

see that necessary financial assistance is given to the State Government for opening training centres and also to take effective steps for expansion of marketing facilities, both within the country and abroad.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 14. I think this was being discussed in the last session.

15.28 hrs.

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

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karol Bagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on such an issue which has today taken the form of a national problem.

Sir, in view of the conditions of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it was the wish of all these people that a separate Ministry should be created by the Union Government to eradicate this deep rooted problem.

5.30 hrs.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE IN THE CHAIR

Only then their problems can be resolved. Earlier the Ministry of Home Affairs, first of all, used to look into the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Then a demand was raised that there should be a separate Ministry for this purpose. Thereafter, this Department was transferred under the Ministry of Welfare. It resulted in much labour but little gain. There used to be Commissioners in the Ministry of Home.

Their work was to prepare the Reports whole year and whatever problems were reported to them, discussions were held in the house every year on those reports and the people used to come to know of it. However, the painful aspect of this is that in regard to these classes of people only six Reports have been presented in the House during the last twelve years. Out of them, two Reports belonged to the Commissioner of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and four Reports to the Ministry of Welfare. We were of the view that the Government would look into it seriously and resolve the problem of Dalits which has now become a national problem. But in the intermittent period, we have observed that the Government is not serious about resolving the problems of these classes of people. That is why they have been put under such a Department where the situation is that we are able to discuss these six Reports in this House only after a gap of twelve years. Further, only six hours have been allotted for the discussion on these Reports. It appears from this as if we are only completing the formality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if we go deeply, we would find that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes are facing many problems and among them, economic problem is the main problem. They are required to be given loan and the facilities for self-employment. The economic problem is related to the Ministry of Finance and the banks. It has nothing to do with the Ministry of Welfare. The nation is going to complete fifty years of its independence in the next two years but these people do not have a house to live in and the land to cultivate. So far as the problem of land is concerned, it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Rural Development. Further, as regards self-employment or setting up a small industry, the Ministry of Welfare has nothing to do. The another problem is education which comes under the Department of Education. It seems to me as if the Ministry of Welfare is performing like a post office only, from where the letters are despatched to other Departments or the Ministries. This Ministry has no powers of its own, by virtue of which it could resolve their problems. Nobody takes it seriously that their problems should be resolved. As a result the problems of these classes of people are multiplying. For example, there is the problem of allotment of land to them. This problem is related to the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Agriculture and it is their responsibility how to allot them land. Further, the problems of personnel training, appointment or promotion are concerned with every Department or the Ministry. However the Ministry of Welfare is not at all concerned with these. If one goes through the Report, one finds that no figures have been given about the number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who became literate, the number of illiterate people earlier, the number of people given promotion, the number of people given employment etc. It seems as if the Government is only completing the formality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, unless the Ministry of Welfare is given adequate powers, the problems cannot be resolved. As everybody knows, these classes of people have been given special rights in the constitution. Even after 44 years when the Constitution came into effect, no figures in regard to Class-I officers have been given, whereas we are informed here that there is a provision of 6.5 percent reservation for class-I, 8 percent for class II, 12 percent for class-III and 15 percent for Class-IV. However, the backlog is still there and no attention is being paid to clear it. If the Union Government writes to the State Governments, we do not know about the response of the State Governments thereto. The Ministry of Welfare does not come in between. Therefore, I would like to submit that until a separate and powerful Ministry is created for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, there will be no sight of any solution to their problems. Earlier, the Commissioner in the Ministry of Home Affairs used to write to the State Governments and the matter was taken seriously by them. However, today if the Ministry of welfare asks for any information, it does not receive any response thereto. That is why, I am saying that this Ministry is toothless. It has been observed that neither special attention is paid towards the education of the people belonging to Scheduled Castes nor they are allotted land. Even if they are allotted land, they do not get its possession and still no attention is being paid towards this. This Report also does not indicate if any effort is being

made to make these people stand on their own economically by giving loan to them. I consider it a national problem. These people constitute about 1/5 population of this country and most of them are socially, economically and politically backward. Unless their lot is ameliorated, this problem cannot be resolved and India cannot become a powerful nation. I have not even an iota of doubt about it. It is our duty to look into this problem in broader perspective and take up welfare measures at a large scale. Further, it is the duty of all of us to help solve this national problem. If we continue to ignore these people, India cannot prosper. We will have to act seriously in this direction. I am of the opinion that if inequality continues, this problem cannot be solved and there may be discontentment in the country. As a result, we may have to face its repercussions. God forbid, it may not happen but we will have to be alert and make efforts to solve their problems.

Today, if we take a look at their education we would find that how far they have progressed educationally during the last 47 years and what our Government has been doing for them.

I understand that if we educate them many of their problems will be solved by themselves. The only way for their advancement is to educate them. At present their educational data is very low. Only 3 per cent scheduled caste women and 0.37 per cent backward class men are educated. If I discuss it in detail as to what these data indicate, it will take much time. But I want to tell you, for example that if the percentage of education is not increased, the standard of life of these people cannot be improved.

What we are doing to educate the scheduled caste and schedule tribe people how much scholarship is given to their children so that they could be encouraged to get good education. According to my knowledge the amount of scholarship was increased in 1987. Thereafter, the amount has not been increased till date. The scholarship given to the students of class 1st to V, 6th to 8th, 9th and 10th is Rs. 12, Rs. 28 and Rs. 30 per month respectively. It is said that the scholarship is given by the State Government but the rate of scholarship is decided by Central Government and it has not yet been increased. Things were costly then and they are still more costlier today. My demand is that when we have started to spend money to educate them, the amount of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes student's scholarship should also increased at various standards.

At present you have set an income for scholarship and according to that it should be given to only those students whose parents or guardian's monthly income does not exceed Rs. 1000 and all those whose monthly income is more than Rs. 1000, will not get it. You can imagine that the person who is working as peon under the state Government, his children will not be eligible for the scholarship because now a days even the monthly income of a peon is not less than 1500. On the other hand a scholarship of Rs. 65 per month is given to the scheduled caste and schedule tribe students of M.A. They will not get more than this. If such students are getting technical

education like engineering or MBBS course and living in hostels, they get Rs. 280 as scholarship you think about the prices of the books of MBBS and technical courses, Rs. 280 is a very small amount. It means that we have not taken serious steps to educate them properly. Our main aim is to educate children belonging to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe but it not been attained when it comes to elections we give data showing that we have done so much whereas in fact they have not gained out of it. Their condition in the field of education is becoming worst.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the scholarship is given to the children belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes at the end of the year when the child has finished his education, though he has been demanding scholarship whole of the year. On the one hand the amount of scholarship is very little and on the other hand it is not given to him in time but at the end of the year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be depressed to see that the amount of scholarship given to scheduled caste and scheduled tribe is very meagre. They are not given land. The scholarship is given to them just for the name sake. Their problems are not being solved. How the Ministry of Welfare will solve their problems because the matter regarding reservation of the backward classes is being referred to the Supreme Court. In that case, scheduled caste were not made a party to it and it was said that the law regarding reservation of scheduled caste will not be made. Unless the law is passed, reservation in promotions will not be considered. We have said so, a number of times but the Ministry of Welfare has not made any amendment in the constitution to facilitate their promotion by reservation. Thus, whatever rights are given to them they are being snatched away from them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to discuss the issue regarding scheduled castes only as the issue regarding scheduled tribes will be discussed separately. Recently atrocities against scheduled Tribes were committed in Nagpur and names of their tribes have been excluded from the reservation list meant for him. All these issues will be discussed separately. Therefore I would like to emphasize the issue regarding scheduled castes only.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Scheduled castes, consist 1/5 of the total population of the country. But the Government had done nothing for their progress during the last 47 years after the Independence and thus they are becoming frustrated and unemployment is increasing among them. They are being deprived of the real freedom. Freedom attained by the country has been limited to rich class only. Eighty per cent of population still live in slums which do not have any roads, electricity, drinking water or sanitation facilities. 90 percent of these people belong to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes but the Government is not paying any attention towards it. These people should be given power if you really want to bring them in the mainstream of the country. You should provide power to them increase opportunities of education, employment for them, if you really wish to see them progressing sharing the benefits of independence with you. Only then we will be able to help them. This class will not get justice and

real Independence until it is economically uplifted and stigma of untouchability is removed from the society which has created discrimination among people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government should set up a separate Ministry to study the problems of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Recently a commission was set up for the welfare of schedule castes but it is said that it has not been given any power. How it can work without any power.

