th of the month and Block official does not issue certificate before that date then the candidate cannot fill up the form. We will have to make some special arrangements for it. Therefore, I would like to suggest that it should be taken up by Lok Sabha for maintaining control over such a situation. There would be no use of enacting laws if backwards do not get anything. A committee, consisting of the Members of all the political parties should be set up to find out lacunae in implementation of this report. Stringent action should be taken against the persons found guilty. This would provide relief to whom you intend to provide it.

Now the question is that how poor people of this country would progress. For this I thank the hon. Prime Minister. He says that the condition of villages should be improved whether through Mandal Commission or any other means. Just now issue of education for poor children was raised. I appreciate that there is no lack of will on the part of Government but if this is implemented after keeping the feeling of backward in mind, only then they will be benefited.

18.00 hrs.

You say that you will provide mid-day meal in the schools, and poor people will be given Rs. 75 as social security pension. I would like to say as to whether these are not revolutionary decisions? All these issues are covered under social justice and this is what the Mandal Commission has envisaged. If you implement this, which we all want, we will be able to achieve our obligatives and it will not make any difference as we know that the intentions of our Prime Minister is clear.

I had taken up the matter with the hon. Prime Minister. I met him for providing relaxation in the matter of age to persons belonging to backward classes because these persons were deprived of their right to take examination in the absence of age-relaxation.