

16.41½ hrs.

MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION
OF TWENTY-EIGHT AND
TWENTY-NINTH REPORTS OF
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.*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ratilal Varma, you have 10 minutes, please.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): No, Sir, 10 minutes are not enough. We have already told that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, No. From your Party itself there are many more other speakers.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Chairman Sir, first of all I pay my respect to the maker of the Constitution and the epoch making personality, Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. I would like to put forth before you the difficulties of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in my speech. You have asked me to conclude within ten minutes, but 'only the wearer knows, where the shoe pinches'. Therefore, it is not possible or proper to describe the things within ten minutes.

The Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes Commission was set up by the Government in 1971 under Article 338 of the Constitution. It has been submitting its reports in time but I am sorry to say that after such a long period of ten years we are now holding

discussion on it. Even the time allotted for this is less. Keeping in view the sentiments of all the Hon. Members the time fixed for it should be extended.

The Seventh Report came in 1984 but the discussion is being held after 10 years. During this period, they might have faced many problems, hardships and troubles but we did not spare time for discussion each and every year. This is very sad. You can very well understand the agony of the Dalits and the tribals. Today nobody in the country understands the troubles and the condition of these who are working in the handloom industry. Not only this, charges are levelled against these people in the social organisations and Mandals and these are closed. They do not get the assistance which should be given by the Government. The weaving Mandals have been closed in Gujarat and the Government there is not paying any heed towards these people. The cobblers are being put to trouble. Today the situation is this that Bata has taken up this job and it is also making export which has rendered these cobblers with no source of income. Likewise Tata has taken up the job of the black-smiths in its hand. All these things should have been in the hands of these poor people. The Scheduled Castes people should have been given special permission licences but no attention is being paid towards them.

Mr. Chairman Sir, we often talk about forests for the tribals but we have taken forests back from them in the name of the forests. They have been detarred from going into the forests. Encouragement should be given, for afforestation for them. Some fruit trees should be planted instead of commercial trees. It will help them in earning some income and they will be able to do their job. Those who have been sitting over

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there by making illegal encroachments for the last 12 years should be given the lease of land. It is a genuine demand. Besides this, they cannot take their livestock in the forests and if they do so they have to pay fine. Sometimes they are put behind the bars.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are harassed like anything in the name of the projects. If they are shifted from one place to other, they are not given any facilities, and even houses to live in. There are no schools for their children and nothing is done for their protection. My submission to the Government is that alongwith the Scheduled Castes and Schedules Tribes, the people of the Backward Classes should also be given full assistance. Huge amounts are given to the State Governments in the name of the tribals, which also includes funds for construction of roads upto their houses but I am sorry to say that these roads even do not reach upto their villages. Same is the situation regarding electricity. There is electricity supply upto the boundry of their villages but it is not available in their Mohallas and houses. Their houses remain in darkness. Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had given directions on 12.3.1980 that during the Sixth Five Year Plan stress would be laid on the upliftment of the poor and a discussion was also held on it but instead of coming above the poverty line, they have gone below the poverty line. I have the apprehension that we will find it very difficult to live here.

The 20 point programme was formulated in 1975 and announced in 1980 but inspite of all this, no efforts were made to bring these people above the poverty line. Announcements of extending facilities and assistance to the

poor were made on paper alone but actually nothing has been done for their upliftment. Former Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had also admitted that not even 15-20 per cent of the funds allocated under tribal welfare schemes reach the beneficiaries. This situation is gradually becoming more grim.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, according to the 1971 census, 43.36 per cent workers possessed the farming land, of which 26.31 per cent were agriculture labourers and the rest were engaged in the commercial and cottage industries. 28 per cent workers are engaged as small and ordinary farmers.

Even today, these people do not have much income and most of these are farm labourers. They constitute the lowest income group in India. When these farm labourers demand their due minimum wages in lieu of their labour, atrocities are committed on them and if they brave the situation, they are killed. At places, they are forced out of their villages. The downtrodden and tribal people cannot send their children to schools because they have to feed the family. This bills a feeling of desperation in the matter of studies, instead of getting encouraged. Thus, according to 1971 census, general literacy was 29.45 per cent in Schedule Castes it was only 14.6 per cent. Similarly, 80 per cent children of tribal and downtrodden people become drop outs at the primary level and opt for a labour in the cities. Only 50 per cent children reach upto middle level and if they want to study further after completing the middle school, they feel disappointed because no facilities are available to them. The fifth report reveals that most of the poor children belong to Schedule Castes and Tribes who have shun studies and earn a living but those who make it upto higher education are

not given scholarships commensurate with the inflation these days. Some states do not grant scholarships for years together and they are humiliated when they demand the same. You can understand the predicament of youth being humiliated in this manner. Not only this, after leaving studies, people migrate to cities to live there where there are no facilities for them. They live beside rivers and lanes and in slums. Delhi stands a testimony to this fact today. The scheduled caste and scheduled tribe people coming to Delhi live in slums and such students studying in the cities do not get room in hostels. I may cite an example of Gujarat where there is a Narsi Bhagat Hostel. Thousands of students want to go there for studying but do not get admission and have to leave studies. How can these people progress? We have many times demanded increase in the number of hostels. We had made such a demand to the hon. Minister as well but all in vain. Then, you will be surprised to hear that scheduled caste and tribe students with surnames as Parmar, Vaghela, Makwana or Solanki appearing for MBBS exams in Gujarat are failed and debarred. They secure 1st class in 1st and 2nd year but are failed in the final exams. This is very painful because they can get admission in MD if they succeed in MBBS and in that case, can be eligible for a higher post and earn a name. Therefore, they are compulsorily failed for three terms. As against this, those who have changed their surnames to Patel or Shah get through. Our hon. Minister Uttambhai Patel is a living example of it. The educated people have to change their surnames like that. Not only this, adverse entries are made in the ACRs of such people employed in the Government jobs so that they do not get prompted and acquire higher offices and help their brethren. In order to check this, adverse entries are made in

their ACRs when they work as clerks so that they do not progress.

Then, recognition is not granted to an SC, ST Association of Government employees so that they may not advance their grievances. I have many times said about Banks also where some associations have been recognised but no association has been recognised in Government institutions. All such associations should be recognised by the Government and negotiations should be held with their representatives once in every 3 months. The problems of the SCs and STs should be needed to.

