

MR. CHAIRMAN: No; in any case we are not going to finish this item today. So, there is no point in allowing one Member to speak now.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up the Private Members' Business.

15.35 hrs.

[English]

**Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions
Thirty-Sixth Report**

DR. VISHWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 15th December, 1994."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-sixth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 15th December, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

15.36 hrs.

[English]

**Resolution Re: Enlargement of functions of National
Commission for Backward Classes—Contd.**

MR. CHAIRMAN: We now take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri R. Anbarasu. Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, six hours have been allotted for it and five hours have passed now. Therefore, the reply of the hon. Minister should be fixed for 4 o'clock so that he concludes by 4.30 p.m.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman has already started Private Members' Resolution.....(Interruptions).

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: What is wrong Madam. I do not understand what is wrong. I am saying that one more hour has been extended and it should finish by 4.30 p.m. That is what I am saying.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The balance time is 58 minutes, we can see after that.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, I rise to support the Private Members' Resolution moved by Shri R. Anbarasu on 5 August, 1994. In this Resolution he has said that the National Commission for Backward Classes

be empowered to suggest ways and means for the development and to monitor various welfare schemes of the Central Government for other backward classes and that a Parliamentary Committee be constituted to consider the reports of the Commission.

Sir, I fully endorse the views expressed by the hon. Member because though our Government has constituted this National Commission for Backward Classes and other commissions like National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, National Commission for Minorities, in reality the problem is that the advantage which the people should get, are not getting as it is not reaching the grass-root level. That is why my suggestion to the hon. Minister would be that there must be a monitoring committee to monitor whatever funds Central Government is spending on programmes like 15 Point Programme for Minorities, developmental programmes for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as well as for other backward classes so that it can be seen as to whether the funds are being utilised properly or not. So, may I suggest that a Parliamentary Committee be constituted to look into such grievances?

Sir, it is a fact that Government have already reserved 27 per cent quota for OBCs as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. But, there are some other backward classes, in different States, who have not yet been covered. They have not been published in the list for the Other Backward Classes. As a result of which they are now deprived of the benefits. Therefore, may I request the Minister to look into this matter and find out as to how many State Governments have already published the list for OBCs and how many have not published this list up till now so that they can get the opportunities according to the Government policies?

Sir, though there are so many programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes I have seen in areas like Midnapore, Zoo and Jhargram that the tribal people do not eat rice for 11 months out of 12 months. I visited these areas without the knowledge of the administration so that people can speak frankly and can tell their grievances.

For 11 months, they do not eat rice because they do not get it. They only eat some Kukura, some type of orange, some type of forest fruit. I have visited the whole Jharkhand area in Midnapore, Bankura, Purulia and Hooghly districts. I know the problem of Bihar also. In Bihar also, there is a long-standing demand for Jharkhand people that there should be some special autonomous council for the Jharkhand people. I think, the demand is very genuine. Wherever they people are living below the poverty line—whether it may be in Bihar, in Orissa, in Andhra Pradesh, in West Bengal or in other parts of the country—they should be helped. Even whatever the grievances the people of Uttarakhand are having, you will appreciate that we have to look after them in a very sensitive manner.

I have a personal opinion on this because I have visited North Bengal also. In North Bengal, for Darjeeling, our Government has given Autonomous Council. But Siliguri is the gate way of Northeastern region. Seventy per

cent of the people belong to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward classes. But there is no communication. They do not get the development funds. You know the Panchayat system. If the Panchayats belong to the ruling Party only, they will get the advantage. If they do not belong to the ruling Party they will not get the advantage.

There is Indira Awas Yojana. What is going on in this? Sometimes the State Government hand over houses to the poor people but they have not been given permanent lease deed or *patta*. After the elections, they are going to change the ownership of houses to other people. This is going on.

We have so many programmes like IRDP, NREP, RLEGP, DRDA, self-employment scheme, Indira Awas Yojana, Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, Nehru Rozgar Yojana, Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana. But due to lack of monitoring, implementation is so poor that the poor people are not getting the advantage. That is why, I request the Minister to see the matter seriously. The other backward classes should get proper share. Of course, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have got the reservation. But you find out from different sources, how many people have got appointment; how many people have not got it. They are deprived of because there is no monitoring system from the Government itself.

I want to speak for the minorities also. You have to implement the 15-point programme. But can you tell me, how many States are utilising the funds for the minorities; how many States are not utilising the funds? In my State particularly, there is no programme at all for minorities. If the State does not utilise the fund, the Central Government cannot get that fund utilised through the non-Governmental organisations, through voluntary organisations for the benefits of the people. The Government has the policy. But the Government is not utilising these funds due to lack of monitoring. That is why, I urge upon the Minister to view the matter seriously. Minorities also have the feelings. But they are neglected; they are not getting proper advantage.
...(Interruptions)

Even for the minorities, I tell you, there is the 15-point programme. The Government has already started the joint ventures like Minorities Development Corporation, Finance Corporation. It is a joint venture between the Central Government and the State Government. You had stated that only four States had agreed, namely Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. What about other States? Why have they not agreed? If they do not agree, then the Central Government should send funds to the non-Governmental organisation, NGOs.

NGOs can work for them because we have Nehru Yuvak Kendras. We have the Voluntary organisation for social work, for development work. You can send it to all of them. The people's money should be utilised properly. It should not be destroyed.

Please look at the background of the sectors like industry, agriculture, business and education. How much

have they developed? You have to see that also. It does not mean that Government has to implement some schemes and Government has to prepare some plan of action. If this plan of action is not properly utilised, people will have no faith in the Government.

My request to the hon. Minister is that this is not a simple question. If the people are neglected, they will have genuine grievances. What is going on in Uttarakhand and Jharkhand movements? In North Bengal also, I know the Kamrupi movement and other movements have already started.

In Assam, Karbialong people are also asking for autonomous council. In western Orissa also, this movement has started.

I think it will be better if Government called a NDC meeting exclusively to talk to the Chief Ministers and ask them what are the problems of the State, specially from the backward classes, minorities. SC/STs and economically backward classes point of view. If the State Governments agree Central Government can ask them to set up the autonomous council for the elected people and specially for backward classes and for the SCs/STs, so that they can start their development on their own. They should not feel that they are neglected.

On Jharkhand, our Government has agreed for the self-autonomous council but so far as my knowledge goes, their Government has not agreed. Let them have their accord also.

In Tamil Nadu, they have reserved 69 per cent. The Bill has been passed in Tamil Nadu Assembly also.

If there is any need for autonomous council, I would certainly urge for the Uttarakhand and Jharkhand areas and for Jhargran, Bankura, Purulia, Karbialong area in Assam and for Western Orissa and for other parts of the country also where genuine grievances are there. Government has to look into the genuine grievances. If you do not look into them, another Darjeeling and another Kashmir problem may crop up.

If you neglect the people, people will not tolerate. I think it is better to look after the grievances of the people properly because we are not a cadreless party. We are a mass-based Party. We are the representatives of this House. We are the people's representatives.

We have to look after the people's grievances from our own interest. There should be no petty Party politics in this matter.

I personally ask you that you look into the matter seriously. Annabhai has suggested that the Parliament Committee should be set up. I think it is a very good proposal. The Government should accept it and see that proper monitoring and proper implementation of the funds is made.

