

13.10 hrs.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE SPECIAL PROTECTION GROUP (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Special Protection Group (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT-6521/94)

13.10½ hrs.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964."

The Motion was adopted.

"SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: I introduce** the Bill.

13.11 hrs.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Industrial Development Bank of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT-6521/94)

13.12 hrs.

CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950.

MR. SPEAKER: The Question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950."

The Motion was adopted

"SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: I introduce** the Bill.

13.12½ hrs.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT GIVING REASONS FOR IMMEDIATE LEGISLATION BY THE CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) giving reasons for immediate legislation by the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1994.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT-6523/94)

MR. SPEAKER: I think after the interval the Minister will reply to yesterday's and day-before-yesterday's debate. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.13 hrs.

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

14.27 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Twenty Seven Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the chair)

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF TWENTY-EIGHTH AND TWENTY-NINTH REPORTS OF THE ERSTWHILE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES AND FIFTH, SIXTH, SEVENTH AND EIGHTH REPORTS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEEULED TRIBES—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Minister may reply now.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I consider it an honour bestowed upon me to have been given this opportunity to inform this august House on the various measures which our Government have taken for protection, welfare and development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our country. My heartfelt thanks goes to this august House for having taken up these Reports of the Commission and Commissioners of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to which I have had the privilege to reply today.

First of all, I would like to thank all the 35 hon. Members of this august House who have taken part in this debate and gave their valuable contribution.

Sir, regarding the location-specific issues raised by the hon. Members, my Ministry will ensure that the concerned Departments of the Government of India and also of the

* Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 9.12.94

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

State Governments and the Union Territories will respond, and take appropriate and necessary actions thereon.

Sir, the basic strategy for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was formed by the Congress Government at the Centre with an aim to hit at the very factors that have been responsible for keeping them below others in their social, educational and economic levels.

It was decided that measures should be taken simultaneously on three fronts. One relates to protective measures by way of administration of the PCR and Atrocities Acts. Second relates to positive discrimination by providing reservation in Government services and in admission to educational institutions, apart from provision of reservation in State Legislatures and the Lok Sabha.

Third, the educational and economic development measures which includes the very important aspect of the agrarian relations, namely, the land reforms.

Our Government is determined that atrocities against SCs and STs shall be dealt with firmly. In this regard, I share the concern expressed by the hon. Members. Our Government's commitment, as this august House is well aware, is neither new nor opportunistic. Our Government's commitment has been handed down from one generation to another in the Congress, right from the days of Mahatma Gandhiji. It is this glorious heritage of empathic involvement in the protection of SCs and STs that made Shrimati Indira Gandhi to rush to Balchi in Bihar when atrocities were committed against SCs. The same ethos made Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister to rush to comfort and protest the SCs against whom the atrocities were committed near Tirupathi in Andhra Pradesh.

It is in the same tradition in the year 1991 the hon. Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Raoji convened the Chief Ministers Conference to discuss in depth and take necessary steps to curb the atrocities. Thereon, we continued to do this work to see that the atrocities committed on SC STs stops forthwith. While law and order is a State subject, any report of atrocities on the SCs and STs is immediately taken up by my Ministry where we have a control room. The moment we get the report, we contact the State Government, particularly Chief Minister and Chief Secretaries and see that the protective measures are effected immediately and book the culprits with any further delay.

Under the PCR and Atrocities Acts, we have provided assistance to the State Government and the Union Territory Administration for legal aid to be provided to the community, that is, SC/STs and also for running Special Courts and mobile courts for ensuring speedy justice. Financial grants are also given to the couples who have had inter-caste marriages, of whom one of the spouses belongs to the SC/ST.

You will be glad to know that an average of Rs. 6 crores is granted annually to the States and Union Territories for implementation of the PCR Atrocities Acts. Owing to continuous monitoring in this count; the practice of untouchability is on the wane. Offences under the PCR

Act have been reduced to about 3,000 cases in this year from 3,500 cases in the last year.

However, the vigil has to be continuous and we are doing our best in this regard.

Another important areas worth mentioning in this debate is the liberation of scavengers who have suffered very badly due to the stigma attached to their profession which has become the topmost priority of our Government. For liberation and rehabilitation of the scavengers, a special scheme costing Rs. 905 crores was launched in the year, 1992. Rs. 195.87 crores have been sanctioned to the States and the Union Territories.