Surplus land has also been touched upon in the 5th report. 40.43 lakh acres has been declared as surplus land in the country of which the Government has acquired only 26.66 lakh acres and a mere 6.8 lakh acres has been distributed among SCs and STs. This is the land shown distributed to them on papers but they have not been given possession of that land.

Today, the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe people going to acquire land are got killed. In Gujarat, 5 youths were done to death at a place called Golana when they went to acquire the land from the Government. They did not get any land but instead their graves were built there. Not only this, they are distributed barren lands and not the fertile ones. What shall they do with the barren land? I urge upon the Government to make them available necessary fertilizers, seeds and pesticides for these barren lands. Rs. 1000 per hectare were given but you can very well understand the value of Rs. 1000 in today's age of inflation. I demand that this amount should be enhanced from time to time. Besides during 1979 to 1980, Rs 14.73

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crores were sanctioned under this head but that money did not reach the intended beneficiaries instead, it was grabbed in the way.

I will give you the figures of persons among whom land was distributed in Gujarat. Only 0.04 lakh acres of land was distributed in Gujarat and in our State that land is still lying barren. I urge that the rest of the land should immediately be distributed among people. I may also add that only 0.013 lakh people have been distributed land in Gujarat. No attention is paid to our demand in this connection.

You are aware that there is a big ship breaking Yard in Gujarat where rich people have acquired plants, rather the whole of yard, because of money power but SC, ST people were not given allotment on the basis of reservation and when we demanded that land be given to SC, ST people as per the Government policy before the Maritime Board of Gujarat, the Government paid no attention to it because it does not want to give them land. It is said that they will become millionaires if land was given to them in the ship Breaking Yard. You will be surprised to know that the fee fixed for each application was Rs 200 which was raised to an exorbitant sum of Rs. 5 lakh and you can understand how many SCs, STs can afford this fee. On the other hand, plots are sold to other people at the rate of Rs. one crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not my complaint but of a sitting hon. Congress M.P., Shri Somjibhai Damore. He is also fighting for this cause as I am but no solution has been found to this problem so far. I wish that the Central Government

should send some directives to the Government of Gujarat.

17.00 hrs.

So far as population is concerned, there were 14.67 per cent scheduled castes and 6.80 per cent scheduled tribes in this country as per the 1961 census. Then, according to 1971 census, there were 14.82 per cent SCs and 6.82 per cent STs. I do not have the percentage figures of 1981 census but there were 10,47,54,623 SCs and 5,16,28,638 STs but nothing was done for their development. The Government of India set up the Scheduled Caste Economic Development Corporation for the development of these castes but what does that corporation do? You want to give benefits to the Scheduled Castes but the items procured by this Corporation become costly because of commission charged on them. These things are cheaper in bazar but are costly when they are sold by the Economic Development Corporation. The poor and downtrodden have to buy these things from there because they get loans. We apply for loan to the Banks but our applications are rejected and no loan is granted. Apply, apply but no reply... (Interruptions) Earlier, Scheduled Caste people used to do fishing in the ocean but now that work too has been given to foreign companies, particularly to the companies of Taiwan. They take the fish to Taiwan.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, According to 7th report, the number of cases of atrocities from Gujarat is very high. I will not give figures of all the years but in 1985, 750 cases of atrocities, 22 cases of murders, 64 cases of violence and 605 cases of other offences were reported there. The

all India position in this regard for the same year was like this-489 cases of murders, 1357 cases of violence, 674 cases of rape, 972 cases of arson and 11525 cases of other offences against the people of Schedule Castes were reported. There are only two communities i.e. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes which are vulnerable to atrocities in our society. The total number of crimes committed against them all over the country was 1507... (*Interruptions*) I would like to remind the words spoken by Shri K.C. Pant in the function organised to honour Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee with Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant Award. He said that once Shri Vajpayee had also pointed out that the persons having a feeling of untouchability and having consideration of high and low castes should not be appointed to the posts of class II, Class I, IPS and IAS. So long as it is not done, justice cannot be done to the oppressed and downtrodden.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, recently we have celebrated our Independence Day. You will be surprised to know that on that very day i.e. on 15th August four youths in Chholaka town in my constituency were severely beaten up for a minor offence... (*Interruptions*) Electric shocks were given to them by the police officials. I would also like to remind the House of the massacre which took place in Gujarat...(*Interruptions*). Such things keep on happening in small villages and cities alike as has happened in Jamalpur, Ahmedabad, Kavita, Dhandhuka, Katiwa, Sanvarada, Jamnagar etc. In fact such things are happening in the entire country, in Bihar, in Uttar Pradesh everywhere... (*Interruptions*)

I am simply giving suggestions that policy should be formulated with all honesty and sincerity for these castes and should be implemented properly.

The area restriction for the Cobblers should be reintroduced to bring them under Mandal Commission. The reservation backlog in groups A, B and C should be cleared. Special recruitment drive should be launched. Recruitment for C and D categories should be made at district level in proportion to their castes population.

Secondly, recommendation No. 432 was made in the Annual Report but it has not been implemented till now. As has been done in the case of Punjab, the States responsible for the violation of High Courts' orders should be punished. Selection should be made on the basis of merit. The candidates who qualify in the merit should be considered in general category. Rigorous punishment should be awarded to the persons producing fake caste certificates. Law should be enacted for providing reservation in Public sector. Housing facilities etc. should be provided to scavengers.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to remind hon. Members that many of the Members, whose names have been given by the respective parties, may not be able to participate in this discussion if you are continuing like this. We have to conclude this today. If you do not co-operate it will be difficult for all the Members to participate.

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VERMA: The Integrated Child Development Project Centres should be set up in SCs and STs dominated areas. The Adult Education Centres, Women Societies and Balwadi

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programmes should be started. The cases of untouchability should be heard seriously, guilty persons should be punished and witnesses should be given proper protection. It should be ensured that Committee for Protection of Civil Rights works properly. The reporting of atrocities should be done properly. Immediate financial relief should be given to the victims. Encouragement should be given to the honest and sincere workers. The mobile special courts should be set up to dispose of such cases. The works of vigilance Committee should be monitored. Minimum wages should be increased and surplus land should be distributed. The working of Scheduled Castes Development Corporation and Banks should be looked into. Pre-examination training should be arranged. The number of students hostels should be increased in the cities. If the voice of these youths is not heard to, then I regret to say that:

"Mangane se Kise mila hai, takat se khinch lao,

Aankhon ke ansu se na patther pighalne wala hai,

Tum loha ban takrao aur navjagriti lao."