I want to add that you should please add 'other backward classes' also. 'Minorities' does not mean one particular section but it means the minorities who are really minorities but who are economically backward and who are not getting any opportunities. Of course, Government is giving money. This money is going half to the grassroots and half to the middlemen's pockets. It is

the duty of the hon. Minister to look into this. Hon. Minister is efficient enough and he will tackle the problem seriously. Please let us know the details in this regard. Whatever matters I raised for autonomous council for Jharkhand and Uttarakhand and other areas, please look into the matters seriously so that people will be knowing at least that they are not neglected and they have the people's Government and that people's Government will work for them.

With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri R. Anbarasu for moving the resolution. By moving the resolution, he has initiated a discussion in this House. With regard to giving more powers to National Commission for Backward Classes, it has been said that a Parliamentary Committee may be constituted to consider its future report. I support this contention.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the first thing is that the funds made available for the welfare of the backward classes and the scheduled castes and tribes do not really reach to them. This should be considered upon. Big schemes have been launched for bringing the poor above the poverty line. Certain bank rules and regulations have been relaxed for them and the landless poor have been given land. many times, the Hon'ble Minister presented the figures before the House as to how many thousands of crores of rupees have been spent on it. But the expenditure so made was not evaluated for its appropriation to see whether the targetted person was really lifted above the poverty line or it was done on papers alone. Let me make it clear here that in Jahanabad in Bihar, the place I come from, the banks gave away a lot of money to the poor but in reality it went into some selected hands who became millionaires. If Rs. 5000 were to be distributed to each poor, he was given things worth Rs. 2000 only at a cost of Rs. 5000 and the poor man was fed up with feeding his cattle things of Rs. 2000. That was of no avail to him whereas loud-speakers were used for the business. What an irony on the part of the Government that adulterated batteries were supplied which were of no use to the poor. This way funds are being squandered away in the name of the poor. The poor can not be uplifted if this predatory instinct continues to dominate. Unless such diabolic economic adventures, be it the sugar scandal or any other scam, are checked and financial marauders kept in place in our country nothing is going to change the fate of the poor even if thousands of millions of rupees are spent in their name. If it were otherwise, then discontentment would not have been generated among them.

Economic imbalance is the main reason behind this discontentment among the poor. There can be no gainsaying on the fact that the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have made progress after the Independence. They gave us many bureaucrats but they formed their own circle. The funds or any other facilities like reservation etc. reach them only.

The Government must conduct a survey as to who are being benefited by the reservation. The condition of those backward castes continues to be miserable. The Supreme Court has justified the provision of reservation for them. But what benefit will they get if there is no school, or no good teachers for them and the teachers do not go to the villages where the children of this class of people study? There was so much blood-shed due to the Mandal Commission. But what did they achieve from it? This will benefit only the Members of parliament for legislative Assembly or the high officers. If the Government really intends to benefit the poor and the persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, good arrangement has to be made for their education. But today there is no such facility for them.

Today a new trend has been introduced in education all over the country. Private schools have been opened everywhere today. Such schools have been opened in rural areas also. In such circumstances what is the standing of Government run Schools. But the question is as to where would the children of the 99 per cent people of rural areas, who are engaged in agriculture and manual labour, will go for studies? I fail to understand how would the Government implement plans made for the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes. The Government should set a monitoring committee therefor so that the performance of these plans is evaluated in real sense. Again the Government may claim that it has spent money. Of course, the Government has spent money. But it is being spent on a handful of the people. Today the youth belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward Classes are getting organised and equipping themselves with arms. Murders and rapes have become order of the day in my area. What is this going on?

AN. HON. MEMBER: Your party is in power there.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Not only in Bihar, in Maharashtra, Kerala—everywhere such incidents are taking place.

It's mainly due to economic inequality. If the Government improves their economic status, their social status they will also rise and they will no more be subjected to atrocity. Until and unless their economic status is raised, no law can bring about any change.

You have ruled this region uninterruptedly. I would like to tell you that in Chhotanagpur which is in the Jharkhand region, the women, and especially the tribal women carry their 2 or 4 month children on their back and set out for work. In the prevailing state of affairs how can they remain patriotic? Still they have patriotism. On the other hand there are such unscrupulous elements who are exploiting the nation to serve their vested interests who are busy in selling out the security of the country to our foes. The poor alone can fight and sacrifice for the cause of the country. The Government makes tall claims of making welfare schemes for the poor and says that it works for them. But what is it actually doing for the poor?

I went on a tour to Orissa with my team. I found that boiled root of a plant resembling onion—was being fed to

the small children. On the one hand the dogs are being fed with cream, on the other hand these children, the helmsmen of the country are being fed with things unfit for human consumption. If such disparity continues, by and large, it will prove detrimental to the society a whole.

16.00 hrs.

What is the reason that people are being all the more isolated from the main stream? Now it is the high time that the Government should wake up. The youth of the country must be brought into the national mainstream. First, the Government should make proper arrangement for schools in rural areas for their education. It may be pleaded that it is the responsibility of the State Government. I admit it. But it should be noted that when the poor resort to agitation and cut off from the mainstream to the nation, the Centre sends army to suppress them which opens fire on them.

I, therefore, would like to request the Government that the funds allocated for the poor should reach them. Today, the middle-men and the officers defalcate the funds before they reach the grass root level, and the result is that the poor continue to remain poor, the illiterate continue to remain illiterate. To conclude with, I request the Government to look into this matter and it should not be confined to speech or discussion only. Action should also be taken in this regard. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I welcome the Resolution introduced by hon. Shri Anbarasu. This Resolution has been introduced before the House at a very opportune time. But it seems that the Government is not very serious to resolve the problems of backward castes. There is great difference between their action and speech. We must look into the assignments entrusted to the Commission appointed for the Backward Class people. The work they have not been assigned should have already been completed quite long back. Regarding the function of the Commission only this much has been stated:

[English]

"The Commission shall examine the request of inclusion of any class of citizen as a backward class in the list and hear complaints of over inclusion or under inclusion of any backward classes in such list and tender such advice to the Central Government as it deems appropriate."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my submission is that all the commissions for Backward classes set up after attaining Independence have made the same suggestions. Had the Government a clear intention, this Commission would have enjoyed all those facilities which are being availed by the Commission for the Welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the Commission on women and the minority Commission. Thus this commission should have been given all such facilities. The only task that this commission has been assigned is to identify the castes and decide whether they should be included in or excluded from the list of backward Classes.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to point out that till no

many States have identified such castes. The complex process of notification starts after they are identified. But no time-limit has been stipulated therefor—The hon. Minister is present in the House. My request is that a time-limit should be fixed for this purpose and it should be seen as to which States have not completed the identification work so far and by when they will complete the proceedings related to issuance of notifications. So long as the first stage of this task is not completed, how can the work of second stage of the task be undertaken in true sense?

Many of my hon. colleagues referred to various commissions that they are not being utilised properly. Of course, the funds are allocated to them but the persons for whom the funds are earmarked, do not reach them. Under the present arrangements made for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the present procedure in rural areas the entire money reaches only the handful of persons. They use that money at their own sweet will. Now what is essential is that the use of funds released from here should be monitored properly and it must be ensured that maximum persons are benefited from these plans.