Sir, 7,40,000 scavengers have already been identified by the State Governments for training and rehabilitation. So far, in this direction, 58,065 scavengers have been rehabilitated. We could achieve to this extent. In addition, around Rs. 980 crores have been earmarked to convert the dry-latrines into water-borne ones so that the inhuman practice of carrying the night-soil of others can be abolished within the Eighth Five Year Plan.

The House is aware that the hon. Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao announced on 15.8.1993 in the Red Fort that a *Safai Karamchari* Commission would be constituted. Our Government has constituted a *Safai Karamchari* Commission on 12.8.1994 to specifically help those engaged in unclean occupations so that they can be rehabilitated.

This Governments' determination to ensure protective measures to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is borne with sincerity and dedication as borne out by the few instances as stated above. Our commitment towards their economic and educational development bears the same mark of determination and ideology that has been put into implementation in the most pragmatic and result-oriented way.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Anadi Charan Das and other hon. members have dwelt at length about the implementation of the Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes and Tribal Sub-Plan for the Scheduled Tribes. In this context, I would like to inform the House that the Special Component Plan (SCP) the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP), the Special Central Assistance provided to the SCP and TSP and the creation of State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations, the National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development and Finance Corporation and TRIFED have all been done with an aim to expedite the economic development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Since Sixth Plan, about Rs. 27,127 crores have been provided for the SCP. Of the total Eighth Five Year Plan outlay of Rs. 1,83,867 crores, provision for SCP is of the order of Rs. 36,799 crores. Similarly, Rs. 21.952 crores have been earmarked up to 1993-94 for TSP

Till date, our Government have granted to the States and the Union Territories Rs. 2600 crores as SCA to SCP and Rs. 2629 crores as SCA to TSP.

The State Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Corporations have continued to receive the

allocation from the Central Government towards the Centre's share capital. Since inception of this scheme, a total quantum of Rs. 253.73 crores have been allocated to them. 78.72 lakhs Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes families have benefited by the SCDCs in the collaboration with the Financial Institutions of our country.

Sir, 620 schemes at a total cost of Rs. 492.07 crores have been sanctioned by the National SC/ST Finance and Development Corporation since its inception, 1,77,588 people have benefited so far. Shri Dattatraya Bandaru and Shri Balayogi—of course they are not here—and other hon. Members have expressed the need to strengthen the National Scheduled Castes Finance and this is very good suggestion and we will try to do our best in this regard.

The main aim of TRIFED is marketing items of tribals produce especially the minor forest produce by eliminating the private traders from the scene. The TRIFED is working in this direction. The TRIFED which was established in the year 1988-89 with a share capital of Rs.22 crores went up to the tune of Rs. 86 crores in the year 1992-93 and today in the year 1993-94, it has gone up to Rs. 107 crores. Our target for TRIFED, for the current year is about Rs. 204 crores.

Hon. Members are aware about the special thrust given to the rural development by our Government and our revered Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Raoji. We all know that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, Rs. 30,000 crores have been earmarked for the rural development. The rural development aims at ensuring the fulfilment of the basic needs of all the people and particularly the SCs STs, poor people and disadvantaged sections of our society. For instance, under the IRDP programme, between 1985-86 and 1993-94, out of 281.6 lakh families assisted, 74.37 lakhs were SC families, 39.14 lakhs were ST families. Similarly, in the Indira Awas Yojana, between 1985-86 and 1993-94, an amount of Rs. 1,957.67 crores have been spent to construct 16,45,952 houses which have been mostly given to SCs and ST families alone. Under the Million Wells Scheme, many hon. Members mentioned that SCs and STs are not getting adequate facilities for farming. Under the special scheme, this is meant exclusively for SCs—between 1988-89 and 1993-94, 6,97,819 wells at a cost of Rs. 2,189.17 crores have been constructed. It is an accepted fact that in the historic and unfortunate process of subjugation of SCs one of the main areas was agriculture. Therefore, their liberation should also start mainly from the field of agriculture and related areas. It is due to this realisation that 48.87 lakh beneficiaries who have been distributed the surplus land of 50.58 lakh acres in our country, 36 per cent were chosen from among SCs and 14 per cent from among the STs.

Hon. Members have given their views on the need to expedite allotment of land to SC and ST families to ensure the actual possession and to avoid a prolonged litigation. This is one of the grey areas. I agree that to give a security of tenements and share-croppers, most of whom are SCs and STs today, land records should be corrected up-to-date. The Congress Government has started a centrally sponsored scheme for strengthening of revenue administration and up-dating of records. In 1987-88. Under

this scheme, till date, Rs. 79.84 crores have been allocated to 30 States and Union Territories.