I would request the hon Minister to find a solution to these problems.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. I have heard the speeches made by other hon. Members. What has been the outcome of the constitution of a powerless Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

17.07 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The people continued to commit excesses and atrocities on these communities but the Commission could not check them. During Shri V.P. Singh's Government, an amendment was made in the Article 338 of the Constitution under which a provision was made to constitute a multimember Commission. After that Shri Chandra Shekhar's Government came and now Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao is in power but nothing has been done to ameliorate the lot of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. It seems that the Government sheds only crocodile tears. Long speeches are made that the Government is doing a lot for the development of these people but that is not true. If it were so, we would not have required to discuss this issue today even after 12 years.

I visited many villages of Bihar alongwith the former commissioner. He made a deep study of the problems of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. He pondered over their housing and education problems and on that basis prepared a report. The Government says that it would provide equal status to these people but how? It can be done only when more emphasis is laid on their education. For this purpose, more funds need to be spent on their education; only then, they can get equal status in the society.

In the educational field, the percentage of drop out students in primary schools is 50 to 60. It is all because of their miserable economic condition and poor means of livelihood. By the time they reach class 6 to 8, there is another drop out of 20 to 30 per cent. How can

then these people become equal with others? My suggestion is that if you honestly want to provide them equal status, then you have to make classification among the castes. There are certain castes in our area like Musahar, Gulguliya, Dome etc. which have been included in Annexure I and Annexure II who are not even leading a life of an ordinary human being. So long as classification of these castes is not done, they cannot be uplifted. Therefore, it is essential to think over it.

So far as question of reservation for these castes is concerned, it has been provided in the Constitution but even after a lapse of such a long period, many reserve posts remain lying vacant in different departments. Later on, these posts are converted into general category posts. It is obvious that they are lacking in education. Therefore, you should pay more attention towards their education and more and more funds should be spent on it. You should open boarding schools for them. Only then equal status can be provided to them.

So far as land is concerned, I have done a lot of work in this regard and I have found that even Government land is not being transferred to them. Their files remain in process for 7 to 8 years but even then possession of land is not given to them. There are many SC people in my Constituency who are occupying land and are growing good crops there. We keep on bringing this matter to the notice of the Collector. Recently we have given a report to the Chief Minister also but even then no legal rights have been given to them. Some powerful elements can get that land vacated from them. I do not believe that the Government with such motives can claim that it would bring them at par with other people. Why have you not

implemented Land Ceiling Act? You should have implemented it but that law is gathering dust in the offices of the State Governments. You shun your responsibility with the plea that it is the responsibility of the States. When any movement is started and the people raise arms, then you raise outcry for the law. But you should think over it prior to such a revolt. Although ours is a federal system but if such situation arises in any State, you should pressurise the State Government so that the Land Ceiling Act can be implemented and land could be distributed to the poor.

The reservation should be increased. At present, Rs. 12 is paid as scholarship to the students from Class 1 to Class 5. I am also a member of that committee and sit in that committee's meetings but it is unfortunate that even this meagre amount of Rs. 12 is also not given in time. It is a very small amount but if even this small amount is given in time, they can purchase one or two books. This amount is given at the end of the academic session. In our area, some amount out of it is spent in the name of management etc. (Interruptions) If something is wrong with your management system, will you correct that with Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes money? If you come to Bihar you can yourself find out whether any amount is spent in the name of management or not. The entire amount is spent on such things and not even a single paisa reaches the students. They are really facing lot of difficulties.. (Interruptions)

Sir, there is rampant corruption there and until you check it, you cannot make any development in the country. You cannot eradicate the corruption because you do not have that will power. Since you yourself have grown up in this

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corruption, you cannot eradicate it and also cannot bring these poor people at par with others. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara):
Sir, first of all, I thank you and the Government for having allowed this discussion to take place. I was going through the reports and the statements that have been read out by the hon. Minister, Mr. Thangka Balu. In the statements, it has been stated that Government has taken note of the reports and some action has been taken. To say that no action has been taken on the basis of the reports is not true to the fact. It is this Government that has set up the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with statutory powers. This action is on the basis of the recommendations contained in the reports which we are discussing.

Similarly, the formation of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation and TRIFED are also to be mentioned. Likewise, the special recruitment drives resorted to by this Government to fill up the backlog in regard to the posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are also to be mentioned. I can quote a number of other examples where the Government is taking action on the basis of the reports. So, to say that no action has been initiated is not true to the fact.

After the independence, various Governments have tried to ameliorate the conditions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But in spite of that, we have to consider why their status has

not come up upto our expectations. Economically, the scheduled castes are backward. Socially, they are oppressed. Educationally, they are totally backward. In spite of the implementation of all the projects and schemes for scheduled castes, why this has happened, has to be examined. Even after 47 years of independence, the social inequality in our society is on the increase. The economic status of the scheduled castes has also gone down.

Again, the gap between the weaker sections and the upper classes is further widening. In addition, compartmentalisation of the society is taking place. As a matter of fact, our Independence Movement had two aspects. The first one is to free the country from the foreign yoke and the second is to simultaneously work towards the amelioration of the Harijans and other depressed and oppressed classes. This was the content of the Movement under the leadership of Gandhiji. The main purpose was to amalgamate these downtrodden untouchables into the mainstream society so that real national integration takes place through emotional integration. It is not just giving doles or charity to the poor but much more than that. It is to ensure that the Indian society should be a well-knit fabric, a society which is totally cohesive and emotionally integrated.

Unfortunately, that has not taken place. Instead, what is happening is compartmentalisation. I would like the Government to study this phenomenon as to why this sort of compartmentalisation is taking place in independent India. Who is responsible for this? Improving the conditions of the poor and the downtrodden is one thing and creating a gulf among various sections in the name

of upliftment of the backward is quite another. I am afraid, Sir, in the name of improving the conditions of the downtrodden, sometimes, some sections of the Indian polity are trying to disintegrate our society. They are trying to cut at the very root of emotional integration. So, I urge upon the Government to take note of this point and take steps to ensure that our society is much more integrated. We must strive to ensure that real emotional integration takes place in the society and it is not divided into compartments.

