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LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 3, 1967/Śravana 12,
1889 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

Mr. Speaker: I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Pramathanath Banerjee, who passed away at Contai on the 1st August, 1967 at the age of 81.

Shri Banerjee was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during the years 1957-62.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may stand in silence for a short while to express its sorrow.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

अस्पृश्यता

*1557. श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : क्या समाज कल्याण मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क.) क्या सरकार को एसी कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं कि देश के कुछ भागों में लोग अभी भी छुआछूत मानते हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो ऐसे लोगों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

The Minister of State in the Department of Social Welfare (Shrimati Phulreenu Guha): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Complaints are investigated in accordance with the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955.

श्री कंवर लाल गुप्त : हरिजनोद्धार के काम में पिछले बीस सालों में जितनी प्रोग्रेस होनी चाहिये थी उतनी नहीं हुई है। आज भी सोशल इकोनॉमिक और पोलिटिकल प्राबलैम उनके सामने हैं। अभी तक कालेज एजुकेशन भी उनकी फी नहीं हो पाई है। मकानों की समस्या उनके सामने है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो प्राबलैम हैं इसका कोई एसेसमेंट आपने किया है ताकि हरिजनों का जो एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा हमारे देश में है, हमारे देश की आबादी का एक बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा जो है यह कुछ भाग बच सके, तरक्की कर सके। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने कोई एसेसमेंट किया है और क्या आपने अगले तीन चार सालों में इन प्राबलैम्स को खत्म करने के लिए कोई प्रोग्राम बनाया है ?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): As far as the general improvement in the condition of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is concerned, a certain amount of progress has been made. Further efforts are being made to ameliorate their conditions. These two constitute about 20 per cent of our population and our ability to help them in a massive manner ultimately depends upon the surpluses the economy is able to create and provide for this purpose. Within the limited resources at our disposal now, all that can be attempted is sought to be done. It is very difficult for me to say beyond what we have already indicated in the Draft Outline as to what will be done for them. I think

if we can do that much, that itself will be something to be satisfied about.

Mr. Speaker: I would request hon. Members to remember that we have a seven hour discussion on this now.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : मैंने पूछा था कि आपने वाले तीन चार सालों में कोई बड़ा प्रोग्राम आप बनाने वाले हैं ? मेरा सवाल डेफीनिट था। मैंने पूछा है कि दो तीन साल में आप कौनसा बड़ा प्रोग्राम कर रहे हैं, इसका कुछ जवाब नहीं मिला है। गोलमाल जवाब दे दिया गया है। अगर गोलमाल जवाब देना था तब तो सवाल करने की जरूरत ही नहीं थी।

Shri Asoka Mehta: When the question is about ameliorating their conditions, the schemes are known to the hon. Member. They are about educational facilities, providing housing sites, giving them employment and so on. There are various schemes. As far as the tribal people are concerned, there are tribal blocks. These schemes are known to members. These are being pushed forward. Even in this year, we have been able to persuade the Finance Ministry to make some additional allocation, beyond what has been provided in the budget. Every effort is being made in this direction. Within the limited resources, the schemes that are on ground are pushed forward.

श्री कंबर लाल गुप्त : आपको पता होगा कि अभी भी कशोड़ों लोम गांवों में ऐसे हैं जिनको पीने के लिए स्वच्छ पानी भी नहीं मिलता है। वे बहुत गरीब हैं। खाना, कपड़ा तक उनको आसानी से नहीं मिलता है। झर्रों में भी ऐसे लाखों लोग हैं। दिल्ली में ही करीब चार लाख ऐसे लोग हैं जिन के पास भ्रकान नहीं है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि खास तौर पर बैकवर्ड एरियाज़ में जो लोग बसते हैं वहाँ पर भी क्रिश्चियन मिशनरीज़ काम करते हैं और उनकी गरीबी का नाजायज़ फायदा

उठाते हैं, उनका कनवर्शन करते हैं, वे उनकी गरीबी का नाजायज़ फायदा न उठा सकें, इन्हें रोकने के लिए आपने खास तौर से बैकवर्ड एरियाज़ में स्टेट्स के क्या कार्रवाई की है। साथ ही मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो कनवर्ट हो जाते हैं क्या यह ठीक नहीं है कि सरकार जो हरिजनों को हरिजन होने के नाते सुविधायें देती है वे उनको जो कनवर्ट हो जाते हैं नहीं मिलती हैं। यह बात ठीक है या नहीं ?