So far as I understand, the people of backward classes have always been neglected. We have been demanding continuously for several years in Lok Sabha that the Other Backward Classes should also be given reservation in UPSC examinations, but our demand was not met. Now the quota facility has been given to them but they have not been given other facilities due to them. For example, they were given age-relaxation for appearing at various examinations conducted by the UPSC. But when the hon. Members of Parliament raised their voice and pressure was mounted on the Government from other various quarters also, the notification was issued later on. Since the notification was issued after one month, how could the students prepare for their examination because the Main examination has perhaps started from yesterday itself. My demand is that the hon. Minister should have given clear cut guidelines regarding age-relaxations.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, provision of reservation should be made in all educational institutions, but the Government is not thinking on that line. The advertisement for joint entrance examination for engineering has been published. Application forms are being filled up therefor and the examination will be held in 1995. The provision of reservation has been mentioned therein, but there is no mention of reservation for the Other backward Classes. How would it be done? The future of candidates belonging to the OBC has not yet been decided, by the Government.

The people belonging to the Other Backward Classes live in rural areas. They often come to me. Some days ago a delegation came to see me. The Government has done nothing for the welfare of the Agricultural Scientists belonging to the OBC in rural areas. I would like to point out that no reservation was provided for the OBC candidates in the ARS examination conducted in October, 1994. The Government does not fulfil its commitment made here.

Therefore, through you I would like to know from the Government as to whether reservation will be provided or

not to the candidates of O.B.C. appearing for Engineering Examination to be held in 1995 for which the forms are being filled these days and to the scientists working in the field of agricultural will also be given the facility of reservation or not? On the one hand the Government speaks in favour of giving facilities and on the other hand commissions are constituted one after another and the people belonging to the OBC's are not given the facility of reservation, then how they will be benefited. The declaration for providing reservation for the O.B.C.'s in the Engineering Examination of 1995 of I.T.I. should be done now, only then they will get its benefit. Though, I would not like to speak much on this subject, yet I want to say that though the Government gives assurance here in the House but does not implement it.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the whole of the country is demanding to make Uttrakhand a separate State but it is not being implemented. The Supreme Court had in its verdict given 15—20 years back directed the Government to declare the whole Uttrakhand region a backward area and to prepare policies accordingly for its upliftment but the Government did not pay any attention to it. Today, the Government says on each and every issue that it will follow the decision of the Court but the Government could not abide by the direction of the Court, given 15—20 years back. It seems from this attitude of the Government that it takes much interest in complicating the problems instead of solving these. Had the decision of the Supreme Court been implemented earlier, the problem of Uttrakhand would not have come up.

Mr. Chairman Sir, the whole of Uttrakhand region is hilly area. The hill areas have their own problems and those are different from others. The Government has not taken any step to solve these problems. Today the condition is that the disparity between the rural and urban life is increasing. Whereas the cities are making progress the villages are lagging behind and this gap is widening day by day. The Government must ponder over it as to what sort of society it wants to create. You must fix your targets and must ponder over that how this gap can be narrowed down and the schemes should be prepared accordingly.

Mr. Chairman Sir, there is a lot of difference between the children of the OBC's living in cities and villages. The Government will have to take it seriously as to how the educational standard of the children of OBC's can be elevated, how they can be uplifted by providing chances for medical and engineering education and how they can be sent abroad for giving them higher education.
(Interruptions)

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar): The people of your party create hurdles.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Ask them why they do not do this work. Our party has never stopped anyone involved in the upliftment of the backward people. It is your party only which speaks here for their upliftment but does not do anything. Ask them if the Supreme Court had not given the judgement. You are our senior colleague, you can ask them that the Supreme Court had given the verdict that the whole of the Uttrakhand should

be declared as a backward area and the Government should work for its upliftment, then why it was not done. Your party works to get votes only. Ask them why the reservation has not been given to the OBC's in the Engineering Examination, what is the provision of reservation for the agricultural scientists and what is being done for sending them to abroad for higher education. It is good that an hon. Member from the ruling party has brought this Bill. He might have kept it in mind that whatever has been done by them for the upliftment of these people, is not sufficient. Only then he might have felt the necessity to bring this Bill.

Mr. Chairman, with these words, I would like to submit at last that a number of commissions are being set up but nothing is being done for their proper management. Recently a Coal council has been set up. Arrangements are being made for funds for it but no arrangement is being done for the proper utilisation of this amount. This area is dominated by the people belonging to the Scheduled Tribes and it appears from the poor management and neglecting attitude of your Government that these people will not be able to get the money meant for them and all this amount will be pocketed by the officers and the employees and will be utilised by them for constructing their own houses. We are not sure whether this amount will reach in the hands of the needy people or not. Mostly the people belonging to the ruling party have spoken on it. It is unfortunate that at the time of the discussion on it the opposition had staged a walk out. All of them pointed out the lacunas in it. My submission is that the Government should ponder over it. If the intention of the Government is clear and it wants to solve the problems of the backward class people properly then these castes should be identified within a stipulated period. A uniformity should be brought and it should be pondered over accordingly. When the reservation was not given in the preliminary examination of the Union Public Service Commission only 12 per cent people could come. Later on when we raised the issue 15 per cent more were added. The percentage of people of the Other Backward Classes is more than 52 per cent and you are giving only 27 per cent reservation and the parity is not being maintained. Therefore, my submission is that reservation should be given immediately in the Engineering Examination and the reservation should also be given in the examination for Agricultural Scientists, only then our intention to give proper direction to the Backward Class people can be proved true.

I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: Mr. Chairman Sir, I am to say only 2-3 things. First of all I would like to urge upon the Congress Government that the Safai karamcharis should also be given pension. They sweep the roads, remove filth from there and do a good job but they do not get pension. Most of these are girls and women. When they are unable to work, they are compelled to beg.

Secondly the Harijans in the villages earn their wages only for two months, i.e. at the time of harvesting the crops of paddy. For the rest of the ten months they do not have any work. Then they rear the cattles. My submission is that

they should be given loan without interest to purchase cows and buffalows. Those, who do not repay the loan in time can be charged interest.

The other thing is that much is being talked about Harijans but nothing is being done for them. The people belonging to Congress Party know only to get votes. Some 15—20 days back the Welfare Minister belonging to the Scheduled Caste went to a city and then he visited a village. There, he addressed a public meeting and also talked to the people. I asked him how many children belonging to the Harijans go to school in Punjab. He told that 9 lakh children get scholarship. The population there is two crores and out of it 50 lakh people belong to the Scheduled Caste. The hon. Minister just listens and speaks, he does not know anything then what will he do. Only one lakh children belonging to Scheduled Caste get scholarship there, the 8 lakh children are of other castes, who get scholarship. My submission is that the Backward Class people and the Scheduled Caste people should get scholarship separately. There is a caste 'Kamov' in Punjab. Each of the person belonging to this caste has land and none is landless. They hate the Harijans. They do not take water from their wells and do not allow them to take water from their wells but they get the scholarships meant for Harijans. Separate amount should be allocated for the scholarship to the Backward Classes and the Scheduled Caste. Separate amount should be allocated for the school going children of the Scheduled Caste. The money is given from their account and it is said that 9 lakh children are given scholarship. It is very surprising. The real position is that the number of children belonging to Scheduled Caste mentioned as 9 lakh is not true. This data is false. Children of other caste are getting scholarships in the name of Scheduled Caste.

