

to be given up. That is not so. On the other hand, we have taken up the project in all seriousness. What has happened is that this is linked up with the Mangalore port project and this railway line has been conceived for servicing the major port which is going to be located on the west coast and the programme has been so phased as to complete this railway line by the time the Mangalore port project is also completed. There is no point in having heavy capital investment and building up the capital-at-charge while the port for which it is intended to serve would not be there. Therefore, it is a phased programme and according to the Mangalore port project programme the construction of the Hassan-Mangalore railway line will also be taken up and completed. I do not want to refer to other matters.

Shri M. R. Krishna (Peddapalli): When you have mentioned about the Hassan-Mangalore railway line, you say something about other lines also.

Shri C. M. Poonacha: There are quite a large number of them which were raised at the time of the Railway Budget also.

About the Poona-Lonavala railway line which was mentioned by Shri S. M. Joshi, I will certainly have it examined. This is a long-standing demand.

There is one point that I would like to make here. All this comes under concessions and the Railways are required to provide so many concessions. If there is a famine, there should be concessions; if there is a big industrial base, there should be concessions; if an urban area develops, there should be concessions; if the students and the teachers excursions take place, there should be concessions; if the seminars take place, there should be concessions. There are all round concessions. If it is a question of augmenting the revenues of the Railways, there is a hue and cry. We have to reconcile these

various interests and that is our endeavour as to how best we can reconcile all the interests including that of labour and operate the Railways as best as we can.

I thank the House for giving me an opportunity and I commend the demands for the acceptance of the House.

Shri P. Ramamurti: 'Poona' happens to be included in the name of the Minister 'Poonacha'. You take that also into consideration.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no time left now.

The question is:

"That the respective excess sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the third column of the order paper be granted to the President to make good the amounts spent during the year ended 31st day of March, 1965, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—Demands Nos. 5, 8, 12 and 15"

The motion was adopted.

15.45 hrs.

MOTION RE: FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH REPORTS OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES FOR THE YEARS 1964-65 AND 1965-66

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phulrenu Guha):

I beg to move:

"That this House takes note of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1964-65 and 1965-66, laid on the Table of the House on the 30th March, 1967, and 8th June, 1967, respectively"

[Shrimati Phulrenu Guha]

Sir, in moving this motion, I would like first to express my gratitude to . . .

श्री जामं करनेडोख (बम्बई-दक्षिण) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। मैं नियम 340 के मातहत इस बहस पर स्वगत प्रस्ताव रखना चाहता हूँ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let her move the motion and then I will permit him to place his 'adjournment of' the debate.

Shrimati Phulrenu Guha: In moving this motion, I would first like to express my gratitude to you and the Business Advisory Committee of the House for allowing a reasonable span of time for a discussion on the Reports of the Commissioner. Government are anxious that such discussions should take place because members do not usually get an opportunity to express their views on matters and problems dealt with in the Department of Social Welfare during the annual Budget Debate.

These reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, which have hitherto been an annual feature, are being placed on the Table of the House in accordance with the directions contained in Article 338(2) of the Constitution. We welcome the convention that there should be an extensive discussion in the House so that Government may have the benefit of the views of the members on the problems concerning the socially and economically under-developed sections of the society.

During the course of earlier debates on the subject, hon. members had repeatedly expressed their concern, firstly, over the delays in the presentation of the Reports by the Commissioner, and secondly, over the long time between the presentation of the Report and placing it on the Table of the House. I am glad to be able to say that these delays have now been

greatly reduced. Thus, while there was a gap of 20 months in the case of the Report for 1964-65, the interval has been reduced to seven months in the case of the latest Report for the year 1965-66. I may point out that it would not be possible to reduce the interval to less than six months because a period of this order is essential for gathering, compiling and analysing information from a large number of sources, and for the process of printing and translating the Report into Hindi.

