

17-24 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE WELFARE OF
CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

SHRI M. M. LAWRENCE
(Idukki): Sir, I beg to move the following:

"This House takes serious note of the pitiable condition of the construction workers who are subjected to exploitation by construction contractors and recommends to the Government to take immediate steps for safeguarding their interests."

Sir, the conditions of these workers are miserable and shocking: there is no security of employment. As soon as the contract ends or as soon as the work is complete, the workers are mercilessly thrown out of jobs and most of the workers have to go back to their States and they do not have any permanent residence. With them, they carry their family also. And they live in unhygienic conditions; they live in shanties which cannot be called a home. They never get a chance to send their children to schools. They bring up a new generation of illiterate working force for the exploitation by the contractors and other exploiters of our country. Their children begin work for their livelihood. The construction industry is mostly in the hands of the private contractors. And they never care for the child labour. They work from dusk to dawn. The contractors get the contracts by giving heavy bribes to the officials, who protect their illegal acts? In no other industry the money can be minted like anything as in contracts. Many contractors have become millionaires in a short span of time. These unscrupulous contractors stoop to any level to amass ill-gotten wealth by paying low wages to the workers. In several States the workers are still being paid only Rs. 6 to 7 per day. They are not given overtime wages. They

are not provided with retirement facilities. Those who meet with accidents in the course of employment are not provided with compensation. Very often the contractors procure services of the workers through their sub-contractors or labour contractors. These labour contractors are taking considerable portion of the wages due to the workers for themselves. The construction workers are treated very often just like chattels reminding us of the system of slavery. The Government of India has started public sector units on the plea of departmentalising the construction work. Hindustan Steel Construction company was started with great fanfare and publicity. Now, however, this company has become a hunting ground for the contractors. The company has about 20,000 regular employees but the contractors under the company employ more than 50,000 workers.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Lawrence, you may resume your speech next time. Now, the House will take up Half-an-Hour discussion.

17-30 hrs.

HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

LIFE SAVING DRUGS

श्री राम विलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) :
समापति महोदय, आज हम जिस विषय पर चर्चा करने जा रहे हैं वह अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण विषय है और सदन में कई बार इस पर चर्चा हो चुकी है। लेकिन उसके बाद भी समस्या का निदान नहीं हो पाया है। पिछले वर्ष की तुलना में देखा जाय तो समस्या और जटिल ही होती जा रही है। अभी कुछ दिन पहले 15 तारीख को एक प्रश्न के जवाब में मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया है कि