

is also given at the odd hours of night. At this critical stage of crops, the respective State Governments may please be asked to pay special attention to give at least 8 hours supply per day also if supply could be given during the day. If it is not possible then at least it should be in proper ratio for night & day hours.

(vii) INCLUSION *F DHOBIS' IN THE SCHEDULED CASTES LIST

SHRI CUMBUM N. NATARAJAN (Periyakulam): I wish to point out that the Dhobi community has been included in the list of Scheduled Castes in all the States of the country except in Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Punjab, Maharashtra, Pondicherry, Chandigarh, Goa, Lakshwadeep and Haryana. Out of 22 States and nine Union Territories, in 16 States and five Union Territories the concessions available to those included in the list of Scheduled Castes are being extended to the Dhobi community and in six States and four Union Territories they are being denied their right to have special concessions envisaged in the Constitution of India.

Economically 99 per cent of this community is backward and poor and socially they are treated like an out-caste engaged in unclear work.

In Tamil Nadu, excepting in Kanyakumari district and Shenkottah taluk of Tirunelveli District, a major population of Dhobi community called as Vannan has not been included in the list of Scheduled Castes, thus creating invidious distinction between those living in the two areas and others belonging to the same community in other parts of the States.

In November 1980 the Tamil Nadu Washermen's Central Union conducted an All India Conference and also met the hon. Home Minister in delegation. The hon. Home Minister was

convinced about this anomaly and assured delegation that a Bill in the Parliament including the Dhobi community in the Scheduled Casts lists in all the States would be introduced and passed.

It need not be stressed that the Dhobis have become an essential part of our society and yet they are treated as social outcasts. Steps should soon be taken to include the Dhobis in the Scheduled Castes lists of all the States and the Union Territories in the country.

13.58 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 1982-83, GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we continue the general discussions on Railway Budget, Shri Narayan Choubey.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): I beg to submit that the Ramayana of the Railways is a very big and the time at my disposal is very short. As the proverb goes the art is long and the life is short. Therefore, I will request you to give me some time. I do not want to deal with all the points.

The main message which the Railway Minister has given in this Budget speech is, 'travel when you must'. It means, 'Do not travel and if you can stop travelling you will solve all problems' and there is also no chance of accidental death.

Actually, this Budget is anti-people, lock stock and barrel. It is framed at the behest of the World Bank. It is an attempt to woo the favour of the World Bank to secure a loan of 700 million dollars. The World Bank bosses have laid down conditions that unless freight and fares are increased, unless the Railway's pay at least 40 per cent of their development cost and import the IBMs from abroad, the World Bank will not pay the loan.