They cannot buy land to build houses. The land prices has gone up to Rs. 4-5 lakh per acre in Punjab. So people who are landless can not build houses. There is a harijan colony at Lahori Gate in Patiala and one Majari harijan colony of Dheeru, totalling to two harijan colonies. I used to visit that area some 50 years back and there was a socialist boy named Surat Ram who had later joined us. His house is located near the temple of Valmikies. There were 12 members in his family putting up in a room of 10×10 dimension. They had the same room 50 years back and they continue to live in the same room. His wife is a matriculate with second division, his sister is a first class matriculate and his son is a second class matriculate and Surat Ram's three children are studying but none of them has got an employment. There is no question of their getting any employment. They are sitting at home after completing their education and they are somehow managing with bits of works. The sweepers stake their claim on the roads where they have been assigned work and nobody else can enter exclusively their tract and these young job-seekers do not get employment elsewhere.

I say that when they have passed matriculation then why are they not employed. They state that Punjab does not have funds to provide them jobs. I have given only one example. Patiala city has been the capital of 8 princely States but the condition of Valmikies is deplorable there. They have no houses to live in. Most of them have families

of 12 members living in a single room. They somehow manage to get a room just enough to hide their heads. The Government should provide them lands and houses. The arrangements should be made for providing employment to their educated children.

Secondly, the land should be provided to them in the districts having surplus Government land. Punjab did a commendable job when the then Chief Minister Colonel Reghubir Singh provided the 50 thousand acres Government land to the harijans. At the time when Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon was the Chief Minister there was one lakh acre land lying unutilised which he gave away to harijans on a price 90 times of land revenue or Rs. 200 per acre. Now the Government should provide the remaining unused tracts of Government land to harijans. It will not harm Narasimha Raoji in any way. He can just say that the surplus land belongs to the harijans.

The main thing is that Congressmen even get annoyed with me. I do not say any such thing which might annoy anyone. I just want to request them with folded hands that we have been voting for them for the last 42 years. There are only two such communities in Punjab—Valmiki and Majahabi Ramdasiye. They cast votes in the favour of Congress and help it win the election but when a congress candidate comes to the village he sits with the menylender in his shop and collects some people there and goes to the Sarpanch and brings some voters in his fold. While passing a harijan area he thinks that since they already vote for him there is no need to go to them for canvassing. Those people do not even come to know the congress candidate but even then they have been voting for congress only.

Shri Satish Sharma listened to my request and now he has allotted some petrol pumps to them also in the cities. The reservations had been there for the harijans. When the petrol pumps are opened, the local jats come to collect diesel and petrol for the whole month but they do not pay for it. Please look into it. Wherever the petrol pumps are to be opened, these should be allotted to harijans and the gas agencies should also be given to harijans. The children of those harijans who do not understand this business, should be trained in this business. The uneducated children of harijans may not be given petrol pumps and gas agencies but their graduate children must be allotted petrol pumps and gas agencies.

You have allocated one lakh rupees to 'Panchas' and 'Sarpanchas' for rural reforms. I do not say that they have not used this amount on carrying out rural reforms but they have not improved the conditions of harijan areas. The 25 per cent of the total funds should be earmarked for improving the condition of harijan areas. The harijans are still living in filthy water and drains. They do not even have a 'dharamshala'. Earlier the Government had built a 'dharamshala' for them but now several 'basties' have sprung up. One dharamshala is not enough. There should be 2-3 'dharamshalas'. The Government should implement their decisions and fulfil their promises. With these words I thank you.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): In the first place,

let me congratulate Shri Anbarasu for bringing forward this Resolution. At the same time, I also congratulate our Government for having constituted the National Commission for Backward Classes. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you want to wind up. Not in case of that Bill.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: Next Resolution is very important. That should be taken up today itself. *(interruptions)*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will take the sense of the House.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Sir, the objectives of the Commission, the powers granted to the Commission are quite limited. To quote, Sir, the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, has been enacted to provide for setting up a permanent body at the Centre to recommend from time to time, inclusion or exclusion of any caste, communities from the list of OBC's. The recommendations of the Commission would be ordinarily binding on the Government. The Commission has been constituted on August, 14, 1993 with Justice R.N. Prasad (Retired) as the Chairperson.

The powers given to the Commission are very limited. We are dealing with the lot of the backward classes in our country which constitutes almost 50 to 55 per cent of the population of India. Most of these people are poor. We have a number of schemes under the Government of India and the State Government for improving the lot of the these people, basically to bring these people above the poverty line. We have to tackle the problems of the backward classes for which definitely we need reservation and also to deal with their economic problem, they have to be provided with employment, employment either in the Government concerns or industries or self-employment.

While dealing with another subject, our hon. Minister was categorical that the banks are giving assistance to the minorities. He was categorical when he said yesterday that wherever schemes are formulated by the Government and forwarded to the banks, the banks are financing. Maybe, to some extent, Sir, it is true. But the experience in my State, in my own district, is that wherever the schemes are formulated, persons are identified. Even the subsidy is earmarked today and the name of the applicant is sent to the bank.

But I am very sorry to observe that the banks are not providing adequate finance to these entrepreneurs. This happens not only in the case of the backward classes but also in the case of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. In case of SC and ST communities, corporations are coming forward to provide seed money. They are willing to provide the margin money also. It is for the banks to provide the balance which comes to 75 to 80 per cent. But the banks somehow do not feel comfortable in financing these classes of people. It is obligatory on the part of the country and also the banking institutions to give the necessary support to these people. Only this morning, the hon. Finance Minister has stated on the floor of the Houses that the Government is committed to finance the priority sector which includes the weaker section.

So, the only question that remains to be tackled is

implementation. We all agree that the policies are well laid down, there is total commitment on the part of the Government and there is political will too. But when it comes to the question of implementation, there are so many hurdles. Quoting the Presidential Address, the Prime Minister had stated in the House that one lakh youth should have been assisted by the Rojgar Yojana as on that date—viz. the date of the Presidential Address—but the actual number of youth who could benefit from that scheme was only 6,000. As against one lakh people who were supposed to have received the benefit, only 6,000 were really benefited. The Prime Minister then stated that the situation would improve.

When we checked up with the institutions and the concerned youth, we came to know that when the youth were identified by the District Industry Centres, a number of departments including the bankers were involved in the process of selection. But when ultimately, they go the bank, the bankers refuse to provide finance on various grounds. They take the plea that the policy of the Reserve Bank is different and so on and so forth. Once the youth are identified, they are made to run from pillar to post and waste a lot of their time and energy. Their hopes which are risen to the sky are ultimately dashed to the ground.

I appeal to the hon. Minister that care should be taken to implement the policies in right earnest. The schemes are very good. But how can they be really implemented? If you give certain powers to this Backward Classes National Commission to oversee the implementation aspect, it may be of great help. I have seen a report from Gujarat in which the Chairman of the Commission has mentioned in detail as to what needs to be done in Gujarat. But I don't think he has the power to do all those things. He has only commented on what is needed to be done for the development of the backward classes. If the Commission were to be given adequate powers to monitor the implementation process, it would help to a great extent. Otherwise, you may even think of any other mechanism by which we can ensure that all these policies and programmes are implemented and people are really benefited. If this can really be achieved, we can help the population which is living below the poverty line and they can definitely be brought above the poverty line.