We have always shared the anxiety of the hon. members that adequate and prompt action should be taken on the recommendations made by the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In Chapter 20 and Appendix XIX of the Report for the year 1965-66, now before the House, the Commissioner has reviewed the action taken on his earlier Reports. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. members to the fact that the recommendations of the Commissioner can be divided into two categories: (i) where the main action is required to be taken by the Central Government, and (ii) where action has to be taken by the State Governments. At the Centre, we have always attached the greatest importance to a detailed examination and implementation of the important suggestions made by the Commissioner. As a matter of fact, each of the Five-Year Plans has reflected quite a few changes in policies and programmes based on the suggestions made by the Commissioner, the discussions on the floor of this House, and the views expressed by the Central Advisory Boards for Harijan Welfare and Tribal Welfare, and the departmental Consultative Committees.

In so far as the States are concerned, Members may be aware that many States have accepted the suggestion that the Commissioner's annual reports should be discussed by the legislatures in the States. State Governments also make it a point to place

the reports of the Commissioner before the State-level boards for Harijan Welfare and the Tribal Advisory Council. It is the consensus reflected in the totality of such discussions that is given effect to in the revision of policies and programmes by the Centre and by the States. I hope, therefore, that it will be appreciated that changes of this nature cannot be adequately expressed through a mere statistical statement.

Members will no doubt notice the difference in the contents and composition of the two reports now before the House. These changes have been evolved after extensive consultations, keeping in view the opinions voiced in the House on previous occasions to the effect that these reports were mainly statistical and repetitive in character and contained only generalities. In the latest report, the bulk has also been very much reduced. We would very much value any new suggestions that Members may have to offer for further improving the utility of the Commissioner's reports.

In this context, Members might like to consider issues such as:—

- (a) study of main problems in depth;
- (b) the need for special reports on problems of an urgent and important character;
- (c) the coverage of the reports; and
- (d) whether there should be separate and detailed State-wise reports.

The two reports before the House cover the last two years of the Third Five Year Plan. The outlay on special programmes for the welfare of backward classes rose from Rs. 30 crores in the First Plan to Rs. 79 crores in the second, and to Rs. 102 crores in the Third Plan. Of the total amount of Rs. 211 crores spent during the first three plans, Rs. 115 crores have been devoted to Scheduled Tribes, about Rs. 72 crores to Sche-

duled Castes and about Rs. 22 crores to Denotified Tribes and other backward classes, and Rs. 2 crores to aid for voluntary organisations. The commissioner's reports contain an assessment of the main programmes and their impact.

In the plans for the backward classes, we have always accorded very high priority to schemes for educational development. On this question, there has been no difference of opinion, and our schemes have made good progress. From the humble beginning made in 1952-53 we have now reached the stage where nearly 1 lakh students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and about 17,000 students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes are being supported at the university level every year.

A few years ago, we devoted special attention towards securing a better rate of progress in women's education; our efforts in this direction are also beginning to bear fruit.

Tribal Development Blocks constitute another important scheme in the Central sector. By the end of the Third Plan period, over 450 such blocks were in operation. In most parts of the country, the blocks were under the management of panchayat samitis. All areas with a concentration of 66-2/3 per cent or over have thus been covered by tribal development blocks. Though the progress in all areas has not been uniform, these blocks have made an important contribution towards the economic betterment of the Scheduled Tribes.

One of our major objectives is the eradication of the social disabilities arising from untouchability. A number of measures, legal and executive have been undertaken and these have met with varying degree of success; there is evidence that, along with other social barriers, untouchability is tending to disappear from urban and industrialised areas. But the evil continues to prevail in some form or the other in rural areas where the impact of modern science and technology has not yet been ade-

[Shrimati Phulrenu Guha]

quately felt. It is clear that a traditional social barrier of this type cannot be eliminated by governmental or legal action alone. The awakening of the social consciousness of the masses is a task which has to be shared by all leaders of society, including hon. members of this House.

I would like to draw the attention of hon. members to the fact that an intensive review of the programmes and policies is being conducted by the Committee on Untouchability and the economic and educational development of Scheduled Castes. For the Scheduled Tribes, the Planning Commission have constituted a Study Team headed by Shri Shilu Ao. The reports of both these bodies would provide Government with a valuable basis for determining future policies and programmes.