Shri Asoka Mehta: As far as the scheduled castes are concerned, if they get converted to a religion other than the Sikh religion, they are not entitled to any of the facilities and concessions that are offered to them. As far as the scheduled tribes are concerned, facilities are extended to them irrespective of which particular religion they follow.

As far as the first part of the question is concerned. I believe the hon. member had in mind scheduled tribe areas. For the scheduled tribe areas, as I pointed out earlier, there are today programme of developing tribal development blocks. These blocks are about half the size of a community development block or even smaller, and the resources that are provided for these small blocks are much larger than the resources provided in the rest of the country to community development blocks. In this manner, efforts are being made. I think we have something like 400 community blocks or so now. we want to expand them, we have not been able to take up any new blocks as I said because of the very stringent and very difficult financial position. but our whole programme is to see that through these tribal development blocks intensive efforts at improving communications and economic development of these areas are undertaken.

Shri B. Shankaranand: It is most unfortunate and deplorable that untouchability has been a challenge to the Indian society for centuries, and

even after independence it has been tolerable and tolerated and we are not ashamed to say that it still exists. May I know whether Government have taken any steps to find out what are the causes for the Indian society to observe untouchability, and if so, have they found out any remedy?

Mr. Speaker: In the Question Hour you are making a speech. I think I will go to the next question now, Mr. Limaye.

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : इस प्रश्न को आपने पांच मिनट ही दिये हैं ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इसके लिए सात घंटे दिये गये हैं ।

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : पहले आप एक घंटे में तीन प्रश्न ही खत्म करते थे । आज यह इतना जरूरी प्रश्न है और इसको आप पांच मिनट में ही खत्म कर रहे हैं ।

Mr. Speaker: I am not able to understand. We have given seven hours. Immediately after the Question Hour we are going to discuss this. Every-day members are doing this, it is impossible to continue like this. Yesterday we have already discussed and we have another 6-1/2 hours today. Hon. Members do not understand. I do not know what to do.

श्री मोलहू प्रसाद : तब यह प्रश्न उसी में ट्रांसफर क्यों न कर दिया गया ।

श्री एस० एम० जांशो : जो चर्चा चल रही है उसमें तो समय का बटवारा होता है । हो सकता है कि हम को उस चर्चा में भाग लेने का अवसर न मिले । लेकिन अब इसमें तो हम सबाल पूछ ही सकते हैं ।

Shri Madhu Limaye: 1558.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: 1584 may be taken up with this.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): That is different.

M/s. Aminchand Pyarelal Group of Firms

*1558. **Shri Madhu Limaye:**
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Ram Sewak Yadav:
Shri George Fernandes:

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 76 on the 3rd November, 1966 and state:

(a) whether the penalty imposed on M/s. Aminchand Pyarelal for importing steel after the expiry of the import licences and for presenting forged cross border certificates has since been recovered; and

(b) whether the firm exercised the option given to it to redeem the goods for home consumption?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant):

(a) Out of the total penalty of Rs. 2,28,000 imposed on M/s. Aminchand Pyarelal in respect of three importations, penalty amounting to Rs. 1,28,000 relating to two of the three cases has since been recovered. The firm has filed a writ petition in respect of the third case in the High Court at Bombay.

(b) Only in one of the three cases has the firm exercised the option and redeemed the goods for home consumption on payment of a fine of Rs. 1,00,000.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: 1584.

Mr. Speaker: That is a different question.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं मन्त्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूँ कि 1951 और 1959 के बीच श्रीमती चन्द प्यारेलाल कम्पनियों का बड़े पैमाने पर विस्तार