I know my time is limited. But having said this much, I would like to touch upon just one point which is very important. I cannot but say it because I feel it is my responsibility. I am one of those who believe that in this country, there is discrimination going on still, on the basis of religion. Please allow me to give just one example. I appeared for my SSLC examination in the year 1958. I remember a classmate of mine whose name is Mr. Issac, who also studied with me up to SSLC. Even today he is unemployed and perhaps, he may be still unemployed even though he passed his SSLC in the year 1958. This is the condition in my area and in my constituency. The reason for his not getting employment is his name which denotes a particular religion, though actually he belongs to the weaker sections of the society. His younger brother got his name changed or converted his religion back into Hinduism and managed to get a job. Whatever name one may give to such a state of affairs, I feel it is nothing but discrimination on the basis of religion. If it is not what is it then? The elder son in the very same family is denied a job just because his name is Issac and he is deprived of the benefits meant for the people of Scheduled Castes,

in spite of the fact that he does belong to a Scheduled Caste. This is what is taking place in our society. Sir, I crave your indulgence.

AN HON. MEMBER: Your own Party is in power there.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I am not denying it. To my mind this is discrimination on the basis of religion. Today, what is the position in this country?

The founding fathers of our Constitution rightfully included in the Constitution a provision for giving reservation to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. They deserved it rightfully. At that time certainly the feeling was that within a period of time their condition will improve and they will be more or less equal to the other sections of the society. Unfortunately, this did not happen. A feeling was there that those who converted into Islam or Christianity they would be in a better position. Unfortunately, this also did not happen. Today, the plight of those people, who converted into Islam or Christianity, is much worse than their Hindu counterparts. I need not explain these social realities. They are known to everybody. Today, what happens is that those who converted into a particular religion are forced to reconvert to become eligible for benefits. This is even a violation of the Human Rights because a Harijan is not free to choose his religion. Some time back there was a talk about mass conversion, etc. etc. I totally oppose any such move. But suppose, a Harijan or a person belonging to Scheduled Caste community wants to adopt a particular religion by the dictates of his conscience, that is not permitted. Certainly this is a violation of the Human Rights.

[Prof. P.J. Kurien]

Sir, this discrimination on the basis of religion is militating against the very secular concept of our Constitution also because our Constitution says that everybody is equal irrespective of the religion he belongs to. But, so far as the benefits conferred on the Scheduled Castes are concerned, everybody is not equal. So, this is against the very tenets of our Constitution. To prove my point this discrimination is against the secular concept of our constitution. I would like to quote a judgement given in the case of Mandal Commission. Out of nine judges eight judges of the Supreme Court observed:

"To deny them (Scheduled Castes) the Constitution protection of reservation solely by reason of change of faith or religion is to endanger the very concept of secularism".

This was the opinion of the eight out of the nine judges of the Supreme Court in the case of Mandal Commission. Therefore, I need not elaborate on this. This discrimination is militating against the secular concept of our Constitution. This is militating against the tenets of Hinduism also which says 'Servedharma Sama Bhawa'. So, There is no rationale to continue with this discrimination.

Recently, in the Rajya Sabha there was a discussion on the Private Members' Bill moved by Shri Narayansamy. I think 28 Members participated in that discussion and all but one supported it and said that this discrimination should come to an end. During the regime of Shri V.P. Singh a Bill was brought in this House to give the benefits to Neo-Buddhists. If these benefits can be given to the Neo-

Buddhists it can also be given to others also.

Earlier in 1956 it was extended to the Sikhs. If it can be extended to the Sikhs, it can be extended to Islam and Christianity also.

Sir, when the Bill for Neo-Buddhists was introduced, Congress was in opposition and I was the Chief Whip. As Chief Whip, I had discussions with the then Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and also the then Welfare Minister and they assured that alongwith Neo-Buddhists, the cases of Islam and Christianity would also be brought in...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Kurien is admitting that he was in the Opposition.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, when the Bill was brought forward, they backed out of their promise. They did not keep up their assurance. When the subject was opened, when the neo-buddhists case was taken, the other cases should have been taken. This is again another instance of discrimination.

Sir, I do not want to take more time. I am only requesting this Government that a Bill should be brought forward and this discrimination should be ended. I am only saying on principle that this discrimination is not in consonance with the secular ideals of our Constitution. Therefore, I am requesting the Government that a Bill, if possible, in this very Session, should be brought forward to amend Para III of the Scheduled Caste Order, 1950 so that the converts could also be made eligible to the benefits of reservation.

Sir, are you giving me some time?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: time is very short, because there are others also who want to speak.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I have only to add one more point. Irrespective of the origin of the Scheduled Castes, whether they are of Hindu origin, or Islam origin or Christian origin, the treatment in the society is the same.

For example, if you take the atrocities that have been committed on the Harijans over the last five years you will find that the atrocities committed in some areas, are mere on Dalit Christians. This is because our society is caste ridden. Whether or not one changes his faith, he carries the same stigma. Even after change of faith, his colour remains the same, his educational background remains the same, his capacity to articulate remains the same, there is no change in any respect and, therefore the society looks on him with the same stigma and the same atrocities are perpetuated on the Harijans irrespective their religion. This aspect has to be taken note of. I would request the Minister to please conduct a study on this aspect.

Secondly, if you assess the impact of the different measures taken by the Government not only for the Scheduled Castes, but also of the Harijans of all religions, you will see that their condition remains the same that they have remained as one. In fact, the Scheduled Castes, irrespective of their religion line together as one community. I know in Kerala, in one family, the elder brother is a Hindu and the younger one is a Christian. This happens because even

after changing the faith, they have remained as one caste.

In South Kerala, there are Christians, who are called Nadar Christians. They live together with the Hindu Nadars—even in the same family. We are Indians and naturally irrespective of any religion, we will carry the Indian traditions, the Indian customs. Whatever the pluses and minuses of Indian society will be with us. So, it is not correct to say that when one has changed his faith, automatically, his caste stigma goes and one will be elevated to the higher echelons of the society and to say that when he is re-converted, everything would reverse.

This is an anomaly and I request the Government to correct it. I would like also to say that hon. Minister Shri Sitaram Kesri made this announcement outside this House that he would consider bringing in a Bill in this House. But, so far no action is taken. Shri Sitaram Kesri is not here as he is not keeping good health. I wish him speedy recovery. Our young, and dynamic Minister is here. I would request him to come forward with this Bill and end this discrimination on the basis of religion.

DR. B.G JAWALI (Gulbarga): I want some clarification on what Mr. Kurien has said. I will take one minute.