I have no desire to take up any more time of the House because I would like the greater part of the available time to be devoted to suggestions by hon. Members. With these words, I move.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That this House takes note of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1964-65 and 1965-66, laid on the Table of the House on the 30th March 1967 and 8th June, 1967, respectively".

Shri Fernandes: He wants to move for adjournment of the debate.

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): What about our amendments? Let them be moved first.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes.

Shri Frank Anthony: I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"but regrets the stultification of the guarantees given to the Anglo-Indian Community under article 333 of the Constitution." (1)

Shri Siddayya (Chamarajanagar): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"and is of opinion that a committee of Members of Parliament be constituted to keep a watch on the implementation of the recommendations of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Central Government, State Governments and the Union territories". (2).

Shri P. R. Thakur (Nabaduip): I beg to move:

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

"and places on record its general approval and acceptance of the recommendations contained therein and calls upon the Central Government, State Governments, Union territories and other administrative agencies to adopt them and to carry them out with determination and promptitude and is of opinion that a standing Parliamentary Committee be set up with full investigatory powers to look after the safeguards for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes." (3).

Shri K. Halda (Mathurapur):

That at the end of the motion, the following be added, namely:—

“and is of opinion that the safeguards provided in the Constitution for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not being fully implemented.” (4)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment No. 5 is covered by amendment No. 2; so it need not be moved.

The main motion and the amendments are now before us.

श्री जार्ज फरनॅंडोज (बम्बई दक्षिण) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, नियम 340 के मातहत इस बहस को स्थगित किया जाय ऐसा मैं प्रस्ताव पेश कर रहा हूँ। इस प्रस्ताव को पेश करते हुए मुझे बहुत दुःख होता है क्योंकि मैं समझता हूँ कि अगर इस मुक में सबसे ज्यादा परेशान कोई भी वर्ग है तो वह शिड्यूल्ड कास्ट और शिड्यूल्ड ट्राइब्ज का है और संविधान में जो भी संरक्षण इन दोनों वर्गों के लोगों को दिए गए थे उसका जिस ढंग से उल्लंघन किया जा रहा है और जो लापरवाही इस समाज की ओर की जा रही है उसके निषेध में और खास तौर से इस रपट के सिलसिले में भी और आज की इस बहस को इस सदन में छेड़ते हुए जो गलतियाँ सरकार की ओर से हुई हैं उनकी ओर ध्यान आकर्षित करने के लिए यह प्रस्ताव मैं पेश कर रहा हूँ। अध्यक्ष महोदय संविधान के आर्टिकल 338 के अनुसार यह रपट हम लोगों के सामने आई है। 338 को आप देखें मैं उसका एक ही परिच्छेद पढ़ कर आप के सामने पेश करूँ :

“It shall be the duty of the Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this Constitution and report to the President upon the working of those safeguards at

such intervals as the President may direct, and the President shall cause all such reports to be laid before each House of Parliament”.

16 hrs.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक तरफ तो यह संविधान का कहना है कि जो रपट बनेगी उसको कमिश्नर की ओर से राष्ट्रपति को भेजते ही उसको इस लोकसभा के सामने पेश करना चाहिये। मगर आज जो रपट हम लोगों के सामने पेश होने के लिये आई है—असल में दो रपटें आई हैं, एक है 1964-65 की और दूसरी है 1965-66 की—मैं इनमें से 1965-66 की रपट की ओर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ जिसके पृष्ठ 161 पर पैराग्राफ 20.3 में कमिश्नर श्री एस० सी० सेन गुप्ता ने लिखा है कि—

“The report for the year 1964-65 was presented to the President on the 24th November, 1965. This report has not yet been laid before any House of Parliament.”

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सरकार ने इस को यहां पेश करने में डेढ़ साल लिया। 1965 के नवम्बर में यह राष्ट्रपति को पेश हुई थी लेकिन डेढ़ साल के बाद इस पर बहस छेड़ने का काम शुरू हुआ है। इतना ही नहीं उपाध्यक्ष महोदय जो जुल्म होता है उसकी तरफ भी आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करता हूँ। आप इसी 160 पेज के पहले पैराग्राफ में देखें कि 1963-64 की जो रपट है उस पर इस सदन में अभी तक बहस पूरी नहीं हो सकी है। 18 अगस्त 1966 को उस पर बहस शुरू हुई थी लेकिन वह बहस अधूरी ही रह गई उसको पूरा करने के लिये इस सरकार ने कोई कदम नहीं उठाया। किमिन्तर साहब लिखते हैं कि—

“In the Lok Sabha the 1965-64 report was discussed on 18th August, 1966, . . .