Further, Sir an additional amount of Rs. 13.78 crore has been allotted to States and Union Territories under the scheme of computerisation of the Land records. This has given a very good result and we are getting very good response from the State Governments and it is going on. Some of the hon. Members who participated in this discussion have stressed the need for empowerment of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I completely share their opinion. It is my proud privilege to remind this august House of the Herculean efforts made by our beloved leader later Prime Minister Rajive Gandhi to meet each and every District Collector of this nation through five workshops to have detailed discussion on the problems that confront the rural poor. The deliberations of these five workshops culminated in bringing the Constitution Bill for the Panchayat Raj. Sir, we know that due to lack of cooperation from some of our friends on the opposite side, the Bill could not be passed then. But, under the sagacious leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narasimha Raoji our Congress Government with the support the political parties of this House jointly passed the Seventy-Third (Amendment) Bill, 1992. This has provided for a proportionate representation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 33.33 per cent to women in all local bodies. The impact of this historic Act will very soon be felt in very nook and corner of this great land. The decisive step towards the empowerment of the poor in the governance of their own affairs has been started by this historic Act. This is but one example of the continued commitment of the Congress and its Government towards the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and particularly the weaker sections of our country. It is due to the various relentless measures that have been continuously formulated and implemented by the Congress Government, of which it has been stated that from the Sixth Five Year Plan up to 1994, 3.11 crore Scheduled Caste families and 1.40 crore Scheduled Tribes families have been provided assistance for their socio-economic development so that they can cross the poverty line. This Government shall not rest till the day the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live at par with the rest of the other brothers and sisters in the country in terms of equality, socio-economic opportunities and economic standards. But more important of all is the removal of illiteracy by imparting education up to the highest level of learning so that awareness of their rights and ability to organise themselves, to protect all these rights by such means, as getting into Government services etc. can be achieved.

Sir, the educational development of SC/ST has been the prime concern of our Government. Honourable Members have focussed on the need to increase the rates of scholarship and to streamline the working of the post-metric scholarship scheme and setting up of more residential schools in promoting literacy among the SC/ST girls. I appreciate the sentiments and suggestions expressed by the hon. Members.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad):
What about housing?

(SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): I mentioned housing also.

I am glad to state that these issues are taken into consideration in framing the policy measures of our Government. The scheme of post-metric scholarship benefited only 114 Scheduled Caste students in 1945. By 1960-61 this figure went up to 48,248 covering both SC and ST students. There has been a steady increase in the coverage. In the year 1993-94 we covered 16.75 lakh SC and ST students of this country. We expect to assist over 18.43 lakh students in the year 1994-95. I share the concern of the hon. Members that the rates of the scholarship under the scheme need revision. We are actively pursuing with the Planning Commission for revision of rates of the scholarships under the scheme.

In order that the SC and ST students coming from rural areas will be assured of facilities for education, till date we have assisted the States and NGOs for 19,341 hostels and Ashram schools throughout the country. Under the scheme of Book Banks one set of books for every two students belonging to the SC and ST is given to facilitate them to pursue the professional courses. I am glad to inform the House that this scheme which originally provided for the Book Bank facility only to Medical and Engineering students, now has been enlarged to cover Agriculture and Veterinary Science and other related courses also from 1991-92 onwards. The response from the States has been very encouraging due to which against Rs. 67.32 lakh released under the scheme in the year 1992-93, we made an allocation of Rs. 3.5 crore in the current year. Apart from ensuring scholarship for SC and ST students at pre-matric and post-matric levels, we also have a scheme of National Overseas Scholarships and passage grants to SC and ST students who are going for higher studies abroad.

The Hon. Members have spoken about the need to reorient the Excise Policy, the Forest Policy and the Policy on Displacement of Tribals due to various developmental projects. I share the concern of the Hon. Members. Even today in some of the hilly areas our people are being affected by this menace of drinking.

The matter relating to the administration of the scheduled areas under the 5th Schedule has also been discussed in this House. I share their anxiety. The hon. Members pointed out that some of the SC and ST communities who are most backward and primitive have lagged behind in availing the educational and economic development packages. Such groups need special attention from our schemes. Our schemes of rehabilitation of scavengers and the schemes under implementation under the TSP for primitive tribal groups are but two examples that would show that our Government is taking necessary steps to ensure the development of all such weaker sections in our country.

