

Due to wrong mentality on the part of Caste Hindus namely people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes have started thinking in terms of Conversion. It is, therefore high time that Hindu Society thinks about this State of affairs and take corrective actions.

Our Prime Minister has done much and she is bent upon for doing much more. I request that she may solve the problems of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Our problems are blot on the Society and these blots be removed. It is need of the hour that a society based on human considerations is set up through economic, Social and religious revolution.

The Prime Minister, Minister of Atomic Energy, Minister of Electronics, Minister of Home Affairs, Minister of Information and Broadcasting, and Minister of Space (Smt. Indira Gandhi) : Hon. Members have expressed concern about the slow pace of programmes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes/Tribes. There is no doubt that much has been done in this regard but it cannot also be denied that the progress has rather been very slow.

Problem of Scheduled Castes/Tribes is an old and complicated problem. There is no doubt that Government can do much. But it should not be overlooked that Government cannot force people to change their views. This is being taken as a national problem. And this problem can be solved only taking it as a national problem. Right from the beginning the Congress Party has taken their Cause. But inspite of this much headway could not be made. It shows that our efforts were not sufficient. Hence we should make united efforts to change the present outlook of the people.

Daily we receive reports about the atrocities and Cruelties towards the people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. There are no sufficient words to condemn such things. I have written to the Chief Ministers to exercise vigilance to check recurrence of such incidents and requested them to take personal interest in this regard. I also intend to discuss this matter again with Chief Ministers.

It has been brought out in various reports of the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes that poorer sections among the Harijans and Tribes are not benefited by the programmes meant for improving their lot. Government has taken note of this and intend to pay special attention towards solving this problem in the next plan.

There is no justification in compelling certain section of our people to do a particular job on the basis of caste considerations. All should get equal opportunities to adopt a profession of their own choice. But here again social and political education is needed to make people understand such views.

Harijans and Tribal people should be conscious of their rights. Construction methods should also be adopted to give them those rights so that conflicts could be avoided and they could move with speed. Responsibility in this regard has to be owned by all the section of the society. It is their duty to see that such things could be removed from the society. There may be justification for such an outlook in the society but now the times have changed. We have to understand that there is no justification for such an outlook in the modern times. It should be clearly understood that problems of Harijans and Tribals could not be solved by enacting legislation only. But even then the Government would not, however, shirk its responsibility in enacting legislation, if it was needed.

We have also to see that weedy persons could get opportunities to the benefit of welfare programmes.

Certain suggestions have been given for providing facilities such as arrangements for drinking water, housing sites, education, extension of nutrition programme, improvement in Thuglakhonpris, post matric scholarships etc. All the state Governments are also concerned with

these matters. Hence it would be better to attend to these with the co-operation of all the opposition parties.

Demand has been made to increase the quantum of Scholarships. This is a justified demand and government would raise the quantum.

I have stated several times that a mistake has been committed after independence that we have not changed the structure of our education. Had this been done at that time most of our difficulties and problems would not become much complicated.

We have full sympathies with these problems and as I have said, much should have been done for them during all these years. The greatest gain of these years is that these tribals have become conscious of their rights.

The M.P.s. should go to their constituencies and see what can be done for the welfare betterment of these people. They should also see that financial assistance given for the purpose is properly utilised and whether the welfare programmes are being implemented in time. If there are some obstacles in the way of implementation of the welfare programmes the matter should immediately be brought to the notice of concerned authorities so that corrective measures may be taken in time. Lot of assistance until be given for the welfare programmes for the Harijans and tribals.

Shri Hukam Chand Kachwari (Morena) : No much welfare programmes are implemented in the areas where candidates of opposition parties have been elected.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi : No. This is not correct. We all of us should see that these welfare programmes are implemented expeditiously and the obstacles that are in the way of these programmes should be removed.

Shri Shyamnandan Mishra (Begusarai) : Is Government going to formulate such a model programme for the multifarious development of scheduled castes and backward classes people, so that this may be implemented in whole of India.

Shrimati Indira Gandhi : In such a vast country like ours it is very difficult to implement a particular thing at a particular place only.

Shrimati Ganga Devi (Mohanlalgaon) : I want to know as to whether the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes is in every Government Department or in a few departments only ?

Shrimati Indira Gandhi : It is in every department of the Government.

श्री सुबोध हंसदा (मिदनापुर) : अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के आयुक्त के प्रतिवेदन पर चर्चा करते हुए प्रधान मंत्री ने यह स्वीकार किया है कि उन लोगों के कल्याण कार्यों की प्रगति बहुत कम हुई है। किन्तु अत्यन्त निराशाजनक बात यह है कि आयुक्त के पद को कम करके केवल मात्र एक क्लर्क का पद इस समय बना दिया गया है? अनुसूचित जातियों तथा अनुसूचित जनजातियों के लोगों द्वारा की गई अन्याय की सभी शिकायतों की जांच करने की उसे अब शक्ति प्राप्त नहीं है और उसे अधिकारियों अथवा सरकारी विभागों की रिपोर्ट पर ही निर्भर रहना पड़ता है। उसने अपने प्रतिवेदन के 19वें अध्याय में बताया है कि राज्य सरकारें, तथा केन्द्रीय सरकार के अधिकारी मांगे गए तथ्यों की जानकारी भेजने में बहुत विलम्ब करते हैं और वे उस ओर बिल्कुल ध्यान ही नहीं देते हैं। अच्छा होगा कि यदि इस पद को ही समाप्त कर दिया जाये। यदि उसे संविधान के अनुच्छेद 338 के अन्तर्गत कार्य करना है तो उसे सरकारी विभागों की