Sir, in Karnataka, a majority of the backward classes are the fishermen, idigas, toddy tappers, gollas, and so on. These people have been pursuing these occupations from time immemorial. I don't say that they should give up these occupation. But they need to be given education. After getting education, I really do not mind if they continue to pursue the very same occupation. Ultimately, it is a question of income. With education and income, social status also improves. Therefore, I urge upon our hon. Minister to accept the suggestions made by the Members in this House. I also congratulate hon. Member Shri Anbarasu for having brought forward this Resolution. And I once again urge upon the hon. Minister to accept this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: As far as time allotted for this topic is concerned, we are coming to a close. three more Members are yet to participate in the debate. Shall we extend the time for another half an hour?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I suggest that we say accept the proposal and conclude the debate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the three members who would like to speak on this?

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.): BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI: I request that they should not take more than two to three minutes so that we can take up the next item.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the sense of the House to extend the time for this Resolution by another half an hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes sir.

SHRI N. DENNIS (Nagercoil): Sir, while supporting the Resolution for the enlargement of functions of National Commission of Backward Classes. I wish to make a few points. The object of Resolution is to provide adequate powers to the National Commission for Backward Classes and also to appoint a Parliamentary Committee exclusively to monitor the welfare of the backward classes.

Sir, as far as this Commission is concerned, only nominal and limited powers are given to it. Their function is to identify the backward class communities and to either include them or exclude them from the list of backward classes. This is a very limited power that is given to this Commission. It is not equipped with the powers to deal with the various problems of the backward class communities which form 52 per cent of the total population. But the other Commissions such as the National Commission on Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have adequate powers. It is highly necessary to give such powers to this National Commission for Backward Classes also. As it is, this Commission, with these powers, cannot solve the various problems faced by the backward classes. It is not possible for this Commission to deal or monitor the economic conditions and problems of the backward classes. Though numerically they are large in number, yet economically, socially and educationally they are far behind the upper classes.

The Mandal Commission Report is not for job reservation alone. The objectives of this report are for providing educational facilities and economic development of these people. So, it is necessary to expand and enhance the powers and functions of this Commission so as to enable the Commission to monitor the upliftment of the backward classes. A mere job reservation is not enough. They have to be provided with facilities for proper education, they would require qualified personnel for higher jobs and for that infrastructural facilities such as good schools with adequate number of teachers should be there. In so far as the backward classes are concerned, they live in villages where the schools are not upto the mark. Adequate number of teachers are also not there. The schools are also not in adequate number and they are not in good condition also. Proper facilities for the education of the backward class children are not provided. So reservation has to be made for their admission in schools, colleges and also in professional colleges.

Most of the backward class people live below the

poverty line. There are a number of poverty alleviation programmes which have been proposed by the Government. It has to be seen whether these programmes and policies are reaching the intended places and people or not. The implementation of these programmes and policies is a matter which has to be looked into. If the decisions, laws and programmes are not implemented, then the very purpose of it would be defeated.

Another point that I wish to bring to the notice of the house is that though 27 per cent reservation is given, the connected residuary benefits such as age relaxation and the number of attempts that a student can make are not being given. I request that at least this concession should be given in such a way that it can serve these classes the best.

A country can progress only if the majority of the people living in it progress. As the majority of the population is backward, steps will have to be taken so as to enable these people to come up par with the other classes.

I do not want to repeat all those matters which have already been stated by my earlier speakers. However, I would like to say that there is a wide gap between the percentage of representation of upper class people and backward class people in the Government services. There is a clear disparity. So, protection has to be given to the backward class to secure government jobs at par with forward class. If there is no proper candidates reservation for Government services has to be kept at least for three years, as is done in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Roster system also has to be followed, as is being done in the case of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

There is also a complaint that the banks are not giving loans to the backward class people for their industrial establishments. These things have to be taken into consideration to ensure that social justice is given to the backward class people.

Lastly, I would like to say a few words about the pathetic condition of the fishermen. I represent a constituency where a large number of fishermen live. They are very backward people. They live on the narrow strip of land under very unhygienic conditions. Their literacy rate is very low and they live in a very poor economic condition. Such people will have to be brought up at par with the other forward class people by giving them better opportunities and benefits.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I strongly support this resolution. The backward classes constitute 60 per cent of the total population in the country and around 55 per cent population is living a miserable, poor life and they live not in cities but in very backward rural areas.

Sir, Mandal Commission had been constituted and its report has also been implemented but I would like to say to the hon. Minister that there are still several States where the backward classes have not been identified despite the fact that the Central Government had issued guidelines to

them in this regard. No action has so far been taken in this regard. When the hon. Minister gives a reply I shall like to know whether there has been any progress in this regard or not?

So far as the question of backward classes is concerned I have an experience of 8-9 years as a member of Lok Sabha. Here several discussions have been held in regard to minorities, backward and harijan classes but practically their problems are not solved. The National Backward Class Commission was constituted in 1993 but the powers of this commission have been restricted. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interventions please, there is no time.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: The backward classes constitute a large portion of the total population and a commission has been formed for these classes but its powers have been restricted. I demand that all the schemes of the Central Government pertaining to backward classes be referred to this commission so that this commission can work independently for the welfare of the backward classes.

Sir, we have paucity of time that is why I would like to conclude after mentioning a couple of points. My friend was just talking about education but I would like to say that even the schools in these backward areas are backward. There are no buildings for schools. If the buildings exist then they do not even have teachers and where there are teachers they do not have a place to sit. This way the condition of these schools is also bad. The medical units are in the similar condition. But despite such hardships if a student belonging to backward classes somehow manages to get education in a good city school and then wishes to go in for higher studies in college he does not get registration in that college. We are MPs here but despite our efforts a student belonging to backward classes does not get registration in a college. There is no reservation for them. That is why I demand that all the issues pertaining to their rights should be referred to the Commission.

Sir, I urge upon the Government to seriously consider these suggestions and the hon. Minister may include these suggestions in his statement.

With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I congratulate Mr. Anbarasu for bringing forth a Resolution of this nature which will be of great persuasion for the Government to bring out certain amendments and certain new legislations in this regard. We all know, as has been stated by all the speakers, that this though the Commission has been a very good step towards this avenue, the powers given to the Commission are very limited, and rightly so at that time. Since the Commission was constituted for a particular purpose, the powers were also within the four walls which were defined, and these did not go beyond the power to suggest the communities that are to be included or excluded from the list of OBCs. However, there were a number of Commissions in existence earlier also for suggesting the list of Backward Classes. But,

unfortunately, as we all know, the report of the first Commission which was formed in 1953, though it was on the Table of the House for a long time, was not at all discussed. And, in 1956, the Commissions reports were thrown into the basket and they were not given effect to. However, efforts were made again and again and now, we have some formulations in this regard. As per the Constitution we all know that caste is the basis to find out whether a person comes under the category of Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe or even under a particular Backward Class.

It cannot be said to be wrong because of so many aspects. We all know that among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and OBCs, still there are a large number of people who are backward in many spheres and more particularly in economic and educational spheres. We can show you that there are so many backward people among scientists and there are so many people who can come up as scientists. There are so many backward people in the Services. There are so many backward people who can be very active in Services. So, this is the matter which has to be considered in great depth. Some Commission should be there for formulating proper recommendations which could be considered by the Parliament.