Under the auspices of Dr. Ambedkar Centenary Celebration, among many schemes started to commemorate the memory of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the champion of all the under privileged of this country, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship has been initiated by our Government. Under the Fellowship

Scheme, for fellowships in Economics, Sociology, International Relations and Constitutional Law are sanctioned every year.

So far, eight fellowships, i.e. four each for 1992 and 1993 have already been sanctioned and application for the fellowships for 1994 have been received and are being processed by the Government. A corpus fund of Rs. 2 crore has been provided for this scheme of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Overseas Fellowship.

As this House is aware, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the architect among the founding fathers of the Indian Constitution has rendered yeoman service in awakening the oppressed people to fight for their legitimate rights. His writings need to be given the widest publicity by any Government or any nation or for that matter anyone who is interested in the development and welfare of the downtrodden and disadvantaged sections of our population. I am glad to inform this august House that the project of translation and publication of Dr. Ambedkar's writings and speeches is being implemented by our Government through the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation. About Rs. 3.48 crore have already been released to the Foundation for this important task. Translation and publication of Babasaheb's works and speeches in Hindi and regional languages is in full swing. We have already brought out five volumes in Tamil, six in Hindi, one in Gujarati and two in Punjabi. Some more volumes in Bengali and a few other languages are in print. It is proposed to take up translation and publication in Assamese and Urdu languages also.

This Government believes that the fittest tribute to Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is to pave the way for evolution of a society of new order on the principles of social justice. Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar's life has been a beacon light to all of us and all those who aspire for the emergence of an equitable society in this country.

This Government has given full support to the project for production of a full length feature film on the life of Dr. Ambedkar. We have released an amount of Rs. 4 crore to the National Films Development Corporation for this purpose. At the instance of Dr. Savitha Ambedkar, we have engaged Shri Shyam Benegal as the Chief Consultant of the film. The script of the film is almost ready and we are ready to commission the shooting of the film at the earliest.

This House is aware that we have provided nine Ambedkar Chairs in various Universities. In yet another befitting tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar, the Government have constituted Dr. Ambedkar National Award carrying a prize value of Rs. 10 lakh. The award for 1993 has been announced in October, 1994 in favour of an institution in Orissa.

The construction of a library building in the name of Dr. Ambedkar is another landmark by this Government. The site has already been allotted for construction of the library building. The matter is in progress.

I have dealt at some length about the few programmes related to the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar centenary

celebrations. This is because no account of the measures taken for development of SCs and STs by any Government in India would be complete without a reference to the seminar and founding work done by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar towards the welfare of these people.

I am glad to recall the memory of all the hon. Members present to the fact that it was during our Government that Rs. 10 crore were sanctioned in 1991 for celebrations and for undertaking some special schemes in the Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar centenary year 15.00 hrs.

Almost all the Members who spoke on the Motion expressed concern that the reservation in jobs provided to SCs and STs should continue to be protected. Hon. Members are aware of the Special Recruitment Drives undertaken by our Government to fillup the backlog of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Since 1989, four such Special Recruitment Drives have been undertaken and the results have been very encouraging as would be evident from the following figure fact. In the first Special Recruitment Drive in 1989, the backlog of reservation was 35,647 in the Government Departments. Appointments were made for 31,243 posts. In public undertakings, banks and insurance corporations put together, the backlog in reservation was 58,554. We could appoint 50,475 people. In the second Special Recruitment Drive in 1990-91, 46,559 jobs were in the backlog and we could give appointment to 29,415 persons. In the third Special Recruitment Drive in 1991-92, we identified 35,236 posts out of which 18,231 persons were appointed. In the fourth Special Recruitment Drive in the year 1993-94, 30,259 posts were identified and 12,346 persons were appointed.

So, this is a continuous programme of our Government. We have been requesting the State Governments, the Ministries in the Central Government and also all concerned to do this work regularly so that the backlog of vacancies are filled up at the earliest.