In the same way recently a commission for "Safai Karamchari" was constituted which has not been given land for its office. These all incidents reveal that we have done nothing for their welfare during the last 47 years whereas we boast of it every now and then to influence others. Therefore, it is my humble submission that a separate powerful Ministry should be set up to look into the matter if we want to solve the problems of scheduled castes who contribute 1/5 of the total population and if we want to make them economically strong, bring them into social mainstream and make them citizens of the country. It can be done only when a separate Ministry will be set up, otherwise our struggle will go in vain like earlier ones. Today it was told by the Ministry of welfare that commissioner for scheduled castes does nothing whereas in its comparison earlier the commissioner used to study the problems of scheduled castes, surged up during the year. His report has to be presented and discussed in the Parliamentary. But for the last 12 years only six reports had been presented and discussed only for 6 hours by this House.

I think that it is a big problem to solve it, lot of suggestions are still to be made and a lot of work is required to be done. The Government should think over it and issue instructions on it. It is really injustice with this class that their problems were not solved or even discussed by this House. Therefore I would like to say that these problems cannot be solved unless a powerful separate Ministry is set up to study and solve their problems as well as for the redressal of their grievances. Whenever such issues are raised, we all discuss it, express our views and think that we had performed our duty.

COL. ROA RAM SINGH: You have said that a more powerful Minister is required in this department. He is asking indirectly that who can be more powerful minister in this department than Thangka Balu.

SHRI KALKA DAS: I have not said this. I have said that I have seen his power. Just now a question was raised here and I asked very humbly as to whether the reservation in promotion has been removed in Supreme Court? His reply was that it will be so until the incidents like 6th December go on taking place.

Now, what should we say about him? He is to be pitied. When asked, Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad stated that none, but Shri Sitaram Kesri would explain it and it did not pertain to the former's department.

I hold the hon. Minister in high esteem. I do not have anything specific to tell him. I just want to put forth my opinion before the Government that whatever they decide,

that will be done. You may laugh at their miserable plight and just evade, saying that it's not true.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a great problem as it is concerned with the entire nation and not with an individual or a particular class only. Moreover, we have failed to resolve this problem even after 47 years of the Independence that is why I request you that you alone can shape the events, you will not remain in power forever. Such live can also come that will be sitting in the opposition and we shall be occupying the treasury benches in course of time. Then we will show that how these problems can be resolved effectively. I have not talked about a particular Minister but about a Ministry.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your time is over.

SHRI KALKA DAS: If the Government at all thinks to resolve this issue properly, a separate powerful Ministry will have to be set up and named as the Ministry of Scheduled Castes. The proposed Ministry will deal not only with their problems of unemployment but also their condition in all aspects. This is the only solution to injustice being done to them in the name of casteism, mass scale outrage of modesty of their women, brutal killings of scheduled caste people in the name of their castes, untouchability etc.

I am very much grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak here.

SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI (Shimla): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am fortunate to have an opportunity to speak on the report of the Commission on the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes here.

[English]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung.

Now, there is quorum. The hon. Member, Shri K.D. Sultanpuri may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla): So far as the Commission's report is concerned, I am of the view that whenever the Congress Party came in power, major steps were taken for upliftment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. So, it is not true to say that this Government did nothing for their betterment. But some of the state Governments committed such misdeeds that they did not recruit the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in requisite number. Figures have been presented which amply suggest that their percentage in employment is very low and their interest is not being safeguarded at all. I do not hold it true. Shrimati Indira Gandhi did a lot for the welfare of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the poor. They were allotted lands. But there were certain State Governments which even cancelled their leases and the persons who exploited these people were recruited under the 'anatyodaya' programme. I am happy to say that the Government of India chalked out many

schemes for the welfare of people living below the poverty line.

It has been stated here that a separate Department should be set up to probe the injustice done to these persons. If suitable, this Department may be placed under the Ministry of Home Affairs or Prime Minister so that its monitoring work may be accomplished properly. Shri K.V. Thangka Balu is an efficient Minister and his performance is fine. Shri Sitaram Kesri is a freedom fighter. He has made sacrifices for the country. He intends to uplift the people of this class. Shri Ramdhan is the Chairman of the commission of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

16.00 hrs.

In the past he used to raise his voice for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and had pledged to work for them.

But the Commission, in my opinion did not do any significant job. It did not even consult such State Governments where excesses are committed against the poor. It did not set any example which may be a testimony of its commendable job. He discharge his duty as Chairman of the Commission by sitting in Delhi only. If commission has to perform its work by sitting in Delhi only then for that a Parliamentary Committee is there. Even its report has not been discussed in the House so far. The discussion should have been done. The Government of India should take action on the basis of evidence while monitoring the data pertaining to backlog of quota of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes sent by the different States. Here I would like to state emphatically that the backlog in their reservation must be cleared. The 15 per cent quota for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and 7.5 per cent for the people belonging to Scheduled Tribes must be fulfilled.

The largest number of people belonging to Scheduled tribes live in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. They live in forests and their land is also in forests. They should be provided ownership of their land so that they may support their children properly. They are not aware of the fact whether the forest is reserved or not. They do not know even laws in this regard. They have been living in forest for centuries. Their children have been there. They have their cultivations gardens. But since their land is in reserve forest, they are generally involved in litigations. Instructions come from the field that they should be evicted from there. They are the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure that all such people who are living for years in the forests and have been cultivating there get the ownership of their land. They should get ownership of lease there. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had allotted 5 to 10 bighas of land to the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled tribes and poor class. They were granted lease of the land but not its ownership. Now they should be given its ownership as well. In several States they were given land in cremation grounds. Would the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes people live there? It shows the tendency of the Government officers. The intention of the Government is clear, but officers of the

Government at lower level, who have been entrusted with the implementation work do not discharge their duties properly. The Government should be mindful of these facts.

There have been incidents of rapes of women there. The victims cannot reveal it from their own mouth. There have been many such incidents, in Uttar Pradesh. The States ruled by other parties did not take their issues seriously and they think that they are relieved of their duty after paying Rs. 50,000 to the victims. The Government of these parties which are surviving in the name of Harijans skulked out of their responsibility by paying Rs. 50,000 to the rape victims and did not bother to do any thing further.

Such practices should cease and the perpetrators of crimes should be punished. But the accused are not nabbed and their cases lie pending for years. The Ministry of Home Affairs should pay special attention to it.

16.03 hrs

(Shri P.C. Chacko in the Chair)

So far as housing is concerned, many State Governments have recently decided to construct houses in more and more villages for the poor in keeping with Mahatama Gandhi's ideology. It is a matter of pleasure that Haryana, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh Governments have taken a decision in this connection and Himachal Pradesh Government has decided to construct 69,000 houses. Choudhary Bhajan Lal has also decided to provide houses to more and more poor, Scheduled Caste people in his State.

Wherever atrocities are being committed on poor, many State Governments are doing commendable job in this direction.

Something about education has been said here. There is need to reform education system but there are no teachers in some schools. There are no science or drawing teachers in some schools and in some other schools they have no clothes.

Schools having inadequate staff should be closed. In an interview, the SC and ST candidates are told that they are not capable. They are rendered incapable because there are no teachers in the Schools. There are large scale bunglings. The State Governments and the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Commission should have full powers. The funds earmarked for the welfare of SCs and STs should be spent on them. Many individuals and institutions take undue advantage of these funds. These should be audited. The SC and ST students cannot avail of the hostels opened for their benefit. A thorough probe should be conducted into the manner of expenditure made out of the funds the Government of India allocates for their welfare.

It is commendable to provide land to the SCs and STs. Many State Governments like Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh have given them land but some states like Rajasthan have stopped giving land to them. The poor people should possess some land. There should be a provision banning the resale of land allotted to the SC and ST people. An inquiry should be conducted into the case

of possession of land allotted to them by some other persons.