[श्री जार्ज फरनेंडीज]

बानी डेढ़ साल के बाद—

“ . . . but the discussion could not be concluded.”

बानी जो बहस ह वह अब तक अधूरी है। मैं इस रपट पर कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता हूँ इस पर तो जब बहस चलेगी तब लोग कहेंगे लेकिन इस सरकार की जो नीति है उसको देखते हुए शेड्यूल कास्ट अथवा शेड्यूल ट्राइव्स के बारे में कोई भी ऐसा उचित कदम उठाये जाने की उम्मीद नहीं है जिसमें उनका भला हो क्यों कि इस मन्त्रिमण्डल के जो 51 लोग हैं उनमें सिर्फ दो ही ऐसे हैं जो शेड्यूल कास्ट के हो सकते हैं—एक कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर और दूसरे डिप्टी मिनिस्टर हैं। जब कि आबादी के परिमाण से अथवा इस सदन के अन्दर जो 105 शेड्यूल कास्ट और शेड्यूल ट्राइव्स के लोग हैं उनके परिमाण से कम से कम दस लोग इस कैबिनेट में उनमें से होने चाहियें थे। सिर्फ दो को यह सरकार मेहरबानी करके रखे हुए है इसलिये मुझे इस सरकार से कोई उम्मीद नहीं है। लेकिन इस सरकार की ओर से जो दुर्लक्ष्य करने में आता है उसकी ओर इस देश का और समाज का ध्यान आकषिप्त करने के उद्देश्य से मैं यह प्रस्ताव रखता हूँ कि इस बहस को स्थगित कर दिया जाय।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: May I point out to the hon. Member who has moved that the debate be adjourned, because one of the grounds is that the reports were not considered by the House, that we are all collectively responsible to this lapse because if I remember correctly, I was a member then, though the Business Advisory Committee quite often placed it on the agenda for discussion, for want of time and because so many things cropped up it could not be discussed.

श्री श्री. श्री. Kristina (Peddapalli): You can give any other reason and reject this motion, but not this reason. You cannot say that the

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: His argument is divided into two parts. As regards the constitutional obligation, I think the hon. Minister would certainly answer that point.

I fully appreciate, and the House also fully shares, the concern that has been shown by the hon. member in moving the adjournment motion. It has highlighted this particular problem, and the House should be more careful in this respect so far as the placing of the report on the Table of the House is concerned. It is a sort of constitutional obligation, and we must also be very vigilant about it. To that extent there was some validity in his adjournment motion, but now after clarifying the position I disallow it.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा निवेदन सुन लीजिए। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे मित्र जार्ज फरनेंडीज ने जो बात रखी है जो प्रस्ताव रखा है मैं उसके समर्थन में दो बातें कहना चाहता हूँ . . .

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Excuse me. Already I have disallowed. There is no debate. You can speak later on and say whatever you have got to say. There cannot be any debate after I have disallowed it. How is it possible? You will get an opportunity.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (उज्जैन) मैं दूसरी बात कहना चाहता हूँ उनके प्रस्ताव के बारे में नहीं कहना चाहता . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : अभी नहीं।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : मैं यह समझूँ कि मैं व्यवस्था उठाऊँ तब बोलने दूँगे।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : जरूर बोलने देंगे।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : जो मैं व्यवस्था कर सकूँ उठाता हूँ।

उपस्थान नही देय : अभी नहीं । आपको
भाग मौका मिलेगा ।

Shri B. Shankaranand (Chikodi): I agree that you have disallowed the adjournment motion. What I say is that the Deputy-Speaker could not uphold the delay that has happened at the hands of the government or the Business Advisory Committee.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: For want of time, we are collectively responsible, not individually.

An hon. Member: You need not apportion blame here.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I have not apportioned the blame.