Hon. Members have requested for protection of the promotional avenues for SCs and STs and to ensure that carry forward vacancies meant for SCs and STs are retained for SCs and STs. We are aware of the practical problems that have been created due to the stipulation laid down by the Supreme Court in its judgement in, what has come to be known as the Mandal case. It is due to this Government's commitment to the cause of social justice that our hon. Prime Minister arranged for getting the President's assent and inclusion in the Ninth Schedule, Tamil Nadu's Bill which seeks to protect the existing levels of 69 per cent reservation to all backward classes people including the SCs and STs. The ceiling of 50 per cent for all reservations, imposed by the Supreme Court's judgement in the Mandal case has created a few practical difficulties all over the country particularly in the SC/ST community. Due to this stipulation, the promotional avenues of SCs, STs and OBCs stand to be affected. The carry forward of vacancies which has been protected for a period of five years only, can affect the SCs, STs and also the OBCs in future.

This House is aware of the commitment given by my senior colleague, Shri Sitaram Kesri, and also myself that

all possible avenues including the need for possibility of amendment of the Constitution would be examined so that a solution can be found to overcome these difficulties and ensure the legitimate rights and interests of SCs, STs and OBCs in Government services. We stand by this commitment of ours to the SCs, STs and OBCs.

There have been demands for constituting a separate National Commission for STs. Some of the hon. Members were demanding this. The Government is aware of and sensitive to the fact that STs expect to be reassured that their individuality should be maintained and respected. Ours is a pluralistic society. We are proud of this heritage of unity in diversity. The cultural and social diversities will continue to be respected and maintained under the national umbrella of oneness and unity of our nation.

There have also been demands from Dr. P.J. Kurian, who is not here at the moment, and Kumari Frida Topno that the Scheduled Caste converts to Christianity should be given all concessions and facilities that are being provided to other Scheduled Castes. Also hon. Member, Shri Dattatraya, has suggested to take special care for considering the inclusion of communities in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. These issues are under examination by a Committee headed by the Secretary, Welfare. This Committee will submit its report very soon so that we can take further action in this matter.

I also share the anxiety of the House over the issue of Gowari community of Maharashtra and say that Government is seized of the problem and the matter is being examined thoroughly.

A point that has repeatedly found expression during the discussion on this motion is that monitoring of all these steps for the welfare and development of SCs and STs should be continuous. I completely agree with this very important suggestion. We will do our best in this regard.

We give utmost importance to monitor the steps taken by the States and various departments of our Government to ensure that benefits meant for SCs and STs reach them properly. Very recently, I have written to all the Chief Ministers requesting them to take stern measures against offenders who commit atrocities on SCs and STs. I have also requested the Chief Ministers to give their personal attention to the scheme of liberation and rehabilitation of scavengers so that the inhuman practice of people carrying night soil will be dispensed with at the earliest. I have also written to all Ministers in Government of India requesting that immediate measures be taken to clear the backlog in filling up the vacancies meant for SCs and STs in Central Government Services. I am glad to inform this August House that the Chief Ministers and the respective Governments in the States are very positive in this approach.

I am glad that Shri Chandrajit Yadav, who is not here at the moment, has raised the issue regarding the need to have a National Policy for the upliftment of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Of course, he must have forgotten that his old parent body, the Congress movement, is seized of this issue from the very beginning. The SCP, the TSP, the Special Central Assistance and other related on-going programmes of our Ministry for the

welfare and development of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are some of the important landmarks. These will continue to help the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities in the country.

Sir, I am glad to reiterate that our Government's commitment to the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is constant and continuous. We will continue to take all necessary measures for their social, educational and economic development. We committed ourselves to the development of the under-privileged as part of our struggle for Independence. It is in the development of the weak and the poor that a Government can take pride. It is development and strength of the weak and the poor that make the Government and the nation strong and vibrant. This is our faith. To achieve such a strong and vibrant nation is our goal.

With these words, I thank all the hon. Members once again for their effective participation and we will continue to see that the weaker sections of our society get their due share not only on the socio-economic front, but on all other fronts also.

With these words, I once again thank the House and the hon. Members.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is after a gap of 8 years that this report is being debated. We were hoping that at least this time the Government would come out with some concrete decision but it did not.

There are 4 or 5 main points. I do not want to level any allegation on the Hon'ble Minister nor I doubt his intention. He also belongs to the same family to which we belong. During the discussion, three or four points were raised. We are happy that the President of SC and ST Parliamentary Forum, who is at present a minister, is also sitting here.

The important point on which we have been laying stress from the beginning is backlog. Unless a law is enacted to clear the backlog, the problem shall remain unresolved. There is no law. Only Government orders are there. However, there is no provision of imposing penalty on the officers etc., who violate the orders on reservation. The Government of Bihar has enacted a legislation which provides for punishment to an officer who does not fill the reservation quota. If an officer tells the son of a tribal or scheduled caste—who is 5 ft. 7 inch and has passed matriculation or B.A.—that he is not fit for the job of a Peon or police constable, he can be punished under the law. The Government has been saying time and again since 1991 that it would introduce a bill but it is still to be introduced.

