

[Sh. Chandra Jeet Yadav]

which can be collected at a lower level and which can help him in crediting his contribution to his Provident Fund and secondly, there is the idea of minimum national wage which should be applicable to all khet mazdoors throughout the country. Sir, with these two suggestions I support the Bill moved by Mr. Deshmukh and I also plead with the Government that based on the discussion that we are having here today, the hon. Labour Minister who, I know, is very sympathetic to the cause of the unorganised labour, not only to the cause of the organised labour, will certainly come forward with a more comprehensive Bill before the House in order to tackle this problem and to make freedom and independence real for this sector of Indian humanity which has not yet known what independence means to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot has some information to convey to the House from Bombay. I request Shri Rajesh Pilot to give that information.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER BOMB BLASTS IN BOMBAY

16.00 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): With profound grief, let me share this information with the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Sir, it is a very serious situation. I feel shocked with the information received.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: It is a very unfortunate incident we have at nearly 7 to 8 places. The mode of operation has been like this. They parked the car with the bombs and they all blasted from one hour to one-and-a-half hours between one O'

Clock to 2.30 p.m. or 2.45 p.m. at nearly 7 to 8 places. I just talked to the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He said that specially at the place nearest to the Stock Exchange casualties have been there; they are ascertaining the number. He said 15 to 20 bodies have been taken out from there, but the number of injured has gone up to roughly 100 plus.

Madam, we are getting the information from the State Government, we are in touch with them, but the situation is under control and the State Government is totally in control of the situation. I think I will share with you whatever information I have received from the Chief Minister on phone.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): What about casualties?

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: That is what I said. It is at nearly 7-8 places at one go. It was at the Stock Exchange where the casualties have been slightly maximum. He told me that 15 to 20 casualties are already there. I think in the next coming hour or half-an-hour we may be able to give further information, which will be more authentic, to the House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Before the House rises, he should make a statement about this as far as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Madam Chairman, it seems that you know little about the incident. This incident is not confined to Bombay alone. I have got information that this morning a bomb blast took place first in the Deccan Express which runs between Pune and Bombay. I have no information about the number of casualties in the blast. But I have authentic information that the death toll was 5. Our Secretary from Bombay saw the spot there and informed me that he has seen 25 dead bodies in the Air India Building. As you referred to the blasts in the Bombay Stock Exchange Premises, the blast took place in the Branches of Bank of Baroda and Bank of

India located in the ground floor. I have no knowledge of the number of loss of human lives. But the information about 25 deaths is authentic. The Air India has three basements and the blasts took place there. All these blasts took place simultaneously. One of the blasts took place in the Katha Bazar, the other at the Petrol pump near the Shiv Sena Bhawan. My office had authentic information about 5 deaths, but it is learnt that blasts took place at seven or eight places. By and large, I do not remember that so many blasts have ever taken place at a place in such a planned way. I understand that the Government should treat it as a serious incident. I do not know whether there is any foreign hand behind these incidents but whoever has planned it is a very big enemy of this country and he must be dealt with firmly. On behalf of my party I have told my party workers to donate blood very peacefully so that reaction does not take place somewhere else.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, it should be looked into strictly at the official level. It seems that there is great failure on the part of the intelligence agencies. The intelligence agencies should do every thing that they can. This case should not be treated as a responsibility of the Maharashtra Government alone. The Central Government too should accept its responsibility. I also know what a negligent treatment the Central Government has shown to Maharashtra Government and it has not been taken seriously. The previous riots were very grave and there was partisan attitude in the reaction, otherwise nobody could have tolerated it. In today's case we expect that the Government would provide complete information to the Parliament. Moreover, if the proceedings continue in the House I demand that before the House rises for the day the Government should collect all possible authentic information and give the same to the august House.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: As I said that a very unfortunate incident has happened and the Leader of Opposition, Shri Advani has also expressed the same feelings. The

information is received that bomb blasts have occurred at 1.45 p.m. As soon as the Government received this information, it tried to contact the Government of Maharashtra. The Chief Minister had gone to the site. Therefore, unless we receive right information from there, I am unable to provide it to the House. Hence it is necessary to give right information. I would not like to give any wrong information to the House. I am going back, and will inform the House after every hour or half an hour whatever information we receive from there and will try to give right information to the House before it rises for the day.

