

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for banning capitation fee charged by educational institutions and for matters connected therewith".

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)  
(UTTAR PRADESH) ORDER  
(AMENDMENT) BILL\*  
(Amendment of the Schedule) - *CONTD.*  
By Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat on the 7th August, 1992, namely:-

"That the Bill to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967, be taken into consideration".

MR. RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY is not present. Mr. Ramesh Chennithala may speak now.

MR. RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, I rise to support the contents of the Bill introduced by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. This Bill is mainly for including a particular community, that is, Banjara community in the schedule. There are certain other communities also who are socially and economically backward and who fulfill all other conditions for getting included in the list. Of course, the Banjara community is considered as OBC in Uttar Pradesh. Sir, there are demands from certain other communities to include them also in the list. So, my request to the hon. Minister is to

come forward with a comprehensive bill so that the demands from different communities can be examined and can be included. For example, there are converted Christians. There are converted Christians in Kerala who are demanding for inclusion in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Even though they have adopted Christianity, their situation is precarious. They are living infilty conditions. They are converted Christians but still their social and economic background is the same; they are not getting any support from the Government. So, they are demanding for inclusion in the list. They should be considered as SCs and STs. My request to the hon. Minister is that this should be considered. Sir, lot of representations were given to the Central Government and the State Government also examined their request. So, it is high time that this demand is considered. Just like this, there are fishermen in certain areas like Lakshadweep and other Union Territories who are considered as tribes. Their social and economic conditions are also to be considered. So, there is not only Banjara community but there are other communities and sections of people who are suffering a lot and who are fulfilling the conditions for inclusion in SCs and STs list who should be considered. My request to the hon. Minister is he should come forward with a comprehensive bill so that these demands can be met.

There are lot of complaints regarding bogus certificates of SCs and STs. Government must take this as serious issue and vigorous punishment should be given to those people who are having these bogus certificates and cheating the Government for getting the facilities which are entirely meant for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Government should give rigorous punishment to those people, who are trying to take away the advantages meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, through bogus certificates.

Another point that I would like to raise here is about changing the names of certain communities. There are demands from certain communities to change their names.

They demand a change of name because the names of the primitive communities seem to be derogative terms. Therefore, this demand for change of names should also be looked into.

Yet another demand is about having a general list. Throughout India, in different States, communities with identical socio-economic status and condition, are known with different names. My request is that we should have a general name for such communities all over India. This aspect may also be given due consideration.

I do not want to take much time of the House. So, I request the Government to come forward with a comprehensive Bill so that the long-standing demands of the different communities for inclusion in the Schedule can be achieved. Certain State Governments have already submitted their demands in this regard. I once again request the Government to bring a comprehensive Bill to do justice to these people who are suffering.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Bill presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat is concerned with the inclusion of a particular caste of Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. It is necessary to pay proper attention to the Bill. It is not just the question of inclusion of a particular caste of Uttar Pradesh because there are many other castes in the other states also which can be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and I would like to express my views in this regard. It is a fact that the Banjara Community of Uttar Pradesh has been always neglected. Same is the case with Banjara caste in Madhya Pradesh. It is not clear that in which list that caste has been included. A clear cast system should be adopted in this context. In regard to Meena Caste in Madhya Pradesh it is considered to be upper caste somewhere and in some other places it is included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Such type of dual situation exists in two different districts. The

Meena caste of Rajasthan is treated as Rajput and also considered as Scheduled Tribe in the same State and somewhere it has been put in general category. There are so many such other anomalies in connection with backward classes, tribes and Scheduled Castes. Karbelia is a roaming community. But there is no reference regarding this community in the Constitution, we should pay attention towards this fact. Banjara community is not only backward socially but educationally also, so it should be included in the list. All these steps should be taken not only in the context of Uttar Pradesh only but in all other related states also. Another caste is Bachra which is also very neglected and there are a number of other castes in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. But neither they are included in Scheduled Castes nor in backward classes. So it is necessary to review the matter. Similarly, there is a caste named as Bairagi or Jogia Community which earns its livelihood by catching the snakes but they have not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. Information should be sought from all states regarding which castes are included in the list and which are not included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. There are so many such castes which are not included in SC's or ST's like Yamakshi who are drum beaters and they have been put in the general category. That is why they are not getting the due facilities provided to those by the Government and they have to get false certificates. It would be better if a time bound programme is chalked out for this purpose and the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is prepared again. Only then the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would be able to get justice.

I would like to repeat my request in respect of Meena caste. If they are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes then they are not allowed to sell their land and in another district they are included in general category and they are allowed to sell or buy the land. Therefore these anomalies should be removed. A comprehensive Bill should be introduced after a thorough review of the situation so that the anomalies in the system

are removed and justice is done to the neglected communities and they may get social justice.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I stand to support the Bill presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. I support the Bill because he has presented the Bill to include the Banjara Community in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of Uttar Pradesh. Along with this I would like to draw your attention towards the fact that there are some castes whose social status and standard is equal to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But once the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes has been prepared, great difficulty is being faced now to include some new castes in the list. Through you we would request the Government that a comprehensive policy should be framed after conducting a survey in this connection and such eligible castes should be included....

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for this subject was two hours and that will be over by five minutes to four. Still there are many Members who want to participate in the discussion and the Minister also has to reply to it. Is it desire of the House to extend discussion on this subject?