After and half years, the term of the Members of this Lok Sabha will expire. Nobody knows whether it would be done before that, However, it is a different matter.

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): The whole world exists on the hope.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Perhaps, tomorrow the situation might change.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH (Jalandhar): Are you living on this hope?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We are living on this hope and of course, we should live on this hope.

I would like to know whether the Government is serious on this issue or not? Secondly, the hon. Minister said about the atrocities.

[Translation]

The prevention of Atrocities Act has been passed. You know that yesterday I had raised the issue of demolition of the statue of Baba Bhim Rao Ambedkar by the administration at Karna Chengal pet village of district of Tamil Nadu on the 10th October. The AIDMK party is in power there. Two boys namely Anumullai and John Thomas were murdered. All the people of under privileged class, belonging to Congress, PMK, CPI, and CPM went to Madras. All were unanimous that the statue of Baba Ambedkar should be reinstated there. A former IAS officer Shri Kurupan was arrested when the statue was installed on the 6th December. Shri Jaykaran Joseph, the Secretary to All India Dalit Sena was arrested and the Christian Priest Shri Nidhinathan was put behind the bars. Atrocities are being perpetrated on them all over the country. I would like to know from the Government as to how many State Governments have set up special courts so far under the provision of the prevention of Atrocities Act.

During our 11 month regime we tried our best for them. We had announced that all down-trodden christians and Sikhs will be given the status of the Scheduled Castes. We included the down-trodden Budishts into the list of the Scheduled Castes. Such demand is not being made from the down-trodden Muslims. This demand is being made from the Christians alone. The issue relating to the Scheduled Castes who have become Christians is still lying pending. The Government had assured us that they would ponder over it seriously. You are repeating the same assurance. Now the Government should not linger it on. It should announce its final decision at the earliest. The State Government has recommended at least 200 such Castes and Tribes for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The R.G.I. has also endorsed that recommendations. All official formality has been completed by the Ministry and an announcement is awaited. There should not be any problem in including these castes in the list of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which can be done by making necessary laws in Parliament.

Now I would like to speak about the Gowari community. The issue has two aspects. The first, whether the Gowari community be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes or not. There may be difference of opinion in this point. But brutal death of 150 persons in stampede-irrespective of their upper castes or lower castes on the 23rd November is an unprecedented shameful incident in the history of our Parliamentary system. The Home Ministry is termed as step father, the Prime Minister has no time to look into it. But you have direct responsibility of it, and what action has been taken by you so far? The commission for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and

the Scheduled Tribes has been given immense powers. It should have visited there so that they could feel assured that at least somebody was there to look after them. 150 persons including children and women lost their lives without any gun fire. This is the most shameful incident. They are tribals, so they cannot express their grievances. But sometimes their agitation turns violent and demands for a Jharkhand land or a Bodoland are voiced, I have, therefore, requested the Government time and again to clear the dirty drains. D.D.T. can kill the mosquitoes temporarily, but their breeding cannot be stopped until and unless the drains are cleaned. This is the issue of reservation, and atrocities. This issue relates to reservation atrocities and fraternity between different castes.

You spoke about the scavengers here. Shri Jakhar and the hon. Minister of Finance are sitting here. During the Government of our party. We had allocated Rs. 5000 crore for them. But the Government has now reduced this amount to Rs. 500 crore. But barring the expenditure on bureaucrats not a single paisa is being spent on them. I would like to point out that the practice of scavenging was continuing in 3900 cities in 1990. At that time we had assured that we would abolish this system within three years. Today again it is being assured that it will be abolished within 3 years. Can the Government single out any city where the practice of scavenging has been abolished so far? With this snail-pace progress we can never improve the lot of the people of these classes. The Government has replied that it is thinking over it very seriously. It has been brooding over it for the last four years. It will be a matter of great happiness if certain concrete assurance for making legislation for reservation is given or some concrete step for the welfare of the Schedule Castes or Scheduled Tribes is taken by the Government.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have got hardly ten minutes more. This is for the information of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): I would not like to repeat what I have already stated. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to one issue. Ours is a unique country comprised of untouchable castes, tribals and diverse mixed breed castes. Columbus discovered America. But the aboriginals in America, were wiped out. Similarly the aboriginals of Australasia i.e. South Asia were also wiped out and European people settled there. Ethnic conflicts took place in our country also. However, the process of assimilation also took place here. I do not want to go deep into the history. There is shortage of time also. I, therefore, say that most of us are mixed breeds. My submission is that the period of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been extended several times by 10 years. Does the Government think that this discrimination will come to an end in 10,20,30,50 or 100 years? I, therefore, demand a special provision for them. If persons belonging to Backward classes or so called higher classes marry persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes, their children should be provided special facilities so that