As soon as the Government received this information, the authorities in the whole country has been alerted. I hope that they will not allow to recur such incident in any other part of the country. Orders have been given to all the State Governments to warm up all the systems of Government so that such incidents may not recur. The site which has been mentioned by Advaniji, was nearby Air India Building. When we asked about causalities, we came to know that the Chief Minister is engaged in relief works. Therefore, I shall try to give all the information on coming back to the House and maximum information will be given to the House before it rises for the day.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Madam, on behalf of my Party I would like to associate myself with the observations made by the Leader of the Opposition and support the demand that the Government not only keep us informed, but take this matter very seriously, inquire into it and find out who are responsible for it and give them the maximum punishment which they deserve. No act of terrorism should be tolerated under any circumstance.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Madam, I assure on behalf of the Government that we take the hon. Member's comment very seriously. We will take very strict measures and action against such forces.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia) : Also on behalf of my Party, I say that this is a most serious incident in our country since independence and the Government should take such action that no forces which are out to destroy the country can take any advantage out of such incident. So, stern action should be taken and whoever is responsible should be brought to book and punished at any cost, the peace of the country should be maintained and the law and order situation also should be properly maintained in the context of such an incident.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Madam, I join my other colleagues to condemn this kind of terrorist act and the Government has got the responsibility to know, find out the culprits and take serious action against them. As the situation is surcharged with tension in many parts of the country, the Government should also take additional care to see that peace is maintained and there is no further trouble in any part of the country. The Government should come to the House before it rises for the day and inform the House about the latest position of what has happened today.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, myself and on behalf of my party I condemn this incident and demand from the Government that it should use its all strength to ensure rigorous punishment to the culprits responsible for this incident. Alongwith this I demand from the Government that the whole country is disturbed due to this as this is the second time that such an incident has happened. I don't know what would happen next.

Therefore, through you I would like to say to the hon. Minister that such incidents should be prevented because if such incidents are not prevented, we can't say what will be the consequences. At least person like me can't imagine it. I doubt that such incidents may happen in other parts of the country also. The Government should not leave any chance for the recurrence of such

incidents and should use its full force to prevent them.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the question raised by Shri Chandrajeet Yadav in the House about Bombay bomb blasts and the manner in which the hon. Minister has given here incomplete information and after that whatever Shri Advaniji said here in this regard is more serious incident than all other incidents that occurred in this country. Occurrence of such incidents in every place is giving us a signal for future that such incidents will recur in other parts of the country and are likely to occur with important persons of the country. In such cases, the Government always says that it will take action but action is never taken. It is not a question of any party. This incident is very serious. I would like that the Government should seriously look into it and identify the culprits and take action promptly. This is the policy and programme of my party and in this regard I fully support it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the grave concern of the House at the horrific incidents from Bombay which have just been reported by the hon. Minister is sufficiently evident to the Government and I would request the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to see in conjunction with the sentiments of this House that whatever information is available, it should be communicated to the House before it rises.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNA WASNIK) : Madam, I would just add that since Chandra Jeet Yadavji had taken up this matter on the floor of the House, I rushed and I contacted the Home Minister. The Home Minister said that Shri Rajesh Pilot is rushing to the House and whatever information is available, he would place it before the House. Shri Rajesh Pilot

has also assured that additional information would be brought to the notice of the Members immediately.

[Translation]

SHRISURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to move a motion in this regard. Such a serious incident has happened. Therefore, the House may be adjourned. There is no need of it.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL BALAKRISHNAWASNIK : Madam, if the proceedings continue, then we would have the scope that the hon. Minister can get back to the House with some more information.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur) : The only point is, the Government must ensure that a statement is made before the House rises for the day.

15.15 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKS (MINIMUM
WAGES AND WELFARE) BILL
by Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh -
CONTD.

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Madam, I really felicitate Shri Deshmukh for bringing about this Bill. I had also the privilege of introducing a similar comprehensive Bill concerning the working conditions and living conditions of the agricultural workers of our country.

Madam, I am really very fortunate that the hon. Labour Minister is here to listen to us and there are many facets of the problem now being faced by the agricultural workers of our country and it deserves greater attention. Now, the question is whether an agricultural worker is a worker. A worker, by virtue of being a worker, has got certain inalienable rights and in order to protect those rights, certain legislations have been

passed in this country right from the days when our country was not free. Therefore, the first question I address to the hon. Minister for Labour is, whether an agricultural worker is a worker and is entitled to certain rights. A worker is. A worker is entitled to certain rights today because of the Constitution of our country, because of the human rights, because of other rights as a citizen and because of his birth.

Madam, the rights of the industrial workers are being protected and the industrial workers have got many social legislations in order to improve their conditions of life and the Government responds. The Government responds to the workers' demands. On the 19th of March, this Government is going to face a strike for which the call is given by the INTUC of the country. Therefore, since they are organised, this organised working class can meet the inefficiency of the Government, callousness of the Government, insensitivity of the Government and they can get their demands redressed. But what about these millions of workers who also earn their livelihood by their sweat and blood? Are they not workers? What protection do you give them?

Now, if we look at the census report, the number of agricultural workers far exceeds the organised workers of our country. I think the number of Central Government employees is about 50 lakhs and the number of State Government employees will be another 40 to 50 lakhs and overall, including the Railways and other things, the organised labour does not exceed more than 1.5 crores. But what about the number of agricultural workers in our country? Now, various enquiry reports have been made available. There was All India Agricultural Labour Enquiry, there was Rural Labour Enquiry and there was an All India Seminar on Agricultural Labour in 1965. These are of early days. In 1965, it was estimated that the total number of agricultural workers was to the tune of 30 millions. Now, I have got with me the figure of 1971 census which says that the number of agricultural workers in India is 47 to 48 millions against 31.52 millions in 1961. This is the official report of