

Government has whole or substantial interest, either financial or otherwise."

The motion was negatived.

RESOLUTION RE DEPARTMENT  
OF WELFARE FOR SCHEDULED  
CASTES AND SCHEDULED  
TRIBES

Shri Brahmo-Choudhury (Goalpara Garo Hills—Reserved-Sch. Tribes): I beg to move:

"This House is of opinion that a Department of Welfare be created forthwith to function under a separate Ministry for appropriate measures to be taken for ameliorating the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes."

There are 51 million Harijans, that is, Scheduled Castes, 19 million Scheduled Tribes and 20 million other backward classes in the country. The tribals, Scheduled Castes and backward classes are all backward people; they are backward educationally, economically and socially. We have given a solemn pledge in the Constitution that we shall improve the lot of these people. Article 46 of the Constitution lays down the directive principle of State policy in this respect. It says:

"The State shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and, in particular, of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, and shall protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation".

A special reservation of seats in the State Legislatures and in Parliament has been given to the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes for a period of ten years since the commencement of the Constitution. Al-

ready three years are over and now it is expected that within the next seven years we shall have to improve the lot of these backward classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. But let us examine how we are going to fulfil this solemn pledge. The tribal people generally live in the hill regions and in the forests. They are very poor and they are cut off from all civilisation. If you travel over the tribal area, you will find that there are practically no roads, and though after independence a few roads have been constructed, the conditions of these roads are not good. More roads should be constructed in these areas, but Government have not paid full attention to these people. We have to see that we fulfil our solemn pledge to improve the lot of these people. These people cannot get the markets for their products; they cannot get the opportunity to mix up with our advanced brothers; our advanced people, those who want to work amongst them, cannot get the opportunity to go there. Therefore, the difference is growing up. Adequate amounts should be granted so that roads are constructed in the tribal areas and also in areas where the Scheduled Castes and other backward people live, because what is true in the case of the tribal people is also true in the case of the Scheduled Castes and other backward people. They are also very poor and proper attention is not paid to these people by the Government. These tribal and other backward people generally live in interior areas where they cannot get the opportunity of educating their children in schools. These people are very poor and therefore they cannot send their children to far distant places for education as they cannot afford the huge expenses. Therefore, adequate number of schools should be opened in the tribal areas and other backward areas. Adequate scholarships should be given to the children of these backward people. The inadequate amounts that are granted do not serve the purpose at all.

[Shri Brohmo-Cboudbur.]

These tribal and backward people generally are agriculturists but their method of agriculture is very poor and primitive. In the hilly areas these tribal people generally take to shifting cultivation which is actually not economic and not at all suitable. There are no arrangements for training these people to proper cultivation. There are many landless tribals also. Those who are agriculturists have got no land or cattle for agriculture. There are sufficient fallow lands in many areas but these lands have not been reclaimed for cultivation. These fallow lands should be reclaimed with the help of tractors and should be given to the landless tribals. They should be given agricultural loans, cattle loans and implements so that they can take up agriculture as their occupation and develop their economic condition. But, practically we find that they have not been properly helped. We cannot find an instance where such help has been given to these poor people.

If you travel in the tribal areas you will find that veterinary hospitals have not been started in those places. You will also find that no agricultural centres have been opened in these areas to give proper facilities to these tribal people. Therefore, this Department has also neglected the cause of the poor people.

As I said, these tribal people generally live in the hilly regions and in the forests where they cannot get the facilities of good water. They generally take muddy water and water from the hill streams. The Government has done nothing to provide for supply of good drinking water to these people. Therefore, if they get any disease there are no medical facilities for giving them treatment. If we study the census for the last 30 years we shall see that for these reasons the population of the tribal areas is being decreased every year. If these things are allowed to go in this

way, in the long run, we shall find that the whole tribal people shall be extinct.

Cottage industries have not been encouraged in the tribal areas. As they are very poor they need to supplement their income by cottage industries. These tribal people generally know spinning, weaving, bamboo and cane works etc. These cottage industries should be helped by the Government and there should be proper arrangements to help them with loans and with other proper facilities. They should be trained in the proper way. But, the Government has not taken any initiative in this matter also.