Action is taken on the report of the Social Welfare Department but they don't have powers to take legal action. More powers should be vested in this Department at least to the extent of taking action against the guilty after apprehending them. The poor people should not be humiliated without reason.

Backlog in many departments of Government of India, Banks and Railways has not been cleared. It should be cleared or forthwith. It is painful that no attention is paid to it and roster is not maintained properly despite issuing instructions in this regard. Injustice is perpetrated on the poor Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes by keeping matters related to them pending. Many SC, ST people study in Matric, Senior Secondary and in colleges but they do not get any jobs despite registering their names in the Employment Exchanges, on the plea that they are not capable. There is a recent trend of people joining the ranks of STs. They want to create problems in the name of Scheduled Castes. The SCs and backward classes have after a long time got the right of reservation. When facilities are given to them, the upper caste people are tempted to join the ranks of Scheduled tribes but how can they do so when they do not come under the State list or the Central list? Then an endeavour is made to dilute the facilities available to scheduled castes. I say that the Government should check this trend. Then, facilities like loan-advance do not seem to be extended to these who have been given possession of land. There was a time, when loans worth Rs. 10,000 were written off but the SCs and STs were not benefited from it. Only influential people were benefited who arranged for writing off the loans of their relatives. I say with honesty that it has not covered even five percent people in this category.

I may also add that these people are always keen to uphold national unity and do social service. They have contributed to different social works. They have been masons, milk producers and scavengers. Keeping in view their contribution, the Government should pay attention to them. Our Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao has also exhorted to do away with the practice of scavenging. Despite all that, the opposition will try to neutralise our efforts for securing votes. So far as our manifesto is concerned, all this is written there and every effort is being made to achieve it.

So far as the economic condition of our country, the progress of scheduled castes is concerned. They are progressing. Despite this all, injustice is being done to them which should be checked so that they can progress. These people are not appointed at the key posts but their placement is made at lower posts etc. The prominent commanding post is held by a person who commits atrocities on them. We will have to change this trend. I say it emphatically that these people should be made in charge of such police stations in the jurisdiction whereof injustice is done to the scheduled castes. It is a matter of pleasure for us that our Government, the Congress Government has done everything it could for their upliftment. Our Government constituted a Commission for

their development but this Commission works in Delhi alone; it does not go to the field. Besides this, this Commission has no powers and it cannot function unless powers are vested in it. It should be an impartial Commission with a Government officer as its member who can monitor its working. Many times, it so happens that a member is selected on party basis who has no other job but to criticise the Government. I think, proper propaganda of developmental works is not done.

The Government deserves to be congratulated for having constituted the SC, ST Commission but we will have to see under whose direction does it function and what example does it set. The Government should change its decisions if need be.

Sir, water and electricity facilities should be provided to the scheduled castes and tribes. Their houses are not fed with electricity supply. Some houses of their village or hamlet are covered and it is claimed that the whole village has been electrified whereas the reality is otherwise. Therefore, the State Government should arrange to provide electricity supply and give them more and more benefits. Drinking water should be made available to all. Some conservative people enter into scuffles on the use of pond water but I want to say that tap water connections should be given to places housing the SC, ST families. No scheme should be considered to have been implemented unless it covers the scheduled castes and tribes. These benefits should also be extended to the backward people. But, now, there is a rat race for becoming backward. The castes targetted to be included in the backward lists alone should be enlisted. My another point is that Garwal, Chamoli area of the Uttar Pradesh has been declared as a Scheduled Tribe area and Ranka, Shalaka, Chopal, Rodhu areas come under my Constituency. The people of these areas have relation with the people of tribal areas in U.P. They observe same customs as the people of those areas of U.P. but they are not given the status of tribals in our State. So I demand that this area should be declared as tribal area so that these people can also get the benefit. The people residing in those areas of U.P. are considered as scheduled tribes but in the areas which I have just mentioned the people of the same community are not given this status. They should be treated as scheduled tribes. Unfortunately the norms of giving the status of SC/ST is different in different states, whereas in one state they consider them as scheduled tribe in another state they are considered scheduled castes and in some other state they are not. Some confusion is being created about some castes. I would suggest that they should be included in Backward castes. Their demand of being included in scheduled tribes is not reasonable. A list has been provided for this purpose and those who come under scheduled castes in that list should be treated as SCs and those who are consider as scheduled tribes in that list should be treated as STs. A hue and cry is being made unnecessarily to include a particular community in the list of S.T. I think they should be given the status of backward class. As I said earlier that their financial position should again be taken into consideration while including them as backwards in the Government of India's

list. I want to congratulate the hon. Ministers Shri Balu and Shri Kesariji for presenting this report and allowing a discussion here.

I would also like to request that reports of Parliamentary Committees should also be discussed here. Every year Parliamentary Committees present their reports. Members of these committees conduct study tours also. A large amount is spent on this account. If these reports are discussed here in the House, people of the lowest strata will be benefited by this. I do not want to speak like Kalkadasji who said that we have to run the Government. He is also a part of this Government and his co-operation and help is also needed for this work. The way Government of Delhi headed by Shri Khurana is harassing the persons belonging to S.C. and S.T., it has never happened before.

I want to congratulate the hon'ble Minister for doing good work for the people of SCs and STs, our blessings are with you and we hope that very soon you will be promoted as Cabinet Minister.

I understand that issues which have been raised here in regard to scheduled caste and scheduled tribes and the suggestions which I have given will be considered and action will be taken accordingly.

I also want to congratulate the Government for fulfilling the dreams of Rajivji by providing 1/3rd seats to women in districts and councils. In Madhya Pradesh 15 district councils out of 45 have women Chairmen what else can be the achievement of any Government. This work was not done by any other Government but the Congress and we have fulfilled the dreams of Rajivji.

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, sir, the hon. Minister of Welfare has presented a report of the Commissioner for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and National Commission on SC&ST. During the course of discussion Shri Sultanpuri was linking the matter with the politics of votes. I would like to submit that in these 47 years it is congress which has been playing politics of votes only this Government has done nothing for the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Shri Sultanpuri has said that other Committee reports should also be discussed in the House. In this connection, I would like to tell him that he should ask the Prime Minister and his party Members as to why the period of winter session has been reduced from 6 weeks to 13 days. How we can discuss these reports in such a short period. Even today, after so many days important matters are to be discussed in the House and that is why opposition has allowed the House to function otherwise it would have not allowed the House to function.

Mr. Chairman, sir, these special concessions have not been given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as a gift. These are provided to them in the Constitution. Recently, during the Assembly session in Maharashtra, about 110 Adivasis were brutally killed by the Police and neither this was discussed in this House nor any statement was made.

We are discussing about this section of society only.

would like to say that the report in regard to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, whether it is given by some commission or it is a Government report, these are based on statistics and most of the time these data are not authentic. Sometimes merely tall claims are made. If we try to know the reality, we will find that most of the time the staff deputed for their welfare is responsible for these incidents.

Now-a-days housing is the major problem for the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If the hon. Minister visits the places where they live he will come to know about the miserable conditions in which these people live. They live in slums in the outskirts of the city. The Central Government provides funds to them under Indira Awas Yojna and the Jawahar Rojgar Yojna. But the houses constructed under these schemes for them are of sub-standard material Sand has been used in more quantity than cement Their life is in danger. The facilities like roads and electricity have not been provided to them. They are drinking contaminated water. Under the Model Ambedkar village scheme basic facilities like electricity and water have not provided to them. There is no provision of handpumps and wells in the colonies for which Government is providing grants. When we visit our Constituency we are told by the people, that there is no facility of water and electricity in their areas. Electric Poles are there but there is no wire, if wire is there, transformer is not available. If we conduct Survey in the rural areas then only we will come to know about their plight.

There are very nominal facilities available to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the field of education. I understand that hostel is a basic necessity for a student. Government is making tall claims in regard to Baba Saheb Ambedkar and is celebrating his birth anniversary but is not doing any work for the development of SCs and STs people. We made a demand that Ambedkar hostels should be constructed on those places where there are Intermediate and Degree colleges and modern facilities should be provided there as is being provided to the students of other colleges. These hostels would help the students in taking keen interest in their studies. But rightnow neither they have rooms in good condition nor electricity. If they hire private rooms, that is very expensive. If they go to stay with the students of upper castes, these students are harassed and thrown out. But Government is not paying any attention towards it. I also had raised the matter under rule 377 and demanded from the Central Government that hostel facility should be provided in intermediate and other colleges. This is true that education is a state subject but Central Government should also pay attention to it so that these students can be benefited. In the absence of these facilities their standard of education is not as high as it ought to be. If we want to give them education it is necessary that primary and higher secondary schools should be set up in the areas where they live. Besides, their number is negligible in technical institutes with the result they cannot reach on higher and technical posts. So far the question of employment is concerned, reservations have been provided to them.