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): The debate on this Bill should be concluded in half an hour and then next Bill should be taken up. A detailed discussion has already been taken up during the last session.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, in this half hour's time all the five speakers should finish their speeches and the Minister's reply should also be over within this time.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, many such castes have been left from being included in the list. You should frame a new policy after conducting a full survey and on this basis amendment should be made in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There are some such castes as Gaund, Bind, Nunia and Beldar in my state of Bihar. Their social status and educational standard is similar so that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This question has always been raised in the State assembly. Therefore I urge the Government to include them also in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Similarly there is another caste called Pan. If we look at the list of such castes you would notice many such castes whose social status and educational standard is same as of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes and Pan caste is also the same. It is a very backward class. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that these castes should also be included in the list.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, once again I would like to request you that a single policy should be frame after conducting a survey and then the list should be revised and made upto date as per the demand, which is being made by the people.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): Sir, I rise to congratulate Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat on bringing to the forefront the need of identifying and inclusion of certain tribes of U.P. into the Presidential Order in Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, I agree with all the hon. Members who are of the opinion that the Government should come up with a more comprehensive Bill to include all the other tribes and castes so that opportunities or protection in the Constitution of India are extended to all of them.

Sir, on this issue, I would dwell upon the plight of the dalit Christians. I thank you very much Mr. Chennithala for drawing the attention of the Government to this very important issue. There are more than 10 million dalit Christians living all over India. They are there in Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and in almost all the State of India. Now, I cannot understand the philosophy behind your proclamation order that a man or a woman just because he or she is converted into Christianity, they will lose their rights, they will lose their recognition as Scheduled Castes of the country.

India is a secular State. In a secular State, we are protected to believe one's God, in one's faith, according to one's conviction.

Therefore, this presumption that once you are converted into Christianity, you will lose your right as a Scheduled Caste. It is against the fundamentals of the Constitution of our great country.

This issue has been raised for many years. I remember in 1981 during the National Front Government, those who were converted into Buddhism were included in the Presidential Order. Now I do not understand how converted Christians have been denied this right. During the National Front Government, I was one of those MPs who had raised this issue in this honourable House. I remember Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan replied to the debate. He had promised to take up this issue in the next session of Parliament. Unfortunately, their Government fell and the promise made by them could not be fulfilled. If you go through the assurances, you will find that there is a clear assurance that Dalit Christians also will be included in the Presidential Order. Unfortunately, till today, it seems nothing has been done.

I remember in the last Budget Session about 200 MPs of this august House had signed a memorandum and submitted it to the Prime Minister requesting him to bring a new Presidential Order to include those converted Christians also to be treated as Scheduled Castes.

By becoming a Christian you do not become easily well off; you do not become easily well placed in society. It is only that belief in the faith that has made a man or a woman be converted into Christianity. Our social status is the same like anyone else. If a Harijan is converted into Christianity, he is still treated as a Harijan. If a backward caste is converted into Christianity it is still treated as a backward caste. How is it that he loses or that she loses his or her that she loses his or right to be included in the Scheduled Caste Presidential Order?

On the 21st of November, we had a very big meeting in Vijayawada where the Minister of Welfare, Sitaram Kesari was present there. All the Dalit Christians, more than five lakhs of them, in Vijayawada, with one voice, had requested the Government to bring a change in the Presidential Order to include them also as Scheduled Castes.

Conversion into Christianity does not give them any additional facilities in life; they remain as they are. In fact by becoming Christians they lose their right to be protected under the scheduled Caste Order.

I feel that the Government should now come forward with a comprehensive Bill to take care of those matters which are the crying needs of the hour. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Still there are four hon. Members who have to participate in the debate. Two more names have come. We have to close this debate by 4.25 p.m. including the reply by the hon. Minister. So, I request all those hon. Members to be brief in their speeches.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJNARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill and at the same time, I want to say that the Banjara community is not only confined to Uttar Pradesh alone but it is there in all the States. So, wherever this community is living, it should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Along with it, I would like to say that the Gond community has been included in

the list of Scheduled Castes by the Government of Bihar and the High Court has also ordered its inclusion but this community, Gond is not only confined to Bihar alone but it should be included in all the States of the country. Therefore, it should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes at all India level. There are other castes in Bihar also which are socially weak and which are not given due respect in society. Therefore, reservation should be provided to them keeping in view the spirit of the Constitution so that they can achieve dignity and equal status in society. Nothing has been written in the Constitution about the economic equality. If someone says that economic equality has been guaranteed, then man like me is not ready to accept it. Those who framed the Constitution thought that only the social equality for these castes is necessary but not the economic equality. Therefore, for social equality, the castes residing in Bihar like Luhar, Kumhar, Khambkar, Nonia. Been, Rajbhar, Hazzam etc. who are socially neglected, should be given reservation facility. Therefore, I demand that these castes should also be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes.

Along with it, I want to make this demand, also that there is a caste, Paneeri, which too is socially weak. They have no stand in society. To bring them at par with the other castes, it is necessary that the Paneeri caste should be included in the list of Scheduled Castes.

I would like to conclude after making one more point. Since names of various castes have been included in the list of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and their number is increasing continuously, there is need to raise the percentage which is at present a total of 22.5 per cent as the number of the casters is increasing in these lists. It is said about the people of the Meena caste that they are also Harijans, therefore they should also get reservation. With these words, I support the Bill in the House and with it make a demand that with the inclusion of Banjara community in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, other castes,

which I have referred to, should also be included in these lists. So, that they can also avail of the benefit of reservation and they can also make a rise in society. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views.

In this country, in spite of our 45 years of independence, so many communities are still socially discriminated. There is a lot of discrimination in the villages in regard to the profession of many of the communities like Scheduled Castes.

In Andhra Pradesh, there are many communities who have the profession of washerman. They generally wash clothes of the people in the villages and even in the towns. In many places they have been isolated and their houses have been totally neglected and they are supposed to stay in the corners of the villages. They are socially neglected and are economically very poor. Till date they cannot afford to take two meal a day. That is the opposition of washerman in Andhra Pradesh.