Community projects and other development projects have been allotted to many parts of India and it is only through these Community Projects and National Extension Blocks we hope to develop our country. But, if we closely study the list of allotments we will find that most of the Community Projects and other development projects have been allotted to the advanced areas and not to the backward and tribal areas. Thus we have given opportunities to the advanced people to be more advanced whereas for lack of supervision and for want of sympathy tribal people and other backward people are going more and more backward. We do not grudge the allotment of these projects to our advanced areas, but there should also be a fair consideration to these poor and down-trodden people. We have given a solemn promise to save them from all forms of exploitation. Tribal people actually have become poorer and landless due to the exploitation of unscrupulous money-lenders and other bad elements. There is no arrangement or law to protect the tribal people from that and Government has not done anything. In the hill area, of course autonomy has been introduced and some sort of protection is given but in the plain tribal areas no such arrangement has been

introduced and Government are not taking the right initiative in this matter also.

In many States Tribal Welfare Departments have been opened and these have been managed by the Ministers in charge of Tribal Welfare. But, in the Centre we have not opened any such department. Here, there is one department which has been opened under the Commissioner for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other Backward Classes which cannot serve the purpose at all. His powers are practically nil, he is handicapped and he cannot take the problems at all.

In the Centre this management of tribal affairs is divided into two parts: one under the Home Ministry and the other under the Ministry of External Affairs. The North-Eastern Frontier Agency of Assam is administered under the External Affairs Ministry and the rest of the tribal areas are administered under the Ministry of Home Affairs. These require constant reference to the States Ministry and the welfare of the tribal people and other backward people have been completely left at the mercy of the State Governments. Though the Central Government grants sums under the Constitution—article 275 of the Constitution—they do not keep any strict supervision of the grants—whether they have been properly utilised by the States or not. A huge sum was granted by the Planning Commission also, but due to lack of supervision by the Central Ministry, these sums also could not be spent properly. The idea of increasing the number of Ministries is not good and I also personally do not like it, but I recommend this Resolution for the acceptance of this House only because this matter requires more attention, proper care, and it requires very delicate handling, as the problems are delicate. I recommend that there should be a separate Ministry for this purpose and all the departments agriculture, education, communication, health, etc., should be co-ordinated with this

Ministry so that this Ministry could take up the problems, along with these departments, and find out a solution.

With these words, I commend the Resolution.

**Mr. Chairman:** Resolution moved:

"This House is of opinion that a Department of Welfare be created forthwith to function under a separate Ministry for appropriate measures to be taken for ameliorating the conditions of the Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and other Backward Classes".

श्री कजरालकर (बम्बई नगर उत्तर-पश्चिम—  
उन्मुखित वाणिज्य) : श्री वल्लु वाघरी जो प्रस्ताव लार्ड हैं में उसका समर्थन कर रहा हूँ। जयने वस्ताव में उन्होंने सरकार से मांग की हैं कि हरिजनों, इतरजनों और गिरजनों की दक्षभात करने के लिये एक अलगहिदा भिनिस्ट्री होनी चाहिये। यह मांग हमारा हरिजनों और गिरजनों की कितने ही सालों से हैं लेकिन मुझे इस बात का दुःख है कि हमारी इस मांग पर जो कि एर्षतया न्यायविषयक हैं सरकार द्वारा ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है और हमारी मांग का पूरा नहीं किया गया है। हो सकता है कि यह भिनिस्ट्री बनाने का प्रयत्न सरकार के सामने उत्तम महत्व का न हो लेकिन हम हरिजनों और गिरजनों के लिये यह बड़ा महत्व का प्रयत्न है। हमारी सरकार ने हमें जो विशेष संकेत दिए हैं वह सली दस वर्ष के लिये दिये हैं और दस साल में से तीन साल का चलें गये और अब केवल सात साल और बाकी रह गये हैं। मुझे मात्तम नहीं है कि इन सात सालों में हमारी स्थिति में कितना सुधार हो आबशा लेकिन अभी जिस ढंग से काम चल रहा है, मैं नहीं समझ सकता हूँ कि वह जो हमारी कीलानुषां और दरखा हैं वह सात वर्षों के उत्तर सत्य हो जायगी और इसी चीज को ध्यान में रखते हुए मैं चाहता हूँ कि हमारा काम की दक्षभात, के लिए एक अलग भिनिस्ट्री होनी चाहिये। हमारी इस मांग का यह मतलब नहीं