Shri Anbarasu had made a suggestion for setting up a Parliamentary Committee for considering the Reports of the various Commissions which are set up for this purpose from time to time. This is a very good suggestion. This will go a long way in giving proper justice to the majority of the people in India. It is quite clear that 52 per cent of the people are backward, apart from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who constitute 22 per cent. Therefore, about 70 per cent of the people in India come under this category. So, there is absolutely no reason for not giving proper attention for the cause of these categories of people. But, we can still do much more in this regard.

I congratulate the Government as well as the hon. Member for making a suggestion for setting up a Commission. But I fail to understand why even in this Commission proper representation is not being given to the backward classes. The Chairman of such a Commission should be from the backward classes. This suggestion should be taken seriously.

Before concluding, I want to add one more point and that is the Christians who come under OBC, who are very poor and who are not getting the benefits which are given to the Scheduled Castes should be given these benefits. Now, the Government is thinking of bringing forward some legislation and I understand, as per the assurance given in Parliament and also in the replies that were given, some drafting is going on as to how they can be considered as Scheduled Castes. There is absolutely no difference in their way of living; in their thinking or in the way in which they are treated by the society. This aspect must be considered by the Welfare Ministry. They should speed up their work and some legislation should be brought forward

to see that they are brought under the category of Scheduled Castes.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 'Kusta' community comes under Backward Class in Madhya Pradesh but not in Uttar Pradesh. Likewise some communities are in Backward Class in Bihar but not in Gujarat and Maharashtra. The borders of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are connected with each other. Those come in general category in Uttar Pradesh who are Backward in Madhya Pradesh, two kms. away and their economic and social condition is more weak than the Backward Class of Madhya Pradesh. My submission is that it has become necessary to bring parity for them.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): Sir, I am thankful to Shri Anbarasu, the mover of the Resolution and also the other hon. Member who have participated in the debate. The Members have dealt with various issues with regard to the backward classes community and also insisted that this Commission should be given more powers. Sir, the National Commission for Backward Classes was constituted at the instance of the Supreme Court in Mandal case judgement. To comply with the Mandal case judgement and to suit the needs of the backward classes in the country, we have constituted this Commission. This Commission was constituted mainly for the purpose of including and excluding certain communities in the country because there are a number of communities in the State list apart from the number of communities mentioned in the Mandal list. There are certain communities who are facing problems for not having included in the list of backward communities. Naturally, they have to come forward to this Commission and get justice. That is the main purpose of this Commission.

I fully agree with the hon. Members that the backward classes' interest should be safeguarded through a Commission like this. Sir, the Government of India has been helping the backward classes in this country through various measures. There are a number of States, particularly, Tamil Nadu, Andhra, Karnataka, Kerala and now U.P. and Bihar who are doing extremely well and their performance is good not only in the reservation arena but also in the general development of socio-economic conditions and we are proud about it.

Sir, at the national level, in the Central Government services we all know that the Central Government, under the leadership of Shri P.V. Narsimha Raoji, gave 27 per cent reservation in jobs to the backward class communities. While giving this opportunity we have taken care of other problems too. Many hon. Members mentioned that the interest of the backward classes involves not only in employment but also in education. With due respect I would like to mention that many Governments have provision of reservation not only in employment but also in education. Likewise, the Central Government is also very seriously considering about giving it a kind of an opportunity in the Central sector also.

16.55 hrs.

(SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair)

I would like to inform the House that, while giving opportunities in the Services, it is going to help the backward class community at large. That is why, we have constituted a National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation with an authorised share capital of Rs. 200 crore. You will be glad to know that till November 30, the National Backward Class Finance and Development Corporation had sanctioned loan to the tune of Rs. 164.92 crore for the welfare and development of the backward communities in the country. A number of State Governments have been asked to institute State level corporations and make proposals for the national corporation. The State level Corporations have submitted a number of proposals. On the basis of that, the below poverty line people and also double poverty line are eligible to get this benefit.

So far, through self-employment measures, in these two years, 99,876 people got direct employment and also direct ventures. Through these ventures, another 82,875 people also got employment. In total, 1,82,751 people have got financial assistance through the National Finance and Development Corporation. I must say that this is one of the achievements that we have made in a very short span of time. And this Corporation is intended to give in 1994 loan to the tune of Rs. 300 crore to the various State level corporations by way of seeds capital, by way of term loan at a very meagre rate of interest. The rate of interest is 6 per cent. The Central Corporation is giving to the State Corporations loan at the rate of 4 per cent interest and the State Corporations will give to the candidates, who are eligible, at the rate of 6 per cent. We know that this is not enough. As the hon. Members pointed out, for the welfare and protective measures for the backward classes, after the announcement made by the Central Government, we have requested all the central sector banks, all the national level corporations, all the institutions under the Central Government, to start providing reservation for them.

Apart from that, we are also monitoring the States where this policy is being implemented. The Corporation is not only giving loan but also monitoring them. The hon. Members have mentioned about the monitoring system. We have a proper monitoring system. I am happy to inform the House that we are constituting an Advisory Body at the district level, at the State level and also at the national level. The national level advisory body will be headed by the Welfare Minister.

17.00 hrs.

Hon. Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are going to be there as partners in the monitoring system. Likewise, at the State level also, we are communicating to the State Governments to constitute State Level Monitoring Committees which will also have the Members of Parliament, Legislatures and prominent social workers who are interested in the welfare of the backward communities. Further we would like to appoint Committees at the district level so that the actual beneficiaries will be selected by these Committees and also they will see to it that the

beneficiaries are really getting the benefit or not. They can verify it; they can select and also monitor that the required finances and the required help is reaching the poorest man in the lowest ebb of the society.

I welcome suggestions from the hon. Members to this august House to strengthen further in the endeavour. For that we need the support of the hon. Members so that almost all the districts' respective Members of Parliament will be in the Committee and that they will know what is really happening in their own districts; how many people are being given loan and other facilities through our National Corporation as well as the State Level Finance and Development Corporation.

Majority of the States have constituted the State level Finance and Development Corporations. Some State have identified and nominated other corporations other than the backward classes corporations.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH (SHEOHAR): I would like to know from the hon. Minister, whether the State of Bihar has taken any positive steps towards implementation of the suggestions made by the Central Government. If so, what other steps the Government of Bihar has taken towards giving facilities to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this regard?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I have said it very clearly that a number of States including the State of Bihar have already formulated corporations. Bihar is also taking a large amount of money for the welfare and development of the backward class people. I will certainly pass on the correct position, regarding the number of persons and the amount drawn from the Central Corporation by the State of Bihar, to the hon. Member.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: I want to know whether the State Government has taken any steps to implement your ideas or not.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: The Bihar Government is in the process of taking loan from the Central Corporation. They have got a separate Corporation. They are doing very well and there is no doubt about it.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: How much money they have distributed to the people?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will inform you separately.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I have told you very clearly but at the moment I do not have the exact figure.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: The hon. Minister has been kind enough to say that the Government of Bihar is doing well, but I would like to know...

MR. CHAIRMAN: He will inform you separately.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will communicate to you the exact figure. I said that all over India, within two years, this corporation was set up and 1,82,000 people have been so far benefited through this National Finance and Development Corporation for the backward classes.