all are assimilated by and by. The increasing discrimination should be checked. I myself was a student in 1937, 1938 and 1940. I happened to be Superintendent of 6 hostels named Azad hostel. I allowed a harijan in my hostel. The other Superintendents used to desert the hostels, fearing that presence of harijan in the hostel his companionship might put hazards in the marriage of their children.

I had stated at that time also that those who consider the harijan boy as untouchable should leave the hostel. Now by setting up separate hostels for the unprivileged classes of society is the Government not dividing the society? This way you are perpetuating untouchability in minds as well as in practice. Does the Government propose to give priority to harijan and tribal students in admission to their hostel? The inmates of the hostel who consider their fellow inmates untouchable should vacate the hostel. They should form their own group so that we may promote integrated nationalism and humanity. Second, it will take time to abolish social atrocities. Therefore, social justice must be provided. Does the Government pay its attention to these facts? Just now the issue of atrocities etc. was raised. It is a fact that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in rural areas and certain urban areas are still oppressed and killed? The hon. Minister referred to Belchi. It is not an isolated incident. The people belonging to so called upper castes and moneyed people belonging to other backward classes in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are oppressing, killing, looting them and torching their houses of these down-trodden people. These accidents are rampant all over the country. Though we live together and speak the same language, still are we not promoting atrocities?...*(Interruptions)*... There will be no atrocities in my area so long as I am there. I do not want to go deep into it. I, therefore, submit that the social atrocities should be eradicated. As regards economic exploitation we have given away our lands also to them. But on account of illegal usury they may lose their land. On paper the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are the owners of the land, but in reality they have been deprived of the land. I request the Government to enforce the money-lending act all over the country. Can the Government single out any village where the practice of illegal usury is not going on? I am not talking about a particular state. Be it West Bengal, Bihar, or Uttar Pradesh, illegal usury is prevalent everywhere. It gives the impression that the Government is giving tacit support to this usury. Land is being usurped there. The situation there is such that if a innocent person is lent Rs. 100, he has to pay Rs. 500 and yet an arrear of Rs. 1000 is shown against him. I, therefore, would like to submit that the Government should announce to enforce Money-Lending Act all over the country for the welfare of harijans and tribals.

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI (Robertsganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while speaking about the people belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes the hon. Minister has stated that he is ready to provide facilities to them. In Uttar Pradesh schools have been opened on the Ashram pattern for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. In these schools education is imparted upto class VIII only. I would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether provision will be made for teaching of class X and class XII also? Moreover, I would like to submit that the Government funds are being misused in the name of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Government officers are not spending funds on these people. Secondly, I would like to submit that all the Ashram Schools in Uttar Pradesh are without their own buildings. The students of Ashram Schools at Ovara are studying in rented buildings. The students of the schools have no rooms to sit, take their food. They live like henes in their roost. I request the Government that the funds allocated for the education of children belonging to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes under the Ashram pattern of schools, should be utilised and they should have their own buildings.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the report on the national commission on scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has been discussed in the House after so many years. It is good. Many issues relating to it have been discussed here. I would like to know the reaction of the Government thereto. Welfare hostels are built in every district by the Ministry of Welfare. Students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes live in these hostels. But it is an open secret that in my state the students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not living in the hostels which are being built for them. Recently the process of setting up of new district has started there. But there is no place for them. Recently a site has been inaugurated where welfare hostel is being set up....(Interruptions)....I want to know whether the hostels being built for the students belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes should be utilized for other purposes also. What are the views of the Government in this regard? Is the Government aware of this development? Would the Government like to state whether this work will be done with those funds, which are being allocated for their development, to provide facilities to them and for the education of this class of people, or will we simply go on discussing this report? What sort of actions are being taken in the name of social justice. We would like to know your reaction in this regard.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL (Murshidabad): I am not going to make a speech today, yesterday I spoke but the T.V. people gave the name of Shri Mukherjee....Interruptions....I have to make only two points. The first point is that in my constituency district Murshidabad there is one Chai community, the relatives of this community are residing in Bihar. The Chais have got the status of Scheduled castes in Bihar and the people who are residing in my constituency also want the status of scheduled castes. The second point is this, as Paswanji has said that Muslim people do not want to be included in the list of Scheduled castes but some Muslims are there who wants the status of Scheduled Caste. Incidentally I may remind you that some days ago I had gone to Ladhakh. The tribal Muslims of that area also wants the status of tribal. The Muslims of Lakashadweep have been given the status of scheduled tribes. Our hon'ble Minister Shri Syedji also belongs to a scheduled