Same is the condition of Barber community in Andhra Pradesh. In Telugu, we call them Mangali. They have the profession of hair cutting. Some of them are well to do but many of them are socially backward and are isolated.

The third community is Pardhi. In Maharashtra they are included in the Tribals list but in Andhra Pradesh their economic condition is very poor. They are socially neglected people in Andhra Pradesh.

Another community is Kurma community. In North they are called Gaderia. They are shepherds. They are living in the remotest villages in Andhra Pradesh.

The Vaddara community, has the profession of stone crushing. They live in the

hill areas of Andhra Pradesh. They comprise of a large number of people.

Fisherman community, which is also socially neglected, live in Gangaputra area of the coastal belt. They are socially very backward and they have no livelihood. They live without clothes. The education of their children is very poor.

Lastly, I will say about Erukala community. They have no education. Only 0.22 per cent of people of that community are educated.

Hence, I demand that all these communities should be included in the SC or ST list. I have demanded that even in the Consultative Committee Meeting. I also submitted a petition to the Speaker, Lok Sabha to include these communities into the ST community.

The fishermen, washermen and Vaddra, these three communities should also be included in the list. Hence, my request is that unless and until the social discrimination is routed out, the reservation must continue for Scheduled Castes and Tribes because lot of opposition is there outside, in the country.

Secondly, the people of those communities are educationally and socially backward and all those communities mentioned by me should also be included so that they also get the opportunities for progressing educationally and the financial institutions can also come to their help.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mumtaz Ansari: Please be brief because three more speakers are there to speak on this Bill

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI (Kodarma): I will just take only two minutes.

I rise to support this Bill, a Private Member's Bill moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat which proposes to include through a constitutional amendment, certain Banjara cast in the list of educationally and socially backward communities, so that they can also get the advantage of the facility of

reservation in service and educational institutions.

Much has been said on this issue. Nothing has been left but one point which is very much important, which I would like to emphasise is that there is some sort of discrimination on the ground of religion, because the Muslim community all over the country has become a socially and educationally very much backward. So far as percentage of literacy is concerned, it has also gone down considerably. It is just at eight per cent or ten per cent approximately whereas the national average stands at 52 per cent. So, up till now, no facilities have been extended to such communities which also fall within this category, which have been included in the constitutional amendment for the sake of giving reservation facilities.

For example, there are some communities like the Muslim Dhohee, Muslim Nut, Muslim Fakir and Muslim Halkhor which are known as sweepers, they are also doing the same activities.

There should be no discrimination on the ground of work. So far as the nature of work is concerned, it is the same that all of them do. But we find that no facility is extended to such communities. So, I would request that there must be some sort of a comprehensive Bill for bring forth an amendment of the Constitution in order to include within its purview all these communities without any grudge any bias on the ground of religion or caste or creed. Because these communities, you will find if you just look at their educational and social backwardness, are worse than even all those which have been included in the category of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Since independence, till now, their position has rather worsened. There is no improvement, whatsoever in their social and economic condition. No attempts have been made to improve their condition. That is why I appeal to you that there must be some sort of a comprehensive Bill in order to include all these categories without any bias on the

[Sh. Mumtaz Ansari]

ground of religion.

At the same time, I would like to say that not only Banjara Community which has been mentioned in this Bill, but also other such communities also which are there all over the country should be included in the amendment to include them in the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Of course, I fully agree with this Bill in totality. But the other communities which have been pointed out by our colleagues and friends here just now, they should also be included.

For that purpose, there must be some sort of a survey on a national scale and all these communities must be examined by a Parliamentary Committee and the overall situation must be assessed and then a comprehensive Bill must be brought forward for including them in the Constitution. That should be accepted and a proper constitutional amendment should be brought out for the sake of those communities.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One more name has been added, the latest being from Assam.

Shri Gopi Nath Gajpathi.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order, 1967 lists certain tribes for providing them with benefits like reservation of seats in educational institutions, services, etc. The basis for inclusion of these tribes in the Schedule to the Order is their socio-economic backwardness. I commend this Bill introduced by my learned colleague Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, who seeks to include in the Schedule to the Constitution "Banjara", a socially and educationally backward tribe living in various Parts of the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Now, the Constitution of India aims at creating a just and an equitable society in our country. To achieve this purpose, we have many all-round programmes specially for

SCs and STs. The SCs and STs of many States have found their rightful place under the reservation policy. However, in some States they are deprived of it. Let us examine the ways and means of how best we can help this deprived lot.

Indeed, the SCs and STs are the weakest of the weak sections. They are much harassed in the cities. Their exploitation normally takes place in the villages. They have no formal education even. As suggested by our dynamic leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, we should establish Navodaya schools throughout the country for the benefit of SCs and STs. Only then, we can hope to change the social status of this lot.

Sir, I represent Berhampur Parliamentary Constituency of Orissa State. It comprises of seven Assembly segments of Ramagiri, Parlakhemundi, Mohana, Berhampur, Gopalpur, Chtrapur and Chikiti. Most of these segments are predominated by SCs and STs. They are the backward classes belonging to different religions, who since ages continue to be a deprived and underdeveloped lot in significant numbers of over four lakhs in the districts of Ganjam, Koraput and Phulbani of Orissa State. They have no basic amenities even, let alone enjoy any luxuries of life. The Government of India, State Governments apart, can help this deprived lot by providing them with more liberal funds under the Tribal Sub-Plans for improving their village roads network and extend other amenities.