As far as conversion of the religion is concerned, I am sure from what Mr. Kurien has said, he has got the concept. But, at the same time, there are so many religions which are formed out of different atrocities committed on various groups of people. To quote, the Vir Seva Samaj had been formed 800 years ago, and nobody knows that it was the only pioneer before, perhaps, before Gandhi and Ambedkar, where it has collected the

[Dr. B.G. Jawali]

people from all the groups particularly from the downtrodden. It is history. Is the hon. Member, or the Government prepared to say whether those who have appreciated and adopted the Vir Seva religion who come from different religions, will be considered for this? People from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Muslims and people from every walk of life joined to form the Vir Seva Samaj. I want to know whether the same status is going to be given to the Vir Seva Samaj. On this I want a clarification, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Probably, Mr. Kurien needs some time to study the Basava philosophy. Give him some time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I would like to react right now, Sir. The point is very simple. If social inequality continues even after conversion then those people should be helped. If in that particular religion social inequality continues, then it should go. That is the basis.

[Translation]

*SHRI RUP CHAND MURMU (Jhargram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the report on SC/ST, I start discussion. As per the censuses of 1981 and 1992 the number of SC/ST has increased in 10 years. Unfortunately, they may have increased in number, but without any improvement in the condition of these backward people. It is true many schemes have been envisaged, many recommendations have also been made. The Centre and the State Governments have also promised to shape those schemes into reality or to fulfil the

recommendations. But it is a matter of regret that inspite of so many plans, so many recommendations, the SC/ST people have not found any change in their deplorable conditions. These adivasis have not got the desired results of all the schemes and recommendations.

We know that the Aryans came to this land during Vedic period. We also know that some shrewd among them divided the society into four parts, namely, Brahmin, Kshatriya, Vaishya, and Sudra. This they did so as to serve their selfish desire of acquiring more wealth, facilities, status and power. This was the conspiracy of the so called upper caste, the vested interest. The SC/ST belong to the last group *i.e.* the Sudra. Thousands of years have passed but this unfortunate people, the children of lesser God have not been able to change their sorrowful plight.

Of course, if one goes by time, the attempt to ameliorate the condition of the oppressed people belonging to the SC/ST is not very long. So we need patience and perseverance. We know we have to wait patiently to get the desired results. But this patience cannot go without criticism.

All of us know that as per Article 338 of our Constitution, the Commissioner for SC/ST was appointed. After submitting his report in 1986-87 he has discharged his constitutional duty. But what about the duty of the Government? Today I would like to ask the Government my first question. Has the Government fulfilled its duty? Why are we discussing the report submitted in 1986-87 in 1994 after a long gap of 7 or 8 years? Will the Hon. Minister explain the reason for this extraordinary delay? Does it not prove

the apathy of both the Central and the State Governments towards this under privileged section of our society? It also indicates the lapse, indifference of the authorities towards these people. I must say the Ministers, the people in power have no time to think about the deprived people of our society. They think of themselves only. They engage themselves for the welfare of their own condition. I do not have any hesitation to brand these people as opportunist. I condemn with all force the selfish attitude of the people in power.

There are many recommendations in the report of the Commissioner. It is not possible to discuss all due to paucity of time. I would like to touch upon a few. According to one recommendation, the Central Government must provide all types of help to the persons or organisations engaged in pursuing the welfare schemes to ameliorate the conditions of these disadvantaged sections of society and organising to make them realise their plight and find out the means to remove them. I would like to ask the Government whether they have followed this recommendation. If they have followed the recommendation, they must explain the measures adopted by them. If not, they must provide an explanation for the lapse. I feel the superstition, the discrimination are the outcome of economic disparity, want and poverty. The selfish sections of the society want to enjoy all the facilities, advantages and scope. They want to grab everything to fulfil their desire happiness and lust. The under-privileged are always engaged to create resources by dint of their inhuman labour. But the fruits of their work are enjoyed by a few lucky members of the society. The toiling masses will work like a machine to create resources and wealth. But they will not be benefited

by their hard work and diligence. They do not have food to eat, water to drink or shelter to live in, no medical facilities in their illness, no cloth to wear. This is the result of the discrimination, of enjoyment by a few privileged, powerful so called upper class section of the society.

The Commissioner suggested that the economic development must be divided equally among all sections especially those responsible for producing resources and thereby increasing wealth. They must get the benefits of their toil. He also said that the outcome of ones hard work should not be enjoyed by another.

For implementation of the recommendations by the Commissioner, it is necessary to restructure the economic distribution of the society. We have to abolish the present system and follow the process of equal distribution of wealth. Is the Centre to adopt this policy? I know the Government will not agree to follow this pattern. This Government follows the rule of Divide and Rule, the policy of discrimination. So it is not possible for them to follow this policy of equal distribution of wealth. I want to say emphatically that until the policy of equal distribution of wealth is followed, there cannot be any change in the condition of this oppressed, deprived class of people. I would also like to discuss the recommendations of the Commissioner regarding land reform. Land reform is one important measure to salvage the lives of SCs/STs. It was said that the land of the SCs and STs are taken forcibly or by paying a small amount or no amount at all by the powerful section must be returned to the person concerned. The Centre would take initiative in this regard and send instructions to the States also to follow

[Shri Rup Chand Murmu]

the recommendations. But the Centre has done nothing. As regards the Varga farmers who plough the land and get the half the share the recommendation was to have registration of land and record the name of the farmers. If the land is registered, the Jamindars cannot evict them by unfair means. But except in West Bengal, Tripura and Kerala, this recommendation has been totally ignored. I would like to submit very humbly that until and unless land reform is followed, there cannot be any change in the conditions of the SCs and STs. Education, culture may help to some extent, to change the outlook of the people. Reservation may also help to safeguards the condition of the SCs and STs. But there cannot be overall development without land reform.