If at all blame has to be shared, it has to be shared by all. Delay has taken place. Please resume your seat.

Shri R. D. Bhandare (Bombay Central): You have ruled it out of order because the matter was discussed before the Business Advisory Committee and you said that there was no time and therefore the Report of the S.C. and S.T. Commissioner could not be discussed. It is a reflection on the working of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no question of any reflection. We put on the order paper certain items. Suddenly a privilege issue is raised or an adjournment motion is allowed. There are such contingencies. We cannot conclude. But it is not failure of this Parliament or of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs but collectively of all of us. I appreciate that we should be more vigilant about this.

Shri R. D. Bhandare: With the utmost possible respect, if we are to say that the Business Advisory Committee had no time :

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Business Advisory Committee recommended

time and it was placed on the order paper and yet we could not discuss it. I am not apportioning blame now.

Shri R. D. Bhandare: I am on a different point.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: You can make your point later on.

Shri Nanja Gowder (Nilgiris): Sir I rise to speak on the Commissioner's report for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes for the years 1964-65 and 1965-66. The co-ordinating committees of the States had not met even once during the year 1964-65 and some of them do not meet even for two or more years. From panchayats to Parliament, seats have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and there are representatives of these people in all the bodies. As per the Constitution the reservation shall cease to have effect from 1970 which date in my view should be extended by some more years.

16.09 hrs.

[**SHRI G. S. DHILLON** in the Chair]

Untouchability still exists in many parts of the country in some way or the other and this evil should be eradicated and rooted out as early as possible. From 1955 to 1964, 4540 cases under the untouchability offences act of 1955 had been registered. Out of that, 1,271 cases are still pending disposal and only 1,055 cases have been convicted. In every sphere of activity, the amount earmarked in the five year Plans has not been fully expended and this shows the negligence of the administration. Out of the amount actually spent, a substantial sum has been appropriated by middlemen and only a very meagre amount has reached the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by way of development schemes, etc.

It has been stated at page 63 of the report that much land is not likely to become available through

[Shri Nanja Gowder]

the imposition of ceilings on personal holdings because transfers circumventing the laws pertaining to land reforms have taken place on a considerable scale in various States, but wasteland, wherever available, may be distributed to the local Scheduled Tribes people to the extent feasible.

In this connection, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the assignment of lands to the Thodas, Kurumbas, etc., of the Nilgiris District, from where I come, who are in a few hundreds, and who are the original inhabitants of these hills, and I request the Government to give them permanent assignment which is now being denied for reasons untenable.

As regards housing, it is a matter of regret that no amount has been allocated to the Madras State during 1964-65, though there has been a Plan provision for about Rs. 39.80 lakhs for housing of scavengers and sweepers. However, in the State sector, a sum of Rs. 25.43 lakhs has been expended, out of a Plan outlay of Rs. 40 lakhs. This is quite inadequate. The houses which have been constructed for them are far from satisfactory. Concluding, I suggest that honest and earnest efforts should be made for the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by the Centre as well as the States.

Shri P. R. Thakur (Nabadwip):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had a substitute motion, but that has been transformed into an amendment. I do not understand the reason why it has been made into an amendment. My motion was:

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House, having considered the 14th and 15th Reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes for the years 1964-65 and 1965-66, laid on the Table of the House on the 30th

March, 1967 and 8th June, 1967, respectively, places on record its general approval and acceptance of the recommendations contained therein and calls upon the Central Government, State Governments, Union territories and other administrative agencies to adopt them and to carry them out with determination and promptitude. The House is also of opinion that a standing Parliamentary Committee be set up with full investigatory powers to look after the safeguards for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes."

This was my motion and I gave notice of it.

What I want to lay stress upon is that the office of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is an independent statutory office. But we have been seeing for the last 15 years or so that the Government is trying to make it subordinate to the Home Ministry. But that is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of India. They have issued a circular to the effect that this organisation has been changed and the post of the Deputy Commissioner in the States has been abolished. But this has been done, keeping us in the dark. We thought that the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with his organisation as it stands would be able to keep contact with the States, so that all the Governments of the States would cooperate with the Centre and the improvement of Scheduled Castes and Tribes might be affected within a short time.