I would like to urge upon the Government to assess the number of job opportunities and cut of them how many.

people have been given reservation and the percentage of people employed after the Independence. How many posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are still lying vacant? How many educated people have got employment and how many people are unemployed? The Government has not made any assessment in this regard, so far. Irregularities have been committed in recruitment, many posts are left vacant deliberately. What is the total number of such vacancies and what are the reasons for non-fulfilment of these vacancies? I request the Government to explain all these things in its reply. Moreover, the Government should also provide the total number of graduates, post-graduates and that of those who qualified recruitment exams and the number of those who were recruited directly. The Government might have made the direct appointment of these people. Today they are denied employment in every office. The Government should make a law to clear their backlog. Can the Government take action against the erring officers who were reluctant to clear the backlog? The people of this class of the society cannot be served unless this task is accomplished. This Ministry bears the name the Ministry of Welfare. But it is not known who is the beneficiary of the welfare. How much benefit does the Government derive therefrom? I, therefore, submit that certain concrete work should be done for the education of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the name of agriculture it is being said that these people are being given land on lease. But I would like to state that the surplus land beyond the land ceiling was given on lease but not ownership of the land as yet. In my Lok Sabha Constituency in Uttar Pradesh 300 bighas land was found surplus beyond the land ceiling which was allotted to Scheduled Castes people on lease but they are yet to get its ownership. Big farmers manage to get stay orders issued from High Courts or any other Court and therefore, a person belonging to the Scheduled Caste does not get its ownership. Even the District Magistrate or the Subdivisional District Magistrate or the Government officials get scared. The poor hardly get land. Even if they get it somehow or other, they are deprived of it through manoeuvre. Certain outline should be chalked out to improve the present condition of the society.

These people are still working as agriculture labourers or bonded labourers. Even they do not get their full wages. Some of them get Rs. 20, some others get Rs. 25 or Rs. 33. Of course, the agricultural labourers in urban areas get their full daily wages. But no labourer in rural areas is paid in full. They are still working as bonded labourers there. I know how many agriculture labourers are working as bonded labourers in Uttar Pradesh. It is often discussed here. The Government gets resolution regarding this issue passed arbitrarily. But it does not provide any aid to them. I, therefore, request the Government to provide help for them. Today factories of tycoons such as Dalmia, Tata, Modi etc. get huge loans from Banks but that loan is not being recovered from them. Modi Mill has so far taken a loan of Rs. 75 crore from the Punjab National Bank; but this amount is not being recovered. Whereas a poor farmer is rendered homeless

in the process of recovery of loan from him. Our Government had waived off farmer's loan to the tune of Rs. 10,000, but today the Government harasses those farmers and poor people who cannot manage two square meals. The Janta Dal Government had waived off the poor farmers loans. But this Government relentlessly recovers loans from farmers and labourers and the poor people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. They are often arrested tied and caused to bow and certain weight is put on their back. All the details of the atrocities on the borrowers do not reach the Government. I throw down the gauntlet to the Government to be equally harsh to others also and recover Rs. 75 crore from the Modi Mill lent by the Punjab National Bank.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I would like to request the hon. Minister of Welfare to look into the genuine problems of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and suggest their suitable and effective remedies. Theory alone will not work. Certain concrete practical measures should be taken in this regard. Then alone this class of the society can be uplifted.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you Prof. S.P. Yadav. Now Kumari Frida Topno please.

KUMARI FRIDA TOPNO (SLUNDARGARH): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

The Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes are still the most neglected communities in our country in spite of having number of constitutional safeguards for their socio-economic and educational developments. These communities continue to be vulnerable and atrocities are committed against them in one form or other. With a view to effectively deal with the crimes against Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes and to tone up the administrative machinery to tackle the issue, comprehensive guidelines containing precautionary, preventive, punitive and rehabilitative measures exist but still we have not achieved our object. The increasing land alienation, rural indebtedness and non-responsive administrative machinery are the root of atrocities on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. No amount of law will safeguard them if police and other unscrupulous officials keep playing footsie with the violators of law.

Sir, after Independence, steps have been taken to provide education to these communities. Many residential Sevashrams, residential High Schools and low cost hostels have been established in the rural areas. Our lofty ideals of having such schools for Scheduled Caste and Tribe students with facilities of providing food, clothing and books seem to have been defeated. Most of the school buildings are not maintained properly. Students are invariably served substandard food. Clothing are hardly supplied and books are never provided timely. The result of these is that schools are most discouraging. It is, therefore, requested that more funds be made available for the maintenance of schools and hostel buildings and the rate of stipend be enhanced in order to raise the standard of living of the students. The Scheduled Tribes and Caste students studying in general schools do not get their stipend in time.

The rate should also be enhanced keeping in view the present market price.

Sir, as regards higher education, the rate of drop-outs is quite alarming. The rate of literacy among the women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes is beyond description. I appeal to the Government to open more schools and colleges both general and technical for the girl students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Sir, Tribals, who are called Adivasis are the original settlers of our society who cleared jungles and made the land cultivable. The entire Eastern Region, the Adivasi belt, is rich in mineral resources. This region, in the recent past, has witnessed the establishment of many major industries. All major Public Sector Undertakings like Rourkela, Bokaro, Bhilai, Durgapur have come up on tribal land.

Thousands of acres of their land have been acquired and hundreds of tribal villages have been uprooted. They have not been properly resettled. The Government acquired land more than what is required for setting up an industry. Now all surplus lands are being acquired by vested interest groups. I appeal the Government while depriving the tribals of their land, proper care should be given for their resettlement. Steps also be taken to ensure that the surplus lands of these public undertakings are not misused or grabbed by vested interest people.

Law forbids alienation of tribal land by the non-tribals. But often the administration openly helps unscrupulous people to grab tribal land. Very recently on 7th April, 1994 at Rourkela Lakho Oram, a tribal became the victim of local administration and the land grabbers. He had his family settled over a piece of land at Rourkela having patta in his favour. In order to gain cheap popularity and political support of a particular community, the local MLA wanted to give this land to this community. Sri Oram went to the Supreme Court against the evil design of this MLA for a stay. When the case was still pending before the hon. Supreme Court, one early morning when the family of Lakho Oram was asleep the Sub-Collector, Panposh bulldozed his house. All grown up members of the family were arrested. What is more shocking, the 70 years old mother of Lakho Oram was arrested on ground of attempt to murder of the Sub-Collector. The Collector of Sundargarh who wanted to give justice to this tribal family was transferred immediately. Hundreds of such cases are being committed in many parts of the country. In some places the administration is giving support and in other cases the administration is a silent spectator. Firm action should be taken against such officials who are responsible for such atrocities.

With the establishment of major public sectors in the tribal region the tribals are losing their cultural identity. The influx of non-tribal population in this region is causing a great concern to the very existence of age old rich culture of the tribals. All public as well as the private sectors established in this region be made duty bound to protect and promote tribal culture. Steps should be taken for handing over of Birsā Maidan by Rourkela Steel Plant to Birsā Munda Statue Committee for the establishment of tribal cultural centre a long cherished demand of the tribals.

The atrocities against women belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes are increasing day by day. Our women in the villages and towns are more unsafe than before. The non responsive administrative machinery and Police are mainly responsible for the present plight of our women. Miss Basanti Kandulna, a young working tribal girl, was gang raped on 17.7.1994 at Rourkela. On the other day culprits were seen moving freely with the police. They were arrested only when tribals agitated for their arrest. My intention to cite this example is that the administration has to be tone up to enforce the laws that this august House enacts for the safeguard of this communities.

In many parts of eastern region including my constituency, tribals have been settled down on forest land and have been cultivating for over sixty years. Steps should be taken to record these lands in their favour.