tribe. Now the muslim people of Ladhakh also wants the status of scheduled tribe. So I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister whether Government is considering to give the status of scheduled caste to Chai Community and status of scheduled tribe to Muslims of Ladhakh?

[English]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir I have dealt at length the various points raised by the hon. Members. Mr. Paswan came late. I am not blaming him for that.

Sir, you know very well that I have spoken for more than forty-five minutes on this issue and I have also dealt with all the points raised by hon. Members and particularly Mr. Paswan when he mentioned about the backlogs. I have already mentioned the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I am on the point of legislation. I want to know whether the Government is going to introduce a legislation in this regard. I know what you have done...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I have already taken note of his suggestion. It is a very important suggestion. But the Government's commitment is continuous and we will continue to take care of the problems regarding backlogs. From 1989-90 to 1993-94, we have had four Recruitment Boards.

Regarding atrocities, I have already said that I have spoken to the Chief Ministers personally and I have also written to them. We have designated the respective courts as Special Courts.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: How many are there?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: We have identified about 48 districts in the country which are atrocity-prone districts. We have specifically told the DMs and SPs to take care of that. We have told the Chief Ministers first to keep in touch with them and we are also keeping in touch with all the districts directly. There is a Control Room here. If any such problems occur, we will immediately contact them and take appropriate action to book the culprits. About the revision of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe list, I have already informed the House that we have appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Welfare. About 10,000 applications have been received involving nearly 1250 communities. It is a very serious and a very sensitive issue. So, we are taking all possible steps to see that the Committee gives its report immediately. They have been working day and night. In fact they are working three to four hours continuously. So, I hope the Committee will give the report soon and I will come back to you as early as possible.

With regard to Mr. Nitish Kumar's complaint about the Bihar Government, I have not received any news. Now that I have received an open complaint from him I will look into that. I assure the House that if anybody misuses the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe hostels, stern action will be taken irrespective of the person or the party involved. I will personally enquire into the matter, I will

personally go over there. But please give it to me in writing.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am speaking in the House.

SHRI K. V. THANGKA BALU: I want the name of the place.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The District is Shivhar which is carved out of Chitamarhi District.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will personally visit the place and I will take you along with me.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSEERA): This will suit you also.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will take necessary steps to see that it does not occur in future. Regarding Uttar Pradesh, Sir, I do not have the figures at the moment. I will look into the matter. I take cognizance of these allegations and see that the issues are rectified.

Hon. Member, Mr. Paswan, raised an issue involving the State of Tamil Nadu. I also know what is happening in Karunal village. I will come back to you. With this, I think, I have given you.....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, very much.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Bhogendra Jha, there was an occasion for every hon. Member to participate in the debate. But today you have asked for clarifications. Private Members' Bill was to be taken up at 3.30 p.m. Since some Members objected it was extended by five more minutes.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I know the Government is not in a position to do it. But let him say so... *(Interruptions)*

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has heard your views and understood them.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Let him say that. Should I be treated as an untouchable? I have raised only points; I did not make any speech.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: There is a provision, according to which twenty per cent people belonging to other communities can be accommodated in the SC/ST hostel. With regard to the general hostel, I cannot commit anything at this moment. This is a new suggestion that he has made.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have given very valuable suggestions. He will consider your very valuable suggestions....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Some of us do not want that their lot should be improved. Now vested interests have developed that they should always remain as SC&ST. Please reject it if it is wrong. It is a question of implementing it. They are not implementing it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has understood your question.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I had asked an question in regard to your assurance. He is not ready to give reply. I think this is a centempt of the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister has understood your question. He has specifically said that he would look into it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let us take up Private Members' Business. Now introduction of bills.

15.41 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (INNER MANIPUR): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 11, etc.)

[English]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.