I do not understand what the Ministry means by "taking note" of the reports of the Commissioner. What is the Minister going to do about the recommendations and suggestions incorporated in the two reports? Nothing has been said about it. We are asked to take note of it.

But where is the guarantee that these will be actually implemented and the improvement of the Scheduled Castes and Tribes will be accelerated? Up-till 1959, the official motion was that "the Reports be taken into consideration". But afterwards, it has come down to "take note of" the reports! Why this change? Constitutionally, it is wrong. What do you mean by taking note of it? The decision on the recommendations should be taken here in the House so that there is a guarantee that these recommendations and suggestions will be implemented. But nothing of the kind is there. My substitute motion should, therefore, be approved by the House and the state of things regarding "take note of" should be given up; and, as in the case of the PAC and Estimates Committee, "action taken reports" should be placed before us.

From the very beginning the Government adopted an unconstitutional procedure in regard to the Parliamentary discussions of the Commissioner's report. Initially the Government used to move a simple motion to the effect that the Report "be taken into consideration" and the motion as such was adopted at the end of the discussion. Since 1959 the official motion has been further diluted to the effect that the House 'takes note' of the Report and its formal adoption in that very form. This obviously means that the Parliament has nothing to do with taking a 'decision' by way of accepting or rejecting the recommendations and suggestions of the Commissioner. The Government is left with the full discretion to do whatever it likes with the Commissioner's report. Even in the case of the Estimates Committee or Public Accounts Committee Reports, there is a regular follow-up in the shape of 'Action Taken Reports' thereon; but in regard to the Commissioner's report constitutionally placed before Parliament there is not even that check. This is a highly undesirable procedure that must be changed. The Parliament will have to take its decision on the Commis-

sioner's annual reports in the form of a substantive resolution, and the Government will have no other discretion but to fully implement them. There is no guarantee in the motion that is going to be adopted that the Government will do anything regarding these recommendations.

I want to make the following suggestions about reorganising the office under the Commissioner. The Commissioner's organisation must not only be given a really independent status with clearly defined and codified powers, responsibility and jurisdiction of actions but this organisation as existing before the present reorganisation should be further strengthened and systematised on the wrong plea of incompatibility of his functions, for which the Government was solely responsible, he must not be deprived of his regional organisation which, on the other hand, require to be further strengthened for his effective functioning. He should be given all the powers and responsibility of the U.S. President's Committee on Equal Employment Opportunity and should develop all the important working devices of that Committee.

Secondly, the departmental organisation of the newly expanded office of the Director General of Backward Classes Welfare should be abolished forthwith. The officers of this organisation should rather be posted in the various executive departments as Enforcement Policy Officers under directives from the Commissioner.

Thirdly, in place of the departmental organisation, a standing committee or commission, on the pattern of the U.S. Commission on Equal Employment Opportunity, should be set up as a statutory body.

Fourthly, both the Commissioner's organisation as well as the newly proposed committee or commission should henceforth be wholly or predominantly manned by the officers and representatives belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

[Shri P. R. Thakur]

Fifthly, a separate Ministry should immediately be created to deal with all the matters concerning the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Tribes, instead of the present practice of various matters being dealt with in different ministries or departments without any overall responsibility with anybody. The Ministry may be for a temporary period of say ten or fifteen years on the pattern of the Rehabilitation Ministry that worked on an emergency basis. It should also undertake the functions that are required on the pattern of the U.S. Judicial Department. That is the only department which looks after whether the various other departments as well as the States are doing the right thing or not.

I am constrained to state that I am making these observations and suggestions after a good deal of thought and survey of happenings so far, and I want to make it absolutely clear to the Government that unless they are prepared to consider these proposals in a dispassionate and non-political manner and decide the basic issues once for all, I find it purposeless to have anything to do with whatever schemes they may try to experiment with just to befool the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. I hope Government will see reason and act accordingly even at this late stage.