Now these tribals are being harassed by the forest officials.

Finally, I also appeal to the Government to bring a Constitution Amendment Bill to provide constitutional safeguards and facilities to Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity. The caste and the social and economic status of a person do not change with the change of religion. He is a Scheduled Caste and a poor man even if he changes his religion. Therefore, he should not be discriminated only on ground of religion. I request the Government to extend the benefits meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to all those Scheduled Castes converted to Christianity. Thank you.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (*Karimganj*). Mr. Chairman, Sir at the outset, I thank the hon. Minister, Shri Thangabalu, for moving such an important Bill for discussion in the House. But at the same time, I would request him that this discussion should not remain confined only to a discussion, this should be implemented in practice also.

I would begin with the stamped of Nagpur in which I think 113 people were killed, mostly women and children. I fail to understand how this tragic incident could occur under the strong administration of Shri Sharad Pawar. So, it very clearly seems that there is slackness in the administration, particularly towards Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes came into being in the year 1992 and since then it has been working for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But for effective and uniform implementation of its policies, there are no State bodies. This Commission alone cannot do all the things. There must be some Organisations in the States as well.

The Reports of the Commission are mainly paper work, confined to the red-tapism of the bureaucracy. Different States and Union Territories have their own ways to deal with the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Central funds allotted for the purpose are quite often diverted to other projects, without reaching the actual beneficiaries.

After forty-seven years of independence, the condition

of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes remains as it was because of non-implementation of the schemes as promised in our Constitution. Because of poverty of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they have exploited politically. There is no sincerity of purpose. Simply lip service is being paid to the centuries-old problems of the downtrodden. Whenever we go to our constituencies, we see that everything is just the same, particularly in the Scheduled Castes' villages and tribal areas. There is least improvement in their conditions. So, I would say that during these years, this Government has paid only lip service to these people and nothing else.

There is reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Government services. But the same is not thoroughly followed in the States and the Union Territories and as a result there are heavy backlogs till today. Atrocities on women and men belonging to Dalits seem to be as if they are a common feature in India and it is painful that the Centre and the States failed to cope up with the situation. Till today Dalits are burnt in some States. I do not want to mention the States.

Sir, in my opinion, there should be a Minister of State entirely for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Welfare Ministry because welfare is a very very broad term to cover all aspects of the people of India. That is why there should be a particular Minister under the Ministry of Welfare. There should be a network of State and U.T. level Commissions under the supervision of the National Commission to look into the problems and to implement the national policies relating to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I will suggest that after every five years there should be a detailed survey of SC and ST people to assess about their stages of development educationally, socially and economically.

According to the 1991 Census, the population of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is 13.82 crore and 6.78 crore respectively constituting 16.48 and 8.8 per cent respectively of the total population. It is 24.56 per cent of the total population of the country which is 84.63 crore. During these years, the SC/ST population touched a figure of 25 per cent of the total population of India. Hence the reservation should be 16.5 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 8.5 per cent for Scheduled Tribes, that is 25 per cent. These percentages should apply not only to Government services of the Centre and the States but also to educational institutions, Legislative Assemblies, Lok Sabha, Rajya Sabha and other areas of operation. The reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should continue for another 15 years and there must not be rotation of reserved seats.

What is needed mostly at present for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is education and employment because without liberation from economic slavery, no people, no race, no nation could prosper.

Moreover, the people who are having lands should offer lands to the landless people, particularly the Scheduled Castes. Previously, they used to do jhum cultivation. But now-a-days because of reserved forests, these people, particularly the Scheduled Tribes are not able to do that. So, there should be a complete land reform

programme in the country and the downtrodden be provided with lands. In the end, I should say that there are hundreds of promises for the well-being of the scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, but the Government should be serious in implementing the promises into practice.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN YADAV (BXAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very distressed to state that even after 47 years of the Independence the most neglected underprivileged and downtrodden class of the society has not been given its due regards and rights as prescribed in the Constitution.

A provision of 12.5 and 7.5 per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes people respectively has been made under articles 16, 322 and 340. But today they are not getting it also. According to official figures only 13 per cent seats have been filled up so far and rest are falling vacant. The report of States in this regard will reveal that there will be hardly any State which lacks educated unemployed youth among Harijans and scheduled Castes Communities. There are highly qualified youths. The Harijan and Scheduled Castes youths holding degrees of B.A., M.A., Medical, engineering etc. are unemployed. If the Government had done justice to them and had filled up their quota in full they would have got their Constitutional right.

The State Governments and the Union Government used to announce that they will provide land to landless people. I am sure that if land is distributed among the poor people, they will find enough land for their agriculture. Land has been distributed in those States where left parties were ruling i.e. Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal. But no distribution of land has been made in other States. However, according to law, distribution of land should have been conducted much earlier. Legal bottlenecks also hinder the State Government from launching land distribution programme.

In my State Bihar agitation was launched last year on this issue and poor people managed to occupy 40,000 acres of land. But documents regarding their possession of land are yet to be given to them. It means that the State Government is reluctant to give them land. This is the real picture of Bihar. Therefore, the Government should remove all hurdles which come in the way of land distribution. The suits should not lie pending in civil courts for a long period. Special courts should be set up and suits relating to land-distribution should be disposed off at the earliest. So that land should be distributed promptly. But it does not happen.

I would like to submit to the Government that if they are genuinely interested in providing land to the poor and if their intention is bonafide and they want that the downtrodden people are uplifted in society and they get land and two square meals a day, the Government should implement Land Reforms laws throughout the country. If the Government is not interested in doing it and is merely giving hollow assurances then it means that the intention of the Government is not bonafide and the Government is not at all interested in it.

It has been the want on the part of the Government to make loud claims that they are providing scholarships to

Harijan and Adivasi boys but I would like to submit that if at all scholarships are provided to the children of harijans and adivasi people, they do not get its payment in time.

17.00 hrs.

The payment is made in the last month of January, as a result of which helpless children of poor harijans and adivasi people are forced to drop out of schools by that time and thus they are deprived of the education they should have. Unless a poor person gets some assistance from the Government he cannot provide education to his ward. That is why I would like to urge upon the Government to provide them scholarships in time. As per the provision made by the Government, the child of harijan father earning rupees one thousand a month will not be provided scholarship. This is not proper. If a Harijan earns rupees two thousand a month but he has two children then it becomes difficult for him to feed his family. I want the Government to kindly withdraw such provision. May be some persons belonging to scheduled caste have become rich but they are exceptions as most of them are still poor. If a harijan student discontinues his studies for want of money then the Government should help him to continue his studies by making timely payments.

The Government enacts legislation to provide loans to the poor people of SC/ST communities at lower rates of interest but the Bank managers do not sanction loans unless their palms are greased. The poor have to pay money as bribe in every department of the Government to get their work done. Even after so many years of Independence, the Government have not taken any measure to safeguard the poor people from this menace of paying illegal gratification to get their work done. Sometimes due to the fact that he has to pay illegal commissions, the poor-person does not repay the loans to the Bank. In some of the cases, as much as a whopping amount to the extent of half of the loan amount is taken as illegal gratification by the unscrupulous officials. There is an arrangement for a direct payment for the construction of houses for Harijans colonies. Similarly, there should be a system of making direct payment of loans without leaving any scope for giving illegal commission and thus providing relief to farmers. There is no end of such instances. If the intentions of the Government is clear and they are genuinely interested in the progress of harijans and adivasis, they should give these questions a thoughtful considerations. They should be given a representation in the administration.

