

rendered jobless at some other places.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: The contracts have been given at a very small scale on the Western Railway and that also only at those places where the Government considered it useless to engage full time workers because it was not justified on the basis of the existing work load. At certain places the work load increased quite rapidly and permanent employees were not available to handle that work load. Only in respect of such places, some contractors have been given petty contracts. As I have already submitted, this has not rendered any regular employee jobless, rather at certain places they had taken to the re-deployment of workers. But no body has been rendered jobless on that account.

SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL: I would like to know whether the hon. Minister propose to award the work of cleaning at other stations also to the contractors for better working.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There are 7000 railway stations in the entire country, out of which the work of cleaning at only 11 stations on the Western Railway has been awarded to contractors. Similar decision can be taken even in future if the situation so demands and permanent employees are not available for the job in adequate number.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know, on one side the Hon. Prime Minister proposes to provide employment to crores of people under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, while on the other hand the railway department is rendering the regular employees jobless and intends to get the entire work done through the contractors. So I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Railway department would follow the footsteps of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and cancel and contracts so as to provide employment to more and more people at these 11 stations?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: As I

have already submitted, wherever the work has been awarded to the contractors, it is not on a large scale but on a very small scale. The reason for taking this decision was that when the work of cleaning on these stations was not found to be satisfactory, the Government considered it useless to increase the number of workers and the work was awarded on the contract basis. I have already stated that the contracts have been awarded only on a very small scale as we have not taken the policy decision of awarding the work on contract basis on a large scale.

[English]

Appointment of SC/ST Judges in High Courts

*368. **SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ:** Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether sometime back Government had advised the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices of various High Courts to consider the names of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes for the appointment of High Court Judges; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by various High Court so far with regard to the appointment of Judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Persons belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes have been appointed in some High Courts.

SHRI HAREN BHUMIJ: The reply to part (b) of the question seems to be not only evasive but discouraging too. I would like to know through you Sir whether the Minister of Law and Justice enlighten the House about the number of pending cases in the High Courts of the country Statewise as well as the number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe judges in the country Statewise.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The question mainly relates to the appointment of judges belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe. It has nothing to do with the pending cases in each court. So I have given the answer accordingly.

SHRI HAREN BHUMJI: Again I have been compelled to say that the reply was too much evasive as well as discouraging and I seek your protection Sir. I plead for the upliftment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe because though I come from the Scheduled Tribe community I am not recognised as ST, I have been deprived of my rights. There are a large number of pending cases in various High Courts as well as there are inadequate number of judges in the various High Courts of the country. Our hon. Prime Minister has already got the Panchayati Raj Bill passed in Parliament yesterday wherein there are reservations for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and for weaker sections. I would like to know in view of the fact that there are so many pending cases in the High Courts as well as there are inadequate number of judges in the various High Courts, would it be the sincere and honest endeavour of the Government to see that before the next general elections, adequate number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes persons are absorbed as judges in the various High Courts of the country?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, the House knows that the Panchayati and Nagar-palika Bills—Constitutional Amendment Bills—have nothing to do with the judicial functions and the question of increasing the number of judges belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, in relation to the functioning of the Panchayats and Nagar-palikas does not arise. The hon. Member's complaint is that though he belongs to the Scheduled Tribes, his tribe is not included in the Scheduled Tribes' List. It is a different question.

The question of pending cases has no relation to the appointment of the judges. I can only say, for the appointment of the

judges. I can only say, for the information of the House that today, there are 9 judges belonging to the Scheduled Castes in various High Courts and two judges belonging to the Scheduled Tribes.

Financial Powers to BIFR for Revival of Sick Industries

*372. **KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to give financial powers to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for the purposes of quick revival of sick industries throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). A Statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) set up under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 has wide powers under the Act for making an order specifying inter alia the reliefs and concessions to be given in accordance with the provisions of the Act for the reconstruction, revival or rehabilitation or as the case may be, winding up of the sick industrial company. Certain suggestions have been received for amendments to the Act including, inter alia, wider financial powers for the BIFR.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, On behalf of the working class, I want your permission. In the year 1987, the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was set up to revive the sick industrial units in the country. If I am not correct, you may ask Shri A.K. Panja and Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi, the two Ministers from West Bengal. I think, they will also