As regards the Commissioner's recommendations, I do not think any of the recommendations has been carried out fully and carefully. There are lots of recommendations. The report has made many recommendations as regards educational advancement of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. But I think this Ministry or this Department under which this Commission is functioning has done very little to improve the educational status of these people. There should be more schools, matric or higher secondary schools, in various places for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes. In this report there is mention of sainik schools. It is recommended very strongly that sainik schools should be

started in the areas where Scheduled Castes and Tribes are more in number. In West Bengal, which is a border province, there is only one sainik school at Purulia. I think there should be another one in the 24 Parganas district just on the eastern border where lots of Scheduled Castes and Tribes live. They are able-bodied people, they can join the military and in this way the Bengalis can be turned into a martial race to protect border from East Pakistan. In this respect, we drew the attention of Government, but Government turned a deaf ear to our proposals. As regards reservation in services, it is very important that the rule about 12½ per cent reservation in all services be observed by the Government. It is a matter of regret that it is not observed, either in the States or in the Centre. Only today morning there was a question on this subject when the Home Minister said that there was no question of reservation for the vacancies. Then what is the meaning of 12½ per cent reservation for Scheduled Castes and 5 per cent reservation for Scheduled Tribes? I do not understand it. You can solve this question only by giving priority to these people in the matter of appointment, before others are appointed in the different offices.

Many people seem to think that the problem of Scheduled Castes and Tribes is a communal problem and, therefore, they discourage the promotion of schemes meant for them. I would say that it is very wrong. It is a national problem; a problem both for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes as well as for others. So, it should be solved in a national way. That is why the post of Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes has been created under the Constitution to safeguard the political interests of these people. For safeguarding their political interests, they must be represented in services, local bodies and legislatures, in fact everywhere in proportion to their population so that they

will have equal status in all spheres of life. Until political consciousness is infused in these people, you cannot do away with reservation in services and legislatures. Political consciousness is the highest state of consciousness for a man living in society. Because of the absence of political consciousness, people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are suffering from depression, which is writ large on their foreheads. They cannot make any progress. We have seen the rise and fall of empires and kingdom in the history of India but the lot of the Scheduled Castes has never been improved or changed. I hope the Government will take steps to implement the recommendations that have been made in these two reports *in toto* and will do whatever is necessary for the improvement of the lot of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes without further delay.

Shri S. M. Solanki (Gandhinagar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am a new member of this House and this is my first chance to speak in English. Also, this is the first time I am speaking on the subject of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I am very glad that I have started my speech with this subject of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Although there are so many burning questions in India today, but the question of Scheduled Castes is not a burning question. With the devaluation of the Indian currency the question of Scheduled Castes has now been devalued. India cherishes profound respect for peace, justice, mutual understanding, tolerance and also creative growth for all the nations and all the people of this world. But I think India is lacking in mutual understanding. We believe in secularism. But it is curious to say that we, Indian people, believe in sectarianism and we are not going to solve the problem of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We believe in Caste system, which has been rooted deeply in the minds of the people. If in the 18th year of the Indian Republic

we are not going to solve this problem, it is a sorry thing for us. No doubt, government is taking some steps to solve this problem to some extent but they are not enough.

Mr. Chairman: We have to take up some other discussion now, because it is 4.30 P.M. He will continue his speech tomorrow.

Shri Sheo Narain (Basti): He is leaving Delhi tomorrow.

Mr. Chairman: We have to take up some other motion now. So, he can continue the next day.

16.30 hrs.

MOTION RE. POLICE FORCES (RESTRICTION OF RIGHTS) RULES

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Shri S. M. Banerjee (Kanpur): Sir, I beg to move....

श्री शिव नारायण (बस्ती) : उपध्यक्ष महोदय, हम ठीक छः वजह उठ जावेंगे ।

श्री मधु लिमये (मुंगेर) : इन को क्या तकलीफ है ?

Shri Sheo Narain: You must regulate the House. We are not going to tolerate it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: With your cooperation, certainly.

Shri Sheo Narain: We will not say a single word.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, may I ask you whether Shri Sheo Narain is the marshal of the Congress Party?

श्री मधु लिमये : बहुत अच्छे और भले प्रादमी हैं ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He is one of the most alert Member of the House.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Sir, I beg to move:

"This House resolves that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of