Today harijans and adivasis do not get their share as per their population nor do they get due place in jobs. Now after so many years of Independence, they have become enlightened. Now they are no more willing to tolerate it. If their problems are not solved soon they will be forced to start agitation. Our population constitutes 75 per cent of the total population but our representation in administration is not more than 1 or 2 per cent. The people having a population of 15 per cent got 90 per cent representation in the administration. This is not proper. I would like to sound a warning to the Government that gone are the days when people suffered meekly without raising any voice, now-a-days people make themselves heard. After reading news-

papers, the Indian Constitution and various laws enacted during the years that gone by since independence, they have realised at least this much that this is their country and some-one else is taking lion's share of their cake. They will have to be given their full share. If it is not given, the day is not far when they will fight for it. The land of this country is ploughed by the poor people and harijan adivasis but its harvest is reaped by someone else. The "Banihar" (bonded farm labourer) ploughs the field, the owner of that land just walks along with an umbrella on his head. The Government should give ownership rights to the actual tiller of the land. Especially, the provision made for Harijan and Adivasis should be properly implemented, otherwise I feel that the Nagpur incident will be repeated several times. The people of that area were shot dead when they were fighting for their rights. The agitation has not died down. If the Government fails to address the problem, harijan and adivasis will fight for their rights throughout the length and breadth of the country. I demand that we should be given all those rights which have been provided in our Constitution for the welfare of the Harijan and Udivasis. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry to say that the attitude of the Government is deplorable even in respect of questions for which the Government is committed under our Constitution and its own policies. This report regarding scheduled castes and scheduled tribes clearly shows this tendency as this report is 12 years old but it is being discussed by the Government only today. This House and the society as a whole do not get time to do away with the injustice that is being perpetrated to these classes. The people who are subjected to injustice are the poorest, most dalit, most neglected and the most unhappy people of the society. The House also finds it difficult to spare some time to discuss their problems. At the very outset, I would like to submit that the Government and this House should ensure that the annual report of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Commission is presented every year to the House and discussed here. The Government should seriously take steps to implement the recommendations of the Commission. The population of the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes constitutes 25 per cent of our total population and they are the poorest people who are shelterless and landless and do not receive the kind of respect from the society to which they are entitled. They do not have land and house and even the society has not respected them they should have been. It is very unfortunate.

Our country must understand one thing that if the people of these poor classes, especially scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and a large population of backward classes remain poor, this country will also continue to be poor. If these people are poor, our country will also be weak. So, this problem should be considered a national problem and a serious thought should be given to it. This malaise is a stigma on our society and is shameful for the nation as a whole. You may see their condition in the society. The women of these classes were subjected to rape in Aligarh, the people of these classes are tortured the most. The homes of the people of these classes are

put on fire and these people are lathi-charged. Even today they are tortured so much because it is understood that they are weak and do not have any force behind them. Today, they are struggling for their existence. They are being deprived even of the things they possess. A few months back I paid a visit to Mirzapur. There I saw that big money-lenders have taken illegal possession of the land of Adivasis. Some influential people who have come from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh etc. have taken illegal possession of their land. These people have to struggle for that. When these people get angry and agitated and hold demonstrations, then the administration too maltreats them. There are cases of lathi-charge, shoot-outs but there seems to be no action to solve the problems of these people. Even today they are being dispossessed to their land as its value has increased. New industries have been set up there and new colonies are being set up and the price of their land has increased they are being forced to give up their land in the absence of any proof of their ownership. They are uneducated, so they cannot furnish evidence. They cannot go to courts to establish facts. So they easily fall prey and are made to give up their tracts of land. Besides, the provisions made for them in the Constitution are not implemented. I would like to say it again to Mukulji and Baluji that they must have read the report submitted by Dr. Brahmdev Sharma in 1988. I am reading from it he has expressed his concern thought that injustice on these people is on increase in the society and no solution is being found out. Some provisions made in the Constitution or our Constitution framers had fixed some targets before them or the targets fixed at the time of freedom struggles had included the removal of untouchability and injustice being done to them. It had been vowed to improve their condition to ensure that they get as equal status in society. But Dr. Sharma has maintained that it could not be done because we only talk about social justice and equality but mere words will not suffice unless some concrete steps are taken.

Sir, I would make it clear that unless they get an equal share in the wealth of the nation, their condition cannot improve and since other countries have taken such a step why can we not follow suit. Malaysia is one such example. Some outsiders had taken illegal possession of the land of the local people of Malaysia who did not indulge in trade activities. There was no shop, no industry and employment opportunity for them in Government services. However, after attaining independence, Malaysia not only provided reservation in Government services but also declared that all Malaysians, who were earlier deprived of such facilities, will be given reservation in proportion to their population in the industries. I would like to know why our Government cannot initiate such steps? Even if the Government allot them petrol pumps, which it has started of late, their conditions will not improve by this. These people produce foodgrains from the land, they do hard work and the foodgrains by their hard labour keep the country's life moving. They do not have their own land, landlord is somebody else and they have to work hard. The law of minimum wages can never be implemented for them. The Government has enacted laws for minimum wages in various states of the country but these are not actually

being implemented. The main reasons for this is that the landlords and businessmen are having a stronghold over the society even today. When they are at the helm of affairs, who else will implement these laws? That is why, I would like to submit that even after 48 years of our independence, the condition of these classes of people is pitiable because they have no share in the national wealth of the country. If the Government or the Parliament is serious about this, we will have to think over it afresh and bring them in the national mainstream. Today this is the main problem. In my constituency 5-6 months back, 19 inch rainfall was recorded in 24 hours. It was a record rainfall which was never witnessed during the last one hundred years. When I visited my constituency, I found that maximum damage was suffered by the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Backward Classes. About 90-95 percent people belonged to these classes. Their houses were completely ruined, I tried my best to get some assistance from the Centre and even I wrote a letter to the hon. Prime Minister. Generally, some reply is received from the hon. Prime Minister but I did not receive any reply to my this request. I also wrote to the hon. Chief Minister, who is also my friend, but he also could not extend any assistance. I received a common reply from him that the Government is taking necessary steps. I continued to take rounds in my constituency for many days and on seeing their conditions, tears came out of my eyes. With the assistance of my friends, I collected some sarees, blankets and dhotis but the number of sufferers was so large that I could not even help the ten percent people. I saw there that the women were waiting with their children in their laps for hours together in the queue to get a 'saree'. Further, the old and the blind persons were also waiting for getting a blanket to escape from cold. However, most of the people had to go back disappointed. Today even if we bring a new economic policy or a new policy of socialism or bring about some changes in the public sector, we cannot ameliorate their condition. Further, unless we work for the welfare of these 35 percent most backward classes people by giving 25-30 percent reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and 10 percent to the most backward classes, they would continue to reel under pitiable conditions and the nation would not progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this regard, we will have to learn from China. If a village has a population of 2000 and only 1000 people can earn their livelihood from the available land, then that land is given to 1000 people and the remaining 1000 people are given employment in industries or trade. Unless we do such type of planning and until schemes would be chalked out in Delhi or in the capitals of the states, the benefit of these schemes will not reach to the villages. Today, only the powerful and strong persons are reaping maximum benefits out of these schemes. I would not suggest that we should acquire the land of anybody but now the Government will have to think that what could it do about those persons who have job who run industries or who own bungalows or farm houses where they go for leisure once in a month. The Government should take steps to do away with such a mockery in the system.

Therefore, I would like to say that today there is discontentment among the people and the situation is becoming more explosive. It should be kept in mind that the poor is landless and he does not have any means. However, today the feeling of self respect is shaking his mind and he is recognising his individual entity and power. Further, he is raising his voice and if we are not going to hear his voice in time, it will leave its serious repercussions and the situation will become more explosive. As a result, our democracy as well as our governing system will be in danger. Today, we see resentment everywhere and it is the main cause for turning the situation explosive.

The incident which took place in Nagpur is an eye-opener. The persons who had gone there to register their grievance have to stand and wait hours together there, but no responsible person came to listen to them. They thought that when they have come over here, Government is theirs, entire Cabinet and Government machinery is here, and the Session of Legislative Assembly is also going on then why nobody came to listen to their sorrows, so they marched towards the Secretariat, the youth got enraged and resentment brewed there. Thus, they vented their anger and the police lathi-charged them. Among the people who had gone there, most of them were women with their babies in their laps, the old ones and the sick people. They had gone there in the hope that their request will be heard. I am saying this all with a heavy heart but we are not recognising their pain. We are even not recognising those classes of people who have been facing injustice in this country for thousands of years and whose life we consider worst than dogs and cats. Generally, we talk of our society too tall. We have conveyed to the whole world that we are civilised people and we are proud of our culture. I am also proud of my culture and philosophy. On the one hand, we feel proud to be an Indian but on the other hand, we hate the child of a human being. The doors of a temple are closed for those people who manufacture the brinks for that or chisel the idol stone. Is this our great culture? I have myself seen that these people used to clean the utensile used by the dogs and the cats and then take their meals in them. I have been a witness to these happenings during my childhood and it had left an indelible mark in my heart. If the son or daughter of a dalit touched our utensils unintentionally they used to bear the blows of lathis and shoes and their huts used to be destroyed.