Further, there is also another traditional marine called of fishermen on the class 'Nuleas' on the coastal regions of Ganjam, Puri, Cuttak and Balasore of Orissa State, predominantly in the Gopalpur and Chtrapur Assembly segments. These poor and oppressed lot of fishermen, depend on fishing for their livelihood. However, they have been subjected to a lot of hardships by the big industrial houses, who have taken to fishing as a major business activity, using deep-sea travellers. The helpless fishermen, with their small country boats, are no match vis-a-vis the industrial giants and are thus under constant oppression for their basic livelihood.

These backward classes and the fishermen are treated as untouchables and are given inhuman treatment. Even now, they are being offended at public places like hotels, schools, shops, rivers, wells etc. Basic needs like education, health facilities, jobs, electricity, water supply and other social amenities are not provided to them. They are thus denied equity and social justice. Till date, they are landless, bonded labourers and as a result, their hopes, aspirations, skills and potentialities are dashed to the ground.

It can be seen that till now, religion, party or government has been able to help free the backward classes and fishermen from economic bondages and accord them socio-economic development. Programmes and schemes should be formulated for economic rehabilitation of the underdeveloped lot. Laws against untouchability should also be strictly enforced to enable this section of deprived people to live like normal human beings. I therefore demand the inclusion of the 'Nulia' fishermen of Orissa State in the list of Scheduled Castes.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India, through you, Sir, to enact a comprehensive legislation for due recognition of the under-developed backward classes of all the Indian States and also the poor, oppressed fishermen of Orissa State in the interests of equity and justice.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even though I am in agreement with the spirit of this Bill, I am unable to support the Bill as such because what we want today is a comprehensive list of both Scheduled Castes communities and the other backward communities so that the demand for including additional list either in the Scheduled Castes or in the other backward communities should not come in future. It is a matter of regret that even after 45 years of Independence from every quarter of this country demands are coming to include more communities either as Scheduled Castes or as backward whereas the proper course would have been for a demand or a struggle to see that the communities go out

of the backward. Now, everybody wants to be backward because they feel that some benefit is attached to the backward community. I belong to backward community. In Kerala, my community has got the reservation and in the Mandal Commission Report, out of the 3753 communities, my community is also included. But, I strongly feel, at some stage the whole reservation should go out of this country because we are a secular State, we always speak of secular and fellowship of this country. But, today, the whole struggle is to divide the country either on the basis of religion or caste or language. All these are barriers that goes into the root cause of creating dissensions and establishing the country. So, even though for some time reservation should be there, I feel that our ultimate aim should be to see that equality is given to every citizen of this country irrespective of caste or creed or religion or language or place of birth. That should be the ultimate goal. I strongly request the Government through you, let them appoint a Commission one for listing out the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the other for finding out the really backward communities including in this list which are not really backward. They are more than forward. If all these communities are given 22 per cent of reservation, a few communities which are really backward will take away the whole recruitment that is reserved for them. The real backward will be thrown out. As suggested by the Supreme Court, within a time frame, an effort should be made to find out the really backward communities and whatever reservation is available should be given to them.

I also suggest that reservation in appointment should not be the main thing. That is a very small thing. Even in the Mandal Commission Report it has been said that we have to equip the communities. We have to give educational facilities; we have to start new schools for them. They have to be financed. All the children of these communities should be equipped in another ten or fifteen years, so that they will be able to compete with other fortunate forward communities. So, that should be our aim. I suggest that an effort should be made to find

out the really backward. A lot of requests are coming. Shri Peter G. Marbaniang was just mentioning about the discrimination shown to the Scheduled Caste Christians. That should be avoided. Dr. Zakir Hussain once said that secularism will be felt by the country only when every citizen of the country does not talk about either religion or community or caste. So, let us try for that society where justice is given to everybody, irrespective of his caste, creed or religion. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The extended time was upto 4.25 p.m. and even that is also lost. One more Member is there to speak and then the Minister will reply.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I shall also speak on this, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So, shall we extend the time by half an hour?

AN HON. MEMBER: Fifteen minutes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member will take five minutes and the Minister will take about 15 minutes. So, shall we extend it by twenty minutes?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now Shri Kabindra Purkayastha.

[Translation]

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this Bill has been brought to include the Banjara community of Uttar Pradesh in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. I would like to make a submission in this regard, particularly with regard to north-eastern region. I know that a number of Scheduled Tribe people live in north eastern region and out of them there are many communities like Koch, Rajvanshi and Riyang, which are Scheduled Tribes but which have unfortunately not been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes till now. Once,

a question was also raised about it in the House and at that time and Welfare Minister had said that arrangements will be made for preparing a detailed list but nothing has been done so far in this respect.

Sir, my submission is that apart from the inclusion of the Banjara community in this list, there are certain other castes, which come under Scheduled Tribes, but have not been included in the list of the Scheduled Tribes. As I have said about Assam that such people should be included in the list. They are deprived of the facilities given to the Scheduled Tribes. Often it is said by the Government that much has been done for the people of Scheduled Tribes but as far as the people of Scheduled Tribes living in the hill areas of the North-East are concerned, it appears that no change has come to them. Therefore, the Government should ponder over it and bring about change for them. This is my submission only that it is necessary to include Rajvanshi, Koch and Riyang in the list of the Scheduled Tribes which have been left out.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Constitution (Amendment) Bill to include a backward community called 'Banjara' in the list of Scheduled Tribes. We have been demanding since very long in this very House to bring a comprehensive Bill in this regard. A number of times we were assured by the Ministers, one after the other, that they would bring a comprehensive Bill for inclusion of those backward castes and communities which the list of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes were left out from the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Why that comprehensive Bill is not coming before this House? Why is it that there are isolated demands from one State or the other for comprehensive Bill, once for all, to include certain communities which are fit to be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Tribes the problem will be solved. I request you to take such action.