हैं कि अभी होम मिनिस्ट्री के अन्तर्गत जो हमारा शोर्टलैण्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर काम कर रहे हैं उनके ऊपर या अपने होम मिनिस्ट्री या डिप्टी होम मिनिस्ट्री के ऊपर हमारा विश्वास नहीं है। वह हमारा साथ हमदर्दी रखते हैं और हमारी सहायता करना चाहते हैं लेकिन यह काम इतना बड़ा है और उनको इतने काम होते हैं कि उनको हमारी कठिनाइयों पर विशेष रूप से ध्यान देने का समय नहीं मिलता। जिस तरह रंफूवीव प्रब्लम को ठीक करने के लिये आपने उसके लिए एक अलग मिनिस्ट्री बनाई ताकि उनकी जो कठिनाइयाँ और समस्याएँ हैं उनकी तरह विशेष रूप से ध्यान दिया जा सके और उनको सीधे से सीधे हल किया जा सके, उसी तरह हम डोरिजनों के मामले में एक अलग मिनिस्ट्री का निर्माण होता चाहिये जो हमारी समस्याओं और कठिनाइयों को सुलझा सके। मैं नहीं समझता कि जब बहुत सी स्टेट्स में डोरिजनों और गिरजनों के लिये अलग मिनिस्ट्री मौजूद हैं तब सेंटर में ऐसी मिनिस्ट्री क्यों न हो। इसके अलावा आज हमारा शोर्टलैण्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर को काफी पॉवर नहीं है। वह अपनी रिपोर्ट में डोरिजनों की कठिनाइयों के सम्बन्ध में लिखते भी हैं और सरकार से सिफारिश भी करते हैं लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि उन सिफारिशों पर अमल नहीं होता है और इस स्थिति से वह खुद परेशान हैं और अपनी रिपोर्ट के अन्दर लिखते हैं कि मैं बारबार उनके लिये कहता हूँ लेकिन मैं जब पर पूरी तरह जमल नहीं होता हूँ। अगर शोर्टलैण्ड कास्ट कमिश्नर के साथ साथ एक स्टैंडर्टरी बाडी होती तो भी हमारा कुछ काम हल हो सकता था लेकिन अभी तक एक स्टैंडर्टरी बाडी भी शोर्टलैण्ड कास्ट और शोर्टलैण्ड ट्राइब्स के लिये नहीं बनायी गयी है। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि यह जो प्रस्ताव हमारा चौधरी साहब ने रक्खा है और सरकार से जो मांग की है उसको स्वीकार किया जाय।

द्वैतात् में आज के दिन भी डोरिजनों को उनके कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है। द्वैतात् में अभी भी डोरिजनों को पानी नहीं

मिलता है। जानवरों को पानी मिलता है लेकिन डोरिजनों को पानी नहीं मिलता। सरकार का हल हमारा साथ सहानुभूतिपूर्ण है और यह हमारी मदद करना चाहती है लेकिन उसकी जो सद्इच्छा है उस पर अमल नहीं होता है और डोरिजनों की जो दशा हो रही है उसको दूर कर मुझे लोमड़ी और साँस वाली कहानी याद आ जाती है। सरकार का फर्ज है कि वह इसको देखे कि जो वह करना चाहती है—और उसने हमारा हित और उदार के लिए फायदा कानून बनाये हैं—उन पर अमल हो। अभी अनटर्चीबलटी आफिस पिस सेलेक्ट कमेटी रो हो कर आने वाला है, उसके अन्दर हम लोगों ने डोरिजनों की दशा सुधारने के लिये बहुत से उपयोगी सुझाव दिये हैं। मुझे आशा है कि वह जो प्रस्ताव हमारा भाई श्री बृह चौधरी साहब हैं, सरकार उसको स्वीकार करेगी। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं उस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हूँ।

Shri Sarangadhar Das (Dhenkanal—West Cuttack): This is a subject on which I have spoken many a time during the last two years and I was rather laughed at by my class of people, that is, the caste people. Just recently, I have said elsewhere that in the tribal areas, there is no drinking water, there is no well, and our Minister was kind enough to bring forward an officer from Orissa who said that his Government had sunk 600 wells during the last few years, but I had no opportunity to ask him how many tribal bastis, tribal hamlets there were in the whole of Orissa. So, I am glad today that a tribal Member himself, coming from another area, speaks about the same things that I have been speaking for the last two years.

5 P.M.

Mr. Chairman: It is now five o'clock. The hon. Member may continue his speech on the next occasion.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday the 18th December, 1954.