

[Sh. Ramesh Chennithala]

limit is fixed. Beyond that time limit nobody will be allowed to work.

And, what about minimum wages? Earlier, wages were given to the agricultural labourers in kind. They used to be given some quantum of the paddy which they were producing. They were not paid wages. They were only given a portion of the produce, that means, paddy. In some areas they used to get more and in some areas less. So, the landlords were exploiting the poor workers and they were not paying proper attention to the welfare measures. So, for years and years this exploitation was going on, this oppression was going on. Then the workers in the agricultural sector united and fought for minimum wages.

Ultimately, as I said, this Act came into existence. They are getting the benefit of all these welfare measures. So, considering that as a model bill, my request to the hon. Labour Minister is to think of welfare measures. Definitely, the situation in Kerala is not like that in the other parts of the country. There will be different situations, different climatic conditions or different types of occupation. There will be differences. But it is high time that we thought about the welfare measures.

Now we can say that we are giving some allocation for them. The Finance Minister is here. I am congratulating him for giving more allocation for the agrarian sector. For example the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana scheme is very good. But in reality what is happening? No worker is getting a job. The contractors are in the field. They are engaging their own workers. They are building roads. They are creating permanent assets in the agrarian sector. The poor people, the vulnerable sections of the society, oppressed and depressed are not getting the chance; the unemployed youths are not getting the chance. When NREP and RLEGP were there that lacuna was there. Now, these two schemes are put together and that is J.R.Y. But the fact is that neither the unemployed youth nor the agricultural

labourers in the agrarian sector are getting the employment opportunities and they are not getting the jobs. So, we have to think very seriously about this matter. The poor people are suffering a lot due to the insurance scheme and other welfare measures. Most of the people are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes or from backward communities due to their backwardness. So, we have to give a specific attention to these problems.

I do not want to take much of the time of the House. I would humbly request to the hon. Labour Minister for attending this problem and a comprehensive Bill should be brought before the House so that these problems can be settled. We should be able to give welfare measures to the poor people who are working in the agricultural sector.

15.45 hrs

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before I call the next speaker, I will allow the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to move a small procedural Motion with respect to Shri Basudeb Acharia's Bill which has been postponed.

MOTION RE SUSPENSION OF DEBATE ON RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1991 (SUBSTITUTION OF NEW LONG TITLE FOR LONG TITLE, ETC. BY SHRI BARUDEV ACHARIA

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 PARLIAMENT AFFAIRS (SHRI BALKRISHNA WASNIK): Sir, I beg to move:

"That provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in

their application to the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (substitution of new long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned today to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills to be suspended to enable without Ballot as the first item therein."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That provisions of sub-rule (1) of rule 30 and the proviso to rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha in their application to the debate on the Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, 1991 (substitution of new long Title for Long Title, etc.) by Shri Basudeb Acharia which has been adjourned today to the next day allotted for Private Members' Bills to be suspended to enable the Bill to be set down in the List of Business without Ballot as the first item therein."

The Motion was adopted.

15.47 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL WORKS (MINIMUM WAGES AND WELFARE)

Bill by Shri Chandubhai Desmukh-
CONTD.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would first like to facilities Shri Chandubhai Deshmukh for introducing this Bill which we are discussing today and extend my support to the Bill in principle.

Most of the agricultural labourers whom we call *Khet mazdoors* most of them are landless and if some of them do possess a small piece of land that is not adequate to provide them with the livelihood. In fact, for most of the year they work on somebody

else' land'; for most part of the year they are jobless; they are under employed and unemployed. For most part of the year the *khet mazdoors* live below the poverty line and belong to the lowest strata of our society. Most of them are Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are the real proletariat of our country. In fact, many of them live most or part of their life virtually in bondage. They are truly speaking the *dridra narain* of whom Gandhiji spoke and for whom and in whose interest Gandhiji provided us with a *mantra* which all Prime Ministers and Finance Ministers ought to follow when they are doing anything for the welfare of the people. These *khet majdoors* are the nameless and faceless Indians who are still asking us a question what has Independence brought for them. And that was Gandhiji's lalishman charisma, as you recall he said that whenever the administration is faced with a dilemma- an honest dilemma, not a motivated dilemma - whether what they are going to decide or what they are going to do for the country is really going to be useful? Will it stand the test of history and the test of time? This Gandhiji advised Nehru at that time and that advice should be borne in mind by all Ministers even today that ask yourselves a question whether what I am going to do is going to bring a ray of light and a ray of hope to these nameless and faceless Indians....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azangarh) : Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that I have just received a report of a serious bomb explosion in Bombay in Air India building and the Stock Exchange building, and more than a dozen people have already been killed and a hostile crowd has surrounded those buildings and those areas. I think this is something very serious and before the House adjourns today, I shall be grateful if you could ask the Home Minister to make a statement and apprise the House with the latest situation because the House would like to know in what situation this has happened and what is the latest situation there. This is what my request is. Kindly convey it to the Government and ask the Home Minister to make a statement before