There are certain communities also

which I personally feel that should not be in the list of Scheduled Castes. For certain reasons, they might have been included in the past; but there is a need for exclusion of these communities now from the list.

I have been demanding for inclusion of a community called 'Deswali Maaji' which is there in the district of Purulia. They are like 'Santhal' community. Their culture, their food habits etc. are identical with tribal people. I have been demanding that they should be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. They are economically and socially backward. They need to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. I have been making this demand since long. I was assured by the Ministers that when a comprehensive Bill would come, they would definitely consider to include that community in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

I also have been demanding about the inclusion of 'Santhals'. They were brought from Chota Nagpur in Bihar some 200 years ago by the Britishers to work in the tea gardens in Assam because the people of Assam refused to work in the tea gardens. They were brought from Chota Nagpur and from my district, purulia tin West Bengal. They are now settled in Assam and have been working there for four to five generations now. They are treated as Scheduled Tribes in Chota Nagpur and in West Bengal. But some of them who are settled in Jalpaigun district and who are working in the tea gardens in Assam are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes. I want to know why these Santhals who were brought by the Britishers to work in the tea gardens and who are settled in Assam are not recognised as Scheduled Tribes.

I also urge upon the Government that when the comprehensive Bill comes — I do not know when, but when that Bill comes at all and if at all the Government brings these Bill, the Government should definitely consider the Scheduled Tribe of Assam, the tea garden workers of Assam, who were brought from Chotanagpur and who have now settled in Assam. Sir, I hope the Minister will give an assurance that he will definitely

bring a comprehensive Bill and that the Bill will come and he will also tell the house when that Bill will come.

[Translation]

\*\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Pulluvan community of Kerala is socially, economically and educationally extremely backward. This community was in the beginning treated as Scheduled Caste like the Pulluyas, Malayas, Vamans, etc. However, in 1956 when the list of Scheduled Castes was revised by the Central Govt. due to printing mistake, the Pulluvan community was taken out of the Scheduled Caste list. In the revised list. The name of this community was written as Pulluvan and not Pulluyan. As a matter of fact there is no community as Pulluvan in Kerala. The list should have shown the correct name of this community, namely the Pulluvan. This printing mistake has deprived this community of the benefit being enjoyed by the Scheduled Caste. When this mistake was brought to the notice of the Kerala Government, it agreed that it was a mistake and it recommended to the Centre that the name of this community should be corrected and till that is done all benefits which are available to Scheduled Castes should be provided to this community. But the same mistake was repeated in 1976 also when the list was again revised. The representatives of this community have been making representation to the State Govt. as well as the Central Govt. But, so far, it has not been corrected. In 1990, when the matter was taken to the Kerala High Court, the Court held that there is no community by the name Pulluvan and the correct name of the community is Pulluvan. I would therefore request the Government that immediate steps should be taken to correct this mistake and include the Pulluvan community in the list of Scheduled Castes.

There is another community by the name Malla Pandaram which is also a very backward community. In Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh this community is treated as Scheduled Caste but in Kerala it is treated merely as other backward caste. Although, it

is treated as OBC, it is not getting any benefits except educational benefits which are enjoyed by OBCs in the State. I would therefore take this opportunity to request the Government that this community should also be included in the list of Scheduled Castes. Thank you.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI( Saidpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to thank Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat who introduced this Bill. Sir, not only the Banzara tribe, rather several other such tribes of the country have not been thoughtfully included into the list of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. This is evident. It can be seen that the list of the Scheduled Castes includes the casts which should have been included into the list of the Scheduled Tribes whereas the list of the Scheduled Tribes includes the tribes which should have actually been referred to the list of the Scheduled Castes. It is regrettable that nothing has been done towards even after discussions held in this House on several occasions. In April, 1984 discussions were held on it for two continuous days. During that time it was announced in the House by the hon. Minister of Welfare and the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that there would be a complete review about all those anomalies and that the Government would soon bring about the necessary changes in the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to make them more comprehensible. But so far nothing like that has been done. Several Governments came into power and changed. Such Bills are generally brought forward at the advent of every new Government and when the demand of promulgating the Bill is made by the Members during their discussion, it is meted with the assurance that the Government will soon introduce the Scheduled Castes Amendment Bill with a large scale changes. It is, however, never done. Through you I would like to demand that the Government should soon come out with fully amended Bill. Care should be taken that the tribes which should be included into the list of the Scheduled Tribes must be

It is not the issue of Banzara tribe alone, there is also a large number of Mushar in Uttar Pradesh. Similarly, there are casts like Nut, Basfor and Kanjar who by making small groups live in every region of Uttar Pradesh. They are known by different names in different places. These castes are in a very miserable condition. Well, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes do have at least, houses to live in, but the Mushars do not have the houses to live in. They are convinced that they cannot be happy if they live in houses and they should therefore live beneath the trees. I want that their social status should be elevated. There is a tribe (caste) known as Khatik, they are in large number in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Minister of Railway is sitting here. I have seen that lakhs of a people belonging to this caste lives in his Constituency. It is unfortunate that the people of this caste have been included in the backward classes. All sorts of agitations were launched by the people of this Caste but were not so effective that it could arrest the attention of the Government. The elected representatives of the public do not pay any attention to their demands. The people of that caste are in such a condition that they sell mutton. Their small children sell mutton in baskets by putting them on their heads. They also sell blood collecting it from the slaughter-houses. This caste has been put in the list of backward classes whereas it enjoy the status of Scheduled Castes in nine other states. I want that such castes of India known as - Khatik, Arya Khatik, Suryavanshi Khatik, Raiya, Shikwa, Dhaukor Kasai, Banwate, Mandwaria, Karsane, Sonkar, Bate should all be included in the list of the Scheduled Castes.