Sir, I also accept the views of the hon. Members that there is a need to have a Parliamentary Committee instead of strengthening the Commission. The suggestion of having a separate Parliamentary Committee like the Committee for

SCs and STs is a very good suggestion. That kind of a Parliamentary Committee will certainly look into the various aspects of the backward class people. The funds allocated to the department, the achievements made by the Ministry and also the problems which are faced by the backward class people can easily be located and discussed and they can give suggestions to the Parliament and also to the Ministry so as to improve the system.

I welcome this suggestion. I will also take proper care to see that from our side we are one with you to support this move. I will also take all possible steps to see that a proper Parliamentary Committee is appointed at the earliest. He want such a Committee to oversee and to look after for the welfare of the backward class community.....
(Interruptions)

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I raised a point and I was expecting your reply.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: With regard to Shri Oscar's point, that is regarding the banks, Sir, while the Corporations submitting their proposal to the Central Corporation, we give seed money and we give term loan also. Wherever we find the difficulties with the financial institution, we certainly take up the matter with the Finance Minister. We recently had a meeting the Finance minister. Sometimes we also get problems like what Shri Oscar Fernandes has said. It is quite possible. Our country is a very large country. We do have problems like this.

Yesterday while replying to a question in regard to minorities, I did say so. We have also been getting reports on various occasions from the various State Corporations that they are not able to cope up with the banks in getting their loan quickly. We recently had a meeting with the Finance Minister. He had agreed and had given instruction to all the Chairmen of the banks to see that the loans to weaker sections are given top priority so that they get their loan in time, without any delay. If the hon. Members have any problem like the problem mentioned by Shri Oscar Fernandes in respect of any other State, we are always at their disposal to see that those case are processed. We will personally take up those matters with the Finance Ministry and the respective banks at the State level or at the national level or at the national level to see that the backward class community gets due justice through our endeavours. (Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: What about Engineering Entrance Examination?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will come to that point.

Some other issues with regard to the backward class community have also been raised. In the recent UPSC Examination for IAS, I am happy to inform that the Government of India has taken a very serious note of these issues and the hon. Prime Minister directed that 27 per cent reservation should be fulfilled without any deviation. About 26 per cent of the persons who wrote the examination has been identified by the UPSC. There cannot be any deviation. We will not allow any deviation to take place in this regard. We will try to fulfil the commitment made to the people of this country, particularly to the backward class community, so that the

apprehension of the hon. Members may not continue in their mind.

Sir, Shri Fernandes again mentioned one very important point that the members of this Commission are not from the backward class community. The Chairman, Mr. Prasad, himself is coming from the backward class community. Barring one or two, majority of the members are from the backward class community because we have to appoint someone from the other community also. And particularly the Chairman and other members are coming from the backward class community.

We will see to it that in future also the Members's aspirations are taken into account.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH: There is none at present.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: It is there. The Chairman himself is from backward class community.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: There is no reservation in the examination, which is going to be held in 1995.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: We will see the relaxation and other issues. The Government is aware of the problem and we are taking possible steps to see that the backward class students get their due shares in their service without any difficulty.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will get a chance.

SHRI R. ANBARASU (Madras Central): Before that, I want an assurance from the hon. Minister whether the age relaxation and the concession in the number of attempts will be given by this Government before 24th of this month when the notification will be issued. So every Minister will say, "The Government is aware. The Government is aware". What is the use of telling so? What is the use of knowing? They should give an assurance. They should come with a concrete proposal. They should implement it. I want an assurance from the Minister before 24th saying that during the Notification, these concessions could be provided.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you take some more time? Five O' clock is the time allowed for this purpose.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: What shall we do? Shall we have another ten minutes?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I want only two minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interruption please.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, I am happy to inform the House that we are also serious about all these issues with regard to the backward class communities. The Government is contemplating to organise an all Party leaders' meeting in the near future to see that all pending issues relating to the welfare of backward class community, the SC and ST, such as age relaxation, promotion and reservation are resolved. The Government will give top priority to these issues. We will consider all the issues in consultation with all the political parties in the Parliament and will come to a finality so that the backward class community and the SC/ST people will not have any problem. In general, the weaker sections of this land

should get their due share of power and due share of social security. They must get all the necessary facilities through our Government.

With these words, I hope, Mr. Anbarasu will withdraw the Resolution so that we will take up whatever points are mentioned by hon. Members. While implementing the process, while doing our duty, the Welfare Ministry will take into consideration all the points and do our best. Thank you very much Sir.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Mr. Thomas had pointed out a very relevant issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Sir, we have committed to the Parliament and also to the people of SC, ST and particularly the SC converts about which Mr. Thomas was raising. The Government had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (Welfare) to go into the details, the merits and demerits of the cases. Over 10,000 cases have come to us during the last eight months. The Committee is sitting and the Committee is doing their best on daily basis. We have assured the Parliament that we will come back to the House very soon with the recommendations made by the State Government, the RGI and with the records that are available with us.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: When you want to do something, you will do it. When you do not want to do anything, you will set up a Committee.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Mr. Thomas, it is not that way.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Bairampur): Mr. Thomas is also very correct.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: We have not put this Committee in the cold storage. The Committee is functioning. It is very active and we will see that very soon the Committee gives its Report. We will come to Parliament and with your approval, we will be able to sort out the problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Anbarasu, what do you want to say?

SHRI R. ANBARASU: I do not mind withdrawing, but the assurance was not specific. The assurance given by the hon. Minister was not specific. Further, he could not convince me with regard to the formation of the Backward Classes Commission. I am fully aware there was a direction from the Supreme Court on the Mandal case. I quote:-

"The Government of India, each of the State Governments and the Administration of Union Territories shall, constitute a permanent body for entertaining, examining and recommending upon requests for inclusion and complaints of over-inclusion in the lists of other backward classes of citizens. The advice tendered by such body shall ordinarily be binding upon the Government."

This is the direction of Supreme court on Mandal case. But whereas there is no prohibition or there is no bar here to empower the Backward Classes Commission by furnishing some more powers similar to that of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Minority

Commission. The Supreme Court's direction did not say that the Commission can be formed only exclusively for inclusion and exclusion. There is no specific reference about that. The reference is that the Government of India, each of the State Governments and the Administrations of the Union Territories shall,.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot discuss in that way the Supreme Court judgement.

SHRI R. ANBARASU: The Commission was established only on the direction emanated from the judgement of the Mandal case. That is why this is a very relevant portion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing or not?

SHRI R. ANBARASU: The hon. Minister is time and again giving a number of assurances. These assurances were given not only by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Welfare but also by the Minister of Welfare. I will just point out one or two assurances given by the hon. Minister.

One day the entire Parliament was in agitation regarding relaxing the age limit and the number of attempts to the IAS students and also concession in the marks. On 16 December, 1993, in reply to the Unstarred Question No. 2311 by Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Welfare, Shri K.V. Thangka Balu said, "The matter is under examination." The date was 16th December, 1993. It is still under examination today. Just imagine that it is still under examination! How long will it be under examination. Will it be under examination till the next general elections which we are going to face.