Now the politics of caste is spreading its evil shadow all over India. This caste based politics has resulted in hatred, riots and communal feelings. I would like to submit to the people indulged in caste based politics that priority must be given to economic development. Then only the basic problems can be solved. The overall development of life is linked with economic development. Of course, the restructuring of economic system may be possible in distant future but as per recommendations of the Commission, the economic development, the educational facilities must be provided to the deprived class. There rights as Member of society must be established through Panchayat System. These people should be made aware of their self-respect and rights. The right minded people, the people with deep love for their country, concern for the society, must come forward to carry on this gigantic task. With this humble submission, I thank you again for giving

me a chance to speak on this important issue, and conclude my speech.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, we are discussing the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. After going through all the reports, it is found that inspite of finding more and more solutions, the problems went on increasing. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes was set-up under Article 338 of the Constitution of India. In 1990, during the regime of Janata Dal, this Commission was made a multi-member Commission by carrying out an amendment in this Article of the Constitution and it was given a constitutional status. Simultaneously, this Commission was delegated various powers but due to mala-fide intention of the Government, these powers were never implemented. Though many speeches were delivered, resolutions were passed, news appeared in the newspapers and press-conferences were organised, yet these were not implemented. Ultimately when Shri P.G. Sharma, Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, filed a public interest litigation in the Supreme Court, the Government had to constitute this multimember Commission under Supreme Court's directives. Shri Ram Dhan was appointed its Chairman. Though the Commission was given powers, yet the 31 officials working in the Commission from the beginning were transferred to the Ministry of Welfare. If we give sufficient powers to a Commission but do not allocate budget for it or do not provide staff for it, it will not deliver the goods. Under such a situation, how can the powers be exercised?

This Commission has been given wide powers. Out of these, 3 or 4 powers are very effective. The Commission has the powers to check atrocities on downtrodden, provide immediate relief to the sufferers and rehabilitate them. It is the duty of the Commission to see that the people belonging to Scheduled Castes get promotion in Government services and they are not subjected to any mental torture. This Commission has also been empowered to oversee the works undertaken by the State Governments as well as the Union Government under different schemes meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It enjoys the powers to call for any document from any court and order an inquiry after examining the documents. Though this Commission enjoys such wide powers, yet it does not have its own budget and the staff to oversee its functioning. In this way, the Commission depends on the Ministry of Welfare. If an incident takes place in any State, it depends on the Collector and the Superintendent of Police to conduct the inquiry. But it is not realised that had the Collector or the Superintendent of Police not been indifferent to the problems of these people, there would have been no need for constituting this Commission. Because they have not been able to perform their duties properly, that is why this Commission has been set up.

This is a multi-member Commission but it has no Officers. Therefore, first of all, we should provide officers to this Commission. Although this Commission has been set up, atrocities on dalits and adivasis are still continuing. Today, we talk of naxalites. Naxalites are those people who do not get proper wages, who are deprived of their rights to earn a livelihood and whose sisters become victim of atrocities and rape. When these

people try to lead a graceful life, they are called Naxalites.

Today, lakhs of acres of wasteland and barren land is involved under land-disputes and it is not being given to these people. The Government should constitute a "Bhumi Sena" and make arrangements for rehabilitation of Schedule Castes and Scheduled Tribes by giving possession of wasteland. The Government claims that it has provided the facility of scholarship to the students of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, the amount of the scholarship does not commensurate with increase in the prices. There should be a provision for imparting special coaching to such students so as to enable them to join Government services. But the Government is not taking any steps in this direction. If they are not given equal opportunities, how could they appear in the competitions?

Sir, today there is no drinking water available for them. If one goes to a village, one finds that though Pepsi and Campa Cola are available in rural areas, yet the families of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes do not get potable water. Sir, I hail from Bihar. There is a caste known as 'Paharia'. The people of this caste live on the hills and they become the victim of exploitation. Their population is facing extinction. The Government should pay attention to it. Today, they are not getting jobs in the Departments where the reservation exists for them. The backlog is not being cleared.

Sir, the Government is going ahead with privatisation of public sector. However, in this process, these people would be deprived of this facility and they would not be able to get employment there. Moreover, multi-national companies are

[Shri Manjay Lal]

also setting up their units in our country but they will not implement the policy of reservation. Therefore, I would like to submit that there should be a provision for reservation in both the sectors... (Interruptions)

Sir, I would like to quote the figures relating to atrocities committed on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in some States during the last year. In Madhya Pradesh, 7447 cases were reported, out of which 154 were related to murders 435 were related to rapes. Similarly, in Uttar Pradesh 4804 cases of atrocities were reported out of which 284 cases were related to murder and 194 cases were related to rapes. In Rajasthan, there were 3434 cases of atrocities, out of which 50 cases were related to murders and 132 cases were related to rapes. As regards Bihar, the figures are on the higher side but I would not like to quote them since I hail from Bihar and there is a Government espousing the cause of 'social justice'.

Sir, if we sincerely want to make the country prosperous and build a society sans exploitation, we will have to faithfully implement the sentiments expressed in the following song—

"Ilahi Din Bhi Ayega Jab Apna Raj Dekhenge,
To Apni hi Zamin Hogi Aur Apna Asman Hoga."

sung during British regime. However, feeling of belonging among the SCs and STs is yet to be developed. They have always been chanting this slogan—"Mang Raha Hai Hindustan, Roti Kapda Aur Makan," How can they think

of 'Roti' and 'Kapada' when they do not have their own house? It is surprising that even after so many years of independence, the nation is passing through such a phase. We should pay attention to the problems of SCs and STs and if we fail in this task, no body can save the country from disintegration. With these words, I conclude and thank you.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the 1987 Report of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes clearly shows that in spite of the ten years lapse, it is a very dismal record that is shown in the Report. A very important point is that even after the Commissioners post remained vacant from November, 1981 to February, 1986. (Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Dattatraya, kindly resume your seat for a minute. Now it is six o' clock. Shall we sit for ten or fifteen minutes more?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, Sir.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: We can sit for ten minutes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, we shall sit till Mr. Dattatraya? Can you finish in ten minutes?

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: I shall finish it in fifteen to twenty minutes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You cannot get more than ten minutes.

Actually we ring the bell not because your speech is beautiful and it is being encouraged. The bell is rung to stop your speech. So, please finish your speech in five minutes. Wisdom lies in speaking within the shortest time.

AN HON. MEMBER: For how long shall we sit, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall sit for ten to fifteen minutes.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Sir, in the 28th Report the Commissioner underlines the point that if the achievements do not measure up to the "great expectations of the founding fathers of the Constitution", it is because of the omissions, aberrations and lapses of those entrusted with the task of uplifting nearly a quarter of the country's population branded by birth to live in sub-human existence. So, this is the explanation given in the Report itself. but the fact remains that the periodic Reports of the Commission remain largely an exercise in futility, as most of the safeguards for the disadvantaged sections of our people embodied in the Constitution continue to be violated with impunity. This is one of the many things mentioned by the Commissioner. He himself mentions that many of the lapses have taken place because of the non-implementation of the welfare schemes.

