

Even thirtyeight years after independence, we are seeing glimpses of this slavery in many parts of the country, e.g. in Hyderabad and Madras cities. There, pulling of man by man in rickshaws is allowed. It is nothing but slavery. Is the Government prepared to ban this evil practice, and to rehabilitate these rickshaw-pullers, by financing them through banks, i.e. to buy auto rickshaws to eke out their livelihood ?

MR. SPEAKER : Auto-rickshaws ?

SHRI T. ANJIAH : That is a separate question.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : I seek your protection, Sir. It concerns manual labour.

MR. SPEAKER : Next question.

**Implementation of Acts Relating to Abolition of Intermediary Tenures**

\*369. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been invited to the news item published in 'Business Standard' dated 23 June, 1985 that Government has finally admitted that core of the anti-poverty programme (redistributive land reforms) has not made much headway and the bulk of the rural poor remain as they were without any land ;

(b) whether according to the survey made by the department of Rural Development, there are some States which have not fully implemented the Acts relating to abolition of intermediary tenures ; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c), No survey has been done by the Department of Rural Development. However, according to the reports received from States/Union Territories, intermediary tenures of devasthan inams in Maharashtra, certain service jagirs in Orissa and comunidades in Goa, Daman & Diu have not yet been abolished and residuary work in the implementation of abolition of intermediary rights remains in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Pondicherry.

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : None of the anti-poverty programmes would be successful unless these are integrated with schemes to create income-generating assets for the rural poor. The hon. Minister has answered part (a) of my question. He has admitted that there is not much headway in regard to land-reforms. What are the reasons for this and what was the target in the 6th Plan (State-wise break-up) and the cases of land pending in the courts ? Is the Central Government thinking of appropriate for proper monitoring mechanism for periodical review with some directives and directions to the State Governments in this regard ?

S. BUTA SINGH : First of all, I share the remarks of the hon. member that unless we tackle this basic problem of our rural society, namely, the implementation of land-reforms strictly, no worthwhile progress can be achieved in the implementation of 20-point programme or alleviation of poverty. While inaugurating the Conference of the Revenue Ministers, I made this observation :

"If we look at the agrarian scene, we have to admit that measures of land-reforms taken so far have not given result which was expected to be achieved."

Regarding the target fixed for the 6th Five Year Plan we had hoped that the States which did not have legislative provision for the conferment of ownership

right on all the tenants except for specially exempted categories such as serving Defence personnel, miners, disabled, etc. shall have introduced appropriate legislative measures to do so within a year that is by 1981-82.

The second programme was for taking possession and distribution of surplus land would be completed within two years that is by 1982-83. The priority in allotment of surplus land would be given to SC&ST among the landless. The third was that a systematic programme would be taken up for compilation and updating of land records to be phased for completion within a period of five years that is upto 1980-85 in States where the backlog was heavy. Aerial survey technique may be employed for expeditious survey operation. Each cultivator would be given a pass book indicating his status, title to land, description of land which will include area and the class of land also along with a copy of *khasra* map and such other details as are considered necessary for the implementation of these land-reforms. Appropriate provision will be made in the revenue laws to confer legal status on this document as proof of title and the right in land, I mean pass book. The text target was that the programme of consolidation of holdings would be taken up by all the States phased for completion in ten years with priority to be given to command area of irrigation projects where it would be completed within 3-5 years. Legislative measures for preventing fresh fragmentation of holdings after consolidation below minimum size would also be implemented. These are the targets fixed. If in a nutshell I were to give to the hon. House the implementation, it will be seen that in the Sixth Five Year Plan, 81 per cent of the surplus land was taken possession of and 62 per cent of the declared surplus land was distributed.

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK**

Was any survey conducted as to how many States and Union Territories have not yet abolished intermediary tenures and if any survey has been made, which are those States and what steps is the Government of India going to take ?

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has already given it.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** As I have stated in the beginning, no such survey has been conducted by the Government of India as such. But we depend largely on the surveys and the statistics provided to us by the State Governments themselves. Under the existing legal provisions, the States which have not fully implemented them are Orissa where certain service jagirs have not be abolished, and Goa, Damand and Diu where some *comunidades* have not been abolished. There are legal impediments and also, the provisions remain unimplemented in various States and Union Territories like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Pondicherry and Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

**SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the work relating to distribution of land among the landless Adivasis and Harijans in rural areas had picked up in 1976-77. Many Adivasis and Harijans were allotted land under the 20-Point Programme and thereafter they were given lease of land, but 50 to 60 per cent of them have not been able to get possession of land. Of them, some cases are pending before the courts. In some States, the local people do not allow them to get possession of land. Although it is a State subject, will the hon. Agriculture Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister try to accelerate the speed of this programme ?

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Yes Sir, certainly.

[English]

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** In view of the very large number of litigations coming in the way of implementing the land reforms, is the Government considering the question of putting the land reforms laws on the Ninth Schedule in order to protect the poor landholders ?

**S. BUTA SINGH :** As you know, this is primarily a State subject and we are taking it up with the various State

Governments, where the implementation has been tardy. We are taking up with them at my level with the Chief Ministers and the Secretary is taking up with the Chief Secretaries. This is a suggestion and I will be too happy if this suggestion were to be accepted.

**Mushroom Cultivation in States under Centrally Sponsored Scheme**

\*370. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Mushroom cultivation has been taken up in some States under centrally sponsored scheme ;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such scheme has been launched ;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to extend Mushroom cultivation to some more States in 1985-86 ; and

(d) if so, the name of the States identified and funds earmarked for Mushroom cultivation in 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal for any Centrally Sponsored Scheme for extension of mushroom cultivation in the States. However, a project has been prepared for assistance from Netherlands Government for promotion of mushroom cultivation in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Karnataka. The proposed assistance from Netherlands Government is for an amount of 37.50 lakh Dutch Guilders (about Rs. 1.25 crores) with the States' contribution of Rs. 1.44 crores for a period of four years.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Mushrooms are rich in food value as

they provide certain nutrients like proteins minerals and vitamins. In view of this mushroom cultivation should be encouraged. No extensive cultivation has so far been made and some times we find that even in some mushroom-growing States the production of mushroom falls steep. However, the hon. Minister has replied that a project has been prepared with the help of the Netherlands Government in four States. It has not been extended to other States. In some areas like Chora Nagpur Plateau in Bihar, and Gonasika and Samlipur Foothills of Orissa and Midnapore and other areas of West Bengal there is tremendous scope for mushroom cultivation. I would like to know, what the strategy of the Government is to encourage cultivation of mushrooms, at least from the laboratory to the farm. Is there any model demonstration and training centre for large scale operations ? Is there any high technology mushroom production centre in the country ? If so, may I know with the help of these, whether the production has gone up in the last five years ?

S. BUTA SINGH : The hon. lady Member has raised a very important question. There is no doubt that mushroom is a highly skilled cultivation... (*Interruptions*). I am going to tell the hon. House the main constraints in growing mushroom. They are : Inadequate knowledge of mushroom cultivation among the cultivators ; insufficient supply of compost to the growers. It requires heavy investment on equipment, buildings, transport, etc ; lack of infrastructure for handling and transporting of mushroom to distant markets ; cost of cultivation of mushroom is very high due to composting and low productivity. Therefore, the demand for this is confined to comparatively well off sections of society.

As Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad was saying, it goes only to a few hotels...

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I said that there was skill required in eating and not growing.

S. BUTA SINGH : A part of it is also exported.