Again on 1 March, 1994, during Zero Hour, Shri Sitaram Kesari assured the House for giving age relaxation to OBCs in respect of the students those who were appearing for the IAS and Civil Services Examination will be benefitted. This was the assurance given by the Minister of Welfare. But till today this assurance was not implemented. On December 24, a notification is to be published. If this relaxation is not given before that time. I do not think that the OBCs will be benefitted. So, more than 52 per cent of the population will not get any benefit. Then on May 11, 1994, the issue was raised in Parliament again and the Speaker of Lok Sabha assured of help because of unequivocal support by the whole House. The hon. Speaker had given a direction to the Minister to implement this. What happened to that? Again on May 13, 1994, during the reply to Private Member's Bill brought by our Member of Parliament, Shri K. Ramamurthy, the Minister of State for Welfare, Shri Thangka Balu assured the Houses for giving age relaxation to OBCs is under consideration. I do not know when it will be fulfilled. We do not want this sort of dubious answers from the hon. Minister. We want a categorical assurance whether this benefit will be given to the OBCs.

Sir, on 14th June, 1994, the issue was raised in the Lok Sabha during 'Zero Hour' and was supported by many top leaders and on 18th August, 1994 the issue was again raised in the Lok Sabha during 'Zero Hour' and was supported by the whole House. But, till today nothing has been done and no green signal has come out from the Government.

Sir, the Notification for the Civil Services Examination, 1995 is to be published on 24th December, 1994. If the Government does not announce age relaxation by 24th December, 1994, all the assurances given by the Government on the floor of Lok Sabha and also recommendation of the Standing Committee on Government Assurances in the form of Report submitted to Lok Sabha on 7th December, 1994, the first day of the Winter Session of Parliament will be of no use. So, many assurances given by the Ministers on the floor of the House do not reflect a good spirit. Therefore, I want a categorical assurance from the hon. Minister as to whether a Parliamentary Committee will be formed or not to monitor the welfare measures that are available to the OBCs.

Sir, there are two other Commissions like this Commission, one is for the Minorities and the other is for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. These two Commissions have been given ample powers. The Backward Classes Commission is not meant for inclusion or exclusion of some communities. Do you feel that such a permanent body is required for just suggestion inclusion or exclusion of some communities from the list of Other Backward Classes? Do you think that such a permanent body is necessary for this purpose? It is not at all necessary.

The Supreme Court has given a direction to form a Commission for Backward Classes to go into all the details, the socio-economic problems and other problems for the welfare of the Backward Classes and therefore, the Bill is ill-conceived. It has no teeth at all and therefore, I request the hon. Minister to reconsider his views once again in order to bring about some amendment to give more powers to this Commission.

Sir, my intention in bringing this Resolution is two fold. Firstly, there should be a National Commission for Other Backward Classes which would have all the powers and responsibilities with reference to OBCs as the National Commission for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in accordance with the Article 338 of the Constitution and secondly, reservation should be provided in educational opportunities upto this highest levels of education including professional courses. Then, opportunities should be given for them to get scholarship to abroad for higher studies like the present scheme for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes which is in operation in the Ministry of Welfare and scholarships, hostels, coaching centres and book banks should be arranged for Other Backward Classes as it is now available for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes under various schemes in the Ministry of Welfare. Therefore, my intention is to provide powers to this Commission to examine various privileges that can be accorded to the OBCs and also to demand constitution of a Parliamentary Committee to monitor all the schemes whether they are being properly implemented and whether the poor and needy really take advantage of those privileges and to see whether they reach the common man.

Even though 27 per cent reservation in services has been ensured for the Other Backward Classes, many residual points such as age relaxation, fee concessions,

concession in the number of attempts in UPSC examinations etc. have not been provided.

Sir, I would like to bring another point to your kind attention. The Mandal Commission judgement itself stated that the total population of OBCs in this country constitute about 52 per cent of the population. When that is so, what is the logic in providing 27 per cent reservation for the OBCs? What is the logic in restricting the reservation upto a maximum limit of 50 per cent?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It cannot go on record. You cannot pass a judgement on a judgement. This is unparliamentary.

SHRI R. ANBARASU: Sir, every individual has got the liberty to express his views about the judgement. This is not unparliamentary. The judgement has been given and I am expressing my opinion on the judgement. I have got my liberty and right to express my views on the judgement.....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have to bring a substantive motion.

SHRI R. ANBARASU: There was one judge, Justice Ratnavel Pandian. He was one of the judges in this. He himself in his separate findings observed:

"percentage of reservation to maximum 50 per cent is neither based on any scientific basis nor any agreed formula. In fact the Article 16(4) does not prohibit the Government in restricting percentage of reservation."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Remarks on the judges will not form part of the proceedings.

SHRI R. ANBARASU: Sir, it is only an observation made by the judge which I read.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing the Resolution?

SHRI R. ANBARASU: Sir, I am a Ruling Party member. I know my responsibility. But I appeal to the Opposition Party members also to support my Resolution. Sir, instead of withdrawing I appeal to all the members of the Opposition to accept my Resolution so that it can be unanimously passed...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing the Resolution?

SHRI R. ANBARASU: Sir, I appealed to all the members and they agreed that it can be passed unanimously, therefore, I am not withdrawing the Resolution. If they object to it I will withdraw. I appeal to this august House to accept this Resolution unanimously....(Interruptions)

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I assure the House and the Member also that we will take necessary steps to see that the backward classes get their due share. What more can I say?

SHRI R. ANBARASU: Sir, I accept the assurance of the hon. Minister, not wholeheartedly because many times the assurances are not implemented.

I withdraw the Resolution to honour the Minister.

Hence I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

CHAIRMAN: Has the hon'ble Member leave of the House to withdraw his resolution?

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

17.30 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE: STEPS TO PREVENT ATROCITIES ON SC/ST

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we go to item No. 2. The time allotted for this is two hours. Shri Satya Deo Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution in this august House with your permission:

"This House expresses its grave concern over the incidents of killings of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribe and rape, molestation and harassment of women belonging to these communities, especially in the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, I urges upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to remedy the situation."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have brought this resolution before this House with a heavy heart and acrimony. The most agonising factor is that the incidents of rape and molestation are increasing day by day with the women folk of Dalit communities and poor people. This is not the first occasion when this problem is being discussed before this House. It may also not be the last opportunity.

The question is that the questions about atrocities on Harijans, and Dalits alongwith the molestation of women have been raised through debates and Resolutions but no stern action has been taken so far in this respect. It seems that today our whole society has become senseless. The country in which the women has been given high status and honour in its literature and culture, today the questions regarding atrocities on them are being raised time and again in the house but no action has been taken so far.

It is a nation wide phenomenon. Wherever the incidents of atrocities on the poor and the women occur, those are committed on the whole Indian society. It is a stigma on the whole Indian society...(Interruptions)

Such incidents have been increasing in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. I belong to Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is the centre of origin of Indian culture. Kashi, Mathura, Ayodhya, Badridham and Kedarnath are the centres of our reverence. Uttar Pradesh is also famous for the Ganga Yamuna culture. There is the blending of culture and it echoes the sound of Indianisation. Where once the women were honoured today the records of atrocities on women are being made in the same Uttar Pradesh. To give honour and affection to women children and elders is the sublime character of our culture, these are the pivotal points of our culture. Today the population of Uttar Pradesh is 14 crores and from the point of population, it is the largest