Another important point mentioned by the Commissioner himself is that it is a common knowledge that the implementation of welfare schemes meant for the deprived sections of our society is often faulty and deficient. That the vested interests manage to circumvent the existing laws with the help of police and unscrupulous officials who keep playing footsie with the violators of

Constitutional rights of a section of people are also known. The fruits of the programme for the weaker sections, that is, Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, could not properly reach this downtrodden section. At the same time, a very important point is that numerous Government and the non-Government Reports have, from time to time, indicated that the weaker sections of our people still suffer from untouchability and other forms of social discrimination, based on the caste system. Remedies have been identified and methods for their implementation have been suggested. The only important thing is that the remedies have been identified, methods of their implementation have been suggested but the atrocities on Dalits have been committed with a predictable regularity and no piece of legislation has been effective to counter them. According to official figures, as many as 650 cases of murders of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and more than 1,000 cases of rape were registered in the twelve months from April, 1990 to March, 1991. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh accounted for the largest number of murders of SC/ST people respectively. Many such cases still go unreported.

At the same time, in Andhra Pradesh, the Padrikuppam incident was the largest eye-opener for the society. Even after the Padrikuppam incident, the Karamchedu incident took place, and even after that, the Tsundur incident took place. Many Judicial commissions were appointed but none of the culprits was punished on the basis of any of these judicial reports. Even the Tsundur Commission's Report has become a futile exercise. No evidence from the public came before the Commission. Ultimately, an important factor has come up.

[Shri Dattatraya Bandaru]

Unless the development schemes go to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people, they cannot uplift their own masses. That is why the Central Government has given very important priority to the Special Component Plan. The Special Component Plan Scheme is a very important scheme. As mentioned by one of our Members here, like the Tribal Sub-Plan, the Special Component Plan is very important. The scheme is that according to the ratio of the population of the Scheduled Castes, the funds must be allocated. But the irony of it lies in the figures given by the Department itself. In the Fifth Plan, the percentage of the population of the Scheduled Castes in the country is 16. But the allocation that took place, even in the First Five Year Plan, was only two per cent. In the Third and Fourth Five Year Plans, it was merely six per cent. If you look at the details of the Sixth Plan, that is in 1980-85, the total outlay was Rs. 3,614 crore and the average has come to 7.66 per cent. But the actual expenditure that took place was only Rs. 2,978 crore which means only 6.3 per cent as per the calculation. Even in the Seventh Plan, the outlay for Special Component Plan was Rs. 7,385 crore but the actual expenditure that took place was Rs. 9,616 crore. If you take the figures for 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93 or 1993-94, the figure does not exceed 10.4 per cent. The Special Component Plan is a major economic development activity for the Scheduled Castes. Some hon. Member from the Congress was saying the same thing regarding the Tribal Sub-Plan. Even in the Tribal Sub-Plan also the figures clearly indicate the position. In the First Five Year Plan, only one per cent of the development took place. In the Second Plan it was 0.9 per cent and in the Third Plan it was 0.6 per cent. In the recent

one, the Seventh Plan, it is estimated to be 6.25 per cent. But the population is of 7.5 per cent. According to the ratio of population, the Special Component Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan must be allocated funds. I do not know why the Central Government is not monitoring the steps in taking the priorities to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

I want to mention about another very important point which is about land reforms. Land reforms is a major factor. But to my surprise I see that in many of the States, still a large number of cases are pending. I come from Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh thousands of cases are pending for the last 25-30 years. The allotment of land is made and they give *Deepa Pattas*. But the people are not in a position to make use of it. I submit that all these land reforms are only a futile exercise.

Some time ago the hon. Prime Minister has called the Chief Minister's conference and he said that within the next two years we must verify the fact as to how much land should be distributed, State-wise. But till now, no figures are available. I demand that the Government should bring a Bill in Parliament to include land reforms in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. I know that during the Janata Dal Government all the parties, including the B.J.P. and the C.P.I. (M), has all agreed to include this in the Ninth Schedule. I personally request the hon. Minister to take suitable action. The caste system and the feudal system are dependant on land. If land is bifurcated and given to small beneficiaries, I feel that definitely the caste system will be eliminated.

In the same way, in Andhra Pradesh there are many names. I do not understand why the courts are also

helpless in this regard. The courts are also not in a proper position to see that results do come. The poor and the Harijan people are not enjoying the benefits. They are simply issuing *pattas* to them and these people are silent. It is all on record only. The corruption prevalent in the revenue department is very high.

There is another important factor. Many friends said about the reservation policy. I do not want to enlarge the reservation policy here. In spite of so much of hue and cry by the Government, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are getting less benefits. Though they are 22 per cent in number, only 13 or 14 per cent of them got the benefits of the reservation policy in different fields. Particularly in the I.A.S. and the I.P.S. still only 7 to 8 per cent of the people are getting the benefit of reservation.

My only request is that if they have to give the benefits of reservation and implement the schemes properly, the only thing needs to be done is that the educational standards of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people should be elevated. They are to be elevated educationally. They only they will become competent to occupy the posts and the vacancies can be filled up.

I make a demand on the hon. Minister that the officials who are not implementing the reservation policy must be punished. It must be made a criminal offence. Otherwise, they will make all small excuses. In my constituency, there are a lot of vacancies. But some technical objections are being raised by saying that the candidate has not passed some

examination or the other and they are bypassing the filling up of the posts. They are filling up the posts by backdoor methods. That is why, the people are not getting the benefit of reservation.

I am a Member of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Welfare. In the Welfare Committee, the Members, irrespective of Party affiliation, have recommended to the hon. Minister Shri Sitaram Kesri that priority should be given to Ashram Schools because in Andhra Pradesh, Ashram Schools have got very good results. Ninety five per cent of the boys belonging to weaker sections stood in first class.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is a very important observation. But there are a number of points like that which can be made. It is too much.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Literacy of the SC and ST is very low.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made very relevant points. It is a question of time.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Economic development is an important factor. Many schemes are suggested by the Welfare Department. But funds are very meagre. The National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Corporation have envisaged an amount of Rs. 125 crores which is not at all sufficient if all the schemes suggested are to be implemented. Most of the unemployed youth cannot get any economic benefit out of that meagre amount. In my constituency, there are 3,500 cases of backward people belonging to weaker sections whose cases are pending because there is no marginal money with the SC Corporation.