I remember an incident when I was a student of seventh or eighth class. At that time, my father was in Singapore. The father of another boy of my village, who belonged to Scheduled Caste, was also living in Singapore. Once, we both went to the Post Office together to collect the money sent by our fathers. As we could not have dared to sit on the cot at the post office, we both sat on the wooden chairs. After some time the postmaster came out after having a bath. He was known to me but asked the other boy about his father's name. The boy told him his father's name. Hearing that he is the son of a man belonging to Scheduled Caste, the Postmaster took his wooden sendal out of the foot and abused him that how he dared to sit on the chair as he should have sat on the ground. Further, he started beating him up. That boy had gone there to collect his father's earning. Moreover, he had

to pay some money to the postmaster. So Sir, I have come across such incidents. I would like to say that even today we have not been able to change that mentality. It can only be changed if these people unite and today, we see that they are uniting.

Every Commissioner as well as the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have time and again complained in their individual Reports that they do not enjoy any powers. They further complained that whenever a report is asked for from the State Governments, they do not supply the same. Moreover, the Ministry of Central Government also does not submit their Reports in time. Therefore, they requested that the commission should be given constitutional status so that it could call and initiate action against them. It is not understandable how it took long 42 years to take action in this regard? How Government took such a long time to agree to provide it a constitutional status? It is the result of the several years of struggle that the commission has not constitutional status. Today because these classes have become conscious and are raising their voice unitedly, the Government have also made up its mind to help them and for this purpose, it is constrained to create a new atmosphere. Now, if they have got justice after several years, struggle, then the declarations, policies and high ideals of the Government are of no use because we never worked with our wisdom.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the post of the Commissioner remained vacant for seven years and today the report which we are discussing it is necessary for that this post should not be kept vacant. Whether no suitable person was available for this post? No that but the approach of the Government was not positive and that is why it resulted in great loss. Therefore, I would like to give three or four suggestions. I am hopeful that Shri Balu would put these suggestions before the Government so that these could be discussed.

So far as the question of reservation in Government services for the class I officers of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is concerned, it has been implemented from the last year. However, the present limit of 22.5 percent should be increased upto 25 or 26 per cent in proportion to their population and the Government should carry out an amendment in the Constitution to this effect.

The Government should launch a special drive to fill up the reserved quota by recruiting people according to their population in all those categories where there is backlog and thus discharge its constitutional obligations.

The pronouncement of the Supreme Court verdict has created certain doubts and the people falling in these categories have been put at a loss. The hon. Minister of Welfare and his colleague hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Welfare had assured to abide by the Court's verdict. But I know that there are still many departments which are yet to change their outlook and they are against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are always finding some loopholes in rules to create some hurdles in the way of officials belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As a result thereof the scared persons belonging to these categories come to us

and tell us that they will make adverse entries in their service books so that they could be proved inefficient and could be disqualified for any job or promotion. Many judges have been alleged for taking bribes. Bungling of crores of rupees have taken place in the country but the culprit has not been nabbed so far. But a poor person be it an employee or somebody else, is accused of certain fabricated charges and adverse entries are made against him in his service book without probing the case so that he may not be fit for promotion. I think that action should be taken on each such representations.

The fourth point that I would like to make is that there should be radical land reforms. As I stated just now that it requires determination. The Government should make laws so that the land of those persons who already have other sources of income should be allotted to the poor and helpless people who

do not have any other sources of income. Such deserving people must be provided certain means of their earning. The report says that people having no means of their livelihood should be given land. But they do not get loan from any Banks today. Your department has taken a decision to accord priority to them in allotting accommodation. But persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not allotted accommodation. This has been mentioned at many places in the Commissioners' report, yet no action is taken in this regard. Action should be taken against the Head of the Department if he commits such mistakes. Here we discuss to fix Ministerial responsibility every day and talk of even resigning the post if we fail to fulfil the commitment. But who are employees who are heads of the departments and are salaried persons, who have taken oath to do justice if they do not implement the decision of his department or the policy of the Government action must be taken against them and Parliament also should be intimated regarding the action taken against such erring officers. This provision must be made by the Government in the concerned rules.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that the Government should be serious to formulate a national policy for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I would like to request the Government to draft a National Policy for upliftment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and present it to the House like the National Policy for Education, Telecommunications etc. so that they may enjoy equal status and justice in the society and live a dignified life. This will enable us to fulfil our national commitments provided in the Constitution and make our country strong, prosperous and create a dignified society. This is a vital issue of human rights.

I am happy that we have constituted a National Human Rights Commission in the country. But this should not be merely a titular human rights commission. It should not confine itself to the police atrocities and misuse of TADA only as the paramount human right is the right to dignified life, right to social justice and right to equality as defined in our Constitution. We propagate publicising all over the world that our approach to human rights is different. I say that poverty is also inhuman, oppression is also inhuman. I, therefore, would like to submit that it is a human right issue, a national issue which necessitates a

national policy and that too must be presented to the august House.

My submission is that such a national policy should be brought before the august House during next session. Moreover, the report on Mandal Commission regarding the other Backward Classes is being implemented after 40 or 42 years and many hindrances are being created in its implementation. The youths belonging to these classes are running from pillar to post for age-relaxation for appearing in the examination. They want two months relaxation and postponement of examination for two months but inspite of taking belated decision they are not being given this relaxation.

I submit that the Government should be serious about its policies. I do not want to leave this issue to the Government alone. I appeal all hon. Members of Parliament and all political parties to resolve this issue. Unless it is resolved, we cannot make a modern and strong India and maintain its dignity. So long as the toiling masses of our country are deprived of prosperity, honour or respect and justice, our country will remain weak. We have to eliminate these evils. With these words I hope that the Government will take some effective measures in the light of my suggestions with respect to the recommendations made in the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which is being discussed here after a gap of 12 years.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (*Firozabad*) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek one minutes' time. I had been on my visit to Aligarh. The incidents which took place there are heart-rending.

(English)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not now. I thought that you wanted to raise some other issue.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand, you cannot raise any issue now. This will not go on record. You cannot raise any other issue now. Please sit down. The House is discussing this very important subject. Shri Manikrao Hodlya Gavit to speak.

(Translation)

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (*Nandurbar*) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House. I am grateful for granting me time to speak on this report. I am also a tribal. I have heard the views of all hon. friends here. The people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should get their reservation quota as provided in the Constitution.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, several schemes have been chalked out for our welfare and attempts are being made to reach its benefits to the rural areas. The educated youth of these classes have been provided reservation in jobs under the Constitution. Our Union Government has issued instructions to the State Governments to implement the job-reservation quota as provided in the Constitution. Now it must be seen as to what extent the State Governments implement it.

Sir, we are distressed that the funds allocated by the Union Government to the State Governments under tribal plan for the Welfare of tribals are not spent thereon but are diverted to non-tribal plans. We have found the diversion of funds at many places. The individual schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not awarded to them but are diverted to others in their names.

Sir, earlier this Welfare Ministry was under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Recalling that period, our elders say that old system was good but late Shrimati Indira Gandhi had created an independent Welfare Ministry with the hope that it would ensure the welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in an efficient manner and the new Ministry would be able to do justice to them.

I am glad to say that hon. Minister is trying to do justice. Funds are also being made available for this purpose. But so far as its implementation is concerned, I think there is some laxity on the part of State Governments. I would like to say that hon. Prime Minister or the Welfare Ministry should see that the benefits of the schemes formulated for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes actually reach them. I know that it is not that the union Welfare Ministry which looks after the welfare work in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh or Gujarat States and that they have got their own Welfare Ministries in their respective states for this purpose. Tribal areas are also covered under this Welfare Ministry. I would like to say that officials appointed for implementing the Welfare schemes for SCs/STs should also be acquainted with the problems of those castes and tribes.

