

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have given the floor to Shri Shinde.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Order, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you and the hon. Prime Minister. In view of the importance of this matter, hon. Prime Minister is present in the House since this matter relates to promotion and general employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Former Prime Minister, Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi once took up this issue and launched a nation wide drive to fill backlog vacancies of SCs/STs. Present Prime Minister had also taken similar decision. An assurance was given in this regard during the conference of National Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Commission that we will never go to the well. During our Golden Jubilee we have assured that we would not go to the well. But, when atrocities were being committed on scheduled caste and scheduled tribe servicemen, we became so agitated that all Members including from BJP and all other parties went to the well. I wanted an assurance in the interest of service of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from hon. Prime Minister, who gave it promptly, therefore, I am grateful to him. As far as 3-4 OM's issued by the Department of Personnel are concerned, hon. Prime Minister made good efforts for withdrawing one of these circulars. But how much time you would take in withdrawing rest circular. Three, six and eight months have passed, even cabinet decision was taken once, but orders are not being issued. I would only say that it is Prime Minister wish and will, and I will not blame him. He wants to help dalits. I would like hon. Prime Minister to take steps in this direction, then only I would believe that the Prime Minister and the Government have soft corner for SCs, STs and other minorities. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, even the Prime Minister has said, but we do not know what happens in the Department. Not commenting unnecessarily, I would like to say only this much that I am interested in our people getting justice and employment. I urge hon. Prime Minister to assure as to when orders withdrawing OM's would be issued so that the injustice being done to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes employees comes to an end.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pravin Rashtupal, Shri Manikrao Gavit, Shri Ramdas Athawale and Shri K.H. Muniyappa have given notices on the same subject. I allow them to associate themselves on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Yes, I have allowed them to associate themselves on this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please, go back to your seats. The hon. Prime Minister is on his legs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Hon. Prime Minister, please withdraw the OM...(Interruptions)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by hon. Shindeji is very important. There is no difference of opinion over this issue between the Government and the opposition. The Government desire that the condition of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should improve. Justice should be done to SC/ST employees and justice means that we should try to rectify the system whereby injustice has been done to them or they have been neglected. The policies have been framed with this objective. But often, these policies are challenged in court of law. The House may remember that the Government twice brought Constitution (Amendment) Bill, which was passed with consensus since there was no difference of opinion about that. The third point raised by him is regarding jobs. The matter is under consideration of the Government. The problem is that the matter is in the court before the Constitution Bench. We expect a favourable decision from there very soon. Government is committed in this regard. We wanted to bring such a bill prior to the current budget session of the Parliament, however, we are making efforts once again and seek your support in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Sir, Maharashtra Government is adopting anti labourer policy...(Interruptions) Unemployment is on the rise among the labourers. Hon. Prime Minister is present in the House, I would like to have an reply from him...(Interruptions)