[Shri Dattatraya Bandaru]

That is why, I make a demand on the hon. Minister, particularly on the hon. Prime Minister, that the Budget of the Welfare Ministry should be enhanced at least five times. There are a large number of schemes to be implemented, like the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Federation is very important. It must be linked with NABARD. Otherwise, the banks will not give loans.

I once again appeal to the hon. Minister to send a Circular to all banks. Banks are not giving loans to the unemployed youth, particularly to the SC and ST people.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. Kindly stop here.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Shri Sitaram Kesri has mentioned that 200 other caste people are going to be included in the SC and ST category. This is a very dangerous trend in the country. Even in Hyderabad, some of the Brahmin people have congregated and passed a resolution that they are also poor and they should be included in the SC category. This is how exploitation is taking place. One of my friends, Prof. P.J. Kurien is also mentioning that relief and discrimination are different. I can understand that. But social discrimination is inhuman in this country.

That is why, I make a demand on the hon. Minister that whenever you include any community in the SC category for political reasons, it must be done judiciously. A judicial commission should be formed. They must include the community in the SC category, only on the basis of inequality.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR. R. MALLU (Nagar Kumool): A lot of Members are there today to speak. This report has come after a long time. We will participate in the discussion. At least five minutes should be given to every Member. The hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs is here. I want his consent. We are all waiting to participate in the debate. Tomorrow you are taking up some other issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, Shri N. Dennis gets his chance to speak. Before that, it seems that Shri Rajaravivarma wants to speak because tomorrow he will not be available. He says he has got some urgent work. So, if the House agrees, he can speak for five minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right. Shri Rajaravivarma to speak now.

SHRI B. RAJARAVIVARMA (Pollachi): Thank you, Sir, I will take only five minutes.

Sir, On behalf of the AIADMK Party, I rise to speak on the Reports of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

It is unfortunate that these Reports are being discussed several years after their submission. Whatever be the reason, this inordinate delay in discussing the Reports only strengthens the allegations that the Centre is not serious to ameliorate the conditions of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. The hon. Minister, while moving the Motion, said that the Government have initiated action on the

recommendations of the Reports. But I wish to point out how the promises of the Government have been thrown to winds. The Centre has been promising to fill up the backlog vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe candidates in Government services through the Special Recruitment Drives. The Government has been repeating this for several years and every Welfare Minister fixed a target within which this backlog would be filled up. But even today there are several thousand vacancies in the Central Government and the Public Sector Undertakings that have been reserved for the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe people but not filled up so far.

Sir, in this connection I would like to say that the officials in the Selection Board allege that qualified candidates are not available or that none is found suitable for the post. This is only a *modus operandi* adopted by these high-ups not to fill up the post and to ultimately dereserve them. The Minister might say that the Government have done away with the system of dereservation. But I know well that there is a provision through which a post not filled up for a long time can be dereserved by taking orders from the Minister. This provision is misused and many posts at the higher level are dereserved to appoint their own people. Therefore, I request the Minister not to give any discretion to any person in the Government—including the Ministers—and not to give the power to dereserve the vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes people. I also appeal to the hon. Minister to tell the House why these vacancies could not be filled up. The information available suggest that there is a deliberate attempt not to fill up the backlog. Therefore, the Minister should

fix a deadline within which these vacancies should be filled up and take stringent action against these officials responsible for not filling up the vacancies. Unless this is done, I do not think the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe candidates can get justice.

Next, there is a huge range of private sector enterprises in our country. But they do not follow the reservation policy. Even well-qualified engineers and technocrats are not appointed in the private sector because of caste moorings. The Government says that it has no control over the private sector. It is only an evasive reply. All the private sector units are dependent on the mercy of the Centre for setting up of industries, factories and companies and have to look up to the Government for import of raw-materials and export of their products. The private sector units also borrow heavily from Government banks. Yet, the Government says that it has no control over them.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the Government and find ways to bring the private sector around to follow the reservation policy. The opinion of the National Commission on Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes can also be sought on the matter. The Centre launched a scheme known as the Indira Awas Yojana for providing dwelling units free of cost to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people. I must say that this scheme has not yielded the desired result because the amount of Rs. 8,500 earmarked for each dwelling unit in the plains and the amount of Rs. 10,500 earmarked for the purpose in the hilly regions are not enough.

With this amount, nowhere in the country you can build a house with smokeless *chula* and toilet facilities.

[Shri B. Rajaravivarma]

Even funds earmarked for SC and ST under schemes like Kutir Jyothi and Jal Dhara have not been adequate to improve the living conditions of the SC and ST people. I come from the rural area and I know the kind of misery they live in. That is why our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalivi has announced several schemes in the current year budget for SC and ST people. Under the directions of our hon. Chief Minister, a ten point programme has been launched for the socio-economic development of the people of Tamil Nadu. Rs. 80 crore was earmarked for this purpose and works are under way.

Since children are the future of the country, our hon. Chief Minister has launched a landmark scheme to give financial assistance to the female children belonging to SC and ST since girl child is a battered one in the society and that poor SC and ST people are not able to send their daughters to school after 5th standard for want of money. Under the scheme Rs. 100 is given to each of such girl child enabling her to go to school. Therefore education to girl child will go a long way in realising the goal of women emancipation. I urge upon the Minister to launch such schemes for the welfare of SC and ST people.

Here I am reminded of what the architect of our Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar said while referring to his contribution in making the Constitution. He said: "I have not come to this august forum with any greater purpose than to serve the cause of the downtrodden". I am sure, this Government which celebrated his centenary making several commitments

will not confine itself to words, but execute schemes to improve the conditions of SC and ST people.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Verma, for your information I may say that reading a prepared speech in the House is not warmly welcomed.

18.22 hrs.

MOTION RE: CONTEMPT OF
THE HOUSE BY SOME
PERSONS FROM THE VISITORS'
GALLERY

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: As the House is aware, at about 11.06 hours today, a visitor calling himself Manmohan Singh Tiwari, son of Shri Prag Dutt, shouted slogans from the Visitor's Gallery. Another visitor calling himself Mohan Pathak, son of Shri Hargobind Pathak jumped down from the Visitor's Gallery and also shouted slogans. The Security Officers took them into custody immediately and interrogated them. The visitors have made statements but have not expressed regrets for their action.

I bring it to the notice of the House for such action as the House may deem fit.

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 WASNIK): I beg to move:

"This House resolves that the
person calling himself Manmohan