It has been heard that five lakh people belong to the caste of Khatik are going to demonstrate in April. It will surely be bad when five lakh people will assemble in Delhi for demonstration. I would like to submit that throughout the State people of this caste should be included into the list of Scheduled Castes. With these words I would once again like to thank Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat who brought forward such a Bill and I would

601 Constitution (S.T.) (U.P.) AGRAHAYANA 5, 1914 (SAKA) of the Schedule) by Shri 602  
order (Amend.) Bill (Amend. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat

also like to thank the hon. Chairman who gave me an opportunity to express my views.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA (Bidar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, welcoming this Bill. I would like to make a brief submission. The question is whether the Government is encouraging casteism or it is trying to remove it. There are already many issues before the Government. To promote casteism has become one more issue. There is a proverb in Hindi:

Jaat main Jaat, Hinduan ki Jaa't Aur  
Paa't main Paat Kelan ki Paa't

If you go on peeling the banana tree you will not find any wood in it. More and more castes of Hindus are being included in the reservation list. How long will it continue? There should be only two castes — the rich and the poor. If the rich and the poor are divided there will be thousand divisions. Ultimately the Government will have to face problems. As the casteism increases clashes are also increasing. The Government should therefore try to do away with casteism. I think that this way many of the problems faced by the Government will end. As dog fight is invited by throwing a piece of meat before them, the Government is doing the same. That is why casteism increase. Even after the tall promises made by the new Government. Casteism is on the increasing trend. The present Government is trading on the same path of the previous Governments. My submission to the Government is that there should be only two castes- the poor and the rich. As there are women and men, similarly there should be only two castes in the country. There is no need for the third caste.

Now without taking much time I would thank you for allowing me to express my views.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The extended time for this Bill has also come to an end. Three more Members representing the weaker sections of the society want to speak.

To deny them an opportunity is not fair.

If you agree, shall we extend the time up to 5.10 p.m.?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Many people have participated and are cooperating with us. So, the time is extended upto 5.10. p.m.

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I rise to support this Bill. Sir, a number of Tribal communities like Banjara in Uttar Pradesh are not included in the Scheduled Tribes list. In this country, in many of the States, the real Tribes communities are not included in the list. I am sure the Government of India immediately response to their demand and necessary steps has been taken.

My request is, the Government of India may immediately constitute a committee to go to various States and to study the demands of various communities and after that, they may introduce a Constitution (Amendment ) Bill.

My second point is, the Scheduled Tribes are not getting their facilities properly. The Constitution of India has conferred a lot of privileges to the Scheduled Tribes Community. But unfortunately they are not able to get all those privileges. Take the case of employment in the State Government and the Central Government. A number of vacancies reserved for Scheduled Tribes communities remain unfilled. The upper caste bureaucrats are not interested that the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe people should come up at the higher posts. I strongly feel that the scheduled tribes people should be encouraged to come to the higher posts in the services of Central Government and the State Governments.

I urge upon the Government of India to take immediate steps in this regard. The Government of India should issue strict directions to the State Governments to examine this matter and to take immediate steps so that all the reserved vacancies are

filled up.

Another important point to which I draw the attention of the Government of India is about the atrocities on innocent and poor tribals in various parts of the country. Every day news appear that there is brutal attack on the Scheduled Tribe community. I demand that the Government of India should set up special courts to deal with the cases of atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Once again I strongly support this Bill.

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Bill. At the same time, I am thankful to Shri Bhgwan Shankar Rawat who has moved the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order (Amendment) Bill to include Banjara community in Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

I would like to speak about the North-Eastern regions, particularly of Assam, Tripura, Nagaland, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh. There you will find several Scheduled Tribes had to be included in the List of Scheduled Tribes. I mention some of them, for instance, the Hriang and another small tribes are yet to be included in Scheduled Tribes. Shri Basudeb Acharia mentioned that in Assam there are several tea gardens and in the tea gardens, tea labourers, mostly from Karnataka, Orissa and other parts of the country, are really Scheduled Castes, but they are not yet declared Scheduled Caste. So, I feel that there should be another survey of these depressed classes. These depressed classes should be included in the List of Scheduled Castes.

Now I shall say about the reservation on policy of the Government. It is seen that for Scheduled Castes, there is 15 per cent reservation in Services and for Scheduled Tribes 7 1/2 per cent. So far as I understand, at present in India for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, I think the percentage

should come to about 25. But the present percentage of reservation is only 22 1/2 including Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This reservation should be raised in case of Services as well as in schools and colleges.

I further feel that this reservation policy of 15 per cent and 7 1/2 per cent are not at all followed by the State Governments. As a result, we find in the States as well as in the Centre, this backlog is there and moreover the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not represented in Class I and Class II Services.

So, I urge upon the Government to see that this backlog as well as reservation policy in case of Services and schools and colleges should be strictly followed.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak. On a number of occasion, the issue of inclusion of various castes in different states in the list of reserved category of castes has been raised in the House. However, now this issue has become so sensitive that demands for the inclusion of castes on the basis of economic criterion will be raised time and again. Many an hon. Member have advocated the inclusion of different castes of their respective states in the list of the reserved category of castes. I also would like to submit that the casts which have a life style and culture similar to that of the tribals should be identified first for inclusion in the reserved category and after inclusion if the facilities are once extended to them, these should never be withdrawn. Moreover, the facilities whenever extended to tribals and others have not been much effective in improving their lives or these facilities have not been properly used by the targeted beneficiaries. In this connection, I have repeatedly made submission to the Government, the Hon. Prime Minister and several hon. Ministers that in Vidarbha region 'Mana and Goari' tribes inhabit. Both these tribes have a lifestyle similar to that of the tribals and were also being treated as tribals,

645 Constitution (S.T.) (U.P.) AGRAHAYANA 5, 1914 (SAKA) of the Schedule) by Shri 606  
order (Amend.) Bill (Amend. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat

but since 1980 the facilities enjoyed by them have been withdrawn. As a result of it both these tribes have come as under great difficulty.