There is a local saying in Maharashtra that "Anusoochit Jaati Vimukta Bhatke Jamati", which means that the same castes are being treated as scheduled castes as well as scheduled tribes. It has also come to our notice that officials do not know whether the money received by them is in the shape of a grant or a loan and how it should be disbursed among the people. Nobody is there to ensure the proper utilisation of the expenditure. It is my personal experience that the same indifferent attitude is adopted in every matter whether it is an issue of appointments, educational facility for them or the issue regarding backlog in appointments.

Therefore, I would request the central Government that Welfare Ministry should be given more powers and arrangements should be made for proper utilisation of funds meant for welfare of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I request the Government to extend full benefit of 20 Point Programme to the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes living below the poverty line. I have seen that officials only do that much work which is given to them during the year. The Government say that it will allocate the require funds for it and there is no shortage of money either. I would like to say that officials appointed by the State Governments do not work whole heartedly for implementation of schemes formulated for upliftment of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. Explanations are not sought from them even when mistakes are committed by them. Although

they work for the whole day but there is none to see as to whether the schemes are actually implemented or not? There is no one to monitor their work.

I would like to say that so far the education of people belonging to scheduled tribes are concerned, they are much more backward than the scheduled castes people. It is really good that Navodaya Vidyalayas have been set up in the country but the Ministry of Human Resources Development is unable to supervise the functioning of these schools throughout the country. At some places, teachers are not appointed for years together and thus students did not study at all. This should also be looked into. Several good schemes have been formulated for welfare of scheduled castes but they are not being implemented properly. The Government should pay attention towards it. There is a huge backlog in services under Central Government, state Governments and Public Sector Undertakings. In every state, there is backlog in appointments of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in Primary and Middle Schols and colleges. The institutions working there even do not inform the concerned authorities regarding this backlog. The Welfare Ministry should look into the matter and this should also be brought to the notice of Chief Minister and chief Secretary of the State.

Several friends of mine have raised the issue regarding tragic deaths of people belonging to Govari tride who were taking out a procession in Nagpur district of Maharashtra. It is very sad. I think their main demand was that they should also be given the status of scheduled castes or scheduled tribes. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, such a serious matter is being taken very lightly.

SHRI MANIKRAP HODLYA GOVIT: The issue is indeed very serious (Interruptions) I have papers with me.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Innocent people were shot dead..... (Interruptions)

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: I know that you are a Professor. Inquiry will tell as to what happened to people who wanted to make a demand through that procession...(Interruptions)

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT: They were innocent people who did not know the procedure. Police pushed them (Interruptions)

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: The Government will tell its point of view why didn't you give me a change to say my point? I do feel sorry for this tragedy. But I was saying that they did not belong to scheduled tribes. They were demanding for their inclusion in scheduled tribe.

PROF RASA SINGH RAWAT: They were already in the list of scheduled castes.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: No, they were not. I have with me the reply given by the Government as well as other papers. I also belong to Scheduled Tribe. I am not ready to accept it. I know that there are people who attack the persons belonging to SC and ST communities.

SHRI KALKA DAS (KAROL BAGH): Mr. Chairman,

sir, a separate notice has been given for this. He should not raise this matter so lightly. Demanding for a thing is not bad but it does not mean that they should be shot at. He should not discuss it here now because it is to be debated in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many hon. Members have spoken on this subject. Mr. Manikrao Hodlya Gavit is coming from that State.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You first listen to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no point in shouting like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruptions, please, You have to listen him first.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why don't you listen to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

[Translation]

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: When I talked to some of my colleagues here, they told me that they were tribals and that is why I said these things otherwise there was no need for me to raise it now. I was simply narrating the problems of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA: Atrocities should not be committed against humanity. Therefore every one will condemn such atrocities against humanity.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that backlog in appointments of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in big institutions, educational institutions, colleges and public undertakings in the States should be cleared.

I thank you for allowing me to speak and express my views on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the issue under discussion is very important one. We all know its importance and agree to the view that one should get one's right. There should be no discrimination between one human being and the other. If there is no humanity, the life is meaningless. I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in the discussion on the Reports for the year, 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86.

We all know that under a democratic system, every person has a right to be protected. Further, the Constitution of India also speaks of social, economic and political justice and all must get its benefits. No citizen should feel that there is discrimination between man and man. However, the issue under discussion has a limited scope. It is regarding Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are well aware that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are backward, oppressed, exploited and tortured from time immemorial. However, the present society should view them in an

ambience of free India. We must think over it in a comprehensive way. Due consideration is one of the aspects of a democratic system. But, there is a need to act in this direction and make efforts to bring about a change in their life. Unless, we implement it sincerely, the purpose will be defeated.

"Pratibandh Lage Ho Jeen Par Samata Ka Adhikar Nahin, Uska Jeena Bhi Kya Jeena Jis Ko Manav Adhikar Nahin."

Even today, many people are living like animals. When we speak about them in Parliament, the whole nation listen to it. Today, nobody cares about those people living in remote areas of the country. They are still living the same age-old life. The ray of change has not reached upto them. They are living in the age of darkness. Several schemes are chalked out for them but its benefit do not reach them. We talk of building houses for them but after every rainy season, their houses get destroyed. If the things go this way, what would be the use of building such houses? If the schemes of the Government meet such a fate, how would we be able to hope for their better life?

The question of livelihood is most important. Bread, clothing and housing are equally essential things. Where would they go to earn their livelihood? Several schemes are launched for them but they are discontinued in between. It is said that the bonded labour system has been wiped out but it is still there in one form or the other. They are forced to work as bonded labours. If they remained bonded, how will they be able to live in free India as a free citizen?

The Government has not chalked out any programme for implementing those points which have been raised in these Reports after due consideration. If these points are not linked with a time-bound programmes, then it would be useless to discuss over such Reports and arrive at some conclusions. The Government frames the policies and implement them. The most important thing is that it suggests measures to uplift such people.

Democracy is, no doubt, a matter of pride and glory for us. However, the system should work towards the welfare of the people. So far, we are unable to establish such democracy in which we could be able to do and think the welfare of everybody. As a result, there exploitation is still prevalent in the society.

"Shoshan Mukta Samaj Rachna Ka Pratibandh Hamein Sweekar Nahin,  
Manushya Vibhed ko Vivash kare Aise Bandhan Sweekar Nahin,  
Shoshit, Peedit, Dalit Akinchan Swatantrata ke yah arth Nahin  
Vyakti, Vyakti Samridh Na Ho To Gantantra Ka Koi Arth Nahin,  
Nyaya, Swatantrata, Samta, Bandhuta Sabko Samanata Ka Adhikar  
Isase Kam Mein Samjhauta Kaisa Swarg Moksh Se Bhi Inkar."

Unless we will be able to give them justice, freedom, and create a feeling of equality and fraternity, it would be a dishonesty on our part. Several measures will have to be taken to implement all the Reports effectively and making them more meaningful. In this regard, the Government will have to chalk out a time-bound programme and create more employment opportunities.

Today, the condition of our agricultural labourers is pitiable. They are downtrodden, exploited and oppressed masses. If their problems are not considered seriously and no efforts would be taken to raise their living standard, they would remain poor, down-trodden, exploited and oppressed forever. Only the exploited people face injustice and they are unable to have the right of equality in the society. Measures should be taken to give them their rights and means of livelihood. When they go in search of a livelihood, they are subjected to injustice and even deprived of their minimum wages. The people living in the villages are not getting their minimum wages. In such circumstances, how would they make their both ends meet? One who toils day and night, do not gets his due. Unless measures are taken in this direction, we cannot hope of giving freedom to them.

18.00 hrs.

Thus, these people remain poor, exploited and oppressed. There is resentment among them and they feel that:

"Vyarth Hai Karna Khushamad Raston ki,  
Kam Apne Panwa Hi Ate Safar Mein."

That is why they are fighting unitedly for bringing

about a radical change in this system. I would submit that all these things should be implemented properly. For this purpose, we will have to work hard and identify measures for implementing various schemes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Satya Narayan Jatiya, can you complete your speech within two minutes?

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this issue should not be taken lightly. I have just touched the subject.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I understand that it is a very important subject. Well, you can continue tomorrow. We have four more speakers. The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, December 8, 1994/Agrahayana 17, 1915 (Saka)