Therefore, I would like to submit that when more and more castes are being included in the list of the reserved category of castes atleast the facilities being extended to them at present should in no way be reduced. Before including new castes in the list of reserved category these should be identified first after going into the merits of the claim of each caste for inclusion in the reserved list.

While speaking on the present amendment being considered in the House, I would also like to urge the inclusion of 'Mana and Goari' tribes in the reserved list. I have separately urged the hon. Minister, present here in the House. 40 other hon. Members of my state have also appeared to the hon. Minister that these tribes should be included in the list of reserved category. On this occasion, I would like to submit again that the life style and culture of both these tribes is similar to that of the tribals. Just because both these tribes have not been identified as tribals under the provisions of the Constitution, the facilities extended to them have been withdrawn. I conclude my speak with the submission that all the facilities should be extended to the people having the lifestyle and culture. Similar to that of the tribals and urge the Government to do what all could be done in this regard.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In this subject, 17 Members have participated. It goes to show what an amount of interest the Members have taken in this subject. We have got 15 minutes at our disposal. First, the hon. Minister has to reply and then the Mover of the Bill should speak. I now request the hon. Minister to reply.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI K. KAMALA KUMARI): Sir, I am glad that a very fruitful discussion took place in this House on

7.8.1992 and today on the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) (Uttar Pradesh) Order (Amendment) Bill, 1992 which was introduced by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat on 28th February 1992 for the inclusion of Banjaras in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Uttar Pradesh. Banjaras stand included in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa and in the list of Scheduled Castes in Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. The Banjara community has, however been included in the list of other Backward Classes (OBCs) in Uttar Pradesh.

16.57 hrs

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

The proposal for inclusion of Banjaras in the lists of Scheduled Tribes in other States including Uttar Pradesh is being examined in the context of comprehensive revision of list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In this connection it may be mentioned that only those communities/tribes which strictly fulfill the prescribed criteria are included in the list of Scheduled Tribes. The criteria are:- " Indications of primitive traits, distinctive culture, geographical isolation. " shyness of contact with the community at large and backwardness."

Now I come to the various issue raised by the hon. Members during the course of discussion. Some of the Members have expressed their concern over the delay in bringing a comprehensive Bill on the revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. As the House is aware, the issue of the revision of lists of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe is so complex and sensitive that no hasty decision could be taken in the matter, otherwise some undeserving communities which do not fulfill the criteria may try to get included in the list as Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe which might be detrimental to the interest of the genuine Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Government, therefore, want to go ahead in this matter very carefully. The Government is examining all the proposals received in this regard in

consultation with the concerned State Government/UT Administration and the Registrar General of India

It has been suggested by one of the Members that derogatory caste names appearing in the lists of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes may be removed. I want to make it clear that the Government is already seized of the issue and the States/Union Territories have been requested to suggest alternative names

Some Members have suggested that a common list of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes throughout the country may be prepared. But I would like to tell my friends that the socio economic and educational conditions of the communities/castes/tribes vary from State to State and within a State from region to region and it will therefore not be proper to generalise any caste as a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe in the whole country. Further the present Constitutional provisions under Article 341 and 342 also envisage preparation of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe lists in respect of each State/Union Territory separately.

Some of the Members have suggested that severe punishment may be given to those who obtain bogus Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe certificates. We have already issued necessary instructions to the State Governments/Union Territories to take strict measures to detect bogus cases and impose appropriate penalties and take legal action against bogus certificate holders and also those who were responsible for the issue of such certificates.

I would request the hon Member to withdraw his Bill in view of the comprehensive exercise of revision of lists being undertaken by the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT  
(Agra) Mr Chairman, Sir a along debate

was held on the subject here in the House. As Mr Deputy Speaker just now said that 17 members have participated in this discussion and I would like to thank all those 17 hon Members, who have expressed their opinion on the Bill moved by me and gave their support. In this connection, I would like to submit just two things- the first issue is connected with this Bill and the second issue which I will separately put forth is related to the Scheduled Castes.

I would like to request the Central Government that it should make an immediate announcement to include Banjara tribe in the list of the Scheduled tribes by making necessary amendments in the Constitution and a time limit should be fixed in this connection. Undoubtedly, the hon Minister has just now given an assurance in this regard in the House but still I would like to submit that a time limit should also be attached to this assurance, otherwise it will linger on. Banjara tribe at present has not been extended the full facilities they are entitled to.

Secondly, I do not agree with the statement of the hon Minister that the socio economic conditions of the Communities/castes vary from state to state and even from region to region. It is likely to cause a setback to our national integration programme as one of our hon colleagues has expressed his sorrowful views in this regard. So a backward caste if identified as backward caste in any of the state, should be recognised as backward caste throughout the country. It will help in curbing the tendency of detaing bogus certificates.

Thirdly I would like to submit that the Government of India should set up a commission to look into the veracity of the claims of various casts and tribes of the country for inclusion in the list of the Scheduled Castes the Scheduled Tribes and the backward communities as per the criteria laid down in this regard. If any Caste/tribe fulfills the criteria it should be included in the said list. To end all such disputes regarding the inclusion of castes in the said list, the commission should look into the claims of

609 Constitution (S.T.) (U.P.) AGRAHAYANA 6, 1914 (SAKA) of the Schedule by Shri 610  
 order (Amend.) Bill (Amend.)  
 Bhagwan Shankar Rawat  
 various castes and tribes, and only then the  
 dream of social justice will be materialised.

In addition, there is a need to further classify the castes which are considered socially and economically more backward. Among the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the backward in view of the Supreme Courts' recent Judgement. I would like to submit that the proposed commission must classify among the backwards who are more backward and how are less backward. If in addition there is any need to amend the constitution then the Government should go ahead with it without any hitch, because the Constitution is for the people and not vice versa. Therefore the constitutional measures must be taken at the earliest.

I would also like to say that a commission should be set up and it should be ensured that the people who are demanding for their inclusion in the list of backward classes, do really deserve for that, because a number of people belonging to these castes have become affluent, and they cannot be put in the list of poor class and they do not need any sort of reservation. Hunger disturbs both the rich and the poor alike irrespective of caste. Therefore, this issue needs to be looked into on the basis of poverty viz who in the society are really in need of reservation. The Commission should also chalk out norms for providing social justice and security to the poor, who are not covered within the ambit of reservation, but are actually in need of it. For achieving the desired results of reservation it should not happen that the Government should talk only in terms of the Government jobs, because I know that the lakhs of people belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled tribes and backward are in search of jobs and I may say more than half of the population of the country has come in the reserved category and all of them cannot be made the collectors or the prime Ministers. Nowadays a few politicians to talk of the entry in the Government jobs and play with their sentiments, but are not really sincere about their welfare.

I do favour that the backwards in large and large numbers should become the IAS

officers, the Prime Minister and the Ministers, but all of them definitely cannot be accommodated. Therefore, I would like to submit that the Government should evolve such economic policies as the welfare and upliftment of the Scheduled castes, the Scheduled Tribes and the backwards may be ensured. I would like to make a submission that the 'Jatavs' are traditionally associated with the leather industry, but nowadays their plight is so bad that they are on the verge of starving 'Kumhar' caste was traditionally engaged in the pottery making and was also known as 'Prajapati' but now a days they are starving because of the wrong policies of the Government. Earlier the railways used to procure earthen glasses and earthen pots, in summer, but now the railways have replaced these items by the items made of plastics. Since then, the plight of the 'Parjapati' has become deplorable, because the railways were the largest buyers of their goods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit that in the name of the change and the liberation of the bonded workers, there is a conspiracy to render the carpet, weavers unemployed. The people of 'Kori' caste, who are traditionally engaged in carpet weaving and are also passing on the skills to their children are being arrested in the name of the liberation of the bonded workers, but the Government has made no alternative arrangements for the livelihood and the education of their children. Therefore, I would like to submit that the laws for the welfare of the backwards and for the generation of jobs for them should be enacted. All this gimmickery and political stunts will not do any good. Therefore, the proposed Commission should also look into the reasons for the constant backwardness of the backwards, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes during the last 44 years and also suggest the measures to be taken to remove these hindrances.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I hope that the present Government will not adopt an evasive policy like the previous Governments headed by Shri V.P. Singh and Rajiv Gandhi as has already been referred to my me at the beginning of my speech. The

(Amend.) Bill (substitution of new long

by Shri Basudeb Acharia

[Sh. Bhagwan Shankar Rawat]

Government should not indulge in the evasive tactics of reconsidering and reviewing the issue and the scheme. There is a need to display tremendous will power to go ahead on the subject.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing the Bill?

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has the hon. member leave of the House to withdraw his Bill?

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The Bill was, by leave, withdrawn.

19.08 hrs

RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

(Substitution of new long little of long  
title etc. by Shri Basudev Acharia)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura):  
Sir, I beg to move:

" That the Bill further to amend the  
Railway protection Force Act, 1957,  
be taken into consideration".

Mr. Chairman, Sir, The Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill, which I am moving, I hope will receive the support from all sections of this House. I am grateful that whenever this issue was raised on the floor of the House, all the Members in one voice supported the cause of the Railway Protection Force. There had been a very rare occasion in this House when the Members forgot their political affiliation also

as to whether they belonged to the treasury benches or to the opposition benches. Members belonging to the Congress-I, BJP, CPM, Janata Dal etc. and each section of this House were of the opinion that the misdeed - I will not blame the present Railway Minister for that - which was done in 1985 by amending the Railway Protection Force Act of 1957 by adding these in section with one 15-A some ulterior motive. Now the occasion has come, an opportunity has come to undo the misdeed.

I sincerely hope that now wisdom will prevail upon the Ministry of Railways will give honour and respect to the unanimous wishes, desire and aspiration of this august House. Not honoured, definitely the entire House will feel - all honouring the house unanimous sentiment the sections of this House will bear with me - that this is rather an insult to this august House.

When this amending Bill was introduced, I was a member of this House. I was sitting on the front benches by the side of the former Railway Minister Madhu Dandavateji. He was very vociferous and we were actively opposed the introduction of this Bill the RPF (Amendment) 1985 and described the step taken by the Ministry of Railways as a retrograde step. That was the word used by as. The attempt was not that once in 1985 a section of IPS officers who came on deputation to the Railway Protection Force have been very much sore at this. Permanent RPF offices from the initial stages causing several problems a high-powered committee was constituted by this House under the Chairmanship of the then railway Minister, late Shri Ram Subag Singh in 1966. This high-powered committee had gone into all the aspects of this Railway Protection Force. I have with me, the report of that committee. I have gone through the report of this committee. It was a very clear and categorical opinion of this and the Kirpal Singh Committee Report 1975-76 that the RPF should not have two categories of officers in which had been hampering the interests of the Force and the Railways. This Committee strongly recommended for the formation of officers cadre